

THE OBSERVER

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Investigations Into Cafeteria Remain Unresolved

by Chava Boylan

With the announcement of the Food Services Subcommittee's proposal to raise the price of the mandatory food plan for 1992-93 by \$300 to a total of \$1300, students at SCW question the quality of the services they receive for their money.

Several students questioned about their views on the cafeteria expressed dissatisfaction with the food and the prices. "The cafeteria food simply does not taste good," claimed junior Adeeva Laya Graubard. "And the prices they charge are not justified," she added.

Sophomore Adeena Davis remarked that since the beginning of spring semester she has purchased spoiled tuna at least three times. Although Davis was given a new package each time, she commented "I was a bit wary about taking another one [tuna]. I won't eat their tuna fish now."

Director of Food Services Jacob Lieberman expressed surprise over the student dissatisfaction with the cafeteria. Although he has received complaints, Lieberman asserted

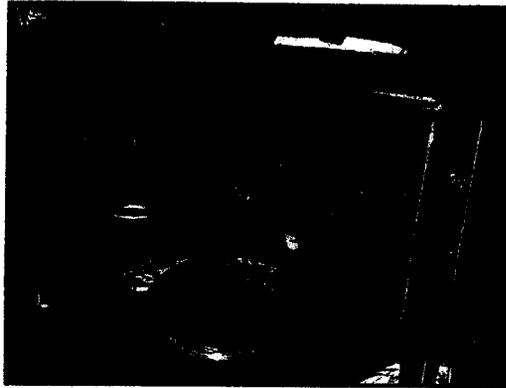
that he has received positive feedback from the students overall. He receives this information at weekly visits to SCW, discussions with the head of the Food Services Committee senior Deva Schlass and reports from a food consultant who personally questions students about the food.

Questions of Propriety

An incident which raises other questions about food services was the February dismissal of Michael Arzuane from his post as SCW Shabbat Head Waiter, a post he held for two and a half years.

Arzuane says that he was let go without being told explicitly why he was being fired. He claims that he was dismissed unjustly and used as the administration's scapegoat for complaints they received about the quality of the food, especially the spoiled food of the Shabbat preceding his dismissal. Arzuane asserts, however, that he was in charge only of serving the food and preparing salad, but not in the food's preparation.

Lieberman declined to com-



Inside the cafeteria kitchen.

ment on the reason for Arzuane's dismissal as did Moshe Singer, cafeteria manager and *mashgiach* and Stuart Reichman, assistant-manager. "Why I hire or fire [employees] is...[not] for public knowledge," Lieberman said. "An employee who was fired knows why he was fired."

Arzuane claims that conditions

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The Beit Midrash in the dormitory occupied by Parsha Shiur.

Absence Of Beit Midrash Questioned

by Tzalcha Rosen

A visiting high school senior who is considering attending Stern College expressed astonishment that there is no *beit midrash* in the school building. She said, "I'm really surprised; I mean, learning Torah is what Stern's all about."

Two students returning from a year at seminary B'not Chayil in Israel voiced their disappointment at the lack of a place to learn at SCW. "It [a *beit midrash*] sets a certain tone and atmosphere in the school," they explained.

And "You mean there's no *beit midrash* in the Stern building?" was the question of an incredulous Columbia student who enjoys the use of a *beit midrash* on her campus.

Many professors and students feel that the lack of a *beit midrash* is a severe handicap to learning at Stern.

Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Tzvi Flaum commented that "unfortunately, there is an inadequacy of space for women to learn in a proper environment with proper texts...If we want *b'nos Torah* (women committed to Torah observance and study), we have to accommodate them." He cited "countless" recent requests for a place to learn.

"Stern College is at the forefront of women's Torah education today," explained Rabbi Moshe Kahn, SCW Talmud and Halacha professor, "SCW has grown tremendously in the past years, and

its facilities for learning must grow with it; a *beit midrash* is essential to achieving this goal."

In addition to the over 40 women taking Talmud with Rabbi Kahn, a course which requires extensive preparation in pairs before class, over 80 women polled sense the need for a place to learn Jewish texts ranging from *Tanaach* to *hashkafa* with a *chavruta* (study partner). This poll was a random sampling of students of varying backgrounds and ideological standpoints.

Students polled also stressed what they see as an urgent need for a place set aside for prayer in the school building. "The hallway and the stairwell are simply not conducive to proper davening," explained junior Nomi Dworkin.

The Student Life Committee has been meeting monthly with Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten since the fall semester, considering this issue top priority. The committee met on April 6 to discuss possibilities of space in Stern for the *beit midrash*.

Space on the seventh floor currently used as the office of the Executive Vice-President as well as a small seminar room had been previously recommended by students, but was rejected temporarily by YU President Norman Lamm, according to Rosengarten.

Other viable locations included sixth floor offices and first floor offices. The students rejected suggestions they considered unacceptable such as the various locker and

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Students React To Proposed Increase

and YC student councils to the parents of all current students. According to Susan Schlusel, SCWSC president, the purpose of this was to sent the decision back to the parents who, for the most part, pay for their children's meal plans.

"As upset as we might get, if our parents and those paying the bills aren't willing to get involved and make their voices heard, then the message communicated is that the administration can make outrageous demands and get away with them.

"Furthermore," Schlusel added, "silence from the parents will only serve to indicate that the apathy of the students is a learned one."

Further steps on the part of the students are planned. Yeshiva College students will be boycotting the cafeteria Monday through Wednesday, and convenience stores and restaurants in the area will be offering 10% discounts with student ID. No such plan has yet been adopted on the midtown campus.

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New "Course" To Be Offered Deliberations Lead To New Course-Not New Program

by Rayzel Kinderlehrer

After three postponed February deadlines, Monday March 30 saw the announcement of a plan for the extension of the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute Master's program in teacher education to include a special course for women in "The Development and Methodology of Halacha."

Rabbi Yitzchak S. Handel, director of AGI, delineated the details of the proposed plan. He explained that the delay was due to "numerous discussions" about the new program.

The proposed change will be implemented in the 1992-93 academic year, providing that a minimum of six students enroll. The new course will run for two semesters, earning students three credits each semester.

The purpose of the change, according to Rabbi Handel, is to "give women interested in pursu-

ing a career in Jewish education a chance to increase their Jewish studies at AGI."

Rabbi Yonasan Saks, one of the *Roshei Yeshiva* of the Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy-YU High School for Boys, and lecturer to both men and women across the country, will teach the shiur.

The course consists of four and a half hours of lecture per week, divided over Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:00 to 4:30 PM each afternoon. In addition to the lecture, it includes 20 hours of student preparation and review per week Monday through Thursday. This *beit midrash* (study) time is loosely scheduled for 9 AM - 12 PM and 1-3 PM, but the times are negotiable.

During each day's morning period, there will be a second teacher available from 10AM-12PM to whom students may address ques-

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EDITORIALS

Presidential Priorities

YU President Norman Lamm has declined his invitation to attend this year's annual SCWSC shabbaton, the one weekend a year that he has traditionally spent at Stern College.

Earlier in the year, his office sent Schlusel three different dates that he would be able to attend a shabbaton. Two dates were rejected by student council, one because it was Yom Ha'Atzmaut weekend and the feeling was that turnout would be minimal, and the other because it was the Shabbat of Reading Week. The third Shabbat suggested by the president's office was chosen.

His office has now explained

Exercise Your Voting Rights

As women, we should be especially sensitive to the right to vote. Grouped with second class citizens and unable to vote until only seventy years ago, we should now cherish and utilize this privilege in order to express our opinions, address our various agendas, and channel our oft heard loud voices in a productive manner.

However, in the Stern College elections, this privilege has become a farce in view of the proceedings in recent elections.

Each year at graduation, honors are conferred upon seniors who are voted upon by classmates. Yet the majority of the senior class claims never to have heard of these elections which seem to have taken place under clandestine circumstances.

Those seniors who had voted described the nature of the voting process in which they had been approached by members of the administration and after pausing to think who to vote for, the school

that he has a prior speaking engagement. This was discovered by SCWSC President Susan Schlusel, who had a university official place a call to his office after the initial invitation was met with a three week period of silence.

This lack of response reflects an attitude of indifference towards the students. It seems to be a message to the students of SCW that they are not important. It shows lapse in sensitivity towards one segment of the University. By not seizing the opportunity to spend Shabbat with SCW students, President Lamm is further straining the already tenuous student-administration relationship.

official quickly suggested a name which seemed appropriate to them. This blatantly unethical method of election does not allow the student voice to be heard and thus, the proper seniors to be honored.

On a larger scale, the student council elections which were conducted last year actually listed a few unopposed candidates, precluding the opportunity to have all issues addressed and debated. This lack of competition could allow unqualified candidates to find their way into important decisions.

Our Sages were the first to point out that the jealousy of scholars is what generates first-rate scholarship. Without fair elections in which administrators take no active role other than informing the seniors that elections are to take place, and in which students insure that at least two candidates run for each position, we will deny ourselves the right that our predecessors fought for.

Lecture Overdose

Walk into an elevator on any given day and you are sure to be overwhelmed by the number of notices posted on the walls. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the signs are not announcements of engagements or engagement parties. Rather, they are informing those who ride the elevators of the innumerable lectures that are being given that night and week.

An attendance of forty people at an event, as was the case with the ceremony commemorating the 500th anniversary of the issuance of the edict expelling the Jews from Spain, does not indicate that Stern College students do not care about

the subject matter. Rather, it is indicative of the poor planning of the nights' events. On many occasions, there are three or four lectures on the same night, often ones that appeal to the same audience.

We are most definitely appreciative of the numerous lectures that are given at and in conjunction with SCW for the students. We do think that it would be more productive and beneficial for the student body if lectures were scheduled more evenly. And, if two or more events have to be on the same night, it should be done in a way that one does not detract from the other. It is a plan that will benefit all.

**The Observer Wishes
Everyone a
Chag Kasher V'Sameach**

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.

Where Can We Find a Beit Midrash?

To the Editor:

In the recent past, Jewish women have become more serious about Torah study. This is resulting in a consistent growth in their level of learning. And, as we have been told time and time again, the growth of Stern College is reflecting this phenomenon.

Yet, among the items lacking in Stern College's excellent Jewish studies program is a place to learn: a *beit midrash*.

In our school building, there is virtually no place to learn out loud. SCW boasts only one usable study room in the reserve library. (The one study room on the second floor library does not have access to the *sefarim*.)

However, even the study room is not an appropriate place to learn, because it is not totally sound-proof. I have, on a number of occasions, been among those told to "lower your voices." More often, however, I simply can't find a place to learn with a *chevrua*.

