

THE OBSERVER

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Future Of Proposed Master's Program Remains Uncertain

by Julia Frohlich and

Miriam Rosman

As the end of February fast approaches, SCW students interested in participating in the proposed David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute Master's program in advanced Jewish studies and teacher education are in need of answers. They are awaiting the administration's decision on whether or not this program, which was originally initiated as part of a \$750,000 grant from the Mandel foundation, will be implemented.

The original February 1 deadline for the ruling has twice been postponed. Students have now been given a deadline of the end of February. The eight to twelve students who are interested in enrolling in the program are dedicated to the idea, and are anxious to be apprised of the situation. Many of the students are graduating seniors and must make concrete plans for next year.

Some of the benefits of the program as seen by SCW students lie in its proposed curriculum, which would include intense study of Talmud in the morning, and Bible and halakha courses in the afternoon. Additionally, participants would take AGI graduate courses, enabling them to be granted a master's degree in education. This certification is an important factor to the students.

Rivky Shuchatowitz, a senior at SCW, stated that "this idea is revolutionary...it offers the opportunity for women in the

United States to get a degree from a program which centers upon *Beit Medrash* study." Other alternatives are non-degree granting.

The Mandel grant was awarded to YU to promote Jewish education. The proposed masters program is only one possible recipient of the grant's funds.

A portion of the money has already been allocated toward the hiring of Dr. Alvin Schiff, a professor of education at AGI, to head the new program, which includes classes to be offered at SCW and AGI at the Midtown campus, and at the Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at the Uptown campus. Rabbi Morton J. Sumner was hired as the coordinator of professional educational services at RIETS' outreach department, the Max Stern Division of Communal Services. Additionally, the money will be used to provide fellowships at AGI and to expand existing programs.

According to SCW Dean Karen Bacon, the two concerns regarding the proposed women's program are whether it is necessary and if it can be maintained. She stated that "the issue that is being debated is whether we can do justice to this program."

Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, Vice President for administration and professional education at RIETS, who authored the proposal and is the executor of the Mandel grant, was out of the country and therefore unavailable for comment.

Task Force Releases Report Community Awaits Final Decision

by Rayzel Kinderlehrer

The Bernard Revel Graduate School task force's proposal, released to the public on Monday February 17, contained the force's recommendation for the restructuring of the school.

The task force, consisting of members of the administration, faculty and student body of BRGS, as well as outside consultants, was appointed by President Lamm as per his January 15 announcement.

President Lamm made his announcement at a press conference on the 7th floor of the Midtown center. Reporters from both student and outside press were present. All other students were not permitted to attend.

Students of SCW and YC involved with Committee for the Preservation of Revel picketed in the lobby of the Midtown center as press entered amidst tight security. They held placards calling for the re-opening of the graduate school.

At the press conference, Lamm expressed his willingness to commit to one degree-granting program but did not specify in which area of study it would be offered. He disclosed that \$1.831 million had been raised for BRGS in the span of three weeks.

Following the President's press conference, CPR held its own press conference in Room 619, at which students outlined their position on the matter. They expressed their discontent at what they viewed as inconsistency in the Administration's position. According to students, President Lamm stated in a speech at YC on

Saturday night, December 21, that \$1.5 million over five years was the amount necessary to maintain BRGS. Subsequently, he has stated that the necessary figure is \$3 million.

Students emphasized that even if no funds were to be raised, YU must allow all those currently

phased, eliminating all but one was not acceptable.

The BRGS task force's mandate was to recommend a plan for the restructuring BRGS which maintained academic integrity and kept student interest and fiscal viability in mind. Its members included: Dr. Marvin Fox, Chair; Dr. Sid Z. Leiman, Co-Chair; Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Secretary; Rabbi Sol Roth; Rabbi Yaakov Elman; Dean Michael Shmidman; Dr. Arthur Hyman; Dr. Richard Steiner; and Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel.

CPR was asked to submit a list of ten BRGS students, of whom two would be chosen by the Administration to serve as student representatives on the task force. This request followed BRGS student Uri Cohen's and SCWS President Susie Schlusel's declining their appointments, explaining that student representatives should not be chosen by administrators. On Friday, January 17, Daniel Boukila and Beth Zuckerman, two students from the list, accepted positions on the force. The task force met twice during the discussion as to how student representatives would be chosen.

At the subsequent meeting, the student representatives were updated, and the force began its deliberations. Members agreed to keep the meetings confidential; this decision was to protect opinions and to insure unencumbered speech. As far as can be discerned, the committee discussed issues, and used majority vote when dis-

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A Word About Revel

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working on degrees to complete them with the necessary aid. They also asserted that in order for BRGS to maintain its status as a viable graduate school, Masters and Ph.D. programs should remain even with pre-existing funds. Doctoral and semikha student Hillel Novetsky asserted that "what a school really is is dependent on the Ph.D. programs."

Students acknowledged that improvements should be made in the graduate school, including eliminating certain departments of the graduate school, but, they em-

New SSSB Dean Added To YU Community

by Adam J. Anhang

With the retirement of Dean Michael Schiff, Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business recently announced the appointment of Dr. Harold Nierenberg as Dean Designate.

Nierenberg, who holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business, has served as Dean of Long Island University's School of Business, Public Administration and Accountancy since 1988. He has been a Professor of Management at LIU since 1955 and was appointed full professor in 1963. In addition to his academic experience, Nierenberg also possesses a wealth of practical knowledge, having served as a consultant to the New Jersey State Department of Education, the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Armed Forces.

In a recent interview, the new dean noted that he is no stranger to the YU community. His daughter



Dr. Harold Nierenberg

attended SCW, his son-in-law received rabbinical ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and three years ago, his youngest son graduated from SSSB. "Consequently," said Nierenberg, "I have an appreciation for the rigors of YU, SSSB and the dual curriculum. SSSB's students have developed a reputation for combining the best of the business and Torah worlds, and I am looking forward to furthering the Torah U'Madda ideal." In that regard, Nierenberg highlighted the

focus on business ethics as one of the unique facets of the SSSB curriculum.

Nierenberg looks forward to building on the strong business curriculum developed by Schiff. He has read the recently prepared SSSB faculty report, and is "pretty much in agreement with most of [the report]...and look[s] forward to implementing many of its ideas." While acknowledging the strength of the Accounting major, Nierenberg wants to develop the three other SSSB concentrations (finance, marketing and management information systems) by adding classes where demand warrants them. In particular, he cites management, human resources and international finances as areas that could "give students greater flexibility in terms of career choices." Nierenberg is also prepared to quickly modify the Accounting major should a fifth year of schooling be mandated by New York

State for CPA accreditation.

Attracting more students to SSSB is high on Nierenberg's list of priorities. By promoting the quality of SSSB's faculty and curriculum, Nierenberg hopes that the future will see growing number of students taking advantage of SSSB's offerings. He would also like to relax some course pre-requisites, making it easier for non-

SSSB majors to take business courses. Furthermore, he feels that the possible introduction of a business minor "may provide further opportunities for students exposure to business."

Above all, Nierenberg is committed to meeting and communicating with the faculty and student body. "My office will be open at

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EDITORIALS

1992-Historic or Histrionic?

1954 - a historic year for women's advanced Jewish education. When Stern College for Women opened its doors, it stood alone and unique in its vision of Torah education for future female leaders. Almost 40 years later, Stern College still remains a unique and revolutionary institution in Orthodox Judaism. The question is, can Yeshiva University keep up the pace?

Two months ago, many students participated in an open meeting to discuss the possibility of a masters program for women which would combine intensive full-time "learning" with education courses at the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute. Funding for the program was to come from a grant from the Mandel Associated Foundation.

Although students were initially told that a final decision regarding the fate of the program would be made by the beginning of February, that deadline was delayed twice and now the decision is not to be made until the end of this month. In the meanwhile, women who were truly interested in the program have been forced to look towards other intensive learning programs, such as Drisha and programs in Israel.

Many in the university have been pre-occupied with the debate concerning the Bernard Revel Graduate School. While that is certainly a critical issue to be worked on, it should in no way take the place or pre-empt any decision regarding the new proposed program. The two programs fulfill separate needs and respond to separate interests.

We recognize the financial constraints the university is under. However, there is no greater investment in the financial security of this university than the assurance of a steady stream of students. And there can be no greater assurance of maintaining this flow of students, than for the university to be a dynamic forward-looking educational enterprise.

