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Gorbachev Dinner Sparks Controversy

by Alyssa Herman

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, President of the former Soviet Union, delivered a major address condemning anti-Semitism and received the first Benjamin N. Cardozo Democracy Award on May 13 at a Yeshiva University sponsored banquet in his honor. Over \$2 million was raised at the event which was held at the Pierre Hotel on behalf of Cardozo Law School.

Upon the occasion, University Trustees presented Gorbachev with a \$100,000 honorarium for his newly established foundation. Also honored at the dinner was Charles Koppelman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of EMI Records Group North America, who received the Benjamin N. Cardozo Distinguished Achievement Award.

Gorbachev advocated democracy and liberty for all people and declared "I resolutely reject and condemn anti-Semitism as one of the worst manifestations of nationalist chauvinism."

Gorbachev asserted that the failure of the August coup confirmed that Russia is heading in the right direction, but noted that unbridled nationalism and reactionary forces still threaten the development of democracy in the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

Gorbachev stated that he is pleased that Russian/Israeli relations, reestablished under his rule, have continued to improve in response to Russia's relaxed emigration policy.

Gorbachev concluded his speech by appealing to Yeshiva University and American Jewry to support Russia on its obstacle ridden path toward democracy.

Upon bestowing Gorbachev with his award, YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm read from its text. "It is given to few mortals to change the source of history without resorting to fear and violence. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is one of those so privileged..."

In reference to the emigration policy implemented under Gorbachev the text read: "For the Jewish people of the world, he will be remembered forever as an adversary who became a hero: the man who opened the gates of the Soviet Union and permitted the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Jews to Israel and other countries."

Gorbachev's address was his only scheduled appearance before a Jewish organization or institution during his stay in the United States.



by Alyssa Herman

Yeshiva University's bestowal of the Benjamin N. Cardozo Democracy Award to Mikhail Gorbachev at the Cardozo fundraising dinner in his honor has sparked controversy on campus.

Some students maintain that Gorbachev merits the award for being a true initiator of change in the Soviet Union. They assert that it was under his stewardship that the doors were opened for Soviet Jews to emigrate. Others contend that Gorbachev was a victim of a changing society, a communist, and that he surely is not a hero.

While many students believe that YU was "hypocritical" in honoring Gorbachev, still others think that this was an exciting and historic occasion for the University.

In the days preceding the event, copies of an article titled "Honoring Gorbachev," criticizing YU's decision to present the former Soviet President with an award, were hung around SCW. The piece was written by Rabbi Avraham Weiss, National Chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and professor at SCW, and Pamela B. Cohen, National President of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Weiss and Cohen argue that "In the former Soviet Union, Gorbachev is viewed by Democrats as the Communist head of the Kremlin's totalitarian structure. The welcome by YU of Gorbachev projects a powerful picture inside Russia: that of Jewish solidarity with the symbol of conservative opposition to democracy... Lionizing Gorbachev for responding under pressure to the righteous demands of world Jewry is tantamount to ennobling Pharaoh for

letting our people go..."

Below is a sampling of the opinions articulated by students.

In response to the portion of Gorbachev's award which read: "For the Jewish people of the world, he will be remembered forever as an adversary who became a hero."

Esther Wolf, Senior: "While I might not go so far as to describe Gorbachev as a 'hero' for the Jewish people, I do believe that we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Before Gorbachev, the *aliya* of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews was inconceivable as was the concept of running Jewish summer camps in Russia."

Chavie Levine, Sophomore: "Gorbachev's 'turnaround' does not qualify him as a hero; being called a hero should not be based on his past adversarial role, if its negative impact still remains."

Students were asked if they thought it was proper for YU to grant Gorbachev a democracy award.

Polina Matveyeva, Senior who was a Russian refusenik: "It was proper. Rabbi Weiss's statement had some good points. Yet, Gorbachev was the first ruler to initiate change. He was the one to let the Jew out, though pressure was put on him and it was not of his own accord. The Soviet Union's economic system was as bad... (as it was when Gorbachev changed the emigration policy for) ten years before, yet none of the previous leaders let the Jews out... He was the first to start some democracy, though he did not go all the way... He allowed people to start thinking about democracy. The people then carried it further."

Nadia Gurvich, Freshman from Russia: "When he came to power he had the idea of change. The way he did it was inappropriate, he was still Communist and wanted the Communist party to remain the only party. There was not a multi-party system until after the Soviet Union broke up. Even after the Coup he stated that he remained committed to Communism."

Amanda Nussbaum, Freshman: "Although Gorbachev tried to appear as a reformer with his policies of Glastnost and Perestroika, I feel that in reality he did not deviate from the policies which were carried out by his predecessors. As Robert Tucker pointed out in his New York Times editorial, Gorbachev can be considered 'the last Leninist.'"

Administration "Confident" About Beit Midrash for Fall

By Tzalcha Rosen

Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman and Director of Supporting Services Mr. Jeff Rosengarten expressed optimism that there will be a *Beit Midrash* in the Stern College building by next semester, in response to student requests.

These requests were expressed at various meetings of the Student Life Committee, set up to make "short-term improvements" in space at SCW, according to Rosengarten.

In a random poll, women at SCW expressed their need for a *beit midrash* as a place for both davening and Torah learning. Between ten and twenty women have

mined more definitely before committing to both rooms. If the suggested room can seat 35-40, "We'll start with that," said Rosengarten, and make a "clear provision" for expansion should need indicate its necessity.

SCWSC President Susan Schlüssel expressed that "it is rather insulting that for a student body of over 650 women, a *Beit Midrash* that seats only 40 women is termed sufficient."

Other spaces considered were rooms on the seventh floor, which one student described as "underutilized." That space has been "ruled out for now," according to Rosengarten, because that



Dean Bacon joins students for mincha in 7th fl. Conference Room.

been davening *mincha* together in the board room on the seventh floor for the past two weeks.

Neither Nulman nor Rosengarten could give a guarantee, however, as many factors have yet to be worked out, they said. These factors include choosing a room of adequate size to accommodate student needs, drawing up layout plans, and assessing the costs of the project.

Among the rooms currently under serious consideration is room 618. Students have expressed their desire for combining that room with one of the adjacent rooms; administrators maintain that the room capacity and expected utilization must be deter-

mined more definitely before committing to both rooms. If the suggested room can seat 35-40, "We'll start with that," said Rosengarten, and make a "clear provision" for expansion should need indicate its necessity.

The plans for room 618 should be ready by the week of May 18, and student-administration meetings will then recommence to discuss the results.

Nulman asserted that "everyone in the administration is supportive of a *beit midrash*, particularly Dr. Lamm." Student Life Committee member Rachel Schenker said, "Their support is encouraging and necessary; we hope it crystallizes into a real *beit midrash*, large enough to accommodate the future of Torah learning at SCW."

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EDITORIALS

Compromising Scruples

He tried to save Communism. He allowed anti-semitism to grow under his administration.

For years, he prevented many refuseniks from leaving his oppressive country.

He was honored at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law dinner on May 13, 1992 and profited \$100,000 from the appearance. His name is Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev.

At the dinner, Yeshiva University President Norman Lamm extolled Gorbachev as both a "leader" and a "sage" in our generation.

How could YU compliment and pay this "friend" of the Jews?

We know why.

Over one million dollars was raised through the dinner, and an anonymous one million dollar chair was established by a single donor for the Cardozo School of Law.

But is money everything? Just what are we willing to say for money? Yeshiva University should be the last place to compromise on scruples because of a payoff, some press coverage and prestige.

Doesn't YU realize that it represents the Modern Orthodox community, for better or for worse? What kind of message are we sending to the former refuseniks, to those who fought Gorbachev tooth and nail to attain the release of our trapped brethren, to the Jewish community at large?

Surely Yeshiva University wants to stand for more than a place that will honor our adversaries for the almighty dollar.

Midterms: Again

Although it pains and bores us to once again broach the topic, we are left with no choice. We do not enjoy writing the same editorials every semester. But if a problem is not solved, it must be addressed and not ignored.

Finals are fast approaching and aside from the fact that some students only finished midterms this past week, several professors have not yet returned midterms to their students. The P/N filing period has long since passed and students, left with no means of gauging their performances, do not know whether they should have taken advantage of this option. Additionally, students are unaware of the best way to prepare for finals in specific classes because they have no idea of how they did on their midterms.

Just as we have a responsibility to prepare and take our tests on a certain date, professors too should have the courtesy to return exams by a certain time, specifically before the P/N filing period.

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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.

A Rule Is A Rule

To the Editor:

I am both an alumna of Stern College and a parent of a student presently attending Stern College. I have visited the College on numerous occasions and am quite distressed at the dress pattern of a minority of students in the building.

When a student enters the College at the beginning of September she is informed that one of the rules of the College is that no pants are to be worn in the school building. Why then on every visit of mine to the school building do I see women wearing pants? Please do not afford me the excuse "I am just here to pick up a paper", "I just need something from the library", "It is freezing cold outside", etc. The prohibition against wearing pants in the school building is on the books and it should be enforced. And again I do stress that it is a minority of women who are not complying with this rule. The majority of the women are dressed not only in compliance with this ruling but in a manner befitting a *Bat Yisrael*.

It is my hope that starting with September, 1992 the College will strictly enforce this ruling. If a woman does not wish to comply, then she has the option of applying to another school. While attending Stern from 1963 - 1967 no one wore pants in the school building, whether it was because of a "ruling" or because of a student's respect of Yeshiva University and the faculty at the College. And I did not opt to send my daughter to a Yeshiva

which tolerates the wearing of pants in the school building.

Rochelle Sperling Graubard
SCW '67

Unfair Elections

To the Editor:

At the risk of sounding bitter, I must express my dismay at the manner in which the Dr. J. P. Dunner Political Science Society elections were handled. Upon entering the election, I was informed that all members of the society were eligible to vote. However, a few days later the sign announcing the election dates narrowed eligibility exclusively to Political Science majors. Political Science majors are not the only politically aware students at SCW.

Shouldn't all card carrying members (yes, we really do have cards) in the society be entitled to cast their ballots toward their governing board?

The election had been slated for Sunday and Monday; however, it was prematurely concluded Monday afternoon without notice so that the student in charge of the election could go to an event uptown. This effectively robbed students who planned to vote Monday night after class of the opportunity to have their ballots counted in the election.

