

THE OBSERVER

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President's Decision Awaited

by Tzaiacha Rosen

Approximately 150 YU students, eager for an official administration response to the Bernard Revel Graduate School task force's recommendation for restructuring BRGS, demonstrated at the uptown campus' Furst Hall on Thursday March 12, 2:45 PM.

The task force's proposal, disclosed February 17 after a month's deliberation, recommended a minimum of 32 courses a year.

The demonstrators, who first congregated outside the building with cries of "Save Revel now" and "Jewish school, Jewish studies," contended that Yeshiva University has raised the three million dollars it needs to implement the task force's minimalist proposal. Citing unofficial reports that the administration has proposed that BRGS offer twenty courses a year, Rabbi Gidon Rothstein, YC and RIETS graduate and BRGS student, asserted, "It's not a bad solution, it's no solution."

The demonstrators moved inside Furst Hall, sitting down in the

lobby as security officials looked on. YC and RIETS graduate and BRGS student Rabbi Natanel Helfgot, in his remarks before the crowd, noted intimidation of students and "petty politics between Roshei Yeshiva...[and] between faculty" as concerning side effects of the BRGS controversy. "The University must have respect for its students," he insisted.

In closing, demonstration organizer and BRGS student Hillel Novetsky told the students of what he viewed as a partial victory for the student struggle: the YU Board of Trustees education committee voted unanimously, he said, to affirm the task force's proposal of 32 courses a year. He added that the Executive Board will meet on Tuesday March 17 to vote on the education committee's recommendation. The students held a "very positive demonstration," said Novetsky, displaying "overwhelming restraint." He stated that future demonstrations would be more forceful if the Board did not approve the minimalist proposal.

Student Life Committee Makes Strides

by Rachel Schenker

The Student Life Committee held its fourth meeting on Friday March 13. Student representatives prepared for the meeting by distributing their recommendations on the institution of a Beit Midrash and student council offices on the seventh floor of the school building to administrative representatives prior to their meeting.

After much deliberation, the administrators on the committee agreed with the recommendation that a beit midrash be structured out of rooms 718 and 719, and appropriate space be found to house student council offices. The students asked for a commitment to the allocation of that space, but were told by Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting services, "I'm not prepared to do that."

It was explained that even though the entire committee was unanimously adopting this recommendation, the plans still had to be approved by administrative superiors.

Rosengarten said that he would release more detailed plans with the committee's recommendations taken into account in about two weeks. The committee is scheduled to reconvene in three weeks in order to finalize a commitment on the proposed space usage.

Original plans for the seventh

floor date back to 1983, at which time proposed plans included expanding the boardroom the entire width of the seventh floor. That proposal was evaluated by the committee and rejected. Dr. Karen Bacon, dean of SCW, stated that "given the space constraints and compromises of everyone else at SCW, expanding the boardroom so much is both inappropriate and short-sighted on our part."

Other items on the agenda that were discussed included the need for more effective intracampus van shuttle service. A meeting with Mr. Don Sommers, head of security, and interested students is being scheduled shortly.

In response to the demand for additional payphones in the school building, NY Telephone will be installing two new telephones in the school building on Thursday of this week. They will be located on the lobby level and on the sixth floor.

Finally responding to student demand for expanded recreational facilities, the university has entered into a joint endeavor with the Herald Square Athletic Center for SCW student's exclusive use of their facilities two nights a week. The facility will be open to Stern students starting 9:30 p.m., at no cost to them. All they need is a valid ID, as the university will be

covering the cost of this program.

The facilities consist of a fully equipped exercise room, steam room and sauna. A female physiologist and trainer will be available for student consultation. Furthermore, Rosengarten indicated that if there was a demand for aerobics or other such classes, students could be accommodated. Van shuttle will run between the facility and the dormitory on a time schedule.

The committee is anticipating a positive student reaction to this new program. Senior Ayalet Novetsky noted, "Even I will take them up on this incredible offer." The hope is that the university, although unable to conduct all activities on campus due to space constraints, will at least be able to make the best of the midtown location and accommodate students favorably elsewhere.

The administration also updated the students on the improving state of the computer facilities. Six new computers, as well as two printers that will replace older models, arrived last week and are currently being installed.

Students walked out of the meeting with positive feelings. "Maybe all our efforts and time will finally be made worthwhile," said SCWSC President, Susan Schluskel, hopefully.

YU Mourns Loss Of Benefactor Jerome Schottenstein



Dr. Norman Lamm, delivered the eulogy.

Schottenstein and his wife, Geraldine, together with other members of their family, made a major gift to endow the Schottenstein Center on YU's Joel Jablonski campus.

Schottenstein was elected to the Board of Trustees of YU in 1980. He had attended YU's high school as a teenager. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the university in 1984.

Schottenstein played a prominent role in communal life in Columbus. He was active in the leadership of the Board of Opera Columbus, Columbus Torah Academy, Agudas Achim Synagogue, Ohio State University, United Jewish Appeal, State of Israel Bonds, the Pritkin Longevity Center, Columbus Heritage House and the Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center.

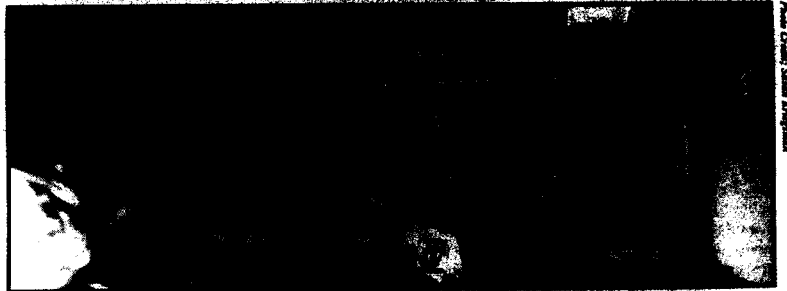
Schottenstein is survived by his wife, Geraldine, brother, Saul, four children and their spouses, nine grandchildren, brother and sister-in-law, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Hurwitz.