I cannot accept the claim that there is no room in the school building for a *beit midrash*. The seventh floor of the building contains a lot of unused, and therefore wasted, space. It seems to be the logical place for what is sure to be a much used room.

Every student at Stern would benefit from a *beit midrash*. It would be much used for preparations for Jewish studies classes, as well as for learning *li'shma*. It

could also potentially be used for davening.

As has been proven by generations of Torah scholars, learning *bi'chevrua* is far more effective than learning on one's own. It would be ludicrous to conceive of any yeshiva or place of Torah study that does not have a *beit midrash* as its focus.

Stern College is a place of Torah study. A *beit midrash* is essential.

Esther Wolf
SCW '92

Sending Out the Wrong Message

To the Editor,

Last night a disturbing incident took place. My friend and I, both Stern students, were entertaining two other friends in the Brookdale Lounge who were "obviously" not from YC. To some, perhaps, their appearance was startling -- they both were not wearing kipot, wore their hair long, and one of them was black.

I realize that this is not a common sight in our world. I realize that it is only human to wonder about people who are different -- especially when they show up in places that you would least expect them to be. But what I cannot understand are the constant stares my friends had to endure. Yes, I realize that everyone there was curious, but did they have to, as my friends put it, "stare them down?" If these looks were intended to make them even

more self-conscious, it worked.

I understand feelings of insecurity very well. However, being curious and insecure is no excuse for this behavior. How do you think those stares were interpreted? What kind of image do you think they portrayed of the Jewish community? These friends who are Jewish, got an extremely negative representation of Orthodoxy last night. Before one performs certain behaviors, one must always think about how these actions will reflect upon us all.

Naomi Bennett
SCW '94

"Shocked" at Letter

To the Editor

"Shocked" aptly describes my reaction to Jonathan Tropper and Joshua Seidemann's letter in March 17th's OBSERVER. After reading that Tropper and Seidemann were Commentator writers in earlier days, I had assumed that they possessed a solid grounding in journalism and journalistic integrity. Their subsequent attack on Banji Latkin's open editorial illustrated the fallacy of that assumption.

By quoting excerpts of Latkin's editorial out of context, Tropper and Seidemann attempt to diminish her work by using a tactic that can best be described as Orwellian in nature. Moreover, in attacking Latkin's use of personal experience, Tropper and Seidemann conveniently forget

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From The Editor's Desk A Clarification of Terms

by Rachel Schenker

A couple of definitions:

Election (i-lek'-shen) n. 1. The act or power of choosing. 2. a. The act or process of choosing by vote among candidates to fill an office or position. b. The fact of being so chosen.

Office (o'-fis) n. A position of authority, duty or trust given to a person, as in a government, corporation or other organization.

Election, by definition, means choice. Stern College women are losing their right to elections, to choosing the woman they think will best represent them.

This year, there will be no elections for the office of vice president of Student Council. Students given the most basic but important power of choosing representation are denying themselves their right this year.

And it's their own fault. The right has not been suspended by some dictatorship that has taken over the school. Simply, only one student in the entire school is willing to run for vice president.

Maybe it's our fault. Perhaps the attitude and apparent frustration of current student leaders with YU's administration is to blame.

Public office has never been slated as easy work. It requires a commitment of time and energy that promises to interfere with and disrupt one's personal life to a certain extent. It threatens to take time away from one's academic life. It requires a complete modification of a student's priorities.

So why do it?

If the most important part of SCW is the advanced Torah learning and atmosphere, then it is closely followed by the importance

we are meant to place on the Jewish community and the various ways we may serve it. The students at Stern College are supposed to leave with more than just a commitment to Torah; they should leave with a solid commitment to the Jewish community as well.

The best place for us as educated Jewish women to begin in our service of the Jewish community is right here at Stern College. It might not always be the easiest or the most fun thing to do, but it is definitely the most worthwhile way we can spend this part of our formative years, when most of us still have relatively little responsibility other than to ourselves. Judaism teaches of the collectiveness of the Jewish people - "kol yisrael areivin ze l'ze." In college, we run the risk of focusing too closely on ourselves as individuals and forgetting our responsibilities to our families and the rest of the community.

The New York primaries last week were made into a joke because a large number of people chose a non-candidate. There was difference of opinion on the validity of such a vote; whether it sent a message or merely looped the primary process.

Here at Stern we do not even have that option. Not one person need cast her vote for vice president of the single most powerful student governing organization. She will win by virtue of being the only woman in the running.

Let Sylvia Haber win because she is indeed the best woman for the job.

Not because she is the only woman for the job.

The President Speaks...

Dear Students,

Considering that we recently commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the expulsion from Spain and we are about to enter the holiday of Pesach, I thought I would share with you some of my thoughts.

In the last pasuk of Sh'mot, parshat Pekudei (14:38), the pasuk speaks about a cloud of God upon the mishkan during the day and the fire at night, for all B'nai Yisrael during all their travels.

Rashi comments on the fact that it does not mention the Jewish people camping and we know when B'nai Yisrael camped, the cloud and the fire were there also. RASHI answers this by saying: the place of their camping is called traveling. We see from this that B'nai Yisrael will always be wandering. Jews are a people on the run. Even when we feel we have found a secure haven we really are just sojourning and passing through. This is why the Torah does not mention their encampments in the desert but only their travels.

After the pasuk, we finish the parsha and sefer Sh'mot and conclude with the words, chazak chazak v'nitchazek. Chazak-Jews must be strengthened to withstand the trials and tribulations they undertake in their travels. Jews will never be considered at home until they come home to eretz yisrael, to make a permanent home and their they will truly have a makom chanitan.

The story of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and especially the Great Sage Don Isaac Abarbanel illustrates the truth of this Rashi.

Rav Yitzhak Abarbanel's family came to Spain in 586 B.C.E after the destruction of the first beit hamikdash. Abarbanel served Ferdinand and Isabella for eight years, organized the chaotic finances of the Castile and Aragon and helped the sovereign in their push against the Muslim stronghold of Granada.

As many Jews in Spain and throughout the world in various time periods, Abarbanel rose to a very prestigious and highly revered position, but was eventually persecuted and brought to his demise because he was a Jew. Abarbanel wrote, "Thrice to my knees I besought the king. Regard us, O King, use not thy subjects so cruelly. But as the adder closes its ear with the dust against the voice of the charmer so the King hardened his heart against entreaties of his supplicants." A concept of vayechezak lev pharaoh that we as Jews know all too well. We knew it in Egypt, we knew it in Spain, we knew it in Morocco, we knew it in modern Egypt, we knew it in Algeria, we knew it in Iraq, we knew it in Iran and we knew it with Hitler, yimach shemo, in Europe. Many of these countries like Spain and the Abarbanel can trace their histories back to 586 B.C.E when the first beit hamikdash was destroyed. Like Abarbanel in Spain they certainly had the right to call these countries "home" or makom chanitan.

When most Americans think about the year 1492, they think of the famous journey of Columbus to America. We as Jews think of the expulsion of the Jews from

Spain. Fouad Ajami, professor of the Middle East studies at John Hopkins University. In his article in The New Republic titled, "The other 1492," comments on this. "Setting sail to The New World. Columbus had little to say about that parallel, fleet of woe and misery, that carried the Jews out of Spain. He was careful to note, though, that he wanted the Jews excluded from the lands that he would discover and claim for Spain. Fate mocked him."

He goes on to say, "it came to pass that in the midst of the retrospect and the celebration and the rampant revisionism of the quincentennial of Columbus' voyage of discovery, Arabs and Jews at an impasse came together in Madrid in October 1991. It was a 'good venue,' the innocent said of Madrid, the right place for Muslims and Jews to come together. Perhaps it was. The Spanish certainly thought so: the great irony would have been too much for them to ponder. Beyond the tumult of the conference and utterances, those in the know, though, could have sworn that they could hear both sides of the Moor's last sigh and the parting words of the hurt and pride of Rav Yitzhak Abarbanel, and that plea that fell into deaf ears.

We as Jews in America today must also realize that this is not our makom chanitan. With "friends" like Pat Buchanan, Jerry Brown, Jesse Jackson, David Duke and James Baker, how can it be?

Susan Schlusser
SCWSC President 1991-2

OPINIONS

Are the MFAT's fair?

by Alyssa Herman

The History MFAT indicates:

- if one has an IQ of Einsteinian proportions
- if one is brain defunct
- if one has a marked propensity for trivia
- all of the above
- none of the above

The Major Field Achievement Test (MFAT) is an ETS test used by Stern College as an exit exam. While the MFAT may provide an accurate measure of students knowledge in some areas of study, I believe that it is a highly inappropriate test for history majors.

In a university setting, history is studied in order to develop a critical thought process. In challenging college history courses, emphasis is placed on analyzing trends, corre-

lating facts, and learning to develop a historical approach.

When I took my MFAT on April 3, I discovered that there was no correlation between my course work and the material being tested. While I understand the value of taking an unseen exam in a subject such as Talmud, where skills are applied, I cannot fathom the worth of being tested on eras and areas in history that I have never been exposed to.

I propose that the a senior thesis/research paper be substituted for the history MFAT. Students would then be given an opportunity to apply their knowledge. Instead of spending two hours developing my skills in playing "eeni, meeni, minee, mo," and filling in circles, I would have had a valuable learning experience.

Questioning "Complacent Assumption About SCW"

by Tikvah Ben Zvi

One of the advantages of attending SCW is that because the school board and students base their behavior on Torah values, one may feel safe from some of the brutalities and unfairnesses of the outside world. This feeling of security was threatened, however, by a disturbing episode which occurred on Monday, March 30.

On March 30, an SCW student, Lisa Gold*, was studying on the second floor of the library. Gold had not left the school building all day, and the only times she left the library were to take short breaks. On one of these breaks, some time between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, Gold returned to find her wallet stolen.

It was not difficult to conclude

that Gold had not simply misplaced her wallet, since the next day, Gold's ID and photocopy cards were found in a trash can on the first floor library. One of the librarians discovered the cards and gave them to a security guard. The wallet itself, with Gold's bank card and money, was not found.

This is an outrage, not only because stealing is, obviously, a violation of a Torah commandment, but also because in SCW, an environment where one should feel protected and cared for, this kind of blatant disregard for another person should not occur. The thief clearly is not concerned by the fact that she has taken another's possessions or greatly inconvenienced Gold, who has to cancel her current bank account and open a new

one. Additionally, Gold now has to buy a new wallet, and while the purchase of a wallet may not be a tremendous inconvenience or expense, the fact remains that GOLD SHOULD NOT HAVE TO DO IT AT ALL.