There were continued election discrepancies because ballots were distributed to students in Dr. Bevan's Political Science class with the exclusion of all other Political Science classes. Time was made for these students to vote while other students' votes were

refused due to the early and abrupt closing of the polls. It seems ironic that a society of Political Science majors should organize so undemocratic an election.

Rachel Annenberg
SCW '94

Hakarat Ha'Tov

To the Editor:

As I prepare to leave SCW, I find myself reflecting upon the three years I have spent here. When I first entered Stern, I clearly remember finding things here quite amusing. There were three new undergraduate newspapers to read, and tons of signs everywhere, which advertised an upcoming event, *shneur*, speaker, *chagiga*, etc. Yet, I never realized how much time and effort various people spent in order to organize an event for ME. And neither did my friends. (Many of them didn't know what TAC was.)

All this changed when I suddenly found my friends filling various positions of student leadership in this school. I saw, firsthand, how much effort went into running Milner's Market. I became aware just how much the SCWSC President and Board has to be on top of everything. Suddenly, Susie Schluskel could not sit and relax. She had important calls to make, people to see, things to do -- and ALL of it was unselfishly done for the student body.

For those of you who think that *The Observer* is a college newspaper which comes out only a few

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From The Editor's Desk Until Next Year...

by Rachel Schenker

I'm a lunatic. I don't have my head on straight. I've completely lost touch with reality. I'm a masochist. Those are only a sampling of the reactions that my announcement to continue working for the paper elicited. I might very well be crazy, but my decision was made being of relatively sound body and mind.

It's human nature. People have a desire to accomplish, to make their mark, to have their presence acknowledged and deemed important. It's no small wonder then, that new people come in and try to do "everything." An incoming leader accepts a position blindly, and doesn't recognize that truly, "there is nothing new under the sun."

As student leaders, optimistic women and men of strong convictions, we started this year ready to reinvent the wheel. We were going to do everything. The commitment, the setting of priorities had been made and we were ready for anything.

Well, almost anything. I don't think any of us truly anticipated most of the "exciting" events of this academic year that has so swiftly come to a close.

How long ago October seems right now. Who knew then what the "issues" were going to be - the pool, Schottenstein, no more housekeeping? HA!

I'm in a particularly unique situation. I am not graduating from my involvement with Yeshiva University, so I'm not "laying down my load" or handing the perpetual agenda to someone else to take care of with a fresh start and a fresh perspective.

I don't have the advantage of ignorance to allow me to be optimistic and idealistic. I know the deal and how it works. I need to draw on strength, then, from a different source. A wise man reminded me recently of a Mishna in Pirke Avot - "It is not up to you to finish the work, but neither are you free to abstain from it" (2:21).

Taking into account what I know about the meetings, processes, procedures, parties and feelings, I am continually astounded by the magnitude of what we must continue trying to accomplish.

But the magnitude, and the knowledge thereof, does not exempt me. My knowing how much time and work the newspaper demands does not preclude my responsibility to the school and its student body.

Understanding that, I look forward to devoting another year of service to the University. Because I have learned that no one expects one individual to complete everything alone. I'm only required to work to the best of my ability.

On one hand I envy the novice of the new set of student leaders. Sometimes that innocence is bliss. But on further consideration, I'm proud of the work that we've all accomplished together this year and consider myself the richer for the experience that I've had and that I'll be able to carry over to next year.

I hope that the cooperation, creative effort and collective energies of next year's student leaders matches those of this year's group and allows us to reach even higher goals.

The President Speaks

To the students:

It is hard to believe that this is the final issue of *The Observer* and my final column to you, the students. This year, as well as my four years at Stern College, really flew by. I am going to miss Stern College and Yeshiva University.

This year has been a tremendous learning experience, in more ways than one. I've learned the positive and negative about people, life, and more specifically, Yeshiva University. There are many thoughts I would like to leave with you, but I will sum them all up and relay one message to all of you. You, as students and members of *K'lal Yisrael*, can make a difference. It is not always easy, but you must not be passive or apathetic. We as Jews are instructed *li'taken olam be'malchut shakai*, to correct the world with the ways of Hashem, and we must fulfill that task. This is an enormous responsibility that must be taken seriously. It must be done with respect for fellow students, *derech erez* for our elders, regardless of what position they hold, and as *b'not Torah*. Each and every one of us has the potential to fulfill this obligation.

But we must all be careful not to lose sight of our mission. The ends do not justify the means. On that note, I am looking forward to visiting and learning in our new *beit midrash* next year in rooms 618 and 619.

I want to thank students, teachers, faculty and administration for their help and encouragement this year. I especially want to thank my friends and family for always being there for me. I would like to wish the best of luck to all of you.

Thanks!

Susan Schluskel
President, SCWSC '91-'92

The Observer extends condolences to
Dean Michael Hecht
upon the passing of his mother.

OPINIONS

Votes For Sale

by Susan Bahn

Aside from being one of the most time-consuming and annoying activities here, riding the elevators is also one of the best sources of information about the students of Stern College.

Recently, I was in the elevator with two students who were discussing elections. The first student opened the conversation by asking the other if she had received a yo-yo from one of the candidates. The other replied that she had not, but seemed clearly excited by the prospect of getting one. The students then began discussing the candidates' distribution of pens and pencils.

"Did you get a pencil at school today?" "Yes, I also got a pen. Who are you going to vote for?" "I think I'll vote for the one who gave out the pens because they cost more." "Yeah, I heard that the one who gave out pens spent \$70, while the one who gave out pencils only spent \$50. I think that I will also vote for the one who gave out pens."

The elevator then stopped at my floor. The two looked at me and asked who I will be voting for. I looked at them and said, "I'm not sure yet, but I do think that it is stupid to vote for the candidate who spent the most money." A look of bewilderment passed over both of their faces as they replied, "Oh yeah, maybe you're right."

As the elevator doors shut behind me, my first response was laughter, my second was disappointment.

This year, the maximum amount that a student was allowed to spend on her campaign was raised to \$500. Although, much to my relief, it appears that no student spent that much, it is mind-blowing that the possibility to do so exists.

by Cindy Wagner

What would it be like to study the Holocaust under a professor whose credentials include two major published works (both critically acclaimed), teaching experience at several major universities (including the first offered doctoral class of its kind at New York University), positions on the academic council of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Educational Board of Holocaust Publications and extensive lectures at international conferences throughout the U.S. and Israel? Many of you will never know, because this remarkable man will no longer be part of the faculty at Stern College for the coming semester.

Dr. Monty Noam Penkower, who has taught at Stern College for three years, will be replaced by a newcomer to the Yeshiva University faculty, Dr. Robert Moses



A few of the candidates with some of their paraphernalia.

Although the idea behind campaigning is to gain student recognition, based on the conversation I heard, a secondary purpose is to buy votes. We were bombarded with free goodies and our school was turned into a nursery, plastered with posters filled with cute rhymes and slogans but barren of platforms. This seems a ridiculous way to run elections.

The elevators also provide additional information to the students in the form of posters and fliers. During elections, I noticed signs advertising campaign promises that seemed impossible to fulfill. Other signs contained promises that had nothing to do with the sought after position. One candidate for a purely academic office was promising to improve everything from dorm space to the meal plan. Although the more informed student is aware of how ludicrous the signs were, I also heard students who claimed that they were planning to vote for these candidates because of the great promises.

In a school that seems plagued by apathetic students and an administration that finds it difficult to respond to students' needs and requests, student leaders are very

important. It is vital that these leaders are chosen for their abilities and skills and not because they can spend more money than their opponents or make the most magnificent but unrealistic campaign promises.

Presidential debates are a step in the right direction, but based on poor attendance and the fact that they are limited to the presidential candidates, they are not enough. I feel that the next step should be to cut budgets to an amount that can solely cover the cost of posterboards, markers and tape. These posters should announce positions, experience and goals rather than only cute poems and catchy phrases.

Next, candidates should be required to understand the exact nature and responsibilities of their desired positions. These descriptions along with each candidate's response to how she will best meet the responsibilities of her office should be distributed to students via inter-office mail.

This will enable students to realistically assess the goals, abilities and talents of the candidates, rather than pocketbooks and imaginative promises.

Lamenting A Loss

Shapiro. Penkower, a world renowned scholar, has been not only a professor, but a source of inspiration to his students. His two seminar classes, *The Holocaust and The Destruction of Polish Jewry*, have spurred many of his students onto long term commitments to study in the field.

The University's decision came as a shock to all concerned, not least of all Dr. Penkower himself. In fact, he had just announced his course offering for the coming semester when he was informed.

His students have justifiably reacted with shock and outrage. "It's wrong to replace him: he's irreplaceable. His extensive experience in the field and numerous awards demonstrates this. He brings something to the class nobody else could," remarked Sophomore Chani Pearlman, one of his current students.

Sophomore Adeena Davis commented, "Dr. Penkower's class is more than a formal lecture. It's a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas. He has a bond with his students that goes beyond the curriculum. He cares."

The University had previously conferred upon him the second Samuel Belkin Memorial Literary Award for his work and gave him the honor of chairing an important exhibit at the Yeshiva University Museum. Clearly valued for his scholarship, erudition and sincerity, Dr. Penkower has been dealt an unfortunate blow, and his students are forced to suffer the consequences.

When asked for comment, Dean Karen Bacon remarked, "Dr. Penkower has been a great asset to our University. I trust his connections with us will not end. He is a

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AROUND THE CAMPUS

Yom Ha'shoah Program

by Chava Boylan

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Dr. Nechama Tec addressed SCW and YC students on Wednesday, April 29. Tec, who is the author of several works on the Holocaust including *Dry Tears, In the Lion's Den* and *When the Light Pierced the Darkness*, spoke of her own experiences during the Holocaust.

Tec originates from the Polish city of Lublin, which had a Jewish population of 40,000 prior to World War II. By the end of the war, only 150 had survived. Tec belongs to one of the three families which remained intact.

After some time in the Lublin ghetto, Tec and her family escaped to Warsaw where they hid in many places. They finally settled in Kielce, and paid to live in the home of Polish peasants.

While her parents looked and sounded Jewish, and were therefore hidden in the peasants' back room, Tec and her sister appeared Christian and spoke a perfect Polish. As a result, they posed as orphaned relatives.

In telling her story, Tec attempted to identify what enabled her family in particular to survive the war. Although she attributes much of their survival to "luck," she maintained that, "it was more than just luck."

Looking back on the entire experience, Tec said that her parents' attitude toward survival had the greatest influence. They did not ignore warnings they received about the mass murder occurring outside the ghetto. They employed an illegal tutor in preparation for life after the war.