Interestingly, YU's press release failed to make note of the \$2.4 million that they pledged toward the acquisition of a new residence hall. A dorm has not yet been found.

YU PRESS RELEASE

Jerome Schottenstein of Columbus, Ohio, chairman of Value City Department Stores, Inc. and chairman and CEO, Schottenstein Stores Corp. and a member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University died in Columbus on March 10, 1992. He was 66 years old. Funeral services were held on March 11. President of YU, Rabbi

SCW Celebrates Purim



The annual Purim chagiga took place under the balloon-filled ceiling of Koch Auditorium on Wednesday, March 11. Over 200 students participated in the celebration, and the festivities continued past midnight with an impromptu kumzitz.

The evening's entertainment included comedy sketches by Beth

Lieberstein and Michal Schwartz, a spoof on "Beverly Hills 90120," entitled "Stern College for Women Only 10016," and a special Purim performance by the SCW choir. In addition, TAC's chinese auction raised money for charity.

Students enjoyed the chagiga, which was coordinated by Lieberstein and Lori Abramowitz.

Many felt that it was a welcome diversion to the pressures of midterms. Lieberstein called the chagiga a huge success and attributed it to the fact that, "at least twice a year all the different parts of Stern College can come together and have fun."

IN THAT ISSUE... TRUN IT OVER AND HAVE A LOOK!

EDITORIALS

Marriage and Divorce: Getting the Facts Straight

"Marriage...The Final Solution?" was the title of senior Banji D. Latkin's opinion piece in the last issue of THE OBSERVER. In that article, written, she contended, to alert Stern students to what she perceives as a problem, Latkin cited an "undocumented source" that claimed that 52% of couples who get married while in Stern get divorced. The author called this unsupported figure "a fact that cannot entirely be disputed."

Yes, it can. According to Dr. Chaim I. Waxman, professor of sociology at Rutgers University, that statistic is "ridiculous." "No way," he said, and he continued to provide statistics gleaned from a substantiated source: the national Jewish population survey, conducted annually by the Council of Jewish Federations.

The 1990 figures have yet to be analyzed, but prior to that year, it was found that the divorce rate among Jews was half that of the gentile population in the United States. Assuming, began Waxman, that the national rate were 50% (although, he added, it is probably a bit lower than that), the Jewish divorce rate is half that figure. Among Jews, the divorce rate among Reform Jews is twice as high as the rate among Orthodox Jews. Thus, he concluded, a ballpark statistic for the divorce rate among Orthodox Jews could not be higher than 15%!

Even though, nationally, divorce is more common among couples who get married at

younger ages, such as college students, it would be "unimaginable" that the SCW divorce rate would be 52%, asserted the professor, basing his comments on documented statistics.

Dr. Irving Levitz, professor at Wurzweiler Graduate School of Social Work and practicing clinical psychologist, presented an even more optimistic picture. Asserting that, to his knowledge, no study has been done on the Stern College divorce rate specifically, he cited a study on the New York City Jewish population divorce rate, conducted by Dr. Jay Brodbar-Nemzer of Brandeis University. According to Brodbar-Nemzer's findings, only 7% of Orthodox Jewish marriages end in divorce (Conservative - 10.8%; Reform - 18.1%; no denomination - 28.8%). When asked if it were possible that 52% of women who marry while in Stern College get a divorce, Levitz replied, "I have no indication whatsoever that this is true...It would be contrary to our current thinking and knowledge and shockingly surprising."

When asked for her source of information, Latkin answered that it was "all hearsay." She had "heard it from adults...[and] from students."

Perhaps Latkin was addressing a real problem; that, however, is not the issue. The issue is that the unsubstantiated number of 52% unnecessarily alarmed a great number of people; we just wanted to set the record straight.

Bernard Revel Graduate School, the proposed "restructuring" of which is the cause of much controversy.

Shockingly, Director of Student Services Zelda Braun and Chief of Security Frank Morris threatened the students with "disciplinary action" if they proceeded with their free expression. Students continued their activities nonetheless, and there have been no repercussions - yet. At YC, dorm counselor Uri Cohen was "warned" that his position was in peril if he continued his activities on behalf of BRGS; activities such as holding placards, which the administration termed illegal.

If peaceful demonstration and distribution of literature is met with even the threat of punishment, where will it end? What will prevent those in authority from suppressing any opinion that conflicts with their own?

This intimidation of students is disgraceful; the right to freedom of speech must be preserved.

After all, it's still a free country.

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.

Questioning Discretion

To the Editor:

As recent graduates of Yeshiva College, and former writers for its newspaper, we continue to take an interest in student publications. Recently we came across Banji Latkin's latest exposition, tastefully titled "Marriage...The Final Solution?" We applaud the editorial staff's sensitive linking of Ms. Latkin's hard-learned, edifying perspective on the prevalent attitude toward marriage at Stern College to the atrocities of Nazi Germany.

But the editorial staff alone should not bask in all of the glory. Ms. Latkin, too, deserves kudos for her freshly innovative prose. Lacking both reason and documentation, Ms. Latkin nevertheless had the courage to back her conclusory statements with unsubstantiated and borderline-preposterous statistics. Her gumption, however, did not stop there. Her poignant use of personal experience competently presented simple solutions to complex social issues. By revealing the intimate details of her own relationship, Ms. Latkin has taught a remarkable lesson to women everywhere: you needn't marry someone you "don't like...all that much."

Additionally, Ms. Latkin's startling revelation that divorce is "a serious thing" served not only as a solemn warning to her audience, but also as an example of incisive and succinct journalism.

While recognizing the position and importance of student-authored editorials in a college newspaper, we question the appropriateness of Ms. Latkin's piece, and respectfully submit that the governing board of THE OBSERVER employ more discretion, unless it its their goal to

turn page three into nothing more than a shallow medium for tawdry confessions and baseless assertions.

Jonathan Tropper, YC '91
Joshua Seidemann, YC '91

Where Has The First Amendment Gone?

