

THE OBSERVER

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Our Unknown Neighbors

Each day, we all pass by nameless people, standing or sitting on the street with a plaintive look and an outstretched coffee cup. Some times, we give, sometimes, we smile, sometimes, we're late for class, we had a bad night, we don't even see him or her, and we pass by. On Wednesday, September 16, 1992, two *Observer* reporters spent fifteen minutes sitting on 34th Street, hearing one man's story. Later that day, when they passed by him, they said hello, called him by name, and he responded with a smile. A homeless smile.

Observer: Hello. We are students from Stern College, the school around the corner here. We were wondering if you wouldn't mind if we interviewed you for a short time. What is your name?

Homeless Man: Dennis.

Observer: What is your last name?

Dennis: Dennis, that will be enough. I'll give you my real name,



Photo credit: Robert Schenker

Dennis, sitting on the corner of 34th & Park.

that's my real name, Dennis.

Observer: Where do you live?

Dennis: Oh, well, right now I live out here.

Observer: For how long have you lived out here?

Dennis: Since January. Yeah, it was cold. I went to the welfare, they told me I better take my cup and go back to do what I was doing, and I said, well that was asking people to help me out, and they said that's right that's what you said. They never helped me out: They couldn't because I couldn't prove that I'm an American.

Observer: You could not prove that you're an American?

Dennis: No, I lost my papers while I was on the road trying to make a living, you know.

Observer: What were you doing before January?

Dennis: Uh, I was in Florida.

Observer: Did you have a job

there?

Dennis: No, not really, I didn't get anything, I had no papers. I went to a church, they were gonna try to help me out, they gave me some clothes, some food and a little money, and some coupons to get some food, and like that, but they couldn't help me out. They recommended - hi, good morning, they recommended me to go back home, I told them my mom lived here, but now she moved away to Europe with her husband... She moved about two weeks ago, she didn't like it here.

Observer: So you were living with her until now?

Dennis: Oh no, I just took a shower and she'd take care of my clothing, she had a very small apartment up on 77th street... I slept there once in a while, but the neighbors complained because it's a studio, it's not for three people it's about for one unless you're married or something like that. I was like a guest once in a while, you know, especially when it was bad weather, sometimes it was storms, that were too much. I'm trying to move to Sweden, if I can get my passport, but I can't get that yet, I have to have the right identification.

Observer: Why Sweden?

Dennis: It's not bad there, I lived there before, I was married there and I have two kids, and my brother lives there. He just bought a house with his wife and their son, and my mom is going to open up a business.

Observer: Your mom moved to Sweden?

Dennis: Yeah, her husband is a carpenter, so he's Swedish.

Observer: What are your wife and children doing now, in Sweden?

Dennis: Oh, I'm divorced.

Observer: Do you ever see your children?

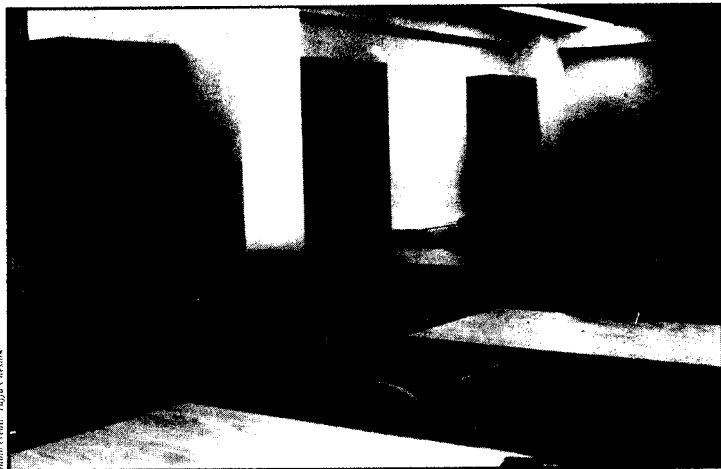
Dennis: Yeah, I did, they visited me in New Jersey, my little girl when she was two, now she's six. And, I have a boy ten years old, and I haven't seen him since 1985.

"Dennis, that will be enough. I'll give you my real name, that's my real name, Dennis."

Observer: You can't get a job because you don't have papers?

Dennis: Yeah, really, and it's very hard to get a job right off the street. They tell me, go to your mother, take a shower, go to the shelters. But it's really rough, like by twelve o'clock you're still riding a bus, or eleven o'clock, you're still riding a bus.

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What was previously office space and a seminar room has been renovated to accommodate student demand for a Beit Midrash in the SCW building.