At the end of her speech, Tec answered questions from the audience.

The program continued with student recitation of literary selections concerning the Holocaust, a candle lighting ceremony and the recitation of *Kel malei rachamim*, the traditional prayer for Jewish martyrs.

SCW sophomore Adeena Braun commented that "Tec offered an unusual perspective, for she discussed her time in hiding as opposed to a concentration camp experience."



Rav Goldwicht speaks at program.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrated at YU

by Rena Maslansky

Hundreds of YU students and Bnei Akiva-niks crowded into Weissberg Commons in Belfer Hall on the YC campus on Wednesday night, the third of Iyar (May 6th) for a *Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut* program.

The program, which was run jointly by YU and Bnei Akiva of New York, consisted of a memorial service commemorating *Yom Hazikaron*, followed by a celebration in honor of the 44th year of independence for the state of Israel.

Members of Bnei Akiva marched solemnly between the rows of seats bearing Israeli flags, whereupon six candles were lit in memory of those who sacrificed their lives on Israel's behalf, those who died while serving in the army and those who have died in the ongoing intifada.

Kel malei rachamim, the prayer

for the dead, was recited aloud, followed by a recitation of various Hebrew and English poems which were composed over the years in memory of the soldiers. YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, who spoke about the gravity of the occasion, gave special mention of those who were in some way affiliated with YU before losing their lives in the fight for Israel's independence.

As nightfall approached, Rav Meir Goldwicht led the crowd into the next portion of the program with a *d'var Torah*, in which he brought to light the fact that Hashem's glory is truly manifest in the miracle of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. Afterwards, *ma'ariv* was recited with liturgical additions acknowledging the miracle. The evening was concluded with dancing and celebrations that lasted into the morning.

SSSB Changes Prereqs

by Susan Bahn

Starting next semester, several courses at Sy Syms School of Business will no longer require prerequisites. This will enable non-business majors or SSSB students who have not taken accounting or economic classes to register for these courses. These courses include Principles of Marketing, Principles in Management, Management Information Systems, Business Law and the Legal and Ethical Environment in Business.

According to Ira Jaskoll, assistant dean of SSSB, these changes were initiated by Harold Nierenberg, the new dean of SSSB. The motivation behind this change was to allow students who are interested in business, pursuing an MBA or law school to attend these courses. Additionally, SSSB students will be able to experience different courses earlier in their college career. Jaskoll said that often students do not want to begin their business education with accounting, and this new policy will enable them to start with other classes.

Jaskoll also noted that students were reluctant to enter SSSB because they felt that it lacked flexibility. He said that although there is value to a "rigid sequence, it also made it difficult for students to opt into SSSB." By removing the prerequisites from several classes, more flexibility has been added to the program.

The content of the courses will remain the same. Jaskoll said that the prerequisites had previously been required because it had been found that students were better off entering the classes with a stronger background. However, this background is not necessary to succeed in the courses and therefore Nierenberg decided to remove the requirements.

Jaskoll said that although it is too early to adequately gauge student reaction to the change, student feedback has been positive.

Shadow Program: Test Run A Career

by Adeeva Laya Graubard

College. In movies, it's idealized as four years of parties, fun and absolute freedom. On to that list of experiences must be added all-night study sessions, 15-page semester papers and, perhaps the most harrowing experience of them all, making a final decision with respect to a profession.

Enter the Shadow Program at Stern College for Women.

The Shadow Program, implemented at the start of the spring semester, is the brainchild of Arlene Goldman, the newest member of the SCW Board of Directors.

Goldman, who attended American University for one year, says that the work experience the program provides is very beneficial and important. "There are many people who have become successful without receiving a formal education; on the other hand, there are many who are college educated, yet do not perform their jobs as well as expected. There seems to be some correlation between work experience at a young age and success in one's career."

"I felt it was especially important for the students at SCW to have such a program. The students here are more sheltered as a result of their religious lives and are not exposed to the outside world as much. In the Shadow Program they will be able to experience the real world in small doses and cushion the shell-shock they will experience once they graduate and face the outside world."

The idea for the Shadow Program came about after Goldman heard student grievances on the inadequacies of the SCW career counseling, and its lack of direction and focus.

The pool of potential "shadowees" was formed from alumni address listings and questionnaires which had been completed by alumni and returned to

SSSB Assistant Dean Ira J. Jaskoll's office. Goldman relates with a smile how she called a graduate and said, "Do you remember that you filled out this job-related card? Well, now I have something for you to do." He laughed, and offered to help.

To get students involved in the planning stages of the program, Goldman spoke at a meeting for the Student Council Executive Board and class boards. She invited the students present to form a committee. Six of the students, in addition to Goldman, constitute the Shadow Program committee.

"We set up basic guidelines for the student for 'shadowing,'" says Goldman. "The main rule that we stressed was: Do not ask for a job. If the professional is pushed, he might be reluctant to allow another student to shadow him; he might not want to have to make a commitment for anyone."

The response from the students who have already shadowed has been favorable. "I had a very good experience," said Janna Kass, a senior majoring in psychology, who shadowed Barry Rosenbloom, a public school psychologist in College Point, Queens.

"Even though I wasn't allowed to sit in on any of [Rosenbloom's] sessions because of doctor-patient confidentiality, I was able to talk to and ask him questions about his job, how he handles different situations. It was especially helpful because he also explained the field from a yeshiva, a Jewish perspective, which I might not have gotten from someone else."

But, as Goldman points out, there are also problems with the program. "Too many students don't know what the program is aimed at. They think it's a way to get an internship or a job. It's really for those who want to experience a day in the life of their profession," and have no other way to do it."

Continued on pg. 12.

Stern Alumnae Honored

by Laura Gross

Seven Yeshiva University graduates, including three SCW alumnae, were honored at a May 14 ceremony hosted by the alumni associations of Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women. They were recognized for making significant contributions in many various professions and fields, including religious education, Jewish communal service, arts and sciences.

The three Stern alumnae are all recipients of the Dr. Samuel Belkin Memorial Award: Mrs. Amy Herskowitz Katz of Brookline, Mass. will receive an award for "Community Relations;" Ms. Sandra Kilstein of New York City

for "Jewish Education," and Mrs. Naomi Weinerman Lippman of Great Neck, NY for "Professional Achievement."

Katz earned her M.S.W. degree from the Wurzelweil School of Social Work in 1978 after her graduation from SCW. She has worked for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston and has coordinated two community-wide walk-a-thons. She is currently the Campaign Associate of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

Kilstein attended the WSSW, receiving her M.S.W. in 1976, after earning her bachelor's degree in English Literature and Judaic Studies from SCW. She is responsible for

pioneering two programs which encourage careers and communal leadership skills of yeshiva students: The Jewish Leadership Camping Program and The Yeshiva Teen Network.

Weinerman-Lippman received her bachelor's degree in English Literature from SCW and earned her Master's in Special Education from Ferkauf Graduate School in 1971. She and her husband purchased the *Long Island Jewish World* in 1979. At the time it was a biweekly publication based in Suffolk County; under their guidance, the *Jewish World* has flourished into an award winning newspaper.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Revel Opens House

by Aliza Levin
Administration, faculty and students of the Bernard Revel Graduate School met at an Open House on May 10 to discuss the school's degree programs and future plans, in light of the recent crisis and subsequent restructuring of the school.

Dr. Arthur Hyman, acting dean of BRGS, stated that the school "is saved," and listed as its four major assets YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, the newly established Board of Directors, the BRGS faculty and the students. BRGS students have the advantage of entering the school with a substantial background in Biblical, Classical, and linguistic studies, which Dr. Hyman asserted makes them compete favorably with the students in Jewish Studies graduate programs at other institutions.

Mr. Irwin Shapiro, chairman of the newly formed board, spoke about the school's commitment to excellence, in terms of faculty and students. He also announced that the school has financial security for the next five years.

The school's program of fifteen courses per semester, plus summer course offerings, follows the recommendations of the Task Force that was formed to handle the crisis. There will be M.A. programs in Bible, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy, and Talmud Studies, and the M.S. program is being phased out.

The course and distribution requirements for a Master's degree

will remain as they were, while exit requirements have been changed from oral examination or submission of two papers to a comprehensive written examination.

BRGS will offer Ph.D. programs in Bible, Medieval Jewish History, and Medieval Jewish Philosophy. Hyman stressed that obtaining more fellowship funds is a high priority.

Faculty members outlined the programs and course offerings in their particular disciplines: Dr. Richard Steiner in Bible, Dr. David Berger in Jewish History, Hyman in Jewish Philosophy, and Dr. Elazar Hurvitz in Talmud Studies.

Hyman emphasized the school's B.A./M.A. program, addressing Rabbinical students in particular. He also stressed the importance of BRGS for women's education. The school, he assured, will maintain its close contact with institutions and scholars in Israel, and will conduct an active program of student recruitment within and outside of the Yeshiva University community. An immediate academic need of BRGS, according to Hyman, is strengthening the program in Jewish Thought.

In addition, it was said that a BRGS Student Council had been established in order to facilitate communication between the students and the administration.

Following the presentation, those present had an opportunity to meet with faculty members and discuss specific issues of concern.

New Course For Women On Hold

by Rayzel Kinderlehrer
Plans for the new course to be offered by the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute, intended to extend the Master's program in teacher education for women, are on hold at the present.

Notices of the proposed new course, entitled "The Development and Methodology of Halacha," were sent out to all of the women who had attended the preliminary December 11, 1991 meeting. Additionally, all SCW seniors currently majoring in Judaic Studies received notices, and the course was publicized in *Hamevaser*, *The Observer*, and *The Commentator*.

An introductory shiur by Rabbi Yonasan Sacks was given on Tuesday April 7, which seven women attended. The purpose of the shiur was to present a sample of the type of lecture that would be part of the new course. The shiur also offered an opportunity for a question and answer session about the proposed new course.

To date, according to AGI Director Rabbi Yitzchak Handel, not a single student has applied. The course needs a minimum of six students to function effectively on an educational level, maintains Handel. He emphasized that the class is theoretically viable, de-

pending upon student enrollment. Handel hypothesized that the administrative delay of a definite decision regarding the new course contributed to the lack of applicants. Students interested in the course agreed and also cited what they deemed to be insufficiencies in terms of areas of concentration and number of credits offered.

Handel commented that the course might still be offered next year, at an earlier date, in order to meet the expectations of those students with a "serious commitment to Judaic Studies."