YU has a history of supporting men's post-collegiate Torah study. The dividends in terms of highly qualified communal leaders and teachers is self-evident. The time has come to provide similar support for women with the full expectation that the dividends will be equally stunning. The women's learning program is a visionary idea. The university's administration should not let the historic possibility of 1992 pass it by.

No Excuse For Apathy

When Israel's request over the summer for \$10 billion in United States loan guarantees became public it met with a great deal of controversy.

The opposition argued that were the US to give the guarantees, other Israeli monies would be freed up to support and increase settlement in the "occupied territories." Thus, backing the loans would indirectly support Israeli settlement activity. Second, in light of the state of the US economy, many were hesitant to support foreign aid when faced with pressing domestic problems.

On the other side of the issue, advocates of securing the guarantees countered that humanitarian considerations demanded the guarantees. Additionally, Israeli's request is not for a grant or even a loan, but merely a loan guarantee, and Israel has never defaulted on a loan. Were the US to guarantee the loans, the effect of the US economy would be minimal. With regard to Israel's building new settlements in the West Bank, historically, when granting financial assistance, America has never dictated to sovereign state the terms

of its domestic policy.

When the issue was first debated, American Jewry voiced her opinion. Phone, letter, and telegram campaigns were organized, even more so when in October Bush delayed considering the loans for four more months. We were infuriated that the US administration would try to use the guarantees as leverage to pressure Israel in the Mideast Peace talks. Yet, now, as the end of the 120 day "pause" nears, and Israel needs us more than ever, where are our voices?

As of last year, during the Gulf War, when the American-Jewish community should have been galvanized into full-fledged action, many Senators and Congressmen noted a decrease in the pro-Israeli public's support for our homeland.

Clearly, we are taking support of Israel for granted. Either that or we just lack the interest to involve ourselves in issues that concern Israel. However, we, as Jews living in America have a responsibility to our counterparts in Israel. So whatever the reason for lack of activity, it is imperative for each of us to now be bold and vocal.

INTERESTED IN WRITING OR LAYOUT?

Leave note in OBSERVER box in office of Student Services.

THE OBSERVER

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LETTERS

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the Editor. It should be remembered that the opinions expressed in these letters reflect only the views of the signers and are not necessarily endorsed by THE OBSERVER, the student body, the faculty or administration of YU. Readers are invited to respond to these letters as well.

Scapegoat Syndrome At YU

Dear Editor,

Since 1988, I have been the Shabbat Head Waiter at Stern College. During the years I have worked with approximately 25-30 waitresses, many of whom have become like sisters to me. Even outside the cafeteria, when I needed help in advancing my career as a film-maker, they sacrificed their time at the onset of finals to do me a favor by participating in one of my projects at great inconvenience to themselves. Likewise, we have worked side by side at Stern College to make the Shabbat program work. Stern College was my home for Shabbat, but now my home has been taken from me by the irresponsibility of others.

Of the eight to ten Shabbats we have had this year, only one or two might have been considered a "success" as far as food was concerned. In response to many complaints by students, I have made numerous requests and suggestions to the management in order to remedy the situation. I have been ignored, and the problems have thus escalated for a number of reasons beyond my control.

On Friday afternoons, the cafeteria was usually left unclean, making dinner service on Friday nights more challenging than necessary. Dried food was left on cutting surfaces and the supposedly

cleaned utensils. Working with vegetables was thus unsanitary. Knives were thick with grease. The first 30 minutes that should have gone toward Shabbat preparation actually went into cleaning the kitchen, a task which the daytime staff was responsible for doing. Over an extended period of time, this lack of concern by other cafeteria personnel manifested itself into a roach infestation that unnerved the waitresses severely and distressed the patrons who had to spend Shabbat with uninvited guests every weekend. The ever-present, and yet unidentified "slime" that we always found Friday evenings left some areas unusable as a work-space.

To compound these problems, I was often left with food that was either not adequately fresh or in some manner unsuitable for consumption by the students who had paid money for meals not worthy of eating on Shabbat. It came to the point, that when the potato kugel burnt for the fourth time, people ACTUALLY (no joke here) mistook it for brownies. Several times I told the management to correct this situation (through obvious measures that need not be even mentioned), but food still came out burnt because the ovens were either left on too high or not functioning properly. Such circumstances are beyond my control as Shomer-Shabbat Jew, and must be dealt with by the daytime staff who put the food in the ovens long before I arrive on the scene to take control of the kitchen.

In addition, the waitresses

should not have to worry about removing feathers and hair from the chicken before serving it. There have been other, even more embarrassing problems, but further detail is at this point unnecessary.

I continued to make complaints to the management. Then, on the last Shabbat of the semester, January 4th, the cholent spoiled, rendering it totally inedible. Because I did not serve it, many guests complained and students wrote letters to the management. These letters reached Jacob Lieberman, Director of Food Services. He conducted a brief investigation, relying on the testimony of underlings. According to Moshe Singer, the Manager of Food Services at Stern College, someone had been saying that "Arzouane" does not know what he is doing and that he [Lieberman] should find somebody else. When I asked Singer why he did not tell Jacob Lieberman that this was not true, he said that he wanted to, but with all the yelling and screaming he never got the chance and Lieberman never seemed in the mood to hear it. My next concern was finding out why anyone in the management of Food Services at Stern would say these things. A brief investigation led me to the following conclusion:

The complaints about the quality of the food neglected poorly on the performance of the MANAGEMENT and DAYTIME STAFF, who are responsible for such preparations. However,

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The President Speaks...

Dear Students,

During vacation, my father gave me a very interesting article to read, which appeared in *The National Interest*. The article is titled "Did G-d Save Israel?" and the author Avigdor Hassidim considers himself non-religious. This article discusses the various strategies used by Saddam Hussein during the Persian Gulf War. I want to share with you the last paragraph, which I felt is the most effective.

"It is as if Saddam Hussein had deliberately opted for the worst-case strategy for himself and the best-case one for Israel. Therein lies the possibility of divine intervention as a rational explanation. While it cannot be proven that G-d saved Israel, the probability that this explanation holds true regarding the incredible scenario in the Gulf is as great, if indeed not greater, than any logical interpretation.

Somewhere in this story there is a lesson for Jews, Arabs and indeed the rest of the world. They

all ought to ponder it."

This article reminded me that it was only a year ago, during last winter break, that over 400 Yeshiva University students and faculty members took part in Operation Sarah Shield. This was very encouraging to see, as YU created a tremendous *kiddush Hashem* during these trying times for Israel and the Jewish people.

Shavvil elef havdilot, returning to Stern College for second semester was, and continues to be, a very disheartening experience. The classes are so cramped that students are forced to sit outside the classroom. The elevators cannot accommodate all the students attempting to get to their classes on time. Is this a positive academic experience? Have our efforts the past six months been in vain? Will we have to rely on G-d and his divine intervention, rather than the administration, in order to rectify the situation?

Sincerely,
Susan Schlusless
SCWSC Pres. '91-'92

LETTERS

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Jacob Lieberman was ready to accept the explanation that it was my fault, causing me to become a scapegoat for the cafeteria, the result being the loss of my position, a job which I have relied upon and loved for years. I want to make it clear that I will never become a scapegoat for anyone. I will have words with any person who says that I am incompetent in doing my job at Stern. It is disgusting that people who cannot face their own responsibilities place the blame on other people. For four years, Stern College was my home for Shabbat, and it is a shame if I lose it to the dishonesty and incompetence of others.

Sincerely,
Michael Arzouane

"Kill The Cook...Keep The Butler"

Dear Editor:

This is the first time in four years that I have had good enough reason to write a letter to any Yeshiva University student publication. I found such action necessary in order to expose the shameful and offensive measure recently taken by the management of the Food Services Department - namely, the dismissal of my colleague, Michael Arzouane from his position as Shabbat Head Waiter at Stern College.

Their decision was made in response to growing complaints about the quality of the food (never to service) provided on Shabbatons. By forcing Arzouane out, the management is successfully postponing the alleviation of

the actual problem by attacking an irrelevant tangent. This is exactly what they want to do. They desperately need scapegoats to cover up their selfish incompetence and put off managerial changes for yet another semester. Years of such organizational impotence indicate that they will probably get away with it yet again, but not without my making the following points clear:

1. I know from personal work experience that the Shabbat Head Waiter of the Stern Cafeteria has absolutely no control over the general quality of the food served on Shabbatons. This point cannot be overemphasized.

2. One of the management's pathetic accusations that Arzouane "wasn't creative" is actually a claim that he was not resourceful enough in covering up mistakes for which they and other kitchen staff were responsible.