Beit Midrash Project Completed Students Return to Expanded Facility

by Shana Bak

Over the summer, a *beit midrash* was added to the sixth floor of the Stern College building, in rooms 618 and 619, in response to the past semester's students' requests for such a facility.

The desire for a *beit midrash* was asserted last spring at various meetings of the Student Life Committee, a group of student leaders who met with the administration to discuss "short-term" improvements in space at SCW. The students, notably Susan Schluskel, former SCWSC President, Faith Chudnof, former TAC President, and Rachel Schenker, former and present Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*, expressed their dissatisfaction that there was no place in the school for women to learn in pairs. They insisted that the presence of a *beit midrash* at the Midtown Center was an integral part of SCW and its message. Additionally, students were forced to *daven* in the halls and stairwells of the dormitory and the school building, due to the lack of an appropriate place for prayer.

Subsequently, a *Beit Midrash* campaign committee was formed and headed by Sally Rosen and Rebecca Shuchatowitz. For two weeks, students joined for *mincha* in the Presidential Suite on the seventh floor of the school building, in order to demonstrate the seriousness and urgency of their request, said Rosen.

She added, "all of us were warmed by the solidarity exhibited by Dean Bacon's presence at *mincha*." The school administration, responsive to the students' request, immediately began drawing up plans and discussing different options. Under consideration were room 618, then the Sy Syms

School of Business faculty offices, and rooms on the seventh floor which students claimed were underutilized.

At one meeting of the Student Life Committee, administrators presented the students with two options. The budget allowed them to either break down a wall on the sixth floor and construct a large *beit midrash* or open up a convenience market in the school building and confine the new *beit midrash* to one room. The students voted unanimously for the larger *beit midrash*.

By the end of the spring semester, President Norman Lamm had given the go-ahead and plans for a *beit midrash* on the sixth floor were set into motion. Over the summer, the wall separating rooms 618 and 619 was knocked down, and the room was carpeted and furnished. Mrs. Zelda Braun, director of Student Services at the Midtown Center, oversaw the project.

A *Beit Midrash* Committee was created by TAC for the express purpose of overseeing the *beit midrash*. It is presently headed by Kesari Ruza and Deena Frank.

Students arriving this fall were impressed with the speed with which the project was undertaken. By the start of the school year, the *beit midrash* was set up and in use. According to *Beit Midrash* Committee head Ruza, students can be found there at all times of the day, *davening*, preparing for classes or simply learning. At this point, says Ruza, about one third of the shelves are filled with *sefarim*, and there are more arriving every day. Ruza and Frank are busy unloading the *sefarim* and organizing them on the new bookshelves.

TAC has decided to donate a portion of its fundraising money

for the acquisition of new *sefarim*. Additionally, the heads of TAC and of the *Beit Midrash* Committee hope to have a *charukat habavat* sometime in the near future.

Rabbi Daniel Greenwald, Jewish Studies mentor, who now directs his time between the library and the *beit midrash* based on student demand, sees the function of the *beit midrash* as very different from that of the library. While the library contains scholarly works and research materials that are necessary for papers and for certain courses, the atmosphere of the *beit midrash* is more conducive to studying in groups.

The SCW administration has found other, perhaps unanticipated, uses for the new *beit midrash*. During Freshman Orientation week, the room was used for the Judaic Studies Placement Examinations. Additionally, several of the Torah Activities Council's programs are run out of the *beit midrash*. And, during the month of Elul, early rising students come to the *beit midrash* each morning to hear Rabbi Moshe Kahn blow the shofar.

Chudnof, Stern graduate and past TAC president, who is "absolutely thrilled" with the new *beit midrash*, feels that it "enhances the Yeshiva aspect of Yeshiva University." She expresses her hope that the *beit midrash* will, in some small measure, change the face of Stern College.

Schenker marvels at the ease with which SCW students have incorporated the *beit midrash* into their lives. She comments, "Now that it's here, I can't imagine how we ever functioned without it."

EDITORIALS

LEARNING TOGETHER... WORKING TOGETHER

It's funny how one room can change a whole building. Well, it was two rooms. But thanks to the administration of Yeshiva University and the persistence of the Student Life Committee, rooms 618 and 619 now provide a place for perhaps the most meaningful type of Torah study - learning *bi'chavrutah*, in pairs. No more do we disturb people in the library, no

more must we *daven* in the stairwells. And the new *beit midrash* symbolizes more than the important place Torah holds at Stern College; it also represents the success of cooperation between students and administration. We look forward to working together on many more projects to keep Stern College progressing.