Attending SCW has its advantages and disadvantages. Though sometimes we may feel sheltered at SCW, we can console ourselves with the fact that we do not have to deal with the degenerative standards of today's society. Episodes such as these - which Louis Gonzales, the head of security, says are quite normal - cause me to question this complacent assumption about SCW.

*Name has been changed

AROUND THE CAMPUS

NEWS BRIEFS...

An Evening of Classical Music

by Polina Matveyeva
The YU Russian Club sponsored an evening of classical music in the Schottenstein Center Recital Hall on Monday, March 16. The concert featured solo pianist Dmitry Chechik, who immigrated from the Soviet Union two years ago, and is currently at the Juillard School of Music. His program consisted of compositions by Beethoven, Shumann, and Prokofiev.

The audience consisted of a large number of Russian stu-

dents, joined by Rabbi Mitchell Serels, director of Sephardic studies at YU, and several SCW students.

Audience members asserted that they were delighted by Chechik's highly artistic manner of playing a technically challenging and musically complex program.

The event was coordinated by Serels and Tzvi Berman, president of the Russian Club. After two encores, the evening ended with discussions between the artist and the audience.

Self Defense Seminar

by Susan Bahn

A dozen SCW women gathered together on Tuesday evening, March 24, for a self defense seminar. The workshop, sponsored by the SCW Self Defense/Karate Club, was led by Sarah Devorah Cohen, SCW Karate instructor and Tora Dojo brown belt.

Cohen demonstrated several methods of defense utilizing common items found in one's pocket, such as keys and pens. She emphasized that it is wise to always have such items easily within reach. Cohen also showed how to break various holds and escape an assailant. She recommended attacking the face as it is both sensitive and injuries to it will later aid in the identification

of the attacker.

Cohen ended the seminar with a short talk about the importance of practice. She stressed that one must overcome their own fears and insecurities in order successfully deal with attackers.

Students found the seminar to be both informative and valuable. According to Rebecca Ehrenpreis, a SCW sophomore and a Tora Dojo yellow belt who attended the seminar, "It was a wonderful learning experience for everybody because we have to learn what to do if ever put in a situation of defending ourselves." She added that, "the outcome was great, everybody felt that they benefitted from the seminar."

Rav Shachter Speaks on the Seder

by Rena Maslansky

On Wednesday night March 25, Rabbi Hershel Shachter, Rosh Yeshiva of YU, delivered a shiur at Stern College, in which he discussed the laws related to the Pesach seder.

The shiur followed the chronological sequence of the seder, starting with the laws pertaining to *kadesh* and ending with those of *nirtzah*. Shachter spoke in depth about each law, referring extensively to the opinions of the gemara, the Shulchan Aruch, and

the Mishnah B'rurah, among many other rishonim and acharonim. He also dealt with modern day controversies concerning some of the laws, and clarified many complex issues.

After the shiur, Shachter answered students' questions regarding the laws of the seder and those of Pesach in general. SC sophomore Chavie Levine commented that she found the shiur very practical as well as interesting, and it helped create a pre-Pesach spirit amongst the students.

SCW AWARDS...

The OBSERVER would like to congratulate the following SCW students for the following honors: Professor Nathaniel L. Remes Memorial Award: Susan Schluskel, Ghity Stern Award: LE Kagan, Lisa Wachtenheim Memorial Award: Faith Chudnoff. Roth Scholars: Nava Goldman, Rashelle Palace, Ruchi Sasnowitz.

Nominations to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges: Faith Chudnoff, Nomi Dworkin, Lisa Edelstein, Rachel Edelstein, Chani Fruchter, Sarah Fruchter, Shery Glazer, Tova Jaffe, LE Kagan, Debbie Levine, Malka Raul, Julie Rifkin, Aviva Rosenstein, Susant Schluskel, Aliza Septimus, Amanda Weiner.

NIGHTMARE IN THE COURTHOUSE

by Laura Gross

"I find the decision to acquit Nosair senseless and against the evidence." These were the words of the Honorable Alvin Schlesinger denouncing the jury's decision to find defendant El Sayid Nosair not guilty of the November 1990 murder of Rabbi Meyer Kahane.

At the first lecture of the Criminal Justice Forum, sponsored by the Sociology Department and Club, Schlesinger addressed approximately 100 SCW students in Koch Auditorium on April 1. Schlesinger, who has been a Supreme Court Justice of the State of New York since 1981, spoke of the controversial trial and reviewed some of its highlights.

One of the issues brought up by the judge was the motion by the defense to remove him from presiding over the trial. They argued that as Schlesinger is Jewish, he therefore "couldn't preside impartially" in this case. Schlesinger



decided that he was capable of presiding objectively.

Schlesinger did admit to having a personal view on Rabbi Kahane, despite his objectivity in judging the case. He said that "long ago I had a great respect" for the Rabbi, but over the years "things changed and I lost some respect for him and

the methods he used to accomplish his goals."

Many developments influenced the trial and the jury's decision. There were difficulties concerning jury selection, the failure of the prosecution to admit some pertinent evidence, the media and po-

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A Day of Storytelling at SCW

by Sarita Rosenhaus

Under the direction of renowned Jewish storyteller and SCW Professor Peninnah Schram, a group of eleven rabbis, educators, and professional storytellers spoke and performed at the Sunday, March 29 symposium entitled "A Jewish Storytelling Celebration: Continu-

ing the Teaching Tradition."

The event, sponsored by SCW, the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute for Jewish Education and Administration, and the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA, marked the second Jewish storytelling festival held at SCW since 1984.

Approximately 75 people attended the workshops given during the day, and 100 people, including 10 SCW students, came to the four o'clock performance.

Rabbi Avi Weiss presented the keynote address, "White Fire on Black Fire: the Mystery of Stories," about how lessons can be taught through stories from the Torah. The audience then divided into various workshops, such as "Stories Designed to Produce Change," told by Rabbi Tsvi Kilstein, and "Traveling in Time," recited by Schram.

Following an hour-long session of Story Swapping, in which members of the audience shared their own tales, seven storytellers imparted various accounts ranging from personal experiences to general Jewish stories.

Gerald Fierst, the co-director of the event and artistic director of the Jewish Storytelling Center, returned to his childhood in Brooklyn and related how he eventually came to believe in G-d.

Another storyteller, Doug Lipman, combined music with his story. He sang and played a guitar and accordian, while telling his story at intervals.

Schram said that the one-day conference elicited happy, even ecstatic reviews from the participants.

"One of the goals we want to work on is for people to listen to each others' stories and to encourage telling personal, family, and traditional stories," she commented. "Another focus is on the importance of storytelling in our Jewish tradition and in our Jewish lives, and to continue finding places and ways to tell stories."

Gold Delivers Rogoff Memorial Lecture

by Ilana Breslau

Acclaimed American-Jewish novelist Herbert Gold addressed a small audience at Stern College Tuesday night, April 7th.

Gold's address, "An American-Jewish writer looks at Jewish-American Literature," was the 20th annual lecture of the Hillel Rogoff Memorial lecture series.

A writer of more than 18 books, Gold is the recipient of various awards for his work, including the Sherwood Anderson Prize for fiction in 1989.

Gold spoke about the way in which American-Jewish writers relay their Jewish heritage in their writing. He discussed the different categories of Jewish writers, among them the self-hating, cultural, and religious Jewish writer. Gold defines a Jewish writer as "someone who says he is a Jew and someone who says he is not a Jew."

Before closing his remarks, Gold read a short episode from his book *Family*. The passage was a heart-rending account of a man, who lives a great distance from his

father, coming to visit the ailing and decrepit old man. Gold says that although *Family* is "a very Jewish book," he received numerous letters from people with varied ethnic backgrounds, telling Gold that *Family* describes their personal experiences as well.

In addition to writing novels, Gold has also authored poetry, short stories, and essays.

Dr. David Shatz, a professor of philosophy at SCW, introduced the speaker. Shatz commented that Gold's style has been described as "analytic, terse, and psychologically probic."

Gold's lecture was part of a series established by Dr. David Mirsky, a longtime professor of English at YU, to honor the late Hillel Rogoff, an early alumnus of the institution.

Rogoff served as editor of *The Jewish Daily Forward*, and was active in the socialist and Jewish labor movements. A critic of Yiddish and American literature, Gold was also an early supporter of Israel and helped bring the Holocaust to international attention.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Portrayal Of Women In Film Needed: History Professor

by Mali Adler

As part of the festivities celebrating women's history month, Corrine Collett, coordinator of film research at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, delivered a discourse at SCW on March 31 entitled "Hollywood's Image of the Jewish Women." Collett complemented her speech by showing film clips illustrating her points.

The discussion spanned the decades from the twenties to the present. During that time, Collett contended, three images of the Jewish woman have emerged in film - the Jewish mother, the Jewish princess, and the ugly duckling.

The Jewish males who often controlled the film industry's portrayal of the Jewish female, Collett suggested, felt a need to integrate into American culture and saw the traditional Jewish woman as an obstacle to that goal. This feeling produced the first two models; the third is a product of Jewish female film makers.

Collett traced the evolution of the Jewish mother on film starting

with *The Jazz Singer*, where the mother is an ineffectual, almost pathetic, moral force. Hollywood's depiction of the nagging, guilt-inducing harridan of a Jewish mother reached its apex in the 1970's, with films such as *Marjorie Morningstar*.

With the return to traditional family values in the eighties, the Jewish mother was given a new, positive dimension, even though she generally remained a caricatured and stereotyped figure. In films such as *My Favorite Year*, the Jewish mother upheld the traditional religious and familial structure that contrasted with the emptiness of societal values.

The second prototype discussed by Collett, the Jewish princess, is the "daddy's girl" over-involved with materialism, portrayed in such films as *Marjorie Morningstar* and *Goodbye, Columbus*. Collett pointed out that in *Private Benjamin*, the Jewish Princess is seen from a female film maker's point of view and that the depiction includes a process of maturation and awakening.

The "ugly duckling," who de-

pends mainly on her intelligence and drive, asserted Collett, was the image chosen by Jewish women in the film industry. Although *Yentl* is an example of this trend, noted Collett, it does retain some stereotypes. While *Yentl* is an "ugly duckling," implicit in the film is the notion that to be smart is to lose the man. The culmination of this model can be seen in *Crossing Delancey*. The female protagonist is smart, successful, and feels that she can function without a male. Her feelings about religion are also ultimately positive.