3. The management is so confident in their assumption that Arzouane's dismissal will be overlooked, that they have neglected to offer any explanations that actually sound even remotely legitimate. Skeptics or those concerned about Arzouane can go ask them.

It is unfortunate that Michael Arzouane will probably not see justice in this conflict. He is at war with forces that advocate the collaborative pursuit of mediocrity so typical of the Yeshiva University Administration at all levels. Perhaps the Management of Food Services could take a lesson from Pharaoh. At least he was smart enough to kill the cook and keep the butler.

Sincerely,
Tal Almog, YC '92

OPINIONS

Marriage...The Final Solution?

by Ranji D. Latkin

When I entered Stern College 3+ years ago, I lived on the 12th floor. By the end of the year, every dorm room, with the exception of my own, was decorated with the trademark wallpaper. Mazal Tov on your engagement.

So there I was, 18 years old and oblivious to the unexpected pressures that I had to look forward to. I'd be riding in the elevator and would overhear conversations such as "I can't believe that she is a senior and she still isn't seeing anyone." Or my personal favorite, one I must confess to saying myself "I am so happy for her; I never thought she would get engaged." (excuse the loshon hara)

My friends and I would enjoy wandering the floors of Brookdale Hall, looking at the pictures of the seemingly happy couples on the doors. Life seemed so easy - you went to Stern, got some sort of education, and then got engaged.

My sophomore year I began dating someone. We had broken up for a little while and after we had decided to resume a friendship, we both found out that the reason why we had broken up was because one of us wanted to get married, but the other one didn't. I looked at him and said "I didn't know that we wanted to get married; I don't even like you all that much." Thus the marriage problem.

For some reason, it is the unspeakable topic. I have always wanted to speak about it, but never really had the courage, until now. I am taking the token marriage class and a very interesting thing was said by my teacher on the first day. Allow me to paraphrase... "I know that this is a class about marriage, but statistics tell me that in a few years, many of you will be divorced, so we are going to learn the laws of

divorce as well."

DIVORCE. It is a scary word, one that people don't like to say out loud. When people get divorced, it is a serious thing. There could be children involved, there could be financial aspects involved, and there are definitely emotional consequences involved.

The society that Stern College has created is one of "free love." Not the free love of the sixties, mind you, but the free love that signifies the acceptance of being able to date someone for less than a year and know, 100 percent, that they are the person for you.

I think that this attitude is wrong. And for all of you cynics, I am not just writing this article because I recently broke up with someone. I am writing this article because it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Everyone at Stern is very willing to congratulate you on your happiness, but no one has the chutzpah to say "Gee, you really don't know him all that long, are you sure you know what you are doing?"

The divorce rate is VERY high. An undocumented source told me that the divorce rate for couples who get married while in Stern is 52%. That is more than one in two. That means for every one of you getting married, another one will get divorced. G-d forbid this should happen to anyone reading this article, but it is a fact that cannot entirely be disputed.

Engagements are fun. Buying/wearing a ring is fun. Planning a wedding might even be fun...but do you know what he is like when he is in a bad mood? Do you know what she looks like without her makeup on? Are you willing to take the financial responsibilities that are expected of you? Are you going to depend on his/her parents money as support for the rest of

your lives?

Marriage is not fun and games. It is not fun to have your door decorated and then five years later, be divorced with one child and no money. There has to come a time when you leave the sheltered shell of YU, when you have to get a REAL apartment and a REAL job, when you have to buy food and clothes for beings other than yourselves.

I am sure that there are couples that do, indeed, know what they are doing-if you are reading this article, I apologize for my boldness. However, I am almost positive that there are a few of you who have already been engaged, are contemplating getting engaged, or who are engaged...to those of you in those positions, BE SURE. Marriage is a lifetime commitment. Love is wonderful, but you can't live on it. Take your time in getting to know a person, if they are for you, they will stick around. I don't think that it says ANYWHERE in the Torah that a future is decided after three or four dates, or even three or four months. You are not going to shrivel up and die if you are not married or engaged by the time you graduate college, there is life beyond YU.

Life is a wonderful experience that can be made into a miserable one if you make the wrong decision.

One of my rebbeim went so far as to say "...for all you young married couples who have no money, Hashem is sure to take care of you." That may be all fine and good, but I wouldn't bank my life on it.

I truly believe that it is a partial responsibility on behalf of the teachers and the administrators at YU to instill the importance and the gravity of making a lifelong decision such as marriage.

AROUND OUR CAMPUS...



One of the various buildings in Murray Hill that YU did NOT buy. THE OBSERVER will keep readers posted on any facility developments that do occur.

Faculty Scholarship Continues

by Ilana Breslau

Did you ever wonder about the mysterious happenings behind the black curtained-window of the psychology lab? No, this lab does not house the student or faculty lounge that no one seems to be able to find. Rather, in it is conducted a significant research project by Dr. Joshua Bacon, a psychology professor at SCW, and his two assistants.

Presently, Bacon is studying subjects' perception of moving images. He accomplishes this by looking at factors which influence the way people perceive motion, shapes, and forms, particularly the relationship between sensory memory and cognitive memory. The research focuses on how people remember things based on sensory information and transfer this information to higher cognitive structures. SCW students have been participating in the project as subjects.

Bacon and assistant, Tamar Balsam, a senior at SCW, plan to publish their research on perception in March.

The project is a joint endeavor with Dr. Harvey Babich, a biology professor at Stern, who is currently studying the aspects of toxicity and its effects on the biological systems of fish.

The connection between

Babich's work and Bacon's angle is to develop a neurobehavioral model of learning based on the behavioral system of fish, which can then be applied to humans, to see how factors such as drug abuse affect a person's ability to learn, memory, and subsequent generations' ability to learn and access memory.

Bacon is simultaneously working on a major project involving brightness perception, ongoing for the last two years. He is applying for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund his research.

Dr. Allan Burdowski, a biology professor at SCW is also conducting research at SCW in his biology lab. Burdowski is studying breast cancer, and he and two colleagues have discovered a protein, ATF (Auto Tumoralytic Factor), which appears in mice and in other animals afflicted with breast cancer.

When re-injected in these diseased mice, ATF rapidly destroys cancerous tumors. The protein stimulates certain white blood cells which in effect, "turn on" the animal's immune system and kill the undesirable cells.

Although Burdowski and colleagues are currently limiting their research to breast cancer, the protein may have further ramifications for combatting other types of cancer. Burdowski's research is par-

tially funded by grants from private foundations.

A third SCW faculty member involved in in-house research is Chemistry professor Dr. Leah Blau. In her research lab and in the instrument room, Blau is using lipid bilayers as models for biological membranes in order to study the functions of biological membranes.

Blau collaborates with colleagues at the New York University Medical Center. She conducts her research on days she is not teaching and over the summers; in the 1980's she received grants from the Office of Naval Research for her research.

Dr. Joseph DeSantis, a biology professor at SCW is also involved in research, although he does "field work" outside of SCW, in his study of the population dynamics of dwarf spiders in Newtown, Connecticut. DeSantis travels to Connecticut on a weekly basis to examine and collect the tiny spiders. His work has been continuing for the past three years.

Although known primarily as an institution devoted to educating students with less of a focus on research, SCW does in fact boast professors who participate in major research projects which impact their fields considerably.

"We're Too Small A People To Be A Small People"

by Rena Maslansky

On Tuesday evening, February 17, Rabbi Hanoch Teller, the renowned teacher of Israeli seminars, author and speaker, addressed SCW and YC students in lecture entitled, "We're too Small A People to be a Small People," sponsored by TAC and SOY.

The lecture was replete with entertaining anecdotes designed by Teller to impart his message to the audience. Teller conveyed his mes-

sage by stressing the importance of putting an end to perpetual squabbles and by encouraging and advising the audience to transform "small deeds" into G-dly ones, maintaining that this is a prerequisite for the unification of the Jews. Students felt that Teller's stories, involving great leaders such as Rav Chaim Shmuelovitz, Rav Steinberg, and Rav Moshe, were a great source of entertainment, as well as inspiration.

Torah Journal Plans Underway

by Laurie Katzman

A meeting was held on Monday February 10 to discuss the upcoming publication of the SCW Torah journal. Over twenty students expressed interest in contributing to the journal. Similar publications have been printed in the past. This year's journal will be called *Shivim Panim* and is expected to be published toward the end of the semester.