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New Professors for SCW Next Semester

by Pearl Kaplan
The course list for the 1992-1993 academic year at Stern College features four new teachers. They are: Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, Dr. Jeffrey Friedman, and Dr. Robert Shapiro. These faculty additions will offer several new and varied courses in both Judaic and secular studies.

Goldwicht, of Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh in Israel, is currently a visiting professor of Talmud at YC. This is the first time that he will be teaching at SCW. He will offer a Judaic Studies course titled *The Land of Israel*.

Cohen is currently an adjunct instructor of Bible. He received his B.A., M.A., and *smicha* from Yeshiva University. At SCW he will be offering three Bible courses: *Minor Prophets*, *Psalms*, and *Five Megillot*.

Along with the new additions to the Jewish Studies department, the history department will be offering two new professors. However, with the arrival of the two new faculty members, two greatly

esteemed and respected members will be departing. The history department, which in the past has been rather small and limited, will benefit from the new faculty additions. Nevertheless, Dr. Doris Goldstein and Dr. Monty Noam Penkower were favorites among Stern students, and many are sorry to see them go.

Both Friedman and Shapiro will join the history department. Friedman, who received his Ph.D. from Princeton University, formerly taught at Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania. Along with an introductory level Western Civilization course, he will be teaching two electives, *Renaissance and Reformation* and *European Intellectual History*.

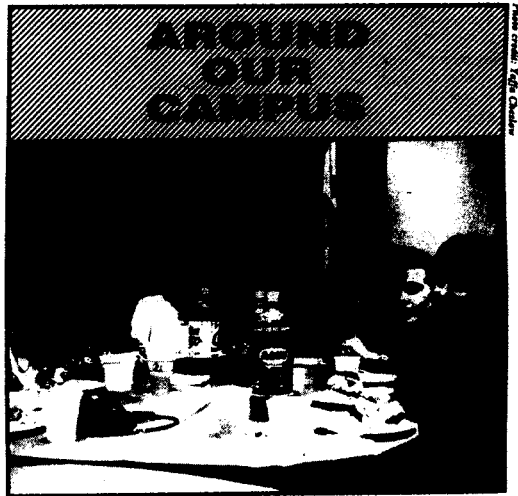
Shapiro, also new to YU, is a Holocaust studies specialist. In the Jewish History department, he will be offering a course titled *Destruction of Polish Jewry*. He will also teach *Elementary Yiddish*. In addition, he will be working with reknown Jewish History Professor and Holocaust scholar Dr. Lucjan Dobroszycki.

CAMERA Opens Branch At YU

The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) is establishing a branch at Yeshiva University.

CAMERA's goal is to awaken the public to anti-Israel media bias and encourage participation in combatting this bias. At YU, students will be afforded hands-on experience in detecting harmful distortions and misrepresentations about Israel. Participants will send letters to the editors of major national and local papers as well as to producers of television and radio news programs, alerting them to public disapproval of biased reporting.

This program will begin in YU in the fall. Those who are interested in CAMERA's summer activities can contact their main office at (718) 627-0191.



SCW Students participate in a slyum on May 13, as the entire Chumash was learned by the SCW women.

Early Admissions: Does Haste Make Waste?

by Malkie Mufson

Those students who seek a jump start to their college careers find an opportunity afforded to them by Stern College. The early admissions program at Stern College allows students with good academic records and permission from their high schools to enter college after their junior year. When the early admissions program began, there were three different tracks. Only the first two still exist.

EAP (Early Admissions Program), the highest level of early admission, requires a 90 average and an SAT score of 1200 or above. LEAP (Limited Early Admissions Program) requires an 85 average and an SAT score of 1150 or above. The student is limited to only six courses per semester in the freshman year.

REAP (Reduced Early Admissions Program) was eliminated in 1990. It had similar requirements to the LEAP track, however the students in this level were only part

"Unfortunately, the choice to go early admissions is more of avoidance. They come to get out of high school, not to begin college."

time. This track, limited to students from Stern's affiliated high school Yeshiva University High School for Girls, offered Judaic courses in the mornings and then, in the afternoons, the secular courses at Stern.

While Stern has steadily been growing, the number of early admissions students has been decreasing. In 1985, 50 early admissions students were in the freshman class, constituting 8.4% of the student body. In 1991, there were only 32 early admissions students making up 4.6% of the school.

This decline is causing some to wonder if the college is rethinking its policy. But Moshe Kranzler, director of admissions at YU, denies that any such change is taking place. "The number is decreasing not as a result of any change in admission policy, but rather because the high schools are making their senior years worthwhile," says Kranzler.

The main feeder school for early admissions at Stern College is its affiliated high school, Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls, in Queens. YUHS is trying to improve its senior year curriculum to keep students for the full four years.

Mary Fuld, college advisor at YUHS, says that there is now a greater availability of college level advanced placement courses. The students also have the option to take College Level Examination Program tests which, if passed, also earn college credit.

"In this manner, students have the opportunity to gain college credits without missing out on the essential senior year," says Fuld.

Many other improvements have been made to the senior class, Fuld adds. These improvements include various different programs, such as a work study program.

The work study program is an on-going program that begins in the second half of the year. On Fridays, seniors are given off from regular classes and are set up as interns in career areas that interest them.

Naomi Kapp, the SCW guidance counselor, believes this particular program, which many high schools have instituted, is a very beneficial one.

Fuld adds that "the number of students who want to go early admissions is not a great amount. Students seem to be more excited about senior year and more apprehensive about starting college."

SCW Dean Karen Bacon says that another reason for the decline in early admissions students is the various changes in the economic situation that have taken place over the years.

During the hard economic times of the early 80's, Bacon says many parents chose to send their children early admissions to save a year of high school tuition. As the average yeshiva high school improved, the number of early admission students steadily decreased.

"Now, despite the current economic situation, the number of early admissions students has be-

"They get on a rush treadmill and keep rushing. They never really slow down. It's almost as if the decision to go early admissions is a lifelong decision to rush."

come normalized. The decision is being based on what is best for the student."

Kranzler further says that an early admissions candidate, along with high academic requirements, must demonstrate that she is prepared to handle college. "If the process is done correctly, the legitimate early admissions students do very well," concludes Kranzler.

Many have questioned whether or not the policy is in fact effective. They wonder whether the early admissions program is good for the student body as well as for the early admissions students themselves.

Professor Peninnah Schram, of Stern College agrees that this is a potential problem. "There was a period when early admissions students were very noticeable. They acted immaturely; they sat in cliques talking and giggling. How-

ever, this has not occurred in the last few years."

Bacon admits that years ago there were complaints both from the faculty and the student body. Some of these complaints were voiced in a November 1986 *Observer* article. However, she says that she has not received any such complaints recently.

"This pressure had a very positive affect on me. It made me work harder than the average freshman. It also made me feel a need to get involved in the extra-curricular activities of the school."

She believes that one of the factors which improved the early admissions situation was that the REAP track of the program was eliminated. "[The REAP program] posed a lot of problems. The REAP students were both in high school and college at the same time and they never belonged anywhere. It was therefore academically and socially unfair to them.

"It also posed a problem for the rest of the students. Because the REAP students never really fit in, they tended to act less mature in classes. This problem was exacerbated by the fact that they often ended up as large groups in certain classes because they were restricted to certain time slots."

Despite the elimination of the REAP track and the decline in the number of early admissions students in general, some school officials and students still find fault in the program. They are mainly concerned about the effects on the early admissions students themselves.

Kapp is concerned for the students. "Developmentally they are at a younger age. Even though it's only one year, they have not had the full experience that comes with high school."

Kapp admits that for students who are very targeted, early admissions can be a very positive thing. "Unfortunately the choice to go early admissions for many students is more of an avoidance. They come to get out of high school, not to begin college."

Another problem for early admissions students is their hesitation about getting involved in student life during their freshman year, adds Kapp. "As a result they always seem to be rushing and playing catch up and end up missing out on the extra-curricular activities that the school has to offer."

Bacon agrees with Kapp. "They get on a rush treadmill and keep rushing. They never really slow down. It's almost as if the decision to go early admissions is a lifelong

decision to rush."

An additional factor that seems to contribute to the lack of involvement and the rushing on the part of early admissions students is the Israel situation. "Approximately 80% of the student body will spend a year in Israel before they graduate," says Krazler. "Most students spend their freshman year abroad, but the majority of early admissions spend their sophomore year in Israel."

Alissa Rosenfeld, a Stern College junior experienced this problem. "During my early admissions year at Stern I did not get involved in school activities because I knew I would be spending my sophomore year in Israel. I am now a junior and I have just begun my major so I have no time for anything but classes."

Kranzler believes this is another obstacle for the early admissions students. This adds to the tendency for them to shy away from becoming involved in school activities.

Many students find being early admissions had a positive effect on them. "I felt as an early admissions freshman I had to prove I deserved to be here. This pressure had a very positive effect on me," says sophomore Pamela Schlanger. "It made me work harder than the average

"There was a period when early admissions students were very noticeable. They acted immaturely; they sat in cliques talking and giggling. However, this has not occurred in the last few years."

freshman. It also made me feel a need to get involved in the extra-curricular activities of the school." Tamar Raskas, another early admissions freshman at Stern, says that she does not feel she acts or is treated any differently than any other freshman. She also has no regrets about her decision to go early admissions; she believes remaining in high school would have been a waste of her time.

However, Raskas did say that "the choice to go early admissions is a very individual one. Each person must weigh the pros and cons to her situation. Early admissions is not for everyone."

The Observer is sorry to say good bye to Dr. Doris Goldstein and Dr. Monty Penkower

Admissions Outlook for 1992-93

by Aliza Lelser

Stern College for Women has a reputation for combining not only Torah and Madda, but also a variety of women from different backgrounds and locations. Next year's pool of applicants reflects a continuing trend in a diverse and widening student body. It also indicates effective outreach by the public relations and recruitment officials of SCW, as they are reaching larger audiences.

International students continue to come to SCW from the "four corners of the world," from Australia to South America. Many also hail from countries such as Russia and Iran, that are known for oppression of Jews. The number of new Persian students anticipated for this coming year has decreased due to the smaller influx of Jews from Iran.

Many of the Russian students coming to Stern are not new arrivals, as they were in the past, but rather those who have been in the United States for one or two years and have now decided to continue their education. Though fewer in number, there are many students applying from the public school system.