Collett concluded that it is the nature of film to communicate in prototypes. The original, non-flattering image of the Jewish female was an unconscious creation of the men who dominated film making. With the emergence in the eighties of Jewish female film makers, and a return to an older set of values, religion is allowed a greater role on screen, and a strong, moral Jewish woman appears as well.

by Nomi Dworkin

Dr. Doris Goldstein, European history professor and senior member of the History department at Stern College for Women is retiring at the end of the semester. A search for a replacement specializing in European history has begun.

Yeshiva University has appointed a three member search committee to find a replacement; the committee comprises Dr. Ellen Schrecker and Dr. Hadassa Kosak, professors of history at SCW, and Dr. Carole Silver, chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Humanities Division.

Schrecker outlined the application and hiring process. An advertisement was placed in the professional journal of the American Historical Association. The committee received and read over forty applications.

In addition, SCW Dean Karen Bacon and Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock, the academic assistant to YU President Norman Lamm, reviewed several of the folders and had input in the selection process.

Although the final decision is to be made by Executive Vice President Dr. Egon Brenner, it will be based on the committee's recommendation. Schrecker stressed the importance of having as many "of the University faculty involved in the decision as possible."

Schrecker stated that the committee was impressed with all the

candidates as "they are from the top schools and have outstanding credentials."

However, of the forty applicants, only twelve were interviewed and the choice was narrowed down to three instructors, all of whom have to give model lessons at SCW.

The first, Moshe Sluhovsky, is from Princeton University and specializes in cultural history, medieval and modern France. The second, David Kuchta, received his PhD from Berkeley University, is currently at Rutgers University and is a cultural historian.

The third candidate, Malachi Hacoen, received his doctorate from Columbia University and currently lectures at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Hacoen, who specializes in twentieth century German and Austrian intellectual history, delivered his lecture April 14.

Schrecker explained that most of the applicants are "people who recently received their PhDs and although they don't have that much teaching experience, they're up to date in terms of what's new in their field."

In addition, said Schrecker, the new professor must be "capable of teaching as broad a range as Professor Goldstein did." His course load will include Western Civilization, a class in twentieth century British history, as well as a course in his area of specialty.

CAFETERIA CONCERNS

Continued from p.1

in the SCW kitchen are unsanitary. On one occasion when Arzuane was helping in the cafeteria during the week, he recalls a "cheese dish" into which an insect fell from the ceiling. It rolled onto two portions and then onto a third, on which it died, he describes. After removing the portion which contained the insect but before he could remove the other portions, Arzuane says he was reprimanded by Reichman and was immediately assigned to transport food to Milner's Market in Brookdale Hall. He says he "knows for a fact" that the food which the insect touched was served. When asked about the incident, Reichman had no comment.

According to the letter which Arzuane sent to 45 student leaders, five university administrators and THE OBSERVER, "On Friday afternoons, the cafeteria was usually left unclean. Dried food was left on cutting surfaces and the supposedly cleaned utensils. Knives were thick with grease..." He also speaks of cockroaches infesting the kitchen.

According to Lieberman, and verified by signed reports from Standard Exterminators, an exterminator comes to the SCW cafeteria each week in accordance with the state law.

Several SCW students who have served as waitresses confirm this contention of uncleanliness. Sophomore Robin Byock, who waitressed twice in the fall semester, spoke of dirty dishes and pots left in the sink to be washed.

Spoiled chulent, kugel and cantaloupe were left to be served, she said.

After clearance from Lieberman, this reporter viewed the cafeteria kitchen during lunch on Tuesday April 7. The kitchen and the utensils seemed clean, and there were no insects or roaches to be seen.

According to sophomore Pamela Schlanger who has attended Shabbatonim under both Arzuane and Avraham Finberg, the new head waiter, there has definitely been an improvement in the quality of the food since Arzuane's dismissal, but she notes that she feels this improvement has nothing to do with Arzuane's absence.

Contrary to Schlanger, freshman Stephanie Pliskin commented that she sees little difference between the quality of the food from last semester and this semester; the food is always unsatisfactory, she maintains.

MEAL PLAN

Continued from p.1

Schlusssel expressed resentment at the fact that the decision was made without fair student representation and input. According to Schlusssel, she only received notification of the Friday meeting on Thursday. Furthermore, she contended, the meeting was scheduled at a time when most student leaders had their MFAT's, at a time when it was clearly impossible for her or most members of her board, as well as the uptown board, to attend the meeting.

According to the students from

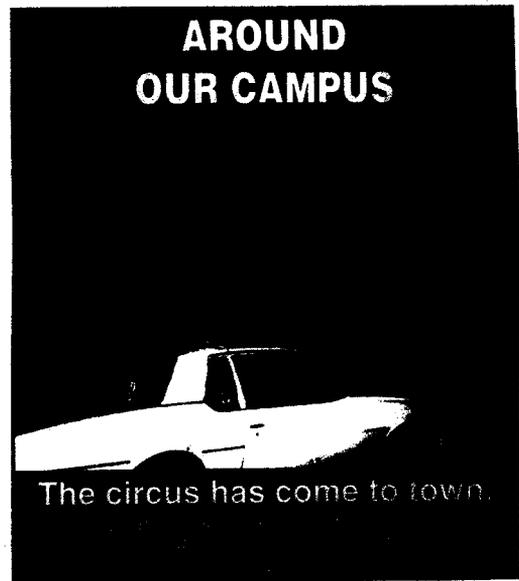
uptown who were able to attend, the meeting was not to ascertain whether an increase was required; it was merely voting on how much the increase should be. Students were not even allowed to enter the negotiations until the price proposed was lowered from \$1500 to \$1300. Even then, students had no vote.

The Subcommittee comprised SCW Dean Karen Bacon, YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld, Student Services Dean Efreim Nulman, Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, Manager of Food Services Jake Leiberman, Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, Director of Alumni Affairs Toby Weiss, representatives from Wurzweller and Cardozo schools, as well as student leaders Laizer Kornwasser, 1991-2 president of SSSBSA, and Ofer Naor, president elect of SSSBSA. David Kay, 1991-2 president of YCSC, made an appearance after finishing his MFAT's.

Students recommended increasing the price of the meal plan to \$1100, in line with tuition increases of seven percent for the coming year. This was rejected.

When students asked if services were going to be upgraded to make it more worthwhile for them, it was announced that an increased selection as well as elevated prices would easily enable them to spend all their money.

Other plans for relieving the



AROUND OUR CAMPUS

The circus has come to town.

food services deficit were recommended, but require due representation of interested parties before final arrangements can be made.

Knowing that final approval of this subcommittee's recommendations must come from the

university's Board of Trustees, Schlusssel stressed that people need to make their opinions on this subject heard loudly and quickly. "Once this recommendation is approved, there is little hope of reversing it."

Photo Credit: Susan Fitzgerald

Psychology, English, Shaped: The Big Three at SCW

by Pearl Kaplan

Upon walking through the portals of Stern College for the first time, one of all-encompassing fears a freshman faces is deciding on a plan for the future. The thought of committing to the one field which will may occupy a large portion of a person's life concerns most students. But with time, most students are able to label their interests and channel them toward a career. Three of the most popular majors that are chosen are psychology, English, and shaped majors.

The shaped major was created to enable students to achieve individual career or academic goals. It allows a student to take advantage of educational resources that cannot be made available within already defined majors. Students, with the aim to achieve a projected course of study, propose a conglomeration of courses that will fulfill their degree requirements, and actually shape a major of their own. Often the shaped major programs involve courses from outside universities.

Several of the more common shaped major, such as fine arts and design, have already become more standardized and compose a large part of the shaped major programs. SCW has a formal contractual relationship with the Fashion Institute of Technology. This facilitates both financially and credit wise a strong attendance by SCW shaped majors. The students can benefit from more varied and advanced courses other than those offered at SCW.

Health service fields are also among the more popular shaped majors. For example, many SCW students participate in occupational therapy and physical therapy programs with Columbia University and New York University. A new nursing program is being coordinated in conjunction with NYU, and there are students interested in nutrition majors. There has also been recent interest in a shaped music major.

The shaped major provides students that want to study at SCW with the opportunity to pursue the educational field of their choice while in college. Furthermore, it better prepares them in their attainment of their career and academic goals in the future.

Also very popular among Stern students is the English communications major. Formerly part of the shaped major program, the English communications major has been revamped and is now more formalized and structured. The major offers three tracks: advertising, public relations, and journalism. Students can pursue their career interests while receiving a strong background in English Literature and writing.

In the advertising and public relations tracks, several of the courses are made available through FIT. The major offers such courses as Idea Visualization, Advertising Management, Introduction to Mass Communications, Print Journalism and Broadcast Journalism.

The English communications major will be going through some changes. A prospective change in the Sy Syms School of Business should create new and exciting possibilities for English communications majors. SSSB, whose marketing core has previously only been open to SSSB students, will be allowing all SCW students to take most of the marketing courses. The opening of a marketing field, available to all students, should effect great change especially for students interested in advertising and public relations.

The English communications major provides many and varied opportunities for SCW students. The students are strongly encouraged to complete internships during their studies. After college, many possibilities exist. Some students pursue careers in the expanding fields of advertising and public relations; others continue their education in such areas as journalism graduate schools.

The major area of study that is most sought by SCW students is psychology. The psychology requirements are structured to ensure that students receive a well founded basis in the various areas of psychology, aside from their specialized field of interest.

There seem to be two basic reasons for the strong attraction to psychology at SCW. First, students are interested in learning about and attaining a greater understanding about themselves. Secondly, the study of psychology opens doors to many different career and educational opportunities.

Furthermore, students appreciate the strength and value of the department. Although, like in many other fields, the department is small, the faculty makes an effort to maintain a high level of interest through various course changes and adjunct professors.

In addition to the regular course work in psychology, students are encouraged and often participate in guided study, research and internships. Most of the students continue their education in such areas as social work, occupational and physical therapy, and in higher education in psychology.

Also among the more popular majors at SCW are Jewish studies, education, and biology. Along with the many students studying in the more popular areas, students enjoy a varied and wide spread selection of majors, and pursue their educational and career goals beyond college.

Judge Schlesinger...

Continued from pg. 4

Schlesinger was "very offended," he said, when he received letters concerning his participation in the trial. Some letters were polite requests; others were threatening demands. One such letter from "an obvious Jewish source" went so far as to enclose a bullet with a note that read, "If Nosair is not found guilty, the next bullet will be in your head." The judge expressed disgust that this threat came from "one of my own blood."