NOT SO GLORIOUS FOOD

First the good news: we have state of the art, really nutritious, super-popular frozen yogurt and hot pretzel machines. We have the new option of a hot breakfast-waffles, pancakes or eggs. Milner's Mart is selling various sundries and toiletries to "help us" spend our 1300 dollar (!!!) meal cards. A heartfelt thank you to Food Services.

Now the bad news: Many Stern College women prefer to buy toiletries with their meal cards because they find them more palatable than the food. Many others live on frozen yogurt alone. The hot lunches and dinners are redundant, at best, and possess dubious nutritional value and an alarming abundance of oil. The truly healthy foods - salads and fruits - are the most expensive items on the menu. A small garden salad with a small serving of melon can cost a student five dollars - more than a hot entree with a side dish.

Additionally, the FSA has been surprisingly tight-fisted in their end-of-the-year meal card policy. Not only can't a student's remaining funds be counted toward her next year's meal plan, but even when funds would be directed to the University immediately, YU

has refused to comply with special requests. For example, leftover monies from last year, which some students wished to donate to YU SSR in the form of the kitchen's canned foods, were refused by the University.

The Observer is tired of complaining about the cafeteria, but the poor planning of food choices and the disproportionate pricing cannot be overlooked. SCW women are sick of tuna a la king (what is it, anyway?) and scallops (very fattening and unhealthy).

We want:

More choices. Better choices - ask us what we like, we will tell you.

More nutritional balance. Less bread and oily foods. More reasonable and better proportioned prices (ie: pretend that salads and fruits are not rare gems.)

We understand that YU has nothing to lose by refusing student requests, since the meal plan is compulsory and must be paid in full at the start of the year. However, we feel that ignoring the student body out of a lack of financial concern is a gross abuse of the system.

Maybe we are too naive.

EXERCISING RIGHTS

Election Day. The day we've all been eagerly and apprehensively awaiting. Many crucial issues, greatly affecting us, concerning Jews and Americans, are pending on this one day.

The choice is in our hands.

Or is it?

Our voting privileges are being jeopardized from within.

This day which should be one of contemplation, decision-making, and voting -- is instead to be a regular school day.

How can we just sit back and accept this infringement of our rights? *The Observer* poll indicated that one hundred and ninety out of the two hundred and fifty students that responded are registered to vote. This clearly indicates that our student body comprises an informed and active electorate.

On behalf of the student body, we appeal to the administration to reconsider and to allow us this one opportune day to fulfill our democratic right.

The Observer extends deepest condolences to Alyssa Herman and Michelle Berman on the passing of their mothers.
Hamakom Yenachem Etchem
Bitoch Shear Aveilei Tzion
V'Yerushalayim

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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.

Thanx, Mrs. B!

To the Editor:

Last week in school I began to feel extremely sick. I curled up in the hallway trying to think of what to do with myself. It occurred to me - Zelda Braun!

She put her arm around me and led me into her office. I passed out before I could take a seat, but that's besides the point. She showed so much concern and her care for me competed with my mother's. I don't know what I would have done without her - Thank You!

This is one of the advantages of a small school. *Hakarat Hatov* is a *mitzvah*, so I just wanted to mention this...and I strongly recommend Zelda if you're far from home and need a helping hand.

Kesari Ruzza
SCW '93

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סופר סבת

From The Editor's Desk... Rock The Vote

Last year I spoke of a "vision" for Stern College. A vision that has begun to be realized due to the incredible joint effort between students and the administration.

All students. Not just the ever elusive "student leaders." Not to take any credit away from them. But at the same time that we recognize them and their persistent efforts on behalf of the welfare of our students, we also recognize that above all, they were representing the students that elected them and entrusted them with office.

In other words, over this past year, we have witnessed the power of the people. The power that demanded and ultimately effected progress at SCW.

This fact is easy to overlook but imperative to remember. Not every one of us is cut out for public service. But every one of us has a certain responsibility to the community to which she belongs and with which she associates. While not every one has a particular penchant for boardroom politics or a knack for negotiating, there remains a certain duty and responsibility that is inescapable.

The loudest voice one has then, and the strongest action one can take after the decision is made not to be an active participant, is that person's vote;

that person's participation in the act of choosing representation.

Last year's student leaders deserve approbation for working as diligently and with as much perseverance as they did. But so does every student that elected them and supported them through last year's struggles. Credit cannot only go to those few representatives who actually sat around the table; after all, they were primarily acting on behalf of those people who elected them.

I am confident that this year's choices will prove to be as exemplary. Indications of this already abound; relations between administrators and elected representatives seem to be off to a most promising start.