The YU Joint Israel Program contains its usual large number of participants, as many of those now in Israel will be registering this week for next semester's classes.

This year, especially, financial aid is of great concern to both parents and students. Many students come from middle class families that are often hard hit financially, yet the least likely to have loans available to them. While YU will continue to try to provide as much financial aid as possible, there is no doubt that the current economic recession will make admission standards even more competitive for the coming year.

Opinions

Continued from pg. 3.

part of us." She added that the replacement of Dr. Penkower, a part time faculty member, was done in the best interest of the student body. When faced with the possibility of obtaining a full time professor to teach both at SCW and YC, the administration had to choose that option.

Still, the students are trying to make their condemnation of this action known by distributing petitions. "It's just another example of how Stern is slighted by the YU administration. We have an excellent, distinguished professor. To let him go would be an outrage!" said one student who preferred to remain nameless. She suggested that an equitable solution would be to have him teach a class that would not detract from that of the new professor, since his expertise is so broad.

Dr. Penkower had only to say that he feels a mixture of humility and pride at the unprecedented action being taken by Stern students in his behalf. We students only hope that our voices are heard and do not fall upon deaf ears.

A Stroll Through Our Campus Murray Hill From Another Perspective



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

by Miriam Galsin

The consensus is in: Stern students are appreciated. For the most part, Murray Hill businesses view their proximity to Stern College positively. In fact, the moment this reporter introduced herself as a Stern student,

proprietors treated her to wide smiles and warm greetings. SCW students often express excitement about Brookdale Hall's convenient midtown Murray Hill location. Apparently the enthusiasm is generously reciprocated. The women are appreciated pri-

Other proprietors also describes Stern students with genuine affection. Bill, owner of Bonne Ltd. Cleaners, talks about SCW in an upbeat, almost tender, tone. He notices that Stern students are "very friendly" and personable when they haul in their laundry, although they don't seem to clean all that much of their clothing, he adds.

"Cashiers at various local shops recognize students' faces and enjoy glimpsing fragments of their lives"

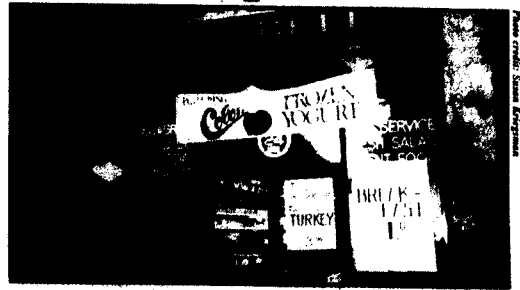


Photo credit: Susan Krugman

students:

*Independence Savings Bank usually requires its clients to have their signatures verified by another bank. This procedure is not only time consuming, but impossible for first time depositors. Concerned that no student be hindered

from opening a bank account and establishing credit history, bank manager Theresa Francavilla waivers the signature verification requirement for SCW students. *Due in part to student request, markets like Lee's Delicious Deli are open 24-hours, carry a variety



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

Noise from Brookdale Hall sometimes floats into the store through the wall which Bill shares with the dorm; but he claims to have grown fond of the banter that can be heard.

Cashiers at various local shops recognize students' faces and enjoy glimpsing fragments of their lives. Groups of SCW students often run into Labels for Less to choose outfits for important occasions, Sharon explains, and she



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

marily for their patronage. Though most Murray Hill businesses do not consider the students their chief source of income, they do notice increased profits during the SCW academic year.

Businesses situated between Brookdale Hall and the school building are especially affected by SCW's presence. Such establishments include Independence Savings Bank, Duane Reed drug store,

"Stern Women are simply pleasant people...and always smiling."

of kosher foods, and stock low-fat yogurt and baked goods. *Bonne Ltd. caters to Stern students' environmental concerns by recycling plastic bags and wraps. Bill is excited about his re-

cycling efforts and invites students to dispose of their plastics in the tall container that stands immediately inside his doorway. Another way in which businesses assist the SCW women is



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

watches with amusement as they heatedly debate over "perfect" skirt lengths and colors. Similarly, hungry students who

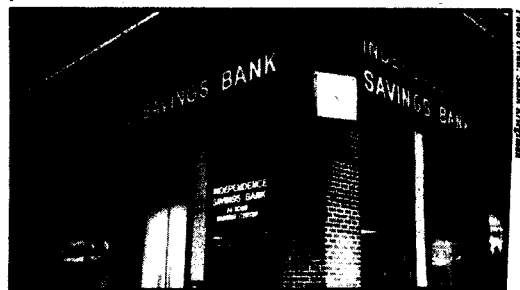


Photo credit: Susan Krugman

Symphony and Bonne Ltd. Cleaners, Sims and Delicious Deli grocery stores, and the Labels for Less clothing chain.

ing and buying blouses and the longer skirts.

Monetary gains are not the only reason Murray Hill stores are enthusiastic about their Brookdale Hall neighbors. Hellen Lee of Delicious Deli explains that Stern women are simply "pleasant people" who are "honest and always smiling."

"Students who ... search snack shelves at Delicious Deli in the wee hours of the morning are...a welcome diversion to...boring night shifts."

by offering discounts. For example, students receive a 25% discount at Symphony cleaners. Though Bonne Ltd. Cleaners does not regularly reduce its fees for students, Bill guarantees that SCW customers receive discounts periodically and are "always treated nicely."

According to Murray Hill proprietors, each year's SCW student body is unique. The recession has forced students to be thrifter with all purchases except food, but what current SCW students lack in monetary clout, they make up for in personality.

Indeed, Francavilla asserts that the present student body is more likeable than ever.



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

desperately search snack shelves at Delicious Deli in the wee hours of the morning are perceived by workers there as a welcome diversion to otherwise boring night shifts.

Additionally, throughout the week of final exams, disheveled and mismatched students provide employees of nearby establishments with potent comic relief.

As an expression of their goodwill, Murray Hill businesses make an effort to accommodate Stern



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

And Now, A Last In A Series of Non-Controversial Columns

by Banji D. Latkin

I cannot believe that I am sitting in front of the *Observer* computer, typing my last article for this paper...ever. Granted, some of you might be happy about this. I still have *smicha* students calling me about my 52% hearsay statistic. Who would have thought that it would cause such a commotion?

Commotions are good, however. The majority of you (YU) had your comments, but you read it. It either made you angry or aware, but you still read it. That is the point. The point of all of my columns was to get you to read, to think and possibly even to act.

How is it possible to further stress the fact that we are the only Jewish University? Every year Yeshiva University graduates future Jewish leaders. The symbolism is amazing. In our minds and our hearts we are carrying the strength to continue an entire generation. We take with us an awesome power, a never ending faith, an unconditional trust in G-d, and the promise never to betray His trust. To fight for what is ours and to overpower any negative opposition.

I personally want to thank Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm and Dr. Israel Miller for granting me the opportunity to attend such an institution. Of course it has its problem, but every university does. YU represents the future. It's worth the tuition. It's worth living in Washington Heights. It's worth having up to four roommates. It's worth it because it is an insurance policy against the disintegration of the Jewish community.

OK, I have finished the public relations aspect of this article. Down to business....

For the last three years I have lived on the third floor. My window faces 34th Street. Remember when you and your date would pull up in front of the dorm at 3 o'clock in the morning and you thought that no one was around?

Think again.

Remember when you were going on your first blind date and you were pacing outside for fifteen minutes and you thought that no one was watching you?

Wrong.

Do you recall the time when you could have sworn three girls were sticking their heads out of the window, checking you out?

Well, then you were probably right.

It is a privilege to be able to live in a room facing 34th Street. Over the last few years my roommates and I have been witness to vandals attacking the now extinct B. Altman's department store, car accidents involving reckless cab drivers at all hours of the night and the most wonderful thing that occurs every year at approximately the same time. The circus. Every year they tell us that the circus will be coming at 2 a.m. and, without a doubt, by 4:30

a.m., they were always there. Elephants, camels, horses and llamas, clowns and midgets all march down 34th Street on their way to Madison Square Garden. Who else gets a sneak preview like that?

Another major advantage of living in a room like mine, and of course you would expect something like this from me, is when you are going on a blind date. When the guy calls you, all you have to do is tell him to wait by the flower pot (either the right one or the left one, depending on what side your room is) look out your window, and you have a pretty good idea about if you are going to have a good time or not... (Not that Stern women are shallow and base every decision on looks!) Hopefully, this public advice won't ruin anyone's future plans for spying on her dates.

What have I seen from my window? Everything. I've seen people get engaged, I've seen people fighting, I've seen PDA (public displays of affection) and I've seen very religious couples gazing into each other's eyes. Granted, I could get arrested for being a peeping tom, but hey, 34th Street is pretty public!! I have gotten some good material for future literary publications from watching you folks!!

You might wonder what I am getting at. Well, I am in a very reflective mood. You see, I have grown up at Stern College for Women. I have made friends that I will probably have for the rest of my adult life. Sometimes, when there would be something phenomenal going on outside, I would stick my head out the window, look up, and be able to shout to my Stern College "sisters." Yes, it's corny, but where else could you live in a dorm, where at 3:30 in the morning, you could go across the street, buy a pint of ice cream and spend the next three hours talking to your friends about anything - without having to worry about what "the guys" will think.

Stern College was not just about going to class and taking finals. It was about learning to cooperate with your roommates, learning to live away from mom and dad, learning to do your own laundry and balance a checkbook.

When I first got here, all of my friends were in Israel. I was ready to be brainwashed by some girl in a long skirt (no, I do not have anything against girls in long skirts or even girls in short skirts...I am trying to make a point), but that did not happen. I met Orit and Caroline and Susie and Deena and so many other women who each taught me something about myself that I did not know before.

I am going to miss this school and all of its quirks. But most importantly, I am going to miss all of the people who made it the most unforgettable experience that it was. Goodbye and good luck.

A Quick Review of This Year's Clubs and Activities...

Taking a quick look at the listing of Student Council clubs in the *Guide to the Perplexed* and at the annual club fair, there seem to be so many clubs that there should be a different activity from every club each night of the week. While there are many events sponsored, it seems as if we never hear from some of the clubs. Here is a roster of the clubs and their events.

Besamim: Amanda Weiner
Will Publish *Besamim*.

Blood Drive: Chani Fruchter
Ran two blood drives.

Chemistry Club: Aviva Rosenstein

Sponsored two Shabbatonim, a chemistry magic show, and lectures by Drs. Hoffman, Salzberg and Bohren

College Republicans: Elana Hartstein

Sponsored a Shabbaton, a lecture City Council candidate Ronald Perry, arranged for voter registration and internships for Republican campaigns and showed *The Candidate*.

Club Canada: Rachel Goodman
Sponsored a Shabbaton and a Canadien-Rangers hockey game.

Dramatic Society: Amanda Weiner
Performed *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

Fine Arts Society: Orli Vagdan
Went to see *The Secret Garden*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, *As You Like It* and *Penn & Teller*.

Israel Club: Orna Berkowitz

Sponsored a career fair, two Shabbatonim and lectures by Motti Zaken, Rivka Zuckerman and Howard Katz.

Joint Business Society: Tova Jaffe

Sold chocolate gift boxes, bagels and cream cheese, and refreshments at the SC Dramatic Society play. Sponsored the SSSB Dinner, a tour of HBO studios, and evenings at *Les Miserables* and Walt Disney on Ice. Co-sponsored several speakers with SSSBSC.

NYSIPAC: Alyssa Herman
Sponsored a Shabbaton and went to hear Yitchak Shamir, decorated the lobby and dorm floors for *Yom Ha'atzmaut* and *Yom Yerushalayim*. Showed the movie *Deadly Current*. Had lectures by Sam Bahn, David Olesker and periodically distributed pamphlets and articles.

Observer: Rachel Schenker
Published eight issues of the newspaper.

Dr. J.P. Dunner Political Science Society: Rochel Leah Seidman
Went to the Collegiate Model United Nations at U of Penn and Harvard. Sponsored a wine and cheese evening to meet the poli-sci professors and the movie *Follow Me: The Six Day War*. Published *The Diplomat*.

Psychology Club: Miriam Dickstein

Sponsored an open forum for students to meet graduate students in different graduate programs.

Self-Defense Club: Renee Glickman

Held a self-defense seminar and periodically went to the 76th Street YM-YWHA for karate lessons.

Sephardic Club: Orna Melamed
Sponsored a Shabbaton and laser show at night, pizza-and-movie and ice skating nights. Had a lecture by Rabbi Shimshon Benjamin, a Purim chagiga, a commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the edict expelling the Jews from Spain and a festival of Sephardic stories and songs on love and marriage.

Sigma Delta Rho: Debbie Rudack
Sponsored a Shabbaton and weekly lectures on a variety of subjects.

Speech Arts Forum: Janna Kass
Published *The Sounding Board*, a lecture by genealogist Arthur Kurzweil and an evening of Sephardic stories and songs on love and marriage.

Speech Pathology and Audiology: Sheri Walzman
Did not sponsor any activities.

WYUR: Dafna Kalish
Had programming on the air, in the form of music shows and band interviews.

Young Democrats: Shulamit Klein

Sponsored a movie.
Zachor: Jennifer Cole
Sponsored a ceremony commemorating *Yom Ha'shoah*.

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CULTURAL ARTS

Life According to Yonina Grushko: A Follow Up on YU's First Student Exhibit

by Sara Klein

The last issue of *The Observer* featured a report on the opening of Yonina Grushko's exhibit at the Yeshiva University Museum. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to see the works of this young artist, it is recommended that you do so before the end of the semester. The exhibit is small, but significant in that each painting possesses a great amount of warmth and vitality, very much reflecting the artist herself.

The most vivid section of the exhibit is the "Seven Days of Creation" series (1991, watercolor on paper). The artist's portrayal of the world's beginning is based on the biblical text and expressed in her own style. The paintings have an almost psychedelic quality to them in their abundance of color and circular strokes, resulting in a very appealing mixture of imagination and realism. Grushko says that she intended for the series to be both lively and deep, and accounts for the inspiring color with the fact that she painted it during the summer, near the ocean.

The earliest painting in the exhibit is a watercolor on paper from 1989 entitled "Berlin Synagogue on Fire." The overwhelming brown tones lend gravity to the somber picture of a man fleeing a smoldering shul, clutching a Torah scroll. Grushko says this painting is part of a series she painted on the Holocaust.

The other works exhibited were all oils on canvas from 1990, painted soon after Grushko's ar-

rival to the States. They all directly relate to her personal experiences and are largely done in darker, more muted colors, reflecting the artist's mood at the time, as a newcomer to a strange country.

She tells an interesting story about one painting entitled "Yiddish Song on Broadway." Two weeks after Grushko first arrived in America, she saw two old Jewish men singing Yiddish songs in the street to earn money. Naturally, like most other individuals from Eastern Europe, she had assumed that the streets in America were paved with gold. She was so taken aback by this demonstration of poverty that she first emptied her pockets for the two men, and then some time later painted the scene. The painting has a very nostalgic, warm and traditional tone, which may partially reflect the positive feelings the author had toward this occurrence - newly arrived from the then USSR, she was delighted to witness Jews singing in public without any embarrassment or fear.

Another painting, "Shabbat Atmosphere," was rendered after having spent a Shabbat at a friend's home, which Grushko describes as having been exceptionally beautiful and peaceful. The artist explains that she wanted people to see in her vivid painting how warm and special Shabbat is. She achieves this effect with bright tones and a sense of light and contentment.

Grushko's personal favorite painting on exhibit is "An Extraordinary Day in Odessa," which she says represents the day which

"turned her life upside down." When asked what event transpired and how it affected her, Grushko said that she "would rather keep it abstract."

Grushko feels that her experience at Stern College has been very productive so far. In the past two years, she says that she has met some surprisingly wonderful people who have helped her to learn and grow an incredible amount. She credits Mrs. Margo Marx, the foreign student advisor, and Mrs. Zeldia Braun, the director of student services, with being responsible for much of her ability to accomplish her achievements. Grushko hopes to one day show her gratitude to Stern College by being helpful in any way she can as an alumna.

Now taking courses at The Fashion Institute of Technology, Grushko's career aspiration is textile design, and she intends to have a freelance studio as well. She plans on living and raising a family in Israel, and feels strongly that it is the only place for any Jew.

Grushko will be spending her upcoming junior year in Israel, at Machon Orah and will try to take courses in Emunah, an art college for women. Additionally, she plans to take advantage of the opportunity to work with Russian Jewry while she's in Israel, to transfer to them her appreciation for Judaism. Surely, next year's experiences will inspire many more great paintings by this impressionable artist. The breathtaking views of Jerusalem could not hurt, either.

Bridges and Boundaries

by Beth Shana Green

The Jewish Museum's latest exhibit, "Bridges and Boundaries", is a powerful display of art, photographs and letters dealing with the theme of the historical relationship between African-Americans and American Jews. The exhibit is partially sponsored by the NAACP and the materials shown are of interest to both groups.

The presentation delineates the common struggle of African-Americans and Jews in the United States and attempts to interpret the "Grand Alliance" of the past. Some Jews feel the Alliance was successful, while many African-Americans feel the relationship was of a superficial nature. "Bridges and Boundaries" gives both parties a forum.

Recent disturbing events make this display even more important to view. It is crucial to remember our past and to understand why we fought for Civil Rights. Our past relationship is visually displayed and carefully presented in the politically correct fashion: ethnicity is in vogue.

The exhibit is very insightful for those students in the "Jews in America" and in "The Immigrant Experience" classes. A few Stern College students have already been spotted viewing the material they had learned about in class.

The section on discrimination and racism is very powerful. A Klansman outfit is displayed with what a fertile imagination sees as

a bloodspot. Advertisements for clubs and hotels with "No Hebrews Desired" are shown, and the dates on these ads are relatively recent. Shocking pictures of lynched men flank the pale walls.

It is eerie to see the F.B.I. posters asking for information about the missing Freedom Summer activists, which was dramatized in the movie *Mississippi Burning*. Martin Luther King Jr.'s voice floats hauntingly from a speaker on the ceiling; "We Shall Overcome" is subliminally burned into one's mind. Pictures of African-Americans and Jews marching and rallying together are displayed, causing one to wonder when the unification ended and what went wrong.

The last room is the most creative. An excellent wood, masonite, glass and photo collage expresses the artist's view of how she perceives our xenophobic society. Two towels are hung from a bar monogrammed with "Us" and "Them." On the floor is a rug which states, "There are two things I need to watch for the rest of my life: my weight and my racism." (anon.)

One leaves the museum with a new appreciation for the common experience of "pariahhood" shared by African-Americans and Jews through the ages. The exhibit will run through July 19th at the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th St. (399-3430). There is time to see it after finals. Go and learn.

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A Streetcar Named Desire: A Review

by Laurie Katzman

The revival of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," directed by Gregory Mosher, recently opened on Broadway at the Barrymore Theater.

The play stars well-known Hollywood actors Alec Baldwin as Stanley Kowalski and Jessica Lange as Blanche DuBois. Aside from attempting to effectively portray Williams' extremely complex characters, they must also contend with scrutinizing comparisons between themselves and Marlon Brando and Jessica Tandy, the play's original leads when it opened on Broadway in 1947.

The play opens with Blanche, a Southern belle, looking for her sister in New Orleans after she has lost all of her money and property in Mississippi. Blanche becomes disgusted when she discovers that

her sister, Stella (Amy Madigan) is married to the brutish "Polack," Stanley, and that they live in a shabby little flat. Blanche, who lives in a world of fantasy, invades Stella's and Stanley's home raving about her former life in the upper-class Belle Reeves.

Baldwin does a remarkable job portraying the dynamic, Stanley, a harsh, yet pathetic individual. Baldwin's Stanley is able to elicit shock from the audience when he mistreats Stella while drunk and stuns the audience during the rape scene.

However, he is also capable of evoking sympathy when he falls on the floor crying out "Stella, Stella" hoping that his wife will return to him. Stanley wittingly sees right through Blanche's facade and tears away her illusions one by one.

Unfortunately, Lange's performance is not quite as compelling

as Baldwin's and she does not successfully achieve all of Blanche's dimensions. Blanche is a woman whose reality has failed her, and therefore resorts to a world of fantasy which eventually leads to her emotional breakdown. On one occasion Blanche cries out, "I don't want realism, I want magic!" and on another occasion exclaims, "I don't want to be looked at in this merciless glare!" Lange, however, does not convincingly portray a woman whose world has fallen apart around her, which ultimately leads her to insanity.

As a result of one fine acting job and another lacking, "A Streetcar Named Desire" does not say all that it can, and should. The audience is not left astonished by the characters' almost inhuman behaviors and, subsequently, the play leaves something to be desired.