During a question and answer period after the lecture, Jeannette Shuck, a representative of Kahane Chai, a pro-Kahane organization, expressed her outrage at the trial and at Schlesinger in particular. She said she had watched the trial

and the "miscarriage of justice" that took place.

Shuck attended almost every court session of the Nosair pretrial and trial. She claimed that she wants the truth to be heard of what "really occurred" at what she called a farce of a trial. Holding steadfast to her opinion that Schlesinger should have removed himself immediately, Shuck believes that he "bent over backwards" to be courteous to them.

However, Shuck does not blame the judge entirely for the outcome of the trial. She explained that due to defense attorney Kunstler's manipulation of the jury and negligence on the part of Assistant District Attorney Greenbaum, Nosair was acquitted of murder. The coincidence is, she

noted, that both Greenbaum and Kunstler are Jewish.

Schlesinger gave Nosair the maximum sentencing the law allowed. It is not within a judge's power to overturn a jury decision, even though he may disagree with it; Schlesinger publicly condemned the decision of acquittal.

Shuck wanted it known that this trial was not about Kahane; "Any rabbi, regardless of his beliefs, deserves respect." In this case no respect was shown toward the rabbi or the many followers who advocated for justice. Both Shuck and Schlesinger made similar observations that American Jewry should become aware of what is going on in the world and the anti-semitic feelings that exist.

The Other Side of Pre-Health

by Yocheved Kaganoff and Cheryl Berman

Traditionally, the pre-health science major has been extremely popular at Stern College. Most people think pre-health is synonymous with pre-med. Medicine, however, is just one of the options open to students interested in a health related field.

During the past few years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of students pursuing occupational, physical and speech therapy. The training consists of two years on the graduate level and the nature of these jobs allows for flexible hours. Many fail to realize, though, that a wide range of possibilities exist beyond medicine and the therapies.

One such option is nutrition. While the undergraduate requirements are similar to those of a pre-med, the graduate program is far less extensive. Masters programs offered at Columbia University, Tufts University, Hunter, Rutgers University and New York University last an average of two years. A nutritionist can work in a hospital in conjunction with the doctor, with the elderly in a nursing home or in her own private practice. Furthermore this growing field allows her to create her own schedule.

At first glance midwifery might

appear enticing only to a woman living in the colonial era; however, this unique field has recently been revitalized. Because many women prefer the natural experience of childbirth over the modern technological approach, one can find midwives working alongside obstetricians in most state hospitals.

Columbia, Yale, and NYU offer a three year joint program with nursing. Typically, one earns a nursing degree after one and a half years and then continues to pursue her masters in midwifery while working. Downstate also trains for this vocation, but it, does not grant masters degrees.

The prerequisites for Columbia, Yale, and NYU include: bachelor's degree; 9-12 credits of biology and chemistry, psychology, statistics; two humanities, and the GRE. If the notion of an 8 or 12 hour hospital shift seems unappealing, midwives can work together in their own private practice and thus divide the shift into smaller blocks of time.

A new "up and coming" profession is the physician's assistant. The graduate degree offered at Downstate and Touro demands a year of intense learning and another of "hands on" study. The prerequisites include two semesters of biology and chemistry.

However, there are important drawbacks one cannot overlook. The physician's assistant is noticeably inferior to the doctor and in many states, this profession is illegal. At this point in time, it does not exist in Israel.

For those interested in the chiropractic field, NY Chiropractic College offers a three and a half year doctorate program for pre-med majors.

Although rather traditional, nursing continues to be a practical and rewarding profession. The joint program with NYU entails one semester of biology, organic chemistry and chemistry, physiology, microbiology, and a few psychology courses at SCW followed by two years at NYU. The RN one earns from nursing school enables entry into various fields, including midwifery and specialized medicine.

Two particularly attractive aspects of nursing are its lucrative results and its limited days away from home. Hospital shifts can be quite lengthy (an average shift lasts 12 hours), but nurses work only two or three days each week.

The broad spectrum of opportunities within the medical fields provides for some clearly offbeat careers.

Nishmat נשמת

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Resuscitation of BRGS

by Tzalcha Rosen

After many months of controversy over the YU administration's proposed restructuring of Bernard Revel Graduate School, a March 27 press release announced that BRGS had been "saved"; YU will implement the plan proposed by the task force on February 17 to offer 32 courses per year, a reduction from the current 40-course selection.

The release cites an "emergency development campaign" undertaken by YU "to support and enhance" the graduate school. This campaign included the appointment of the "blue-ribbon" task force concurrent with a fundraising effort on the part of President Lamm; \$2.5 million dollars has been raised thus far, according to the release.

Revel will now offer doctoral programs in Bible, Medieval Jewish History and Medieval Jewish Philosophy as per the task force's proposal. Most adjunct

courses will be maintained, including those taught by Professors Berger and Leiman, the elimination of which was vigorously opposed by YU students.

Dr. Arthur Hyman, a philosophy professor at Yeshiva University and member of the YU faculty since 1961, has been named acting dean.

A BRGS Board of Directors has been established in order to guarantee that "the academic and financial efforts initiated over the past few months will be continued and advanced." This board will be chaired by business executive and YU Board of Trustees member Irwin Shapiro.

According to Lamm, this announcement marks a "new beginning" for BRGS. Student leader of the Committee for the Preservation of Revel Yitzhak Blau stated that although "It's a shame that so much bad feeling has been caused...the school that's emerging seems to be a viable one. I hope that the excellent adjunct professors retain their prominent position in the school."

Doing Unto Others as Others Have Done For You

by Aliza Dworken

Stern College graduates choose a variety of careers. Some chose careers here at SCW. According to these alumnae, their years at SCW contributed significantly to their career choices.

Dean Karen Bacon, class of '64, is an alumnae now working at SCW. Bacon initially planned to pursue a career as a research scientist in biology. As a student, she found the faculty of Stern College extremely supportive of her goals. She points out that Dr. Friedland, then chairman of the Biology department, sparked her interest in research, and Dr. Goodman helped

tions also place more pressure and responsibility on the Stern College women of today.

Mrs. Zeldia Braun, class of '68 and Director of Student Services since 1986, also feels that the array of career choices for women today has multiplied tremendously since her time at Stern College.

When she attended SCW, there was no career counselor. This absence was a result of the fact that the decision was not so difficult because there were very few accepted options. Braun recalls that the two most popular professions were education and social work.

Braun explains that she chose social work not because of its popularity, but because she had always enjoyed working with people. As a student at SCW, she was involved in student government which, she felt, was conducive to the development of that quality.

Dr. Norman Frimer, dean of Stern College during Braun's senior year, had an enormous impact on her career choice. He was instrumental in helping Braun develop her leadership skills and her interest in Jewish communal work. He was a role model in his "com-

missions), working with the women at Stern College was the perfect option.

Mrs. Sharon Isaacson, class of '87, also saw SCW as the optimum place for her career. Isaacson began teaching Bible here this year, and SCW's influence on her career choice is still fresh.

At Stern College, she learned skills in Judaic studies, and developed the desire to learn more and to further advance those skills. She was inspired by various teachers in Stern College to select teaching as a career. After graduating, that inspiration translated into earning a masters degree in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School.



Photo Credit: Observer Archives



Photo Credit: Observer Archives

The Max Stern Division of Communal Services of RIETS (an affiliate of Yeshiva University) in conjunction with the Azrieli Graduate Institute of Jewish Education (Yeshiva University) is sponsoring a career opportunities evening. The Event "Women in Jewish Education" is to be held P"G on Tuesday, May 12, 8:00 p.m. at Stern College.

Four women Azrieli doctoral candidates, presently serving as Yeshiva/Day School PRINCIPALS will make brief presentations about their education, professional growth, and career advancement.

Four women principals will constitute a respondents panel and comment on the presentations. Opportunity for Q&A from the audience will be provided.

The PRINCIPALS on the presenters panel are SUSAN DWORKEN, FRANCINE HIRSCHMAN, KAREN KEDMI, and DEVORAH SCHENKER. The respondent panel members are DR. RIVKAH BLAU, DR. SUSAN KATZ, MRS. CHAYA NEWMAN, and DR. RITA SHLOUSH.

We invite the attendance of all SCW women, especially Education and Jewish Studies majors.

The goal of the event is to demonstrate the viability of a professional career in Jewish Education. Dr. Yitzhak Handel, Director of Azrieli, will be the moderator for the discussion.

SCW students will receive invitations from MSDCS - Azrieli.

direct her post-college studies toward UCLA.

Bacon's career decision to work at the Stern College of her day was quite daring. Of course, Bacon states, there were some lone students who chose to become doctors and lawyers, but they were very few. Most SCW women were interested in professions in the field of education. This phenomenon was primarily a reflection of the national trend.

After completing her graduate work and several years of research, Bacon began teaching at Yeshiva College. She had the "most wonderful feelings about Yeshiva University" and was therefore excited to be returning. As a student she had felt that her peers were intelligent and was looking forward to teaching YU students.

Looking at SCW today, Bacon explains that women have many more career opportunities. Interest in the education field has decreased despite its slow resurgence. The importance of Torah studies for women has also grown. Women have greater expectations of themselves. This development is exciting, she says, but these expecta-



Photo Credit: Observer Archives

mitment to the *kehila*, in his *lamdus*" and in his integration of these qualities into everyday life.

Before joining the SCW administration, Braun spent some time in the social work field and then in "full-time mothering." When she contemplated what she would do when re-entering the world of "paid employment," she knew that it would have to be as meaningful and significant to her as the mothering she was leaving behind. Because she felt a close commitment to Stern College even after graduation, (she was president of the Alumnae Association for three

After teaching in HAFTR high school for two years, Isaacson decided to return to SCW. She valued the atmosphere at Stern College, and wanted to teach in such an environment. Isaacson felt that she could relate to the women because she was once one of them.

Although career options for Stern College women when she attended and now are basically identical, Isaacson does note that there is an increase in women who want to teach *limudei kodesh*. Many more women are interested in Jewish education and in studying Judaic studies in general.

These three women are representative of other Stern College alumnae working at Stern College today. Assistant Dean Ethel Orian, Mrs. Cecily Dobin, professor of chemistry, and Ms. Michale Liberman, assistant registrar, are some other examples.

Stern College was instrumental in shaping the careers of these women, and many other women at Stern College today. Stern College provided them with the education, direction and skills needed in their fields. Their fond feelings for SCW last until now.



Photo Credit: Observer Archives

Students learning aloud in pairs makes space other than the library necessary.