Such is the importance of your vote. One single vote. With Election Day approaching, it is imperative that all those who are able to, but have not yet registered to vote, do so immediately. And that all those who are or plan to be by November 3 actually cast their vote and do not shirk their civic responsibility.

Because we've all witnessed from personal experience how important and influential each of our small votes can be.

So rock that vote.

REG

Let's Talk TACHlis...

We sat in the cafeteria eating lunch. Nervous and excited, this new student who had recently arrived in America was telling me her schedule. A few people stopped, introduced themselves and told her if she needed help, she could come see them. This new student could not believe "how nice people were" and she proceeded to tell me how lucky we are to be at Stern College.

Yes, we are indeed fortunate to be here, where so many people care. But many of us don't appreciate our good fortune and don't attempt to share it. We sign up for committees with the best of intentions, but somehow we don't always follow through. Whatever our class status, we don't realize our full potential and, most impor-

tantly, we don't do as much as we should for the Stern College community.

How many times do we ignore Home Hospitality signs, thinking someone else will have the "out-of-towner" for Shabbat? Have we noticed the keshet club programs which offer foreign students help in acclimating themselves? And do we view the *chavrutah* keshet programs as just once or twice a week *chavrutot*, or also as an opportunity to help classmates with their school work and a chance to learn with others?

When we take advantage of these programs, we develop ourselves as Torah true Jews as well as proud Stern College women.

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OPINIONS

Exercising Rights

by Debra Epstein

Sweating women in leotards. Women in spandex. Well, now that I have your attention, read on because this is not just another article bemoaning the fact that the men have sports facilities that are far superior to that of the women. That's old news.

Last April, Stern College arranged for its women to use the facilities at the local Herald Square Health Club from 9:30 to 11:00 two nights a week. We were told that this would continue when the Fall 1992 semester began. Unfortunately, the club is under new ownership and they will not offer Stern the same deal that they had last year.

So what's a school to do with students who for some funny reason are unsatisfied by a sparsely equipped seventeen foot exercise

room? That's right, check out other health clubs in the area. They tell me that's what they're doing; however, the sales representatives at Herald Square said that they took the initiative this September and called Stern in the hope of working out an arrangement that would enable our students to use their facilities. In fact, they have been working on an independent deal with one of the students at SCW. They sound more than willing to help. So why are 600 people still sharing 5 athletic machines and some weights?

Granted, it's not easy to make a deal with a club, especially if Stern wants exclusive use of a gym again. After all, they probably got last year's bargain because that club was under terrible financial strain and in their desperation, they complied with Stern's requests. It

will probably be difficult to find another establishment that's going under. It also won't be easy to find a club that will stay open late or kick out its other members to suit Stern. Am I being led to believe that the administration know that they will not be able to arrange something for us? Do they keep telling us they're working on it, knowing full well that it's a no-win situation? Where does that leave us a few months from now when they shrug their shoulders and say, "Sorry, we'll try again next year?"

Needless to say, this issue concerns a majority of the students. I urge the powers that be to give the student body the attention they deserve before the students' bodies are too large to get up and take a stand for themselves.

Crucial Decisions

by Mindy Premering

The summer of 1992 was an unforgettable one. In three months, a hurricane ripped through southern Florida and history appeared to repeat itself as the world learned of the plight of the victims of the Sarajevo detention camps. While much attention has focused on these issues, one issue that can ultimately threaten the safety and welfare of the world at large seems to have been put on the back burner. It is the question of the extent of Iraq's current nuclear capabilities.

When the Gulf War ended al-

most two years ago, one of the conditions Iraq agreed to accept upon itself was the destruction of its mass weapons under U.N. supervision. But the answer to as to whether the U.S. really succeeded in ridding Iraq of its weapons systems had remained unanswered.

This past summer, U.N. inspectors sent over to Iraq to inspect its weapons were barred from entering its ministries. Only when the U.S. threatened to resume air strikes did Iraq concede, but on the condition that no American be on the inspection team.

Tensions rose once again in the

middle of August when President Bush ordered war planes to begin patrolling Iraqi skies and threatening to shoot down any aircraft that ventured below the 32nd parallel. As it stands now, the situation is extremely unstable and the outcome could be dependent on whoever wins the most votes come November.

Even Israel has recognized another potential conflict, and while it has yet to begin redistributing gas masks, its government is constantly on the alert.

The President's Counsel

September. For many people, September signifies the traumatic end of the summer. No more care-free days in the sun; gone are the pleasure-filled hours of doing whatever you wanted to do. In their stead is school: sitting in classrooms all day, listening to lectures, taking reams of notes and spending endless nights in the library and computer room. Not a very enjoyable transition.