Shivim Panim is under the auspices of the Torah Activities Council (TAC) of Stern College. In charge of the publication are

Naomi Wadler, Aliza Levin, and Rivky Shuchatowitz. Articles for the journal can cover any topic in Torah including *midrash, halacha, and hashkafa*.

According to Shuchatowitz, "the Torah journal gives a student the opportunity to focus on one area of interest to her and produce work both personally satisfying and educational to others."

Any student interested in writing for *Shivim Panim* is welcome to participate. Drafts of articles must be submitted before Pesach.

Gemara Classes Gain Popularity

by Karin Rosenstock

A new, upper intermediate level was added to the Talmud program at SCW as of the spring '92 semester.

Prior to the new semester, there were three levels: an introductory level, taught by Rabbi Avi Weiss, and intermediate and advanced (Beit Midrash) levels, taught by Rabbi Moshe Kahn. As interest grew, a fourth level became necessary; since the intermediate level was a large, heterogeneous group, it was divided into two classes.

Rabbi Kahn explained that SCW women's newfound interest in Gemara learning is not revolutionary, but is rather "the next evolutionary step in women's Torah education." Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies at SCW, noted that, in fact, the entire Jewish Studies program at SCW is revolutionary, as there is no other women's learning pro-

gram which provides so many options.

When asked how they view learning Talmud within the general framework of Jewish Studies, both Kahn and Kanarfogel see Gemara as beneficial for those who have the personal dedication and sufficient analytical skills to study it. "People who learn Gemara will have an edge in dealing with any kind of Rabbinic text...and gain skills in the understanding of basic Jewish law," posited Kanarfogel. Kahn added a spiritual significance to this pursuit, stating his hope that "it will enhance your Yirat Shamaim (fear of G-d)."

High enrollment illustrates the significant student interest in studying the discipline: introductory - nine students; lower intermediate - eleven; upper intermediate - nineteen; and advanced - eight; in all, forty seven students are registered for Talmud this semester.

Feature Writing Class Instituted

by Chava Boylan

For the first time at SCW, a course in feature writing was instituted in the spring semester. Its goal, according to instructor Ms. Anne Connors, is to educate students in the techniques of researching and writing "in-depth feature stories" for newspapers.

A feature story, as opposed to "hard news reporting," focuses on people, issues and ideas rather than on events, explained Connors, who earned an M.A. in English Literature from Hunter College and now does free-lance writing. Proficiency in interviewing is impera-



tive in feature-writing, and the class is designed to develop that skill, as well as the techniques of

actually writing a story.

The class is composed mostly of English majors; there is, however, diversity in the class' writing experience. Junior and English Communications/Journalism major Beth Stadtmuer expressed her anticipation that the course will cultivate her writing skills.

Rachel Schenker, a junior and editor-in-chief of *THE OBSERVER*, noted that one of the most beneficial aspects of the course is its concentration on interviewing techniques, which, she added, are often not sufficiently understood.

YU Hosts Second Annual Model UN

by Amanda Nussbaum and Tamar Kaskas

On February 9-11, Yeshiva University hosted its second annual Model United Nations. The Ramada Renaissance Conference Center in East Brunswick, New Jersey, was the site for this year's conference. High school students from all across the United States and Canada joined together to represent the member countries of the UN. The goal of the program was to create a forum for the discussion of critical global issues facing the political world today.

Preparation for the Model UN began months before the actual event. YU students developed specific areas to be debated in their various committees and composed pamphlets designed to guide the high school students in their research of these topics. The high school students then proceeded to analyze these issues with relation to the policies of their assigned countries. In total, 275 from 23 Jewish Day Schools formed the four general assemblies and three special committees of YUNMUN (Yeshiva University Network

Model United Nations).

Unlike the other Model UNs, which are hosted over weekends with the majority of its sessions convening on Shabbat, YUNMUN took place on Sunday through Tuesday, allowing observant students to participate in all aspects of the conference. In addition, YU provided the participants with strictly kosher meals, daily *minyan* and *shiurim*.

YU co-sponsored the event with the Torah High School Network, an association of Orthodox Jewish high schools present

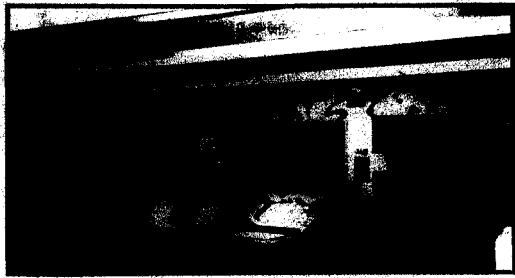
throughout North America which works toward providing students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills by familiarizing them with communal and religious issues. The conference set out to accomplish this very same goal.

In many instances, the students represented nations whose views were previously unknown to them and sometimes even contrary to their own. Deena Cohen, SCW senior and Director General of the Model United Nations, remarked prior to the event that she hoped that the conference "would not

only give the students the chance to debate publicly, but [also] to learn the different aspects of global affairs and the art of negotiation and diplomacy."

The reactions to the Model UN by both faculty and students were overwhelmingly positive. In fact, many participants are eagerly anticipating next year's conference.

SUBMIT
PURIM TORAH



New Computers Arrive At SCW

by Tzacha Rosen

As of the start of the spring semester, four IBM Personal Computers have been installed in Room 319 for student use. These computers represent only a portion of the new equipment scheduled to arrive at SCW.

According to Mr. Lenny Brandwein, computer specialist and director of laboratories of Yeshiva University, eight more computers have been ordered from computer manufacturer QSI in an effort to utilize Room 319, which until now has been occupied by rarely used computers called Mainframes.

The new PC's were actually due to arrive at the end of 1991, but, according to QSI, a defective component has delayed the shipment. However, that problem has reportedly been solved, and the computers should be delivered and installed at SCW by the week of March 4, according to Brandwein.

The new computers will perform twice as rapidly as the PC's currently in Rooms 315 and 316, and will have color monitors. An additional Epson printer is supposed to arrive as well.

Despite this addition to the computer facility, a sign in the computer room states that during

the month of February, "the ENTIRE computer facility" will be occupied by two classes on Mondays 5:30-8:15 PM, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-7:15 PM. These classes include SCW courses, such as various computer classes and labs for both introductory and advanced levels and calculus course, a Sy Syms accounting course, and a Wurzweller Graduate School course. When asked why the computers will be unavailable for student use for over eight hours a week, Brandwein responded, "There is always a space problem at Stern College," and SCW computer specialist Ms. Ellen Payne commented, "It's really a mess."

However, the computer department is searching for solutions to this space problem, according to both Brandwein and Payne. Plans are under discussion to modify Room 307 so that it could be used by a computer class. Payne suggested that classes that need the computer room hold their demonstrations, which do not require each student to use a computer, in other classrooms.

But, asserted Payne, improvements will be made only if students show an interest in their implementation.

YU Torah U'Madda Project: Berger Speaks

by Aliza Levin

Dr. David Berger, professor of Jewish History at Brooklyn College and at the Bernard Revel Graduate School, spoke at SCW on February 12 during Club Hour. Part of the on-going Yeshiva University Torah U'Madda Project, the lecture was entitled "Nachmanides, Philosophy, and the Controversy Surrounding the Writings of Maimonides."

Characterizing Nachmanides as both an "arch-traditionalist" and an "innovator," Dr. Berger spoke of the halakhist/kabalist/exegete as having access to the perspectives of the entire Medieval Jewish world, in the realms of halakha and thought. Against this background, he presented an analysis of Nachmanides's position regarding the study of philosophy, specifically

relating to the Maimonidean Controversy.

Nachmanides supported a limited ban on Maimonides' philosophic works, banning the public study of *Guide of the Perplexed*, encouraging study of *Sefer haMadda*, and discouraging but not banning general philosophic enquiry.

This harmonization of the Spanish rationalist tradition with the conservative stance of Northern Europe is typified by Nachmanides' affinity for kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). It is a discipline which addresses the issues confronted by the philosopher, yet is found within the system of Judaism, eliminating the problems which Nachmanides saw in the more "external," foreign philosophy.

Operation Exodus

by Chava Boylan

A fundraising campaign for the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus is scheduled to be held on Wednesday February 26, at the SCW Midtown Center. Operation Exodus is a fund established to finance the recent mass immigration of Jews from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union.

Since the Soviet Union's relaxation of its immigration restrictions almost two years ago, over 300,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel. The UJA estimates that a total of one million Jews will emigrate within the next few years. In June, over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews came to Israel over a period of three days, via a mass rescue airlift.