BEIT MIDRASH—Continued from p. 1

storage rooms throughout the building as well as 251-2, a room in the old building which currently serves as the library working room.

Editor of THE OBSERVER Rachel Schenker, one of the chairs of the student contingent of the committee, expressed her concern at what she views as the ambivalence of the administration to act on their commitment to the concept of a *beit midrash*. "They're allowing the clear immediate need of a *beit midrash* to be clouded by plans for general improvement of space distribution in the Stern building," she

said.

Schenker met with Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Egon Brenner on April 7 to assess his support of this project. Brenner indicated his support, according to Schenker, but she was disappointed, she said, with his "unwillingness to take an active role" in allocating a specific space for *beit midrash* use. No future meetings have been set to date, but there have been indications that Brenner is interested in setting up a committee of the various deans who are affected by space changes in the Stern building, including Dr. Karen Bacon,

dean of SCW, Dr. Harold Nierenberg, dean of SSSB, Dr. Yitzhak Handel, director of AGI, Edith Berger, dean of libraries, Rosengarten, as well as student representatives. The purpose of these meetings would be to involve everyone that could be affected by space changes in the entire process.

Students applauded this forward step but fear that the *beit midrash* question will get tied up in larger considerations.

Student leaders called an informative meeting open to all students Monday night April 13 to discuss the situation and student plans.

CULTURAL ARTS



Crazy Enough for YU

by Tikvah Ben Zvi

Midterms week. In SCW, however, midterms week lasts a month, during which time you don't sleep, talk on the phone or go out. Your recreational activities consist of going to Milner's or running across the street if Milner's doesn't have what you want. The only thing you have put on your dining card in the last week has been coffee and caffeinated Diet Coke, and you can't remember the last time you drank simply because you were thirsty. You are overworked, undernourished and don't want to cram another ounce of information in your brain. You need some fun.

The Bahamas-for-the-weekend idea didn't go over well with the folks, so you're stuck trying to find something to do in New York. Scanning the newspaper, the title of the new Gershwin play - "Crazy For You" - catches your eye. "Crazy" is definitely a feeling you can identify with.

So it's off to the Shubert Theater, where you can hear Harry Groener as Bobby Child and Jodi Benson (the voice of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*) as Polly Baker perform in a remake of George and Ira Gershwin's musical about an Easterner going West.

This song and dance extravaganza has all the trappings of a lighthearted, old musical - sweet duets and Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers dances between the main characters; showgirls regaled in glittering costumes, singing in splashy numbers and dancing with everything from telephones to mining tools; and comedic characters such as a naughty vixen, a nagging mother, and a nasty innkeeper, in equally comedic scenarios.

You settle back in the theater's seat, only to lean forward moments later, not only because you couldn't get comfortable in your impossibly cramped chair, but also because you don't want to miss the crazy antics of New York rich kid and fledgling dancer, Bobby Child. Child's antics include doing anything to get noticed by the famous dance master, Bela Zangler (Bruce Adler) of Zangler Follies fame (yes, that is supposed to remind you of the Ziegfeld ones), or hightailing it to Deadrock, Nevada to escape mom's urgings to settle down in the banking business, and the more frightening urgings of Irene Roth (Michele Pawk) to settle down - in a Roth-Child merger.

Child's adventures in Deadrock comprise the rest of the story. His meeting Polly Baker, his efforts to save her town's theater, and his New York social circle appearing in the unquestionably sleepy city all provide much material with which to show male vs. female, urban vs. rural, and East vs. West clashes. These conflicts keep you captivated, not because you wonder how they will be resolved (this is a Gershwin comedy; a happy ending is not too difficult to predict), but because they combine with the musical's witty dialogue, upbeat songs and dances, and extremely likable characters to create an utterly delightful show.

Leaving the playhouse, you conclude that a night at the theater, enjoying "Crazy For You," was exactly what you needed to relax and make you forget the mounds of work you have yet to do. After all, Milner's can provide just so much recreation.

SCW Student Opens at YU Museum

by Cheryl Langner

Yonina Grushko, a second year art student at Stern college, has achieved what many artists can only dare to dream. At the age of 22, Grushko has had the tremendous honor of having the first museum showing of her paintings. The exhibit opened at the Yeshiva University Museum on Wednesday April 8, with an introduction written by Professor Susan Gardner of SCW. From six to eight p.m., a reception and viewing with the artist was held at the museum.

Although this is Grushko's second year in the United States, most of the works in the exhibit were painted in her hometown of Kishinev, Moldavia, of the former Soviet Union.

Grushko's interest in art began at the age of 9, and is rooted in her love of the beauty of the natural world. With the encouragement and influence of her brother Alexander, Grushko grew artistically and thematically, expanding her works to include ideas from her own life as well as those of the world around her.

The predominant use of Jewish subjects stems from the artist's own experiences and introduction to the Jewish culture. Grushko takes scenes and emotions that have struck her personally to teach others to appreciate Judaism. One of the most important paintings in the collection explains the artist's first encounters with religion and

the beginning of her life as an observant Jew.

"[The paintings on exhibit] take a different perspective on Jewish themes," Grushko explained. "I want to teach Judaism to Russian immigrants by lending Jewish themes to art."

Overall, the works reflect the artist's commitment to religious life and the various stages of her development both as an artist and as a Jew. They share her personal journey into the Jewish world.

Grushko's exhibit is "a bridge between the world she left in Russia and the world she found here," explained Ms. Sylvia Hershkowitz, director of the YU Museum. They describe the artist's journey into Judaism and "are filled with the magic of that turning point in her life."

The exhibit is a first for student artists. Prior to Grushko's showing, only once have SCW student's works been exhibited in the YU Museum, with the exhibit of a collection of posters created by SCW students a few years ago. Hershkowitz explained that the museum rarely displays the works of unknown or fledgling artists, and this is a unique occurrence.

"The museum generally exhibits the works of professional artists only. But because Grushko is an artist of remarkable talent and emotion, an exception has been made," said Hershkowitz. If this exhibition proves successful, and

funding permits, other showings of exceptional student artists may be scheduled in the future.

Hershkowitz first learned about Grushko's work through a foreign student advisor at SCW, and met the artist during a meeting at SCW last year. This exhibit may bring Grushko the publicity and recognition that will enable her to take her place among the Jewish artists of the 21st century.

The showing of Grushko's collection is part of the YU Museum's attempt to represent the various constituents of the Jewish community. The museum "serves as a bridge between the New York Jewish community and the art world," giving people the opportunity to view the various artistic mediums and approaches that they may not generally be exposed to.

The entire collection, consisting of watercolor on paper and oil on canvas, was available to the public at the exhibit's opening on April 7. The oil on canvas works will be open to the public during regular museum hours through June. The paintings may be purchased, and all interested parties should contact the artist through the museum.

The YU Museum is located at 2530 Amsterdam Avenue at West 185th Street. Information about this or any other of the YU Museum's exhibits and collections can be obtained by calling (212) 960-5390.

"The Nerd": Light and Lively

by Sara Klein

After last semester's very proud and slightly depressing production ("Suddenly Last Summer"), the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society provided some much needed comic relief with "The Nerd."

The premise of the play, an old army buddy wreaking havoc on the life of a New York bachelor, was well suited for a TV sitcom style of humor. The actors, particularly Raphie Aronowitz and Seth Gerszberg as the bachelor and his long lost "friend", performed smoothly and believably. The chemistry between the characters, most notable in the exchanges between Tzachi Turen (Axel

Hammond) and Aronowitz, added significant comic value to the presentation. Most of the laughs, however, resulted from Gerszberg's skillful portrayal of Rick Steadman, "the nerd". The audience enjoyed the play for its light mood and dynamic pace, even if it was a bit frivolous at times.

Logistically, the play was excellent. Many compliments to the technical staff on the realistic and well equipped set (Avi Solomon, Brett Bekritsky), the well timed lights (Joel Haber, Steven Smith), and especially the professional quality soundtrack (Eddie Jackson), which was always appropriate and largely added to the fun nature of the play. These details

tremendously assisted the performance's execution.

The problem, however, was an overwhelming tendency of the actors to shout their lines, garble their words, talk too quickly, or simply over-act. At times this play lost its appeal because it was too frenetic and disorganized to follow or appreciate. Perhaps this was an intentional use of quick paced slapstick humor, but in this instance, the wit of the play would have been better served had there not been so much screaming and banging.

Despite the cacophony, the production was generally enjoyable and well received. Chalk another one up for YCDS.

**Watch Out For This Year's
Besamim.
Coming Soon After Pesach**

YU Commemorates Spanish Decree

by Adeeva Laya Graubard

On March 31, 1492, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain issued an edict, expelling all Jews from their land.

On March 31, 1992, the Sephardic Clubs and Student Councils of Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College sponsored a special ceremony commemorating the 500th anniversary of the issuance of the edict.

Coby Noy, president of the YC Sephardic Club, opened the evening, remarking that one could think of this as a reason for celebration, and not just commemoration. The edict, which forced the Jews of Spain to either convert or leave their homeland of the past 1500 years, allowed many of the Jews to continue their observance of the Torah. In contrast, the Nazis of Germany did not allow the Jews this choice.

Next, YCSC President David J. Kay recounted the recent trip to Spain he took with Rabbi Mitchell Serels, instructor of Sephardic studies at YU. He spoke of a country that has only 12,000 Jews, even less who are Orthodox.

Kay related how, when he was in Toledo, an old Jewish man approached him, attracted by Kay's *kippa*. The man explained that seeing a *kippa* in Spain is a rarity, as most Jews in Spain do not wear *kippot*, an old custom, dating back to the time of the Maranoes.

He then proceeded to question Kay about Jewish life in other areas of the world, even though the expulsion edict was rescinded, Jewish life is still highly restricted in Spain.

Susan Schlusel, president of SCWSC, discussed Rashi's commentary in Exodus, where it describes the travels of the Jews in the desert. There he points out that the travels, and not the encampments of the Jews, are mentioned. From this we learn, concluded Schlusel, we are indeed a traveling nation. No matter what governmental position a Jew holds, he must remember that first and foremost, he is a Jew. In 536, the Abravanel family settled in Spain. Yet, in 1492, Rav Yitzhak Abravanel, the Secretary of Finance of Isabella and Ferdinand, was forced to leave with his fellow Jews.

The keynote addressed was delivered by Dr. Israel Miller, executive vice-president of YU. Miller related how, when he was a young boy in Baltimore, he and his friends would not wear their *kippot* in public; they were scared of the Catholic boys whose parochial school was on the same block as the Jewish school.