This Revel business is getting out of hand.

Quite apart from the student outrage at the prospect of reducing Bernard Revel Graduate School to an inviable academic institution, another, more chilling issue has come to the fore: freedom of speech.

The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Students throughout the United States have exercised this right in voicing their concerns about and protests against the policies of their professors, their university administrators and their government: This right is precious; squelching free speech is an ominous prospect.

On Parents' Day at Stern College - Monday, February 17 - a group of students sought to hold placards in the SCW lobby and distribute informative literature to the visiting parents in support of

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THE OBSERVER apologizes for the absence of Chava Boylan's byline to her Revel article in the 4th issue and wishes to credit her at this time for her thorough coverage.

From The Editor's Desk On the Disintegration of Communication

by Rachel Schenker

I am, by nature, both an activist and a pacifist. My parents instilled in me, mostly by example, a belief that I, as a functioning member of a particular society, have a certain responsibility and obligation to that community. Getting involved was always encouraged and admired. If anything is left up to "everyone," they taught me, nothing will ever get done. My love for and appreciation of that society then, is best expressed by taking an active role in it.

At the same time, my parents were eager to show me that working with people - not fighting them - is the best way to approach and overcome any given obstacle. Positive, agreeable, peaceful means are always to be sought. You don't have to throw a temper tantrum to get what you want, they taught me; you need only ask nicely.

I never thought that these two lessons were either mutually exclusive or contradictory.

Until now. Finally, after six months of resisting that sentiment, I concede. Obviously, one must be militant if he or she truly wishes

to accomplish anything productive.

Last Friday, I, along with other student representatives, met with administrative representatives of the Student Life Committee to discuss "realizable" goals for the improvement of student life on campus. The climate in the room was one of definite discomfort. What started out half a year ago as a sincere effort on the part of both students and administrators to improve life at SCW by working together has metamorphosed into a virtual battlefield. Sides are clearly defined, and the only way to get anything accomplished is by going in on the offensive.

As the year has progressed, there has been a perceptible shift in the relationship I share with various administrators. The tone has changed from one of harmonious cooperation to friction.

Last semester, at the SCW Open House, I, along with other student leaders, was asked to address the potential students and speak about extra-curricular life at Stern. We were then invited to mingle with the parents and speak to them about the college. I was not

paid by anyone; but I sold this school - for the same reason that I work so hard for it - because I love it and I believe in its mission.

This semester, there was another function held at SCW - Parents' Day. Not only were I and other student leaders not invited to address the parents, but we weren't even introduced to them. What kind of statement does it make that YU doesn't feel it can call on its student leaders to address parents? To me, it indicates an obvious lack of trust on their side.

Maybe they were right. Maybe I would have challenged Mrs. Brenda Schlanger's call to be involved by sharing experiences of my own "involvement" and the non-existence of any achievements that would justify the amount of time I feel I've devoted to school-related issues. Maybe I would have challenged the legitimacy of these "committees" as anything more than farcical. Maybe I would have challenged YU's willingness to perform for its publicity rather than its students.

YU can take the credit for the disillusionment and breaking of another spirit, if not another generation.

Internships at SCW: Supplementing Schoolwork

by Chavie Levine

Many Stern College students find the job search a daunting task. Most difficult is pinpointing a specific field of interest. The internship program available at SCW allows students to sample various career industries before making a definitive choice.

Internships are available in many areas of study that are of particular interest to SCW students. These include communications, science, business, fashion and social work, among many others. Professor Laurel Hatvary, senior English professor and coordinator of internships and shaped majors, contends that in many fields, hands-on experience is vital and demanded of a prospective employee just out of college. She notes that many students are hired immediately upon graduation due to the experience and background they acquired through their internship.

Hatvary advises each student to begin an internship no earlier than her sophomore or junior year, so that she will have a sufficient background in her specific area of study before devoting a large amount of time to her specialty. Also, Hatvary has noticed that the best internships come to the students who have more experience.

One credit may be granted for each hundred hours of internship work performed. A paper must also be written at the end of the internship.

Students are less active now than they were previously in pursuing internship possibilities,

Hatvary observes. She believes that this is because of the larger number of professional courses offered at SCW than in the past. Students no longer feel as compelled to seek outside experience.

However, Hatvary maintains that an internship plays an important function in choosing a career, as classroom learning is no substitute for hands-on experience.

Students find this particularly true in communications-related fields. Sophomores Renee Glickman and Rebecca Ehrenpreis, both English Communications majors, are currently interning for Felice (Bienenstock) Friedson, a SCW alumnae, along with her husband, Michael, a YC graduate, have established a radio show, Jewish Horizon, airing on WEVD every Sunday night. They also have a public relations firm which advertises their show.

Ehrenpreis and Glickman, each perform tasks that relate to their respective areas of concentration, broadcasting and public relations. Glickman states that "this is a wonderful opportunity to be able to experience our major field first hand. I am so privileged to be getting a taste for it."

Adeeva Laya Graubard, a senior at SCW, enthuses that her internship at WCBS-AM sports department has given her a new perspective on the communications industry. "I can clearly see that this field is the one for me. I have a real feeling for the job and I have acquired real skills too."

The OBSERVER joins the Jewish community in wishing the Rebbe Shlita a speedy recovery.

The SCW Student Life Committee is pleased to announce that through our efforts the University is in the final stages of arranging for two free nights per week EXCLUSIVELY for SCW students at the HERALD SQUARE FITNESS CENTER (50 West 34th St.). It is

planned for this exciting program to begin on a trial basis on TUESDAY MARCH 31ST, AT 9:45 P.M.

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SPEAKERS AT STERN

KURZEIL: Tracing Your Jewish Roots

by Beth Stadtmauer

The Speech Arts Forum of Stern College sponsored a discourse entitled "Tracing Your Jewish Roots" on the evening of February 26. The address was delivered by renowned genealogist Arthur Kurzweil, co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* and co-president of Jason Aronson, Inc.