Operation Exodus provides funding for airlifts and various needs of those immigrants already settled in Israel. These needs consist of the costs of food, clothing, absorption, education (retraining), and medical care.

The OpEx Campus Campaign Committee, headed by SC seniors Lori Abramowitz, Rivky Shuchatowitz and Esther Wolf, is running on the slogan, "give twenty-six on the twenty-six." The committee members are asking each SCW student and faculty member to contribute a contribution of \$26, which amounts to \$.50 per week for one year.

When stressing the importance of the operation, Wolf noted the work she had done with Russian Jews this past summer in an absorption center in Israel. "It is important for the larger Jewish community to know that Stern College students feel a commitment towards the outside Jewish community," she stated.

Beginning on February 19, an information booth was set up in the school building lobby for two hours a day, and videos about the program were shown during this time. Informative flyers were also distributed throughout the campus.

On the actual day of the drive, booths will be set up in the school building lobby, the vending cafe, the cafeteria and, in the evening, in Brookdale Hall. Although the campaign committee is appealing for \$26, the committee heads stress that any amount is welcome and appreciated. Thus, another slogan which has evolved is "give a little bit more than you think you can afford."

Two years ago, when the danger confronting Soviet Jewry was escalating, Yeshiva University raised over \$20,000 in one day for the cause. Considering previous successful drives, the committee heads, although refusing to set a specific goal, feel optimistic about the potential success of the fundraiser. "We have every reason to be positive," asserted Shuchatowitz.

Parents Day "Not PTA" Says Nulman

by Layalza Klein

Approximately 70 parents of SCW students assembled in Koch Auditorium on Monday, February 17, to participate in the third annual Parents' Day program. This constituted the largest turnout in the history of the event. The impetus for the program, explained Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students, was that, "We don't want parents to be strangers. We want to make them part of our Yeshiva family." The Office of Student Services implemented the program and the educational component was coordinated by the academic deans. The goal, according to Nulman, was not to run "a PTA program," but rather "to provide parents with a slice of student cultural and academic life."

might teach a class on the subject at SCW in the future, strived to show that Stern College is a "vibrant academic institution."

"It was a pleasurable and stimulating academic experience," affirmed Mrs. Miriam Goldstein, mother of SCW sophomore Rachel Goldstein. Goldstein traveled from Cleveland, Ohio to attend the program.

"Yes, we have many parents who come in from out of town," said Nulman, "including [parents from] New Jersey, Massachusetts, Chicago, Silver Spring, Maryland, California." The traveling distance is a concern for parents, he acknowledged. "But," he added, "those who care enough about their children's educations" would be



Barbara Schienger, mother of SCWSC sophomore president Pineda, urges parents to get involved.

will be to make the trip.

Kanarfogel pointed out that in college the role of the parent ceases to be a daily, hands-on encounter and evolves into one of support. Expressing a similar opinion, Bacon said that the goal of Parents' Day is to "involve parents in a more meaningful way in their children's education and college experience."

Parent Mrs. Barbara Schienger, who addressed the assembly, echoed Bacon as she urged other parents to "Be involved."

Bacon noted the common values and experiences that parents, faculty and students share. One parent commented that it was indeed "nice to connect with other parents who were also concerned with their daughter's educations, and who shared similar ideas."

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, in his address to the audience, concluded, "I'm sure that we have great parents, otherwise we wouldn't have such great students. I hope that parents appreciate their daughters as much as we appreciate them as students."

500 YEARS: NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FORGET

To Go Or Not To Go?

by Adina Weiss

Newsweek calls 1992 the "Year of Spain." With the Mideast peace conference in Madrid, the Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, the World's Fair in Seville, Spain will, as Newsweek says, "Show the nation off to a global audience." Spain is proud and anxious to take advantage of the 500th year anniversary of Columbus' historic voyage. Five hundred years after he set sail to find a new route to the West Indies, it looks as though Spain's ship has finally come in. Spain will be deluged with an unprecedented number of tourists.

But before one jumps on the bandwagon and books a flight to the European Community's official "cultural capital" for 1992, he must do some serious soul searching and decide if it is proper for a Jew to be a part of this world-wide celebration of Spain's history.

Although there has never been a formal written prohibition banning Jews from returning to Spain, as there is for Egypt, the expulsion in 1492 and the terrors of the subsequent Spanish Inquisition have left Jews, even today, with a tainted view of Spain. To the world, 1492 may be the year of Columbus; to the Jewish community, it will always be the year of their expulsion. Is it possible then, for Jews to put aside their anger and grief and join in the festivities of this quinquennial? And if it is possible to do so, is it proper?

There are two basic views regarding this question. One view reasons a Jew should not lend financial support to a nation that countenanced government sponsored anti-Semitism. This is the view of those who question the logic of events, such as March of the Living, in which thousands of Jewish youth boosting the economy of Poland through hotel accommodations, the purchase of goods, and the like, as they call attention to Polish anti-Semitism and the Nazi genocide of the Holocaust. These people, who would not come to Poland to spit on the ground, would certainly not march through it.

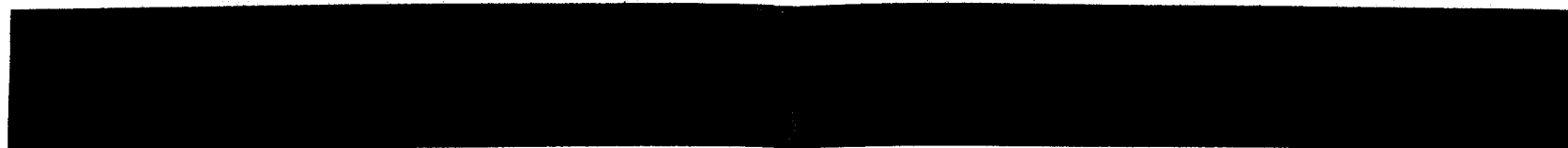
The other view would have us purposely travel to the lands of

Jewish travail as a means of exhibiting Jewish pride. This is the view of the Jewish tourist who marvels as he walks beneath Titus' Arch of Triumph in Rome, as if to say, the Roman oppressors are no longer here, but the Jews have survived to defy their machinations. He takes pride in exhibiting Jewish survival and commitment in places that would have boasted his extinction. For such a person, the year 1992 is the perfect time to visit Spain and publicly assert a Jewish presence in the land of torture chambers and autos-da-fe.

This view argues that praying, marching with Israeli flags and singing "Am Israel Chai" in the very same place where Jews hid their faith and surrendered their lives is a stronger statement than never returning to a land of persecution.

If Jews visit Spain this year merely as visitors admiring art and architecture, blending in with the crowds of international tourists "oohing" and "ahhing" at the beauty of the country, then it is really questionable whether they should be there. If, on the other hand, Jews visit Spain as obvious Jewish groups, seeking out their heritage and publicizing their presence as proud and committed Jews returning in triumph to a country that would have seen their annihilation, then the statement made will indeed be powerful.

In the final analysis, both views are meritorious in their own right. However, there is a productive reason to go to Spain this year. That is to counteract the revisionists who would have the world believe that nothing of importance occurred in Spain regarding the Jews. According to Newsweek, two events of import occurred in Spain in 1492: "Spain expelled the Muslims from their last European Stronghold and the Spanish monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, sent an itinerant navigator named Columbus across the Atlantic." It is crucially important to ensure that the world does not forget the saga of Spanish Jewry. A strong, obviously Jewish presence this year, would be a forceful reminder.



Journeying With The Sephardim

by Tikvah Ben Zvi

From November 1990 to December 1992 at the Yeshiva University Museum is the highly relevant *Sephardic Journey: 1492-1992* exhibit, which traces the many paths Sephardim Jews have taken since their expulsion from Spain five hundred years ago.

The exhibit, located on the fourth floor of the Yeshiva University building that houses both the Yeshiva University Museum and Menachem Mendel Gottesman library, is enclosed in a structure with Spanish-style architecture: the walls look like white-washed stone; the roof, like red shingles; and the entrance is in the shape of a Spanish arch.

The first room of the exhibit is a presentation area with a video that chronicles Jewish settlement in Spain and Portugal, the glorious Jewish life that existed there for many centuries and the years of torture and persecution of the Inquisition that finally culminated in

Jewish expulsion from these countries in 1492.