But, he said, this is not the present situation in America. Now Jews are not afraid to wear *kippot*, or other religious objects, in public. Jews are an integral part of American life, like any other American residents.

That, continued Miller, also happened to the Spanish Jews. "They were proud of their Judaism, but also close to *malchut*, the royalty of Spain. The Jews were called on for advice on matters of finance and foreign policy."

Their problem, Miller claimed, was that they forgot what had happened to their ancestors during the

times of the Roman and Persian empires. Those Jews felt their close relationships with the rulers would save them from destruction; they were mistaken.

So too the Jews in Spain. "They thought they would be protected," said Miller. "They said 'Such atrocities would never happen to us.'"

"But they forgot what we say in the *haggadah* every Passover: 'In every generation, they [our enemies] will stand up to destroy us.'"

"And," Miller concluded, "we in America, must never forget this lesson of vigilance -- we must always remember what happened in Spain, and that it can happen to us."

Miller also called on those assembled to "remember...the lessons of support of Israel, part of our heritage, part of our destiny...The lessons of not forgetting who we are, that all Jews should be one nation...but Sephardim and Ashkenazim must keep their own customs. The Jews are like a rainbow: one beautiful entity, but made up of distinct and brilliant colors."

Following the speeches, five memorial candles were lit by SCW students Katy Amiri, Fanaz Baruchin, Pazit Ben-Porat, Helene Masliah and Schlusel, each representing one century since the expulsion.

The commemoration concluded with the recitation of *Hashcaba*, a Sephardic memorial prayer, by Daniel Benlolo, a student of the YU Belz School of Music, and *arvit* (evening prayer) led by Yechezkel Khayyat, *gabbi* of the YU Sephardic minyan.

New Course

Continued from p.1

tions they might have in the course of their preparation. This position has not yet been filled.

Student admission is subject to the approval of both Saks and Handel, and will be open only to SCW students accepted and registered in AGI's masters program.

To earn a Master's degree from AGI, a student must take 30 credits of Azrieli courses, all given at the SCW campus in the evenings, do student teaching, and pass a comprehensive exam. All those enrolled in the new course will be subject to these same requirements, and the six credits earned in the "Development and Methodology" section will count towards the 30 credits. The preparation and review sessions may take place in the *beit midrash* in Brookdale Hall, apartment 2C, even though those enrolled will not be eligible to live in the dormitory.

A \$4,000 fellowship is available to students who enroll in the new course. The money will be taken from a \$750,000 grant from the Mandel foundation which was established for the purpose of upgrading and encouraging standards of Jewish studies. Partnership students must take six additional credits in AGI evening classes the next semester, and take courses during the summer to enable them to complete the Masters degree over a year. This full summer program is being offered in response to prospective students' request for a way to complete the Master's degree in one year.

The change is not the institution of an entirely new program but rather the addition of a new course, asserted Handel. It is an experimental plan for 1992-93, instituted because the funding is available. Handel summed up that the new

course "recognizes women entering a career in *chituch* (Jewish education) who view it as necessary to simultaneously increase Jewish Studies." He added that this is "a wonderful Jewish trait... we always want more in terms of Jewish learning."

Administrators are attempting to contact those women who expressed an interest in the program by attending the initial meeting on December 11, 1991 at which the course was discussed. A subsequent meeting was held on Tuesday April 7 at which Saks gave a pilot lecture, which seven women attended.

SCW senior Rivky Shuchatowitz expressed that she is happy that "they are genuinely concerned with supplying women with opportunities to enhance skills in the realm of Judaic studies."

However, she adds, "I had been expecting nine months of work. I thought would be a full year. I mean just one seder-shiur concentration. Something including *Tanach* (Bible) and a *Talmud* class in addition to methodology." Handel.

Shuchatowitz also expressed concern at the proposed minimum of six students necessary to open the course, stating that the number discussed previously had been significantly lower.

Aliza Levin, also an SCW senior emphasized, "I had been expecting a more encompassing program in terms of amount of credits and course-offerings." Levin added her concern that in order to insure the success of such a program "it needs a critical mass [of students] that's homogeneous enough to participate in one seder-shiur program."

Both Levin and Shuchatowitz are unsure of their plans for the coming academic year subsequent to this proposal. If the program remains as proposed, however, neither feels that it meets her needs.

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Clinton Vs. Brown: Where Do They Stand On Israel?

by Chava Boylan

Unlike past presidential elections, this year's primaries do not focus on foreign policy. Whereas in the past, during the Cold War, countries such as the former Soviet Union were major issues, because of the recession, this year's presidential primaries have focused mainly on economic problems.

In fact, the main Democratic contenders, Arkansas' Governor Bill Clinton and former California Governor Edmund J. Brown, Jr., have both had little experience in foreign affairs. Paul Tsongas, former Massachusetts state senator, was the only main contender with an official record in international matters. As of the writing of this article, he has suspended his run for the presidency.

A major concern of Jewish voters country-wide was the candidates stance on the Middle East, specifically Israel. Because of the domestic focus of the campaign, this issue was first posed as a major issue during the recent New York State primary since New York houses such a large Jewish community.

Although their positions have been printed in such publications as the *Near East Report* and *Response*, a publication of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, their positions on Middle East issues remain widely obscure.

The following is a summation of the Democratic candidates stances as are presently known.

Governor Bill Clinton:

Governor Bill Clinton was Attorney General of Arkansas and was elected Governor in 1978. He lost a bid for re-election in 1980, but was elected again in 1982 and has continued to hold this office.

Clinton describes Israel as "Our most dependable ally in the [Middle East] region," and he credits the "underlying friendship and trust felt between Americans and Israelis" for "the historic friendship between our two democratic nations." (NER, March 2, 1992)

He accuses President Bush of "all but destroying" the historic relationship between the two countries. In an April 1, 1992 foreign policy address before the Foreign

Policy Association in New York, Clinton said that attacks by the Bush Administration have "damaged our strategic relationship with Israel, and I believe, undermined the potential of the peace process itself."

In addition, Clinton commented, "This [Bush] Administration has ever so subtly...broken down the taboo against overt anti-Semitism."

Clinton supports Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. "In the Middle East, the administration deserves credit for bringing Israel and its Arab antagonists to the negotiating table. Yet I believe the President is wrong to use public pressure tactics against Israel. In the process he has raised Arab expectations that he'll deliver Israeli concessions and fed Israeli fears that its interests will be sacrificed to an American-imposed situation."

In a speech to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Clinton asked rhetorically, "Is the settlement issue an obstacle to peace?"



Bill Clinton

Of course it is, but it is not the first or the biggest obstacle to peace." The biggest obstacle to peace "is the deep concern that Israel has that its right to exist in peace on a small piece of land far away from its best friend, the United States...has never been recognized."

Clinton, however, backs direct negotiations, calling them "a more sound and hopeful approach than an international conference under UN auspices." He commented in *Response* that the peace between

Arab states and Israel should be more than just "an armed and hostile truce....Real peace can only be achieved on a foundation of increased trust among the nations in the region."

To build this feeling of security, Clinton propose four steps: Arab states' renunciation of the recently repealed U.N. "Zionism is racism" resolution, ending the illegal Arab boycott of Israel, establishment of normal economic and trade relations between Israel and its neighbors, and the creation of multilateral agreements to protect the region's environment and insure that every nation has an adequate supply of water.

Clinton also stated that he believes the settlement issue should be addressed by the parties in direct negotiations.

Clinton supported Operation Desert Storm. "The U.S. simply cannot renounce the use of force in the region, American Allies or America's future," he commented.

He told the *Near East Report* that "the end of the Cold War does not mean the end of U.S. responsibilities abroad." He has stated that he supports continued military and economic aid to Israel.

In 1981, Clinton visited Israel and successfully transplanted to Arkansas. Israeli efforts to improve educational opportunities for poor mothers and their children. The centerpiece of this program was called HIPPY - Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters. He made this a key part of his national educational strategy.

Finally, Clinton supports the resolution passed by the House and the Senate declaring, "Jerusalem is and should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected."

He favors moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem as soon as this can be done "without interfering with the peace process."

Edmund G. Brown, Jr.:

Like Clinton, former Governor Brown supports the loan guarantees with the assurance that Israel will repay their loans. He notes, however, "anyone who doesn't acknowledge the fact that the furi-

ous settlement pace is going to undermine the peace process and make any kind of lasting solution impossible is just not facing facts as they are."

Brown, in commenting on U.S.



Jerry Brown

- Israel relations, stated "There's real fear and insecurity and we have an historic relationship with Israel that we must maintain."

In response to the question "Do you support the establishment of a Palestinian state?" posed by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Brown responded simply, "I support the peace process."

In addition, he contends, "American policy must insure a strong, secure and democratic Israel and at the same time vigorously pursue a Middle East peace process which addresses the legitimate interests of all the parties concerned."

A main focus of the Brown campaign has been the emphasis on putting American domestic interests first. Brown has therefore stated that he would severely cut foreign aid, including, obviously, the aid which is directed to Israel. The cutting of foreign aid would have nothing to do with Israel per se but would affect all recipients.

Not surprisingly, Brown opposed U.S. involvement in the Gulf War. "The U.S. should pursue sanctions in accordance with the United Nations. Moreover, the United States should take seriously and give support to the stirrings of democratic movements in Iraq," he commented in *Response*.

In considering a vote for Brown, many in the Jewish com-

munity have noted his first pick for vice-president - Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jackson has stated that he would accept the vice-presidency if the party ratifies it.

Jackson poses a major problem to many Jews because of his comment during the 1984 presidential election in which he called New York City "Hymietown," his association with "Nation of Islam" leader Louis Farrakhan, who described Judaism as the "gutter religion," and his embracing of Yasser Arafat, leader of the P.L.O.

When speaking to Jewish leaders at the Jewish Community Relations Council, Brown was heckled by many of those attending. Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) was the most verbal, shouting things such as, "You insult the Jewish community by picking Jesse Jackson." When Hikind again interrupted Brown's speech, he was escorted from the room.

"I believe the Number One goal of America's survival is healing the divisions between black and white," Brown said in explaining his choice of running mate.

Trying to disassociate himself with Jackson's positions, Brown asserted, "I don't agree with everything Rev. Jackson says, and he doesn't agree with everything I say."

"But we've gotta bring people together, black and white, Jewish and gentile, Latino and Anglo, in a way that we can be a country that believes in equality and social justice."

"Today we are pulling apart, we are unravelling...But if we can't handle this division - where you have the black community who enshrines Rev. Jackson and the Jewish community who believes he's anti-semitic - we're not going to solve the Middle East, we're not going to end the bombed out Bronx."