Kurzweil asserted that the objective of his speech was to show the audience the importance of learning their Jewish heritage. He stressed that this knowledge is important for both present and fu-

ture generations.

As he explained, Kurzweil first became interested in genealogy upon reading an obscure book about the small town where his great-grandfather was born. This experience inspired him to research his lineage in greater depth.

Kurzweil discussed various avenues to be explored by one researching her lineage. He exhibited several primary source documents, such as a list of passengers who arrived at Ellis Island and logs of immigrant ships. He explained that such documents are valuable tools as they are rich sources of infor-

mation.

Oral testimonies given by older family members can provide crucial information about a family's history. He stressed the importance of taking notes on what is said. Looking through old pictures and marking the names of those photographed on the reverse side with the help of an elder can put together additional pieces of the family tree.

Each member of the audience received a copy of an article entitled "User-friendly genealogy," written to provide readers with guidelines for researching their own roots.



Photo credit: Susan Kriegerman

by Chavie Levine

"Why do they hate us so?" questioned Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, columnist for *The Jewish Press* and founder of Hineni, in addressing SCW students on Wednesday, March 10 in a lecture entitled "Anti-Semitism in our Day."

Drawing on her experiences as a Holocaust survivor, Jungreis

draw parallels from anti-Semitic events which occurred in her hometown in Hungary, to contemporary anti-Semitic incidents. "I lived it; I remember it," she reflected. Jungreis pointed to incidents, such as the murder in Crown Heights, and prejudices of several political leaders, such as Pat Buchanan, to illustrate her point.

She expressed strongly the fallacy of the view held by some Jews that assimilation will combat the anti-Semitism rampant in the world. "Jews will always be the scapegoat," Jungreis maintained. However, she firmly stated that the source of anti-Semitism is the Jews' abandonment of the *Torah*.

Jungreis concluded by stressing how important it is that Jews accept responsibility for each other, and call upon the name of G-d in a united front. This will, in turn, bring the nation back to G-d, and hopefully mitigate the amount of anti-Semitism in the world.

Math/Actuary Club Sponsors Career Night

by Shana Bak

On Monday evening, March 9, approximately twenty SCW and YC students gathered in Furst Hall for a career night sponsored by the Math/Actuary Club. The event provided students with an opportunity to learn about career options available in the fields of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Harris N. Bak, an actuarial consultant for the Tillinghast Company, described his work as an actuary, the process of becoming an actuary, and techniques for a successful interview. In an attempt to

dispel the stereotype of the humorless actuary, he told several jokes and anecdotes during the course of his presentation.

Zev S. Berman, president of the Berman Consulting Group, discussed various ways that mathematics can be of assistance in the computer science field. He described types of work in computer science that require math skills, and answered students' questions regarding which college courses prove most beneficial for a career in computer science.

YC Senior and CompuSci

President, Yitzchak Hollander, expressed his excitement in hearing that "despite the bleak job situation, there are lots of interesting career opportunities in computers."

SCW Sophomore, Yocheved Kaganoff, noted that Bak's usage of graphs and specific examples provided her with a clearer understanding of the actuary field.

In consideration of the small number of math majors at YU, the club presidents were pleased with the turnout.

"Jewish Bag Lady" Visits Stern

by Sarita Rosenhaus

On Tuesday, February 25, SCW Dean Karen Bacon, SCWSC President Susan Schluskel, SSSBSC President Malka Raul, and approximately 20 SCW students attended a lecture given by Judith Leiber, founder of the designer handbag company, Judith Leiber, Inc. and sponsor of the Judith Leiber Scholarship for women interested in fashion design. Leiber's exclusive, hand-made handbags sell from \$600 to \$6,000 and have been sold to such celebrities and personalities as Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara Walters, Queen Elizabeth, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush.

Bacon briefly introduced Leiber as an "outstanding representative of her profession," and as an individual who embodies "quality and class." Leiber then delivered a speech describing how she originally became involved in her craft and how she manages her business today.

Born in Budapest, Leiber was forced to work in a handbag factory during the Holocaust where she learned the entire process of making bags. In 1945, she met and married her husband. They moved to America and eventually founded her company in 1963 with only four employees. Today, Judith Leiber Inc. fills 25,000 square feet

and employs 150 people. Her chief buyers include Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman, I. Magnum, and many others.

"To run a business, one must wear many different hats," Leiber said. On conducting herself at work, she commented that it is



Photo credit: Judith Leiber, Inc. PA

important to purchase well, fight for the right locations in stores, ensure good displays, and personally visit stores to boost sales and observe how the merchandise is being sold.

In addition, Leiber travels twice

a year to Europe to check the hardware suppliers. She stated that she must not only act as the director of a business, enforcing high quality performance in each task, but she must also be sympathetic to problems as well.

During the question and answer session that followed her speech, Leiber offered advice to those interested in fashion careers. She emphasized that thorough knowledge of ones given craft is vital. "You can learn some of it in school, but the bulk of it is on the spot...The only way you can learn is practical experience," she said.

A second year fashion design student who attended the lecture observed, "Mrs. Leiber's handbags are worth the price. Her attention to detail marks the quality of each design. She represents a lady who pursued her goals, knowing how competitive it was at that time especially for a woman. Her story is inspiring because it shows that we have better chances of succeeding today."

The SCWSC and SSSBSC sponsored event was preceded by a dinner and 20 minute publicity photo session during which SCW students from different states were photographed with Leiber while holding a black, embroidered and sequined handbag, worth \$1,100.

"Anti-Semitism In Our Day" Jungreis Speaks Out

Nazir's Granddaughter Comes To SCW

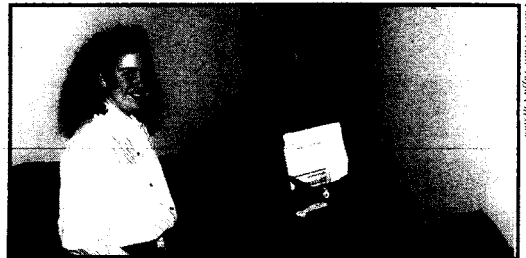


Photo credit: Yajitz Givon

Etiraz Kraus, granddaughter of the Jerusalem Nazir, with SCWSC President Susan Schluskel, after addressing SCW students on "Orthodox women in Israel today".