This room also contains objects from the pre-expulsion era, objects such as David ben Yosef Abudraham's *Commentary on the Blessings and Prayers*, a fourteenth-century liturgical commentary that includes calendrical and astronomical tables. In addition, this display includes an impression of the personal seal of Rabbi Moshe ben Nahman, the great rabbi and scholar of the thirteenth century, and handwritten pages containing personal accounts of *autos-da-fe*, anti-Jewish trials that resulted in thousands of Jews being burned alive.

The remainder of the exhibit is devoted to the display of objects from the various places in which Spanish Jews settled after the expulsion. These countries include Turkey and the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa, Western Europe and the New World.

Cases of objects from Turkey

and the Balkans were entitled: Synagogue; Community and Family; the Turkish Brit; Yugoslavia; Balkan Marriage Contracts; Nineteenth-century Prints; Dowry and Wedding. The proliferation of objects from Turkey and the Balkans was highly impressive. Among the most memorable were a silver basin for the priest's washing of his hands, dated 1694, with the queen of Sheba and her maids bringing gifts to King Solomon in high relief; elaborately embroidered clothing from the nineteenth and twentieth century; and sweetly-rendered, finely-detailed, nineteenth-century prints of Ottoman Jews.

Objects from the Middle East came from Israel, Syria and Egypt. They included many fine religious articles such as an ark covering from Israel, dated 1868, and an elegant, early twentieth-century Hanukkah candelabra from Damascus. Especially impressive was the model of the sixteenth-century Ari

Synagogue, the synagogue of the renowned kabbalist, Rabbi Isaac Luria Ashkenazi (the Ari).

The North African display possessed many splendid objects in cases entitled: Megilot and Manuscripts, Women and Home, Nineteenth-century Prints, Marriage Contracts, Synagogue, and Rabbis and Craftsmen.

Objects from Western Europe included various beautiful religious articles such as eighteenth-century, silver Torah adornments and Hanukkah candelabras from the Netherlands. Especially noteworthy, however, was the earliest printed Spanish translation of the Hebrew Bible, dated 1552 from Italy and a portrait by Rembrandt van Rijn, entitled "Portrait of Menasseh Ben Israel," (1636), a painting of a rabbi and scholar who apparently had a personal relationship with the artist. There was also an exquisite nineteenth-century ark covering from Vienna, dated 1887.

The New World was divided into the Caribbean and Central America and various time periods in the United States. Among the objects in the Caribbean and Central American display was a newspaper article describing a synagogue consecration. Most interesting about the article was the fact that the Jews were described in an extremely laudatory manner.

From the United States display, in the nineteenth-century case, were two portraits of Confederate soldiers and a Union army frock coat, proving that the Sephardic Jews became an involved part of American life. However, the Sephardim also continued in their practice of making beautiful religious items. The Touro Synagogue of Newport, Rhode Island, c. 1763, is one of the finest examples of religious architecture. With its Georgian colonial exterior and neoclassical white interior, the building is truly majestic.

An added highlight to the exhibit was the Prince of Asturias Concord

Prize 1990, awarded to the Sephardic Communities of the World and accepted on behalf of World Sephardim by YU's eminent Haham Dr. Solomon Gaon.

The exhibit is easy to follow, as all the countries' cases are color-coded. Red is Turkey and the Balkans, orange is the Middle East, yellow is North Africa, green is Western Europe, and blue is the New World. Admission costs \$3.00, but is free for any YU student and his/her guest.

The Sephardic Journey exhibit is truly impressive, and one does not have to be Sephardic to think so; one must simply have an appreciation for a people who were not only able to contribute greatly to the countries in which they settled, but also determined enough to make sure that its own unique culture survived.

by Shana Bak

The 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain is being commemorated by Jewish communities all over the world. Dr. Solomon Gaon, *Haham* of the congregations affiliated with the World Sephardic Federation and director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies at Yeshiva University, stresses the fact that this is a "commemoration," but certainly not a celebration.

Several years ago, Dr. Gaon was invited, along with other representatives of world Jewry, to meet with the king of Spain and make arrangements for the upcoming anniversary. The minister who welcomed the group explained that the gathering was arranged in order to celebrate the events of 1492. Dr. Gaon replied that while it is appropriate to commemorate 1492, that year was hardly a cause for celebration for the Jews of Spain.

Dr. Gaon's words were apparently taken into consideration. At the closing ceremony, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs articulated the events of 1492 more precisely, explaining that while 1492 was the greatest glory for Spain because of Columbus' discovery of America, it was also the year of the greatest tragedy because of the Jewish expulsion from Spain. He even added his opinion that this ignominious event began the decline of the Spanish Empire.

Dr. Gaon describes the attachment that Spanish Jews felt toward their homeland. Judaism flourished so greatly in Spain that their feelings of nationalism paralleled those of Zionists today. However, Avraham Kapon, in his poem *Espania* (Spain), writes that while Spain was in a position to be the Jews' "mother," she acted towards them as if she were their wicked stepmother. The Jews kept the Spanish customs, but were treated miserably.

More recently, however, the Jews' preservation of Spanish language and culture has not gone unnoticed. Last October, in Oviedo, Astoria, the Sephardic Jews received the Prince of Asturias of Concord Prize, the Spanish equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for their cultural contributions to Spain.

According to some Spanish scholars, Jews lived in Spain as far back as King Solomon's time, and engaged in trade with Palestine. What can be attested to with certainty is that Jews had been living in Spain for at least 2000 years before the expulsion.

Following the expulsion, many Jews remained in Spain, where they lived as Marranos, or crypto-Jews. For centuries, they secretly practiced Judaism and engaged in such practices as lighting Sabbath candles in their basements. Dr. Gaon explains that the Spanish Inquisition was actually directed against those remaining Jews who violated Spanish rule by maintaining their Jewish identities.

It is hard to make a clear-cut definition of Sephardic Jew today. According to Dr. Gaon, the term most properly applies to those whose ancestors left Spain in 1492. However, Eastern Jews, such as those of Iraq and Yemen, are also called Sephardim because they accepted the Spanish customs. In Israel, there is a clear distinction between these two groups: they are known respectively as *HaSephardim* and *Aidot HaMizrach*, respectively.

Dr. Gaon explains that since World War II, there has been a greater recognition and appreciation of the heritage of Sephardic Jewry. He attributes this to what he feels is a need for a branch of Orthodox Judaism that is not entirely Ashkenazic (Eastern European). He maintains that we are one people with different traditions and we should aim for unity, but not for uniformity.

The Sephardic Federation was started in order to stress these points and to increase world awareness of Sephardic roots and culture. There are many Sephardim who feel that it is important to minimize marriage with Ashkenazim in order to maintain the unique Sephardic culture. Dr. Gaon, on the other hand, feels that intermarriage of this sort should be encouraged. Rather than diminishing Sephardic awareness, he feels that this will lead to a greater dissemination of Sephardic traditions throughout the Jewish world.

It has been noted by many people that we seem to be living in a time of an ingathering of Jewish exiles. Indeed, the number of different centers of Jewish life seems to be diminishing, and the remnants of many diverse communities are returning to Israel. While this is very exciting, it would be unfortunate if it marked a loss of the diverse forms of Jewish expression developed over the centuries. It is, therefore, most appropriate that in this year - 1992 - special attention be paid to the legacy of the major Jewish center which was so cruelly dispersed 500 years ago.

CULTURAL ARTS

Staring Into The Abyss

by Sara Klejn

These days, it seems that a moviegoer must choose between peering into the depths of human cruelty and suffering, or experiencing the magical worlds of creative powers, such as the Walt Disney Corporation (probably the better choice). One of the more disturbing examples of the former option is the current film, "Grand Canyon."

Reactions to the movie range from glowing positive to vehemently negative, with a few non-committal editorial comments, such as, "It was really down on L.A." (quoted from an Angeleno), that fall somewhere in between the two extremes.

The reason for this wide gap in audience response may be a result of the film's harsh scrutiny of society. Consequently, the film's potential as entertainment would depend on whether the viewer is philosophically inclined toward social criticism or more likely to simply feel depressed in its wake. The line between eye-opening and morose is an entirely subjective one. In this case, the distinction is important in deciding whether to

rate the movie as a fine symbolic production about the collapse of American society or as a grossly overstated, plotless, histrionic piece of shallow sensationalism. Both are plausible opinions.

Although "Grand Canyon" was somewhat sensational at times and more concerned with making a statement than portraying reality, there was a certain literary depth to be appreciated. The characters and plots were simply encapsulations of contemporary moral and social anxieties. Nevertheless, this was acceptable as the symbolism was sufficiently meaningful in its own right. Even the title, connoting the broad schism between certain factions of American society, attains another meaning as this gap is bridged between a black and white family on a trip together to guess where - the Grand Canyon.