Brown continued that if Jackson was to become his vice president, "I [would] make the decision [and] my views on Israel have never been questioned."

"What happens if you die?" yelled someone from the audience.

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Continued on pg. 2

that an open editorial functions to express the convictions of its author; personal experience is not only appropriate in this writing form, but, in fact, essential. Finally, any legitimate criticism of Latkin's editorial is overshadowed by the sarcastic tone employed throughout the letter, compounded by repeated mocking references to Latkin as "Ms."

While Tropper and Seidemann implicitly claim that the motivation for their letter is rooted only in concern for the journalistic quality of THE OBSERVER, readers are left with the nagging feeling that Tropper and Seidemann intend to attack the writer rather than the editorial. Could it be that Latkin's assertions struck a little too close to home?

Adam J. Anhang
SSSB '95

Just Isn't Right

To the Editor:

I cannot keep quiet any longer. I've bowed down to the pressure of my peers ever since I entered this institution, and enough is enough.

I am perplexed by the fact that this issue, which cries out for redress - that has deteriorated to such dire circumstances - has not yet been resolved. So if somebody could just tell me WHERE HAVE ALL THE LEFTY DESKS GONE?

It is well known that YU policy is to admit a large cross-section of society that includes both young and old, male and female, Jew and Jew. But this discrimination, which

so clearly manifests itself in the severe shortage of lefty-desks, is deplorable!

Try explaining to your teacher why you need one desk-chair to sit in, and one desk-chair to write on, because you've begun developing severe back pain, resulting from contortionist movements that you were inadequately trained for.

Isn't it bad enough already that we have to walk around with ink smudges on the sides of our palms? "Ooh - what's that?" I'm constantly being asked. "Ink smudges," I reply patiently.

But my patience has worn thin. Why can't I look forward to taking finals like the rest of my right handed peers? Why must I agonize in silence every time I put pen to paper? Did you know that the average life span of the lefty is some years shorter than that of a right handed person? Surely, Stern College wishes to be vindicated of any malpractice that could lead to this premature ending of life!

I know that immediate action will be taken by the appropriate authorities to rectify this sullen situation.

Aliza Rachlin
SCW '93

Stranded Uptown

To the Editor:

I was quite perturbed when, almost two weeks ago, on Sunday night March 22, I emerged from studying in the Uptown library at 11:40 P.M., ready to catch the 12:00 van downtown, whereupon I was scoffed at, and told that there

was no van—and there had not been any all night. Albeit it had been a rather snowy day, the snow had subsided already for a while, and water was the only indication of the day's "storm."

Quite surprised by this lack of service, I went over to the security guard, who called the head guard on the telephone to find out exactly what the story was. I spoke to this guard, who informed me that the service had halted because of the inclement weather. I explained to him that the least he could have done was to make sure to let people know that the service had been temporarily disbanded. There were no signs about it anywhere; at least a sign should have been posted on or near the van stop! Had I noticed a sign and thus been aware of this earlier, I certainly would have tried to catch a ride over to Stern, or at least take a cab at a decent hour of the night! I think it would have been appropriate for one of the guards to periodically make announcements on each floor of the library, allowing people ample time to make alternate plans.

The guard kindly offered to order a van for me, if I could find seven other women who needed the service. (I still am wondering how having seven other women in the van would have made driving conditions any safer.) Needless to say, I had no other choice but to take a cab home at that late hour, alone, and in a very unsafe area. (We're talking Washington Heights). I was also out \$17 (for which I think I should be reimbursed). This type of situation need be rectified immediately.

Chavie T. Levine
SCW '94

Farewell To Senior Lady Macs



Bonnie Bienenstock and Malkie Brilliant, two of the three graduating seniors.

by Shira Shimoni and Rinah Cohen

There are three seniors graduating from the Lady Macs this June: Bonnie Bienenstock, Malkie Brilliant and Aviva Rosenstein. They have played well over the years and deserve recognition for their efforts.

Bienenstock, voted All-American basketball player, has been playing for the Lady Macs for three years. During her junior and senior years, she was captain of the basketball team as well as the tennis team. Bienenstock has always enjoyed sports, a result of her "very sports oriented family."

As a Lady Mac, she was a consistent high scorer and had a career high of 25 points in one game. As a center, Bienenstock felt it was "very challenging" playing against the taller girls on opposing college teams.

When asked about the team itself, Bienenstock said the team worked together towards one goal, to win. She does however feel that the "SCW sports department is lacking proper funds, organization and fan support." Bienenstock, a sociology major, would like to work as a social worker for the elderly.

Another graduating Lady Mac is Brilliant, a rookie. Brilliant's position on the team was unique; when Coach Bill Weiner sent Brilliant into the game, she jumped to cover any position on the court.

Brilliant is interested in all

sports, not only basketball, as evident by her choice of physical education as her major. Next month Brilliant will receive her teaching certificate in aerobics, and she hopes to be an aerobics instructor next year.

Rosenstein is the third graduating Lady Mac. Rosenstein has been playing on the team for three years, but had no previous experience playing basketball before joining the Lady Macs. She had always been an enthusiastic spectator and claims what drew her to basketball was the fact that she "fell in love with Michael Jordan."

Rosenstein played forward and while defense was her strong point, she reveled in the exhilaration of temporarily playing center and scoring points. When describing her experience of playing for the Lady Macs, Rosenstein asserts that luckily, team spirit has improved over the years. Her advice to future team members is that they should "talk to each other" because a close knit team allows them to play better basketball. Some of Rosenstein's best moments as a Lady Mac resulted from team coordination, when they won the first home game and the game they won in overtime on a three pointer at the buzzer. Rosenstein is a chemistry major and will be in medical school next year.

We wish the graduating Lady Macs much luck and success and they will be greatly missed next season.

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SPOTLIGHT

Susan Gardner: A Masterpiece of A Mentor

by Leah Frenkel

Students have one complaint about Professor Susan Ross Gardner, assistant professor of Art at Stern College: she is always right. Whether the subject at hand is painting or sculpture or a masterpiece of art, Gardner's thorough knowledge of art, both in technique and history, has earned her the admiration of the entire student body.

Gardner truly understands art and is able to convey that understanding to those around her. "You can be struggling for seventy hours on a painting and she will suggest one seemingly minute detail and suddenly your painting will come to life," one student states. "She is always right...her other problem is that she's always nice about it too."

Gardner is known on campus for being extremely pleasant and well spoken, as well as an inspiring instructor. It is not uncommon for students in her class to suddenly switch from math or psychology to an art major.

Creativity and art have been a part of Gardner's life since she was quite young. Although she attended an art and music high school, what finally compelled her to choose art as a career and lifelong vocation was her frequent visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and viewing the artwork displayed there.

Gardner received her B.A. at Antioch College and her Masters degree in Studio and Art History from Ohio State University in 1966. Following the completion of her degrees she began her teach-

ing career at Manhattan Community College. She has also taught in Fordham University and LaGuardia Community College. In 1979 she joined the Yeshiva University faculty.

When Gardner arrived at SCW, the art department was practically non-existent. Those students interested in art had a choice of a few art history courses and one studio course. In fact, one of the reasons she decided to teach at SCW was to expand the department.

"The concept of really building up an art department was very exciting...the idea of starting something, [and] creat[ing] a real major." The art program now offers over 20 courses to majors and non-majors.

Furthermore, art majors who wish to pursue their studies on an even more advanced level have the option of taking courses at FIT. With the help of Gardner, the art department has progressed beyond capacity and has become, she believes, a very solid program.

The joint program with FIT allows the art student to acquire technical training, and the Fine Arts program at SCW provides a strong foundation for art majors. Gardner is looking to expand the department even more though she says the program is now in "tenament condition."

The students themselves were another reason she chose to teach at SCW. Gardner enjoys working with women, helping them try to arrive at the right personal balance between family and career. As a



woman with a career and a family, she especially understands the strain to do both at the same time. She also appreciates working with SCW students.

Gardner says "the students really make it worthwhile, you set them off and they go, complaining, but they go." She really challenges her students, basically "throwing them into the water and saying swim, because I know Stern students can handle it. I have taught in a number of universities and you can't do that there, you have to take them step by step."

In the studio courses, her motto, as many students can attest to, is "struggle." She believes in learning through experience and feels that the studio course should be individualized and "self-exploration." The studio course are geared to give as much technical information as can be used, but it is the students' struggle with the work that teaches them the most. She analyzes her view on teaching art

in one of her infamous swimming metaphors.

"You can talk about theoretical swimming and how you do the stroke; but until you're trying to get that painting right and struggling it's really not going to become a part of you."

Once the student has started "struggling," Gardner enjoys seeing the "individual voices" each student has.

"To me it's very exciting to see each student get involved in her visual work."

While the studios are experimental and meant to encourage students to discover their own style, the art history classes are geared to encourage an appreciation for and about great works of art. Gardner tries to convey the same excitement she feels each time she looks at the slides of the artwork and explains what makes each individual work great.

In addition to teaching, Gardner herself is an artist. Her work has been displayed at the Brooklyn Museum, the Queens Museum, the Rotunda Gallery and at other locations. She has also painted a mural for P.S. 94 in Brooklyn, as part of a program to bring art and culture into New York City. The mural "Animal Party" was dedicated by former Mayor Ed Koch and other public officials.

The advice she dispenses to students, she applies to herself as well; Gardner paints every day. She describes art and her artwork as a "continual journey." Currently, she is involved in painting "patterns

that involve imagery as a criterion. A focal image such as nature or the human image, surrounded by a series of abstract elements and trying to relate the two."

To Gardner, art is a constant learning process. "With art, unlike other fields, there is no sense of one ever reaching the end."

She utilizes what she sees around her - in day to day living and even things she sees from her students in her artwork. "I'll look at a student's work and say that's an interesting approach. I hadn't thought of that. So I'm learning from them as they are learning from me."

Gardner wants to reach out to the students, to give every student an appreciation of art. For those students who, like her, would be unhappy doing anything less creative, she encourages them to develop their own style while being realistic with them about the difficulties in the field.

Says art major Simma Krames, "I can't even express in words how much Professor Gardner has helped me in my life and in my field. All her students know that she goes above and beyond in helping and guiding them."

As a teacher, Gardner feels that she has "touched lives, perhaps even ruined lives - they could have been lawyers, doctors earned a decent living." She speaks to those students who decide to attempt the creative field, by saying "understand the rigor of the field, but never lose track of the intensity that brought you to it."

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