But this year, September at Stern is a time of renewal, of starting over again. Several additions made to Stern College over the summer have played important roles in this feeling of rejuvenation.

First, and most evident, is the new *beit midrash*, located on the sixth floor in the school building. Because of the *beit midrash*, which was constructed and furnished during summer vacation, the women at SCW now have an ideal location to learn, a set place to daven

mincha and an opportunity to arrange a *chavrutah* during free periods throughout the day.

Besides having a room and an additional set of *sefarim* available for the students, I feel there is another great importance in the *beit midrash*; it is the first major project that has been a result of the efforts of the Student Life Committee. The committee, which comprises student leaders and administrators, and its achievements, demonstrate that it is possible for students and administrators to sit down and accomplish something together, to improve the lives of the women at SCW.

A second summer development at Stern College is also related to communication. During the course of vacation, the Executive Council of YU, which is the main decision-making body of the University, voted to include five students, two undergraduate and three

graduate, on the Council. So now, student opinions will be expressed at meetings which deal with the crucial issues of the University. I wish Hadley Korzen and Avi Steinlauf, the undergraduate representatives, the best of luck on their appointments.

Other improvements at Stern include the rearrangement of Milner's Mart, and the expansion of food selection and services to the cafeteria and International Cafe. What must be understood is that all these changes were brought about by communications between students and administrators. We, the students, have the ability to effect change within our college.

I hope that this year we will be able to keep these lines of communications alive and improve many more aspects of student life at Stern College.

Adeeva Laya Graubard

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Clubs Faring Well - According to all Accounts

by Ilana Bachman

On Wednesday night, September 9, more than one hundred students filled Koch Auditorium for the annual Club Fair. From seven to nine p.m., students had the opportunity to join the various clubs and societies that best suited their interests.

Student Council provided each student with a handbook containing names and brief descriptions of each club and society. Student leaders were available to recruit new members, answer any questions and speak about future events and programs.

In addition to the expansion of some of the pre-existent clubs, several new clubs were introduced at the fair. The Yo-Yo Society, or Stress Relief Club, was a new addition to the clubs represented at the fair. The goal of this society is to enforce stress management in daily life. Upcoming events include guest lecturers on dealing with stress and incorporating fun into life.

Besamim, the literary and art journal has expanded this year to become a club. In the past, *Besamim* was a journal which only involved a few students. This year, *Besamim* plans to sponsor events,

including a presentation with the Fine Arts and Speech Arts forum. Jud Goodman, co-president, commented that, "in the past, the art department, and the creative litera-

AHPAC (American Israel Political Affairs Committee), Chug Ahyah, Israeli Culture and Education. The major goals are to increase student awareness and understanding of

though we are in America. After last year, which I spent in Israel, I want to stay involved... and the Israel Club gives me the means to do it."

Some students were interested in self-improvement clubs. The purpose of the Self Defense Club is to teach women how to defend themselves using Tori Dojo karate. SCW Junior Renee Glickman, president of the club, stated that, "self defense is very important in the nineties, especially for women and especially for Jews."

The Student Association for Global Awareness (SAGA) is an environmental society dedicated to promoting awareness of environmental dangers facing the world today. Upcoming events include a "Plant a Tree in Israel" Program, a paper and aluminum recycling campaign, and Earth Day and Week celebrations.

SCWSC President Adeeva Laya Graubard, commented, "I am very excited about the turnout at this year's Club Fair. Around twenty-five clubs were represented. I just hope that all the students, both those who are at Stern for the first time, and upperclassmen, take advantage of all the different events sponsored by the clubs and really become involved in school activities."



Club Canada—just one example of the club booths set up at the fair.

ture department have not had the opportunity to show their true colors. Our goal this year is to get the student body more involved and the administration more aware."

This year, the Israel Club has revamped. Student leaders of various committees decided to work together to form a stronger organization. The subcommittees include CAMERA (media watch),

the important political and social issues pertaining to Israel, provide information on life opportunities in Israel, and present a platform for student Zionist activism. The future events include seminars, *chaqigot*, *shabbatonim*, *shuirim*, rallies, and letter writing campaigns. Sophomore Michelle Greszes, stated that, "there is so much that we can do for Israel even

A Closer Look at Blood Libels Through Scholars' Eyes

by Jennie Shapiro

On Wednesday evening September 16, seventy Stern College students piled into buses and headed uptown to a symposium entitled, "Anatomy of a Blood Libel," in the Mendel Gottesman Library. The evening marked the publication of the book, *Trent 1745: Stories of a Ritual Murder Trial*, by Dr