Miracles in Judaism Today

by Rena Maslansky

"Miracles are occurring for the Jewish people," contended Rabbi Berel Wein, Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshivah Shaarei Torah of Rockland, NY, in a lecture he delivered on Monday night, February 24 to YU students.

Wein began his lecture by summarizing the debate between Maimonides and Nachmanidies, on the nature of miracles. Maimonides believes that miracles were "programmed" into nature during the six days of Creation, while the Nachmanidies maintains that G-d interferes daily to perform spontaneous miracles for His people. Wein concluded the summary with the statement, "Eilu ve-eilu divrei Elokim chayim"... that the Torah may be understood on seventy different levels, and therefore the interpretations both

of the Maimonidies and the Nachmanidies are viable. Wein stressed, though, that regardless of the opinion with which one may agree, one certainly must recognize the events occurring in the Jewish world today as miraculous, and attribute them to G-d.

Wein pointed to the sudden migration of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel as a primary example of a contemporary miracle. Above all, he stated, the fact that the Jewish people still exist today is most miraculous. Wein concluded by expressing that each individual plays a key role in bringing about these miracles. If each Jew strives to reach his potential and devote himself to Torah, thereby glorifying G-d's name, G-d will continue to perform His miracles in the world.

THE OBSERVER joins the Jewish community in mourning the death of Menachem Begin.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

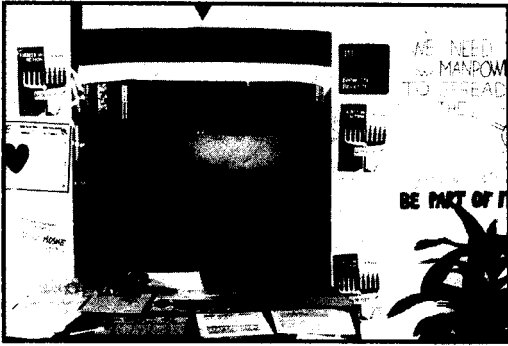


PHOTO COURTESY: YUJIA CHAI

"Lights in Action" Begins Campaign

by Aliza Dworcen

Lights in Action is a nationwide college network founded to reach out to Jews throughout the United States and Canada. It was created by SCW students who sought to take responsibility for what is occurring to the Jews outside of the Orthodox world.

The group is student-run, privately funded, and not affiliated with any pre-existing political or religious organizations. Organizers maintain that this prevents them from having "strings attached" and from alienating any group or individual.

Its goals are outlined in the literature Lights in Action distributes: "There is one paramount, screaming imperative in American Jewish life today: an entire generation of youth intermarrying and assimilating at a rate auguring

nothing less than national oblivion. We must reverse the process..."

Lights in Action was created to correct this trend through the dissemination of literature to a variety of major universities in order to provoke, fascinate, and inspire Jews to think about their Judaism. Noting that the collegiate years are a time of contemplation and intellectual creativity, college students were chosen as the target of the program. Lights in Action aims to show students that Judaism is not ancient and foreign, but can be part of modern life.

Phase I of Lights in Action involved only New York schools. On December 8, a kumsitz unification project was organized and held on Chanukah in Washington Square Park. Its purpose was to stress that Jewish pride and unity should be "something we feel within each

other at all times," and not only when negative political events force us to join together. Approximately 200 students attended the event.

Phase II began with the desire to create a nation-wide network, with contacts in colleges throughout the country. Lights in Action now has connections in approximately 70 college campuses, such as Harvard University, University of Nevada, and University of Judaism, which has only 160 Jews enrolled.

The only qualifications needed by the liaisons is that they be reliable and dedicated to Jewish ideals. The organization, however, has received rabbinic approval from Orthodox rabbis, such as Rabbi Berel Wein of Monsey.

Contacts will help coordinate the mailing project integral to phase II. They have already submitted figures regarding the number of Jews on their campuses. In the future, they will place packets of literature prepared by Light in Action in their respective intracampus mail systems. This process will take place simultaneously on the campuses during a designated three day period. The literature will reach about 50,000 students.

The packets to be distributed have been compiled through rabbinic consultation. The group has attempted to develop packets which are intellectual, sophisticated, and ultimately thought provoking.

The message that Lights in Action seeks to convey to the SCW student body, says one coordinator C.B. Glazer, is that "as much as we want to improve our own learning and Judaism, there is so much we can give to others."

in addition, a semi-formal reception was held Saturday night at the Center for Jewish Living, where the participants had the opportunity to socialize.

Early Sunday morning, the conference officially began with a keynote address delivered by Dr. Barry Rubin, fellow in the Foreign Policy Institute, a division of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He dealt with the current state of U.S.-Israel relations. Question and answer sessions followed, in which students consulted with experts regarding the peace process, the Palestinians' and human rights, the history of Israel, and the legislative agenda of AIPAC.

Lunch and a political fair, featuring a letter writing drive, a video presentation, and information concerning the upcoming election, followed the morning meetings.

The highlights of the day were the phone calls received from the Republican New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who was scheduled to attend, and Repre-

sentative Elliot Engel of the Bronx and South Yonkers, New York.

In the afternoon, political workshops were held. Topics included: working for a member of Congress; the campaign trail; and women in the political arena. In the last portion of the seminar, the skill sessions, the students learned how to translate ideas into action. Specifically, the meetings concentrated on the skills necessary to lobby, publish, answer challenging questions, and increase political awareness.

Overall, the student response to the conference was positive. Ilana Breslau, SCW sophomore, remarked, "It was a great opportunity for Jewish students from many different schools and diverse backgrounds to meet on common ground: our concern for Israel." Activities are being planned in order to raise the level of political awareness among students at SCW. Furthermore, a policy conference is scheduled for Sunday, April 5 through Tuesday, April 7 to be held in Washington D.C.

UJA OPEX CAMPAIGN Raises over \$5,000 at SCW

by Tzalcha Rosen

More than 260 Stern College students and over 30 members of the SCW faculty and administration raised a total of \$5,700 for the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus in the February 26 campaign on campus, according to student organizer Esther Wolf, a senior at SCW.

"Op Ex" is the UJA's current project to aid the transfer and settlement of thousands of immigrants to Israel from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. The money raised helps to, among other things, feed, clothe, house, educate, and retrain the immigrants for jobs in their new surroundings.

"Give \$26 on the 26th," read the signs at SCW and Brookdale Hall

for weeks before the drive. The organizers expressed satisfaction over the success of the appeal; senior Lori Abramowitz added that the campaign "definitely would not have been possible without everyone who participated." The publicity staff and those who manned the booths were integral to the appeal's success, she explained.

UJA officers were impressed by SCW's efforts, asserted Wolf; they appreciated the commitment of a religious institution to causes outside its immediate circle.

Organizer Rivky Shuchatowitz added the hope that this appeal will be an annual event at SCW, with the total amount raised growing each year.

SSSB Sponsors Trustees Forum

by Yona Markowitz

The Sy Syms School of Business held a trustees forum on Tuesday night, March 10. The event was hosted by Josh Weston, chairman and chief executive officer of *Automated Data Processing* and featured two speakers: Alair Townsend, publisher of *Crain's New York Business* and Alan Belzer, president and chief operating officer of *Allied-Signal Corporation*.

The forum, one in a series of three lectures, was held to complement the formal curriculum with practical information about career opportunities in various areas of business.

Each speaker described the specific industry in which he is involved and how each of their companies achieve success. They explained the career paths of the different fields they are involved in.

Townsend described four aspects of publishing, namely sales, circulation, marketing, and promotion. She asserted that sales are a particularly good area for women because "the [sales] numbers speak for themselves." About half the print space, radio and TV advertisements are sold by women.

Belzer provided the audience

with several tips on achieving personal success. He maintains that one must be aggressive by thinking ahead and doing what is needed before you are told to do it.

Weston described how he achieved success and encouraged his listeners to do the same by giving the job "101 percent." He asserted that no matter what job one has, he should ask questions and learn as much as he can.

The speakers agreed that upon beginning a career, one should explore and not be afraid to try new areas. Although salary is an important factor when choosing a job, they advised that thought must be given to the long run. One should consider how much room there is for growth and where he will in the future.

After all three spoke the floor was open for questions. Sy Syms, a member of the SSSB Board of Directors and school benefactor, was present and expressed concern for meeting the needs of the women as students of both SCW and SSSB.

Preceding the event the student leaders met with the speakers and members of the SSSB Board of Directors on an informal basis.

YU Students Attend Training Seminar at Cornell

by Amanda Nussbaum and
Tamar Raskas

A political leadership training seminar was sponsored by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on March 1, 1992, at Cornell University. Over four hundred students from across the Northeast, ranging from Pennsylvania to Maine, convened at Cornell to participate in this educational conference.

The goal of the seminar was to inform college students about pertinent political issues regarding American-Israeli relations, and to encourage students to take an active role in the political process.

Although the AIPAC workshops commenced on Sunday morning, students from Yeshiva University, as well as other Orthodox college students, arrived Friday afternoon to spend Shabbat at the university. Housing and meals were provided by the Young Israel House of Cornell. The Shabbat program consisted of services, stimulating sessions, and a walking tour of the Ithaca campus. In

UPCOMING EVENTS

from SCWSC

March...

18-19: Purim--no classes
24: Seminar sponsored by the Self-Defense Club
25: Shiur delivered by Rav Schechter
27-28: SSSB and College Republican Shabbaton
29: Jewish storytelling conference at SCW

April...

1: Sociology Club sponsors Schlesinger of Kahane Trials to speak at SCW
6: SSSB sponsors a Trustee's Forum at Belfer Hall
6: SCW's semi-annual blood drive
7: Rogoff Memorial lecture, at SCW
8: Speech Arts Forum's annual speech contest

CULTURAL ARTS

Review of YU Museum Exhibit *Our Illuminated Mesorah*

by Sara Klein

Yeshiva University's Library and Museum never cease to surprise the institution's men and women with new and exciting finds in every corner. From now until July, a breathtaking exhibition of artist Yonah Weinreb's original "Ethics of the Fathers" (*Pirkei Avot-Kanfei Yonah*) is showing in the museum's upper and lower entrance hall galleries.

The collection of illuminated *Avot* started as a manuscript commissioned by Naomi and Harvey Wolinetz for their son's Bar Mitzvah in 1987. The original, displayed in a glass case at the exhibit, was completed by Weinreb over a three year period. A variety of artistic techniques, including calligraphy, micrography, gold leaf, ink,

gouache, papercut, scratchboard, and airbrush, were employed by Weinreb in his renderings of the timeless thoughts of our Sages.

As impressive as the artist's eclectic range of expression was his scholarly ability to integrate rabbinical commentaries, *Kabbalah* (mysticism), and *Pirkei Avot* into single vibrant and creative images. What Weinreb has presented is essentially a series of visual "divrei Torah" (words of Torah), ranging from in depth analyses of the Ethics of the Fathers to imaginative and moving presentations of certain Medrashic texts. Facing each one is an English commentary explaining the content of the picture, reflecting the extensive research done by the artist in producing this volume.

Every work is a separate masterpiece, underscored by the different artistic styles and themes built into it by the artist. Specific examples would be helpful in illustrating this point. In one striking painting, entitled *Transmission of the Torah* (Avot, 1:1), Weinreb designed the chain of tradition from Moses to the present as a Torah scroll, composed of stones meant to resemble those of the Western Wall. Each one was inscribed with the name of an historic sage or luminary (in chronological order), or with a picture of a place or object significant in Jewish culture.

Another splendid work is the artist's rendition of "G-d Looked into the Torah and Created the World" (Zohar:Toldot:1), in which

the six days of creation were illustrated, in rich color, inside vertical strips. Together, all of these formed a sphere, placed within a Torah Scroll.

Finally, one brilliant and vivid impression is Weinreb's "*This World is Like an Antechamber Before the World to Come*" (Avot 4:21). This particular piece integrated a few Medrashic and Talmudic references in its portrayal of the connection between this world and the next as fifteen steps (an allusion to the fifteen Songs of Ascent sung on the fifteen steps in the Temple during the service-Mishna Succah 5:4), a praised characteristic of G-d written on each. The next World, called "Jerusalem of Above" (Zohar: Vayikra 15) in the painting, is shaped as the Hebrew

letter "Yud." This world, drawn as a succah, is pictured as the Hebrew letter "Heh." (Based on the Medrash (Bereishit Rabbah, 12:10) that those letters of G-d's name were used in the creation of the Upper (Yud) and Lower (Heh) Worlds.) This serves as a perfect illustration of how Weinreb implemented both his scholarship of rabbinic texts and his artistic versatility to create elaborate and colorful interpretations of our mesorah (tradition).

This exhibition, supported, in part, by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, is a wonderful aesthetic and cultural experience. Additionally, Weinreb's artistic interpretations serve as moral lessons using the most subtle and pleasant of mediums.

SCW Celebrates Jewish Storytelling In Education

by Sarita Rosenhaus

On Sunday, March 29, SCW will host a one-day conference entitled "A Jewish Storytelling Celebration: Continuing the Teaching Tradition." Sponsoring the symposium are SCW, the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute for Jewish Education and Administration, and the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd Street Y.

The focus of this conference will be storytelling in Jewish education. Rabbis, educators, and professional storytellers will offer workshops on a wide range of topics. These include: techniques of storytelling; teaching the oral tradition in the community, school, and home; and retrieving and using personal stories.

SCW Professor Peninnah Schram, a renown Jewish story-

teller, is directing the event along with Gerald Fierst, the Artistic Director of the Jewish Storytelling Center. According to Schram, the one-day event will provide an opportunity for education professionals and all who are interested in the art of Jewish storytelling to meet practitioners and authorities in the field.

Schram maintains that "There has been a renewed interest in storytelling since the mid-1970's, and Jewish storytelling has been central in this renaissance."

At the upcoming March conference, Rabbi Avi Weiss will present the keynote address, "White Fire on Black Fire: the Mystery of Stories," about the power of narrative in our lives. Other speakers include Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald on "Using Stories for Outreach"; Rabbi Tzvi Kilstein on "Stories

Designed to Produce Change"; and Folklorist Steven Zeitlin on "You Want a Joke? I'll Tell You a Story."

Stressing that storytelling is "such an integral part of Jewish tradition," Schram expressed the hope "that SCW students take the opportunity to come, learn from, and enjoy the storytellers who will be brought together."

SCW student's who pre-register for the event will not have to pay the \$50 early or \$65 regular registration fee. The registration form for SCW students can be obtained from Schram directly or from the Dean's office.

Schram is presently looking for volunteers from amongst SCW students to welcome and direct guests, to be personal liaisons with the speakers, and to be present as representatives of the university.

Keshet Club Founded at SCW

by Chava Boylan

The newly formed Keshet Club, designed to assist foreign students adjust to student life and become more involved in Stern College student activities, held its first activity at Jerusalem II on Tuesday evening, February 18. The event attracted over 40 students.

The foreign students' native countries span the globe, including the former Soviet Union, Israel, Iran, Brazil and Venezuela.

Each club member has been paired up with an American student. These pairs were arranged by club organizers, Aliza Dworken and Sarah Fruchter, both juniors at SCW.

"Keshet" is a Hebrew word, the literal meaning of which is connection; it connotes an emotional

attachment as well, however. The Keshet Club founders, therefore, aspire that through such relationships with other students, the foreign students might feel more at home in the SCW atmosphere.

The first event took place the Jerusalem II restaurant. At the end of the get-together, each participant met her partner. Although there were approximately 40 people present at the event, there are actually 47 pairs of students involved in the program.

The second event, on February 26, was a club hour *shuir* given by Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, *mashgiach ruchani* of SCW, on the woman's role in Judaism as seen through *Parshat Vayak'hel*.

Monday night, March 9, club members assembled to learn Israeli

dances; this event was an attempt to familiarize the newcomers with dances they may encounter at the Purim Chagiga or at a wedding. A Shabbaton took place the weekend of March 13-14.

In addition to specific programming, the Keshet Club, in conjunction with TAC's Home Hospitality program, sponsors a Shabbat placement program. These arrangements are organized by SCW juniors Peninnah Siff and Yona Markowitz. The program will arrange accommodations for Purim meals as well.

"The Keshet Club is a project which is of much value to everyone involved. Hopefully, its success will continue and help foster strong friendships here at Stern," Dworken summed up.

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Academic Advisement Under Scrutiny at YU Interest in Torah Unites SCW And Community Women

by Rayzel Kinderlehrer

Five SCW students attended a February 25 meeting, presided over by Committee on Student Affairs Chair Dr. Richard L. Nochimson to discuss improving the academic advisement facilities at SCW. A parallel meeting was held at YC on March 2.

Approximately sixty students of SCW and YC received a memo inviting them to this meeting; the memo was also posted for the attention of all students.

The purpose of the gathering, the memo explained, was to provide "a crucial opportunity for student involvement" as the faculty committee is "reviewing...current processes for providing students with academic advisement, and formulating recommendations for changes."

Nochimson was accompanied by Professor Joseph L. DeSantis, also a member of the faculty committee. Other members include Professors Noyes Bartholomew, Phillip Levine, Julius Shevlin, Rabbi Shalom Carmy, and Dean Efreim Nulman.

The Committee on Student Affairs is part of the Faculty Assembly, which is the official organization of the Yeshiva University undergraduate faculty; this assembly plays an advisory role in the formulation of academic policies. The review which the memo discussed has

been going on for two years.

Nochimson and DeSantis asked for student feedback regarding the perceived purpose and efficiency of the University's present academic advisement policies and procedures. DeSantis commented that "especially in Stern, where a majority of students receive a three-year education," academic advisement is crucial.

Students discussed what they view as an inefficient system of advisement. SCW Sophomore class President Pamela Schlanger noted, "For a small school, we should be getting more personal attention, and we don't."

Points of emphasis included the limited availability of many faculty advisors, and the difficulty of scheduling appointments with Naomi Kapp, SCW's only career counselor. Students expressed their feeling that a system should be created which would make regular contact between students and advisors a reality.

Suggestions ranged from the notion of a computerized, interactive information system to an increase in career fairs. Also mentioned was the creation of mandatory academic advisement meetings for freshmen and sophomores, in addition to those already required in junior and senior year. These checks would follow up on student progress towards fulfillment of basic and major requirements. TAC President Faith Chudnoff contended that well over 25% of the student body take a less than ideal sequence of courses

to fulfill their majors.

Another discussion emphasized lack of student awareness or interest in the necessity and availability of advisement. Intense discussion ensued, regarding the pros and cons of the creation of a mandatory advisement policy.

Such a requirement could be applied to all students, or only to first-year students. Nochimson commented that "often people who need the most advice are the most uncomfortable about seeking advice." Senior students present expressed their wish that they had sought and received more advice as freshmen and sophomores.

Also discussed was the inadequacy of pre-registration knowledge for freshmen, the fine distinction between the responsibilities of the student and those of the college, and the perceived higher quality of advisement in SSSB, observed by SSSB student Joyce Markowitz, due to the necessity of consultation with Dean Jaskoll or the Sy Syms placement officers in order to understand the stringent requirements of the business school.

Follow-up plans include further collation of student, faculty, and administration opinion and continued work on a specific proposal for the introduction of changes in advisement procedures. Nochimson urges all students with opinions or suggestions regarding academic advisement to visit him in his office in room 1004 at the Midtown Center.

by Aliza Levin

The women of the community do not feel actively involved in their shul (synagogue), and there are no Torah learning opportunities provided specifically for them. This all too familiar scenario is the one described by Rabbi Aaron Cohen of the Young Israel of Fifth Avenue. "Women Interested in Increased Torah Study," was the subject of a letter he sent out to the community with a proposed remedy to the situation.

Cohen assessed SCW as a place where women "have strong learning backgrounds and want to learn Torah and participate in chesed activities." Given SCW's close proximity to the shul, located on 16th Street near Fifth Avenue, SCW students seemed a natural choice as learning partners for the women in the community.

In a program which began on February 18, women from SCW go to the Young Israel every Tuesday evening from eight to nine P.M. and learn with *chavrutot*, steady learning partners. Topics range from the weekly Torah portion to halacha, *Gemara*, and issues in Jewish Philosophy.

Rabbi Cohen explained that given the varied levels, interests, and needs of the women participating, individualized *Beit Midrash* style learning would be

the most comfortable and active learning experience.

Senior Naomi Wadler, SCW coordinator of the project, commented, "As evidenced by the lack of space in our *Beit Midrash*, SCW women appreciate this style of learning. Others don't have the opportunity to take advantage of what we have at SCW, and this is a way of sharing our assets with the community."

The program is under the auspices of the Torah Activities Council, and the Office of Student Services provides a van to bring the SCW women to and from the shul.

Participants from both SCW and Young Israel are enthused about the program. Although some women were apprehensive about the commitment to a study partner, and those with weaker backgrounds questioned their ability to actively participate, feedback has been very positive. One member exclaimed, "I'm learning how to learn," accurately assessing the goal of a *Beit Midrash* program.

With approximately twelve learning "pairs," the program seeks to expand. Wadler indicated an interest in involving NYU students in addition to the women affiliated with the shul. Greater participation from SCW is encouraged. Those interested should contact Wadler.

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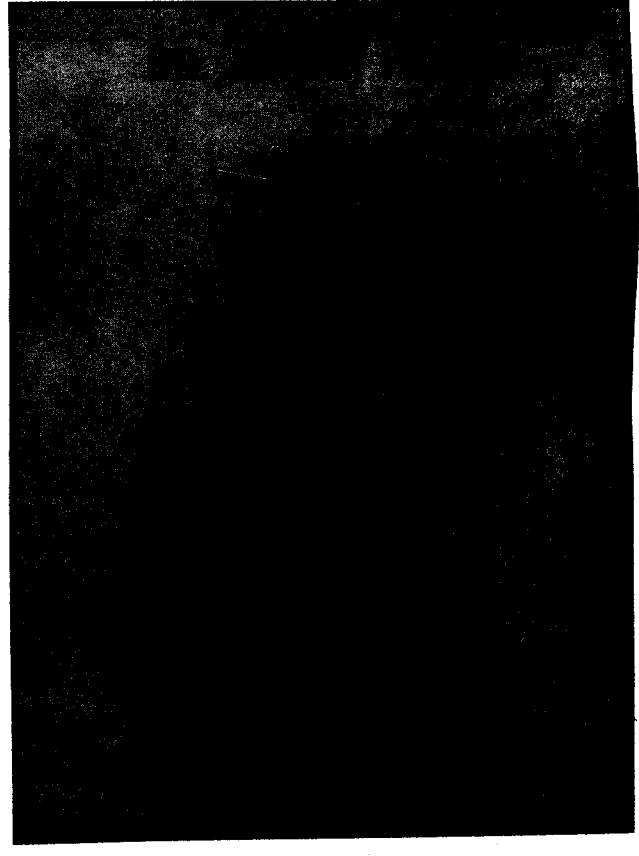
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