B'nai Noach: Returning to the Bible

by Ilana Breslau

J. David Davis has come a long way from the time when he led a congregation of Southern Christian fundamentalists. Previously the minister of the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Athens, Tennessee, Davis is now the spiritual leader of "Emmanuel," a *b'nai Noach* congregation, as of the fall of 1989, when the steeple, cross, and words "Baptist Church" were removed from the house of worship.

Davis' journey began in 1973, when he began studying the roots of Christianity to gain a deeper understanding of the New Testament. While delving into the history of the second Temple time period, Davis discovered "G-d's masterplan," he says.

"All of mankind falls into two categories, *b'nai Noach* or *b'nai Israel*. The Jew is to live out his faith as it is laid out in Revealed Law and in *Tanach*. The *ben Noach* is to uphold the seven laws of the sons of Noach," says Davis.

"I feel that if people want to convert to Judaism, that's just fine - but to live my faith in Hashem's masterplan, I can't be anything but a *ben Noach*."

The *b'nai Noach* are bound by seven Noachide laws: prohibitions against murder, blasphemy, theft, idolatry, illicit sexual relationships,

and commandments to uphold justice and to refrain from eating the flesh of live animals.

Michael Katz, a rabbi from Atlanta, leads a weekly hour-long Torah study group for members of Emmanuel. The group is still learning Genesis, progressing through the narrative, verse by verse, noting applications which relate to *b'nai Noach*.

Davis says that barring halachic practices, there is room for *b'nai Noach* to share in many Jewish holidays.

On Pesach, for example, although *b'nai Noach* will not observe the holiday in any way, they will read the story of the Jews' liberation from Egypt. "We'll rejoice with Israel for the Deliverance, because without the Redemption, Israel would not have received the Torah," explains Davis in his Southern drawl.

Davis says that the people who are now involved in the *b'nai Noach* movement are creating the foundations of the movement for future generations.

"We're still in the process of learning," says Davis. "Most rabbis are not equipped to deal with this [applications to *b'nai Noach*] because they can relate in theory but not in practice."

On a family trip to Israel about a

month ago, Davis met with a representative of Rav Mordechai Elyahu, chief Rabbi of Israel, to formalize plans for the first ever *b'nai Noach* institute there. "The World Centre of *b'nai Noach*," under Elyahu's auspices, will be a teaching institution, to disseminate information about the *b'nai Noach* movement all over the world.

Congregations of *b'nai Noach* already exist in Tennessee, Texas, California, Washington, Philadelphia, and "everywhere north, south, east, and west of there," according to Davis, including Kenya, England, Belgium, the Netherlands and Nigeria.

The *b'nai Noach* movement is represented in New Jersey, as well. Rabbi Saul Zucker, assistant principal of The Frisch School, leads a weekly class for 3-5 *b'nai Noach* in his home in Teaneck. The group studies Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Melachim, in which Rambam addresses the seven Noachide laws.

Zucker got involved with the movement in March, 1991 when a front page story about Davis' finding inspiration in Judaism appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*.

According to Davis, it was at this time that the movement gained international recognition; the concept of *b'nai Noach* has existed in modern times since the turn of the

century, when Amie Palliere, a Roman Catholic, expressed the notion in his book *The Unknown Sanctuary*, but the *Journal's* article was the catalyst for what is now an international group of *b'nai Noach*.

After reading the *Journal's* piece about Davis' involvement with the *b'nai Noach* movement, Zucker thought "this was wonderful and that this guy needed *chizuk* (strengthening)." He promptly called Davis, and the two have been corresponding ever since. Zucker occasionally writes for "The Greatest Access Possible," a bimonthly newsletter which Davis co-edits with Jack Saunders, a member of Emmanuel.

Davis and Saunders also work together on "Echoes of Emmanuel Productions," which puts out printed and audio-visual material about what it is to be a *ben Noach*; the two sponsor an annual *b'nai Noach* convention as well.

This past November, 150 people from all over the world attended the sixth annual weekend in Athens, which was hosted by Emmanuel.

In addition, Davis has authored the first of a trilogy of books he is currently writing, which will deal with the historical roots of Christianity. *Jesus and the One God of*

Israel, the first of the three books, will be published some time this year. The book is geared to show Christian communities that Jesus never claimed to be god. The three books are based on material from *Tanach*, Church history, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Josephus, Philo, and other sources.

Jewish reaction to the *b'nai Noach* movement has been very favorable. In addition, Tennessee locals who at first were opposed to the movement have now accepted it, according to Davis.

Davis has indeed accomplished a great deal in his search for the truth in the last twenty years. Recently, he performed his daughter's wedding ceremony, the first *b'nai Noach* ceremony in modern times, to the best of his knowledge.

The ceremony was a takeoff on the Jewish ceremony, incorporating practices from other non-Jewish rites. Davis wrote the vows, and the couple each drank from a glass of wine, which was then passed to and sipped by a member of the groom's family, a member of the bride's family and a friend.

Afterwards, the traditional breaking of the glass took place, "to symbolize that our times of joy are incomplete until we're living in the kingdom of our G-d," says Davis.

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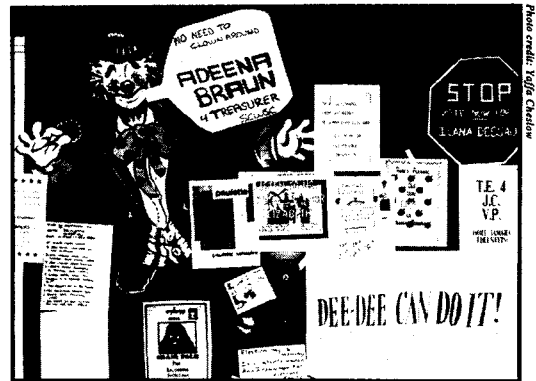
by Amanda Nussbaum

The final Student Council event of the year, the annual inauguration and awards ceremony, was held in Koch Auditorium Wednesday night, May 13. The colorfully decorated room, bedecked with purple and green balloons, was filled with students. A lavish buffet of desserts was spread out for the enjoyment of the participants.

Susan Schlusel, SCWSC president, Faith Chudnoff, president of the Torah Activities Council, and Malka Raul, president of SSSBSC, each presented awards to the committee heads of their respective councils.

Schlusel opened the ceremony and thanked every one for coming. Her opening remarks were followed by a *d'var Torah* given by Chudnoff. Chudnoff then thanked the leaders of all the clubs under TAC who helped make the year successful.

The award for the Aishel Honor Society was presented by Zeldia Braun, director of student services. Braun explained that the society was created many years ago to honor those women who delineated a lot of their time and effort to serve the community while also being academically superior. This year's inductee was Alyssa Herman.



Next year's SCWSC Board:

- Adeeva Laya Graubard - President,
- Sylvia Haber - Vice President,
- Ilana Dessau - Corresponding Secretary,
- Shani Falk - Recording Secretary,
- Adeena Braun - Treasurer

In acknowledgment of the time and effort invested by the three presidents into their own councils, Schlusel, Chudnoff and Raul received gifts from their respective boards. Schlusel was given a plaque, bouquet of flowers and a watch, Chudnoff was presented with flowers, a plaque and *sefarim* and Raul was given a plaque and roses.

However, not only students were honored at this event. Dean Karen Bacon, Mrs. Ilene Himber, and Mr. Sam Mandlebaum were presented with awards in recognition of their outstanding service and dedication to the school. In addition, the members of all three year's student councils presented Braun with an engraved silver dish to

express their gratitude for all her support.

Schlusel closed the ceremony by handing over the official student council gavel and "Approved by Student Council" stamp to Adeeva Laya Graubard, next year's president. Graubard said she hopes "that next year we will be able to continue what this year's student council has started and keep an open line of communication with the administration in order to benefit the SCW student body."

Schlusel felt that the evening was a great success. She was happy that every one received the awards that they deserved. And, she was very pleased to end the year with "a success without crises."

Photo credit: YU Observer



Inside Observations: Pat Kelly

by Shira Shimoni

We all have dreams and fantasies, but only for some do they come true. Pat Kelly, like most boys, dreamt of being a ball player. Today, he plays second base for the New York Yankees.

Growing up, Kelly rooted for his home team, the Philadelphia Phillies. He always hoped that he would be good enough to play in the major leagues but never really knew if he would be. With a doubt in the back of his mind, he worked harder and harder to improve his performance. And that is just what he did. In 1988 he was a ninth-round draft pick by the New York Yankees.

Kelly was trained at second base. But when he joined the Yankees in New York, the position already belonged to veteran Steve Sax. As a result, Kelly moved to third base, where he did not per-

form well. Subsequently, Sax was traded and Kelly is now the Yankees' second baseman.

OBS: Who had the most influence in developing your skills as a ball player?

PK: I would probably have to say my college coach. He was different than other college coaches.

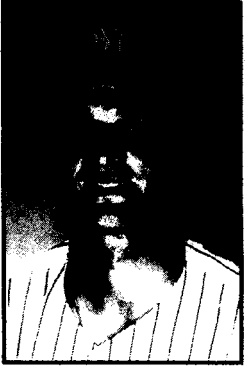
OBS: How?

PK: He made us wear our hair real short; he made you have physical fitness tests. Also, he had a professional background. He always instilled that work ethic in us.

OBS: Was he one of the reasons you chose to attend Westchester?

PK: Yes, one of them. He just hit me in such a way, I knew I liked him. Unfortunately, he passed away. But I know he's looking over me. I wish he could have seen me here.

OBS: How did you feel about



being drafted to the Yankees, as opposed to any other team? Were you disappointed?

PK: To tell you the truth, at the time [when drafted] management didn't bring up any young players

from the minors for about four years. I am glad that I was one of the guys who opened up that highway for the young players to come [up to the majors earlier]. Kevin Mass [Yankees designated hitter and outfielder] and I were the first ones to come up from the minors in a long time. Now you can see young guys all over the place.

OBS: Why was it never suggested that you play shortstop temporarily?

PK: Basically, there was no third baseman, so I was the man. I did okay until I got a lot of injuries. My arm gave out and I had a bad back. It was a transitional period that I wasn't used to. I was working out at being a perfect third baseman to make all the plays. I was working really hard at it.

OBS: Did you gain from being on the same team with Steve Sax?

PK: Definitely. Friend-wise, he

was probably the closest on the team. Me, [Yankee shortstop Alvero] Espinoza, and Steve were pals. We ran around together on and off the field. I lost a friend and a second baseman. When [the trade] happened it was kind of a touchy situation. I was happy I was going to be second baseman, but I was also sad; I lost a good friend.

OBS: Did you learn from him?

PK: We had respect for each other as players. Defensively, I think he respected me and didn't really tell me much about second base. But offensively, he helped me out. There are so many hitters and he helped me out a lot. He really did.

Kelly is having a fairly decent season, hitting .239 and starting for the Yankees every day. We wish him and the Yankees the best of luck during the rest of the season.

Effy Zinkin also contributed to this interview.

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I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the various committees, organizations, councils and individuals who have made my years at Stern more meaningful and enjoyable. *Yasher kochachen* on a job well done.

Yaffy Kletzel
SCW '92

Student Unrest at Ferkauf

To the Editor:
Recent years have seen a growing number of Yeshiva University undergraduate students applying to Ferkauf. We, the students at Ferkauf, want to give you a realistic picture of the current state of affairs in our school. The following is a personal account written by David Granoff, a student who is an elected member of the student government. His views are supported by the majority of the student body.

"Having been a part of an ongoing movement to effect change at Ferkauf, and after exhausting all efforts to be heard by the faculty, the Dean and the YU administration, I thought it was time to commit some thoughts to writing. This could either be construed as narcissistic indulgence or an attempt to better understand the systemic and personal forces at work in this disturbed (from my perspective) community. In either case, here goes.

"It was about a year ago that the Clinical Ph.D. program, the meat and potatoes of any self-respecting graduate program, was terminated. This edict, handed down by Egon Brenner, vice president of Yeshiva University, stated that the decision was a "done deal", the students had

no say in the matter, and oh by the way tuition is going to again increase in the 10-13% range. This tuition raise seems to be a yearly occurrence, which, at this point, loans can no longer cover.

"The action of Egon Brenner evoked outrage from some students, while others appeared to resist speaking out. Perhaps they feared speaking their mind, lest their education be sabotaged by the powers that be. Considering the paranoid (my word for guarded, wary, secretive, and unsupportive) environment cultivated at Ferkauf these past two years, this thinking would not surprise me.

"In any event some students did attempt to have their voices heard. Some of us believed that we were consumers who deserved to get a reasonable value for our ever increasing tuition dollar. Regardless of the fact that most of the money that we pay to Yeshiva is not spent on Ferkauf (almost 60%), the brochure said that we were coming to an institution that had great concern for the student body. As a matter of fact one sentence stated that the faculty often stayed until 10 o'clock at night to work with the students. It's funny, but this year I have been around past six on occasion, and the offices and halls are always bare. Many of my fellow students complain that their advisor will not return their phone calls, will not meet with them, or even worse will not agree to be their advisor in the first place. Shouldn't \$13,000 entitle students to an available advisor? Or was the brochure merely fibbing?

"I do not believe an education is built on information alone. There must be an environment that fosters creative thought and supports the learning process. This environment is not created when clinical faculty are afraid of losing their jobs. In the past year I have had

more than one professor tell me that s(he) supported student activism and encouraged what we were doing, "but don't tell anybody." They did not feel free to speak their mind due to a fear of serious repercussions. This fear was proven to be justified by the firing (or not re-hiring, contractual stalemate, egos clashing) of Dr. Beebe, a highly valued and nationally renowned scholar in Clinical Psychology, who is committed to and respected by her students.

"It is clear that the orientation of the program is changing from clinical to behavioral/health. We were explicitly told by Dean Melamed that the orientation of the program would not change. I bet they think they could sell us a bridge (along with the three non-clinical faculty they just hired). The thing that gets me is not so much that the orientation of the program is changing - it is the utter disregard for the students at this institution. Even if the dean were right about the changing directions in the field, her bald face lies, directly to our faces are outrageous. Is this how we are supposed to treat our patients? Is it therapeutic to lie to our patients? Somewhere, perhaps here, I learned that denial is the most primitive and potentially destructive defense mechanism.

"We are at an institution that has little regard for human dignity. Students' rights are not taken into consideration unless they scream to make them heard - and often not even then. Whenever I or other student government members talk to either Dean Melamed or the clinical director, Dr. Siegel, about student complaints, their first response is inevitably that things are the way they are for many good reasons - none of which include the students' well being.

"I hope to graduate from this
Continued on pg. 12

Letters

Continue from pg. 2
times a year, you are quite wrong. If you have ever lived with anyone on *The Observer* board (kal v'chomer with the editor-in-chief, as I did), you'll know that *The Observer* is a daily and demanding responsibility. At all hours of the day and night, *Observer* meetings were held in my room. I did not need to travel to Furst Hall to find out about Revel; I did not have to read about the fight for a SCW *beit midrash*. All I had to do was answer my roommate Rachel

Schenker's phone and I KNEW. My daily naps were often interrupted by telephone call from various University officials. (Hey, I felt important for a minute or two -- like a real *macher*.)

It is really quite easy to sit back, relax and enjoy the finished product. But, take one minute and think about all the people who had calls to make, bills to pay, flyers to post, pages to lay out, battles to fight and information to collect. Take that minute and extend a *hakarat ha'tov* to all those individuals, both known and not known to you, who did things for YOU. And, don't sit idly by - get involved, use your voice to its potential.

SPOTLIGHT

Rabbi Saul Berman: A Challenging Force at SCW

by Shana Bak

Rabbi Saul Berman has been challenging students at SCW for more than two decades.

A highly esteemed member of SCW's Judaic Studies faculty for the last 21 years, and former chairman of the department of Jewish Studies, Berman is well-known throughout the Jewish world. He is a much sought-after lecturer and a frequent contributor to journals of halacha and Jewish thought.

Berman, a native of Brooklyn, New York, completed his primary and secondary education at Yeshiva Torah V'Daas. He attended Yeshiva College where he began studying with Rav Soloveitchik during his senior year.

Upon graduating YC, Berman continued for *smicha* at RIETS while attending NYU Law School. Although he soon realized that the legal profession was not his calling, Berman does not regret attending law school. In fact, he credits those years with having reshaped his thinking about Jewish law as well as offering him a unique perspective in his continued study of halacha.

Indeed, Berman's outlook served him well in his first rabbinical post in Berkeley, California.

Berman describes his years at Berkeley as a very exciting time. He explains that his congregants were willing to explore any serious ideological system and they were therefore considerably open to Judaism. The congregants' willingness to learn and explore made Berman's position all the more challenging and gratifying.

After a total of seven years in Berkeley, including a year spent in Israel on sabbatical, Berman served for two years as rabbi of the Young Israel of Brookline, Massachusetts. He then returned to New York, where he began to teach at SCW.

In addition to working at SCW, Berman is also widely known in his capacity as one of the officiating rabbis at NYC's Lincoln Square Synagogue.

Among the multitude of tasks which he performs, Berman counts among his top priorities the teaching of *ta'amei ha'mitzvot*, the purposes of the biblical commandments, which he judges to



Photo credit: Susan Krugman

strengthen a person's commitment to Torah.

Berman believes that at a certain point in a person's life, she is faced with a challenge which forces her to decide whether her Judaism is actually her own or if it is "borrowed" - a mere continuation of her parents' commitment to Judaism, without much thought given to the reasons for the commandments. He feels that an un-

derstanding of *ta'amei ha'mitzvot* will prevent a person who has reached such a point in her life from abandoning the *mitzvot*.

Berman's course offerings at SCW are primarily in the areas of halacha and contemporary problems. Among the courses he teaches are: Jewish Medical Ethics, Women in Halacha, and Individual in Society, a course which comprises study in areas of ethics, such as war or the land of Israel.

While these classes draw on a wide range of primary sources, Berman also teaches a halacha course which deals primarily with one classical text, such as *Sefer HaMitzvot* of the Rambam.

Students describe Berman's classes as thought-provoking and challenging. A SCW graduate who is currently attending law school notes that Berman demands a great deal of preparation for his classes and that his tests, which often present questions in the style of case scenarios, are very much like exams given in law school.

In addition to his love of teaching, Berman takes great pride in the range of courses offered at SCW,

which, he maintains, far exceeds that of any other Jewish institution outside of Israel.

Berman notes two major changes at SCW since his first years here in the early seventies. First, he sees a marked difference in the type of student who attends SCW. A large segment of SCW's population in the 1970s had attended public high schools and possessed a limited background in Judaism, which is not true of today's student body.

Second, Berman feels that the quality of education in yeshiva high schools has greatly improved. This, in addition to a much greater percentage of SCW students spending a year learning in Israel, produces a student body with a broader framework of knowledge and an increased sense of commitment to Judaism.

Clearly, Berman's appreciation of SCW students is reciprocated, according to those who have had the opportunity to study with him. A dedicated teacher and scholar, Berman has impacted on past students and he is sure to stimulate many more.

Letters

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place in one year. Despite my tone, I have learned much at Ferkauf, I do believe, however, that I could have learned a great deal more in a more supportive academic environment. At this point, the bulk of my academic education is behind me. I can not change that. What I am concerned about now is speaking my mind. Maybe someday I will be able to do that without being afraid. Or maybe it is appropriate to be frightened when one takes a stand. But right now, even though I am fearful of making enemies, I am even more fearful that if I do not say what is on my mind, I will not be able to look at myself in the mirror in the morning."

We hope that this letter has enlightened the reader to the issues at hand. Concerned Students for Ferkauf

Shadow Program

Continued from pg. 4

But, even with all the little glitches, those involved know how important the program is. As committee member sophomore Pamela Schlanger says, "If you major in poli-sci, there are fields you can go into besides law. Are you sure that law is the correct career decision? Do you really know all that goes on in the day of a lawyer?"

"Here is the importance of the shadowing program: It gives you a taste of what you're getting into before you invest three, four, five or more years of training."

While it is important for the students to gain, Goldman reminds, it is also crucial for the professional to have a good experience. "He should feel like he's helped the student, that he didn't ruin his day, he was still able to be productive. If he feels like he's been burdened, then he won't be willing to accept

next time. What good is a program if only one side participates?"

When asked where she would like to see the program in several years, Goldman replied, "As part of every Stern student's consciousness. A student should be aware that if she has a problem deciding what she wants to do with her major or her life, then she can come to the shadow program and get assistance."

"The majority of people walk out of college and don't end up doing anything close to what they've studied for. This program will also help them spend their time taking courses which will help them in their job, besides give them comfort level in their job. In that respect, they now have the chance to get in a few trial runs on a job, make a few mistakes before it really counts."

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