The movie was in some ways very careful with detail and artistic integrity, and at the same time generally sloppy and unfocused. A particular scene that comes to mind in exemplifying the movie's occasional brilliance is a dream sequence that portrayed, with frightening accuracy, the strange and

nonsensical properties of nightly visions with which people can identify.

In a general sense, however, the movie was rather disjointed and jolting. There was little continuity and skimpy dialogue. This may have been intentional on the part of the director to make the viewing experience as emotionally wrenching as possible. Clearly, this was not intended to be a light, nonchalant flick. Its parallel themes of the horrors of street violence and the angst in shallow suburbia felt to the viewer like hell broken loose. The comment on society was dismal: America is crashing headlong into The Abyss. No matter, however, because there are also, as the movie clearly points out, those little moments that make life worth living. If this seemed hysterical, shallow, and corny to some viewers, it was great dinner conversation for others.

There seems to be no clear way to think of "Grand Canyon." Like the society it tried so valiantly to mirror, the movie was simply disturbing.

Torah V'Art

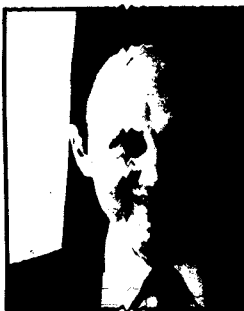
by Shifra Lieberman

On Wednesday afternoon, February 12, Rabbi Aaron Adler, newly appointed President of Emenah College for Arts and Technology in Jerusalem, addressed a body of SCW students about his college's new year-long program for students from abroad. Its curriculum will include both Judaic studies and art classes, for which YU will offer accreditation.

The school's philosophy is based upon Rav Kook's conception that man was created with an internal drive to express his uniqueness. Adler asserted that through integrating Torah with art, students are able to channel this inner need while developing an appreciation of aesthetics and beauty in a Torah oriented setting.

Begun as a school for *m'taplot*, Emenah College has advanced to six disciplines, including graphic arts and art therapy. In the coming year, Emenah will be offering a B.A. degree via Bar Ilan University.

All art courses offered at Emenah College are presented with an underlying philosophical theme. Compulsory for all students is a course on the art and architecture of the *Beit Hamikdash*. Among the fine art courses offered are General Art, Ceramics, Silkscreening and Sculpture.



Malkiel Offers Course For SCW & YC Students

by Beth Stadtmayer

Dr. Burton Malkiel, Chemical Bank's Chairman Professor at Princeton University and Nobel Prize winner, is the Kukin Distinguished Visiting Professor of Finance at Sy Syms School of Business this semester.

Capital Markets, his class offered on Fridays, is the only co-educational course offered at YU and approximately 30 students attend the class. The purpose of his course is to explain the basic functions of the business world.

Malkiel's intellectual involvement with economics is twofold. Beyond developing his personal understanding of the dynamics of economics, he also concentrates on

formulating methods to relate his knowledge to his audience. He prides himself on being a teacher who retains his freedom to investigate a subject.

As a graduate of Harvard College, Malkiel went on to earn his MBA from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1955, and a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1964. His experience includes the deanship of Yale University School of Organization and Management.

When asked why he chose to teach at SSSB, he asserted that the school has a reputation for having a qualitative student body. He noted that the fact that his course is co-educational allows for a more interesting exchange of ideas.

Malkiel commented that he has already encountered many challenging questions from the YU students. When asked to compare the business students of Princeton to those of YU, he explained that the latter are more responsive and spontaneous in terms of classroom participation.

On February 11, 1992, Dr. Malkiel addressed the faculty and students of SSSB at a dinner given in his honor at Weissberg Commons in Belfer Hall. He offered an evaluation of the world's recent economic history using an overhead projector to illustrate his points. Students and faculty members participated with various questions based on what he presented.

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Students Return To High Schools

by Pearl Kaplan

Yeshiva University students are going back to high school. On Friday afternoons, SCW and YC students participating in the "Older Chevrotot" program conduct sessions in Yeshiva high school classrooms.

The "Older Chevrotot" program, established under the auspices of The Max Stern Division of Communal Services, is in its second year. This project was conceived and implemented by three Yeshiva of Flatbush Alumni: Jason Knapel, Adam Berner and Steve Finkelstein. Based on personal experience, they felt that high school students are not sufficiently stimulated by classroom Torah study. They maintained that textually oriented, chevruva style learning would inspire students through exposing them to the richness, challenge and excitement of Torah study.

First instituted at Yeshiva of Flatbush, the program received a positive and encouraging response. As a result, it has expanded to the Yeshiva University High Schools, Hebrew Academy of Nassau County, Hebrew Academy of Five Towns and Rockaways, and Westchester High School.

The program provides high school students with an opportunity to work closely with biblical and rabbinic texts. Prepared source books which include selections from Tanakh, Talmud, Medieval commentaries and Hafakchic works, are utilized to illustrate the continuity of Jewish tradition and the development of Jewish law.

Attention is also paid to areas of Jewish thought.

With the guidance and assistance of an older chevruva, high school students are encouraged to struggle with the sources. Individualized learning, with concentration on active involvement with the texts, is meant to give the high school students a greater sense of personal accomplishment and thereby encourage further interest in study. It is also hoped that the college students serve as positive role models.

Each study group consist of approximately five students and one YU student. This allows for the development of personal relationships between the older and younger members of the chevruva.

The "Older Chevrotot" program is currently in the process of expanding and developing. Participant Hindy Gidali, a SCW junior and YU High School alumna, commented that the program offers "a taste of what learning is like after high school."

continued from pg.1

all times," said Nierenberg, "and students are urged to come in and see me. I also plan to spend considerable amounts of time on the midtown campus, and look forward to meeting SSSB's talented female students. I believe that open communication between the dean's office, staff and students

Task Force Releases Report

continued from pg.1
agreement arose.

Bouskila and Zuckerman reported that each member's comments were considered with equal weight. When asked to describe relations between members of the task force, one student described them as "Excellent! No one was looked upon as an 'administrator' or 'tenured professor'...we all spoke freely and equally."

Kanarfogel, who is also Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies at SCW, commented that "every issue was reviewed thoroughly; nothing was rammed through...nothing, to my knowledge, was left unsaid."

The task force's proposal was presented to President Lamm on Wednesday, February 12, five days before its February 17 deadline.

On that date, the Office of the President would not release any information regarding the proposal. Dean of Students Efreim Nulman stated that the reason for the delay in its release was to "give

Dr. Lamm some time to review the contents of the proposal."

The Proposal

The nineteen-page proposal reviews the history of BRGS, calling it "a graduate school of international repute," and continues to describe the present state of BRGS, noting the number of faculty members and students, the range of degree programs, and the extent of fellowship money offered.

The proposal suggests a "minimalist position," which calls for masters degrees in Bible, Talmud, classical, medieval and modern Jewish History, and Jewish Thought, with doctoral programs in Bible, medieval Jewish history, and medieval Jewish philosophy.

This vision eliminates doctoral programs in Semitics, Talmud, classical and modern Jewish history, as well as the masters' program in Semitics. Hebrew and Aramaic remain as subjects of study within the Bible department. The force also offers suggestions for expansion once funds become

available.

The proposal provides President Lamm with three acceptable courses of action should "financial exigency render the implementation of even these minimal requirements problematic," as the task force could not reach a consensus on this issue.

When asked what the next step will be, Kanarfogel replied that "now it's Rabbi Lamm's call, and we hope he will do as much as he can."

On February 17, as Parents' Day was underway at both YC and SCW, students of CPR picketed at both campuses; they carried placards and distributed to the parents leaflets entitled "A Word About Revel."

According to CPR member Sally Rosen, a sophomore at SCW, the CPR activities on Parents Day were meant to send a message to the administration that student pressure will continue if the task force's minimalist position is not met.

New Dean Appointed

continued from pg.1

contributes to a stronger academic institution."

Dr. Moses Pava, a member of the SSSB dean search committee, and an Accounting professor at SSSB, pointed to Nierenberg's "desire to develop and maintain a good rapport with both faculty and students" as a key factor in Nierenberg's selection.

Laizer Kornwasser, president of

SSSBSA and a member of the SSSB dean search committee, explained that "[Nierenberg] has a wealth of experience in administration and management. I have every confidence that he will continue to develop SSSB to its full potential." In fact, Nierenberg's administrative skills are already addressing several important issues. In particular, he is working

on replacing two departing SSSB professors, and is preparing to review the forthcoming Senate subcommittee report on SSSB; he believes this will assist him in planning the future of the business school.

Adam J. Anhang, Sy Syms Student, is a staff writer for THE COMMENTATOR.



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Inside Observations: Doug Weight

by Shira Shimoni

Wouldn't it be great if we could all do what we love to do all the time and get paid for it? Center Doug Weight of the New York Rangers is doing just that.

Hockey for some, like Weight, is not just a pastime; it is a career. In the National Hockey League the players partake in their passion constantly. In an average week, the Rangers play a minimum of three games and it doesn't stop there. Additional hours of practice are required as well.

Weight, born and raised in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, has been on the ice since the age of two. His father, a big supporter, took an active role in his success and coached him until he was eight. Throughout high school and continuing on through college, Weight improved his sport. He was drafted from Lake Superior State in Northern Michigan by the Rangers on April 2, 1992. His first game was during the playoffs against Washington.

For the last twelve years, the Rangers home base and practice rink has been at Rye Playland in Rye, N.Y. Sitting on the bench closest to the ice, I met with Weight to talk about his growing career in professional hockey.

OBS: How does it feel to be play-

ing professional hockey with big sport celebrities that you grew up watching?

DW: It's unbelievable! You watch these guys the last ten years and now I play side by side with them.

OBS: What do your friends at home think about your being in the NHL? Do they treat you any



differently?

DW: It's different because I went away for college and didn't see a lot of those friends. But they do treat me differently, like they will avoid me on the street.

OBS: How was your social life?

DW: In high school I played travel hockey so I was away a lot. I didn't have much of a social life, which was a little difficult. But my real friends are supportive and don't

treat me any differently.

OBS: How supportive are your parents?

DW: They have been there for me all the way. They have always pushed me. My father coached me for twelve years. My mom was always the silent partner, but she really liked it and was proud of me.

OBS: What do you plan on doing during off-season?

DW: It is my first off-season so I'll go back and take some classes until I complete three years [for a degree].

OBS: What is your major?

DW: I'd like to go into management business.

OBS: Are you the youngest player on the team?

DW: YES!

OBS: Do they treat you differently?

DW: They get on my case for being a rookie. They'll cut your laces at practice and do other pranks and stuff. But in general everyone has been really great.

OBS: Does everyone on the team get along? Do you socialize off the ice together?

DW: We have a real close team. Of course, you have some guys that are closer with others guys, but there is also an age difference. Whereas some of the guys have families, others are here on our own. For the majority, everyone gets along; it's like a family. I didn't think it would be that way, but it has been great so far. We hang out together, some of us live together. It comes down to we just don't live at the rink together; there is friendship.

by Shira Shimoni

The elation of an overtime victory earlier in the week did not help the Lady Macs as they lost to York College 50-42 at home last Wednesday. Just two days before, Naomi Wiener had a three point buzzer-beater to force overtime at Maritime College. The Macs took command in the extra period to beat the Privateers 48-42. Bonnie Bienenstock led all scores with 23 points.

However, the Macs couldn't overcome excessive turnovers when the York College Cardinals came to their home. The Macs took an early lead on good inside shooting by Bienenstock but could not keep control of their own rebounds as several passes went astray and found their way into the hands of York players. The Cardinals took advantage of the miscues and took a 25-17 lead at the half. The Macs never got closer than 4 points in the

second half despite improved outside shooting including a repeat performance by Wiener of her three-pointer earlier in the week. Both teams shot poorly from the field with the Macs converting 18 of 59 shots and the Cardinals hitting only 21 of 61.

Very sparse play by the Macs bench - DeeDee Macklin was the only bench scorer with 2 points - enabled three players to score in double digits. Bienenstock led Yeshiva with 15 points, Wiener had 13, and Ora Nussbacher had 12 points from the outside. For the Cardinals, Rose Addison led all scores with 31 points.

Although the Macs lost their last two games against NJ Tech and SUNY Westbury we congratulate them on their well played season. The SUNY Westbury game was the last one for Bienenstock in her career as a Lady Mac.

than a dream it is a possibility. I hear from the other guy, like [teammate Mark] Messier, that it is an unbelievable feeling. I really want to be in that game, that's my goal right now.

Weight started off on the right foot by scoring six goals and fifteen assists in the first half of the season. However, because of a hand injury suffered in the January 11 game in Quebec, he has been sent down to Binghamton to rehabilitate for upcoming games.

We hope that he quickly recovers and wish him luck in achieving all his future goals.

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SPOTLIGHT

Rabbi Moshe Kahn Dispels Talmud Taboo

by Mindy Preminger

Many years ago, the idea of teaching women Talmud was considered taboo. This attitude continues to partially prevail and, according to several views, it is unacceptable for women to learn Gemara. However, Rabbi Moshe Kahn, one of the most popular Talmud teachers at Stern College, does not ascribe to this particular approach. In fact, as far as this RIETS *musmakh* is concerned, "there is no reason why any woman who has the ability and commitment cannot learn."

For the New York native who majored in History at YC, the controversial question of whether or not to teach women Talmud did not disturb him. Rabbi Kahn explains

that previously, the rigorous learning was not considered appropriate for women because at the time, it was felt that women did not possess the necessary skills and dedication to learn and master this all-encompassing pursuit. Therefore, in order to prevent trivializing the Talmud, women were discouraged from studying it. However, women today are thought of as more educated and motivated and thus, should be able to fulfill their desire to learn. In fact, Rabbi Kahn stresses the fact that throughout history, great women have studied and have even given *shiurim* to men. "Of course, they stood behind a curtain, but they taught," he adds.

Rabbi Kahn's many years of

teaching included ten years lecturing in JSS and, thus far, five at Stern. Although he finds little dif-



ference between teaching men and women, he is of the opinion that "Gemara is not for everyone." Some people are more comfortable learning *Chumash*, rather than opening a *Gemara*.

Known as a powerful and dynamic teacher, Rabbi Kahn is held in great respect by his students. When asked what techniques he uses to deliver his points to his students, Rabbi Kahn responds, grinning, "You have to make them work, to shoot for the top and to challenge them as far as the students can go." He demands preparation for his class and urges studying with in groups.

His main objective is for his students to develop the skills to be

able to pick up a *sefer* and learn by themselves. In order to do that, Rabbi Kahn encourages his students to approach *Gemara* as learning a new language, stressing the importance of accounting for every word.

As any student of his can attest, it is truly an experience to have Rabbi Kahn as a teacher. He always finds time to help his students and answer their questions, no matter how perplexing they might be. But why *Gemara*? As Rabbi Kahn says, "If a person realizes the development of *ohalakhah*, she can appreciate the beauty of it and therefore enhance her *yirat shamaim*." (fear of G-d)

AMIT Day of Learning at Midtown Center

by Chana Ringel

On Sunday February 9th, over 300 women gathered at Stern College for Women to spend the day learning Torah. This learning program, sponsored by AMIT Women, was designed to explore various Torah issues, as well as to familiarize the participants with one of the programs run by the organization. Those who attended heard a series of lectures on varied topics on the theme, "The Power of Prophecy: The Impact of Insight: Biblical Women and Their Prophetic Visions." The classes were given by speakers and professors who lecture throughout the New York area.

The keynote speaker at the event was Dr. Livia Bitton-Jackson, a professor, author and columnist. Bitton-Jackson spoke about

"Women of Vision: The Existential Perspectives on Prophecy." Following Bitton-Jackson's talk, the women attended two text-study classes, to be chosen from the six offered. Among the wide range of topics offered were "Esther: From Obscurity to Eternity" and "The Prophetess in the Gemara: Revered or Rejected?"

The program afforded women the opportunity to learn Torah with respected Torah scholars. Ms. Marion Weiss, Associate Chairwomen of AMIT, commented on the unexpectedly high number of participants and the program's overwhelming success. She noted that this turn-out was an indication of the growing thirst and enthusiasm which women possess for Torah study.

Upcoming Events from SCWSC....

Feb. 26 - UJA's day long campaign to raise funds for Operation Exodus....

Feb. 26 - Speech Arts Forum is sponsoring a lecture by Arthur Kurzweil, author and genealogist, at 7:30 in 418...

March 10 - Rebbeztzin Jungreis speaks at SCW...

March 11 - TAC's annual Purim Chagiga...

March 12 - Fine Arts Society sponsors a night at the theater, presenting "Miss Saigon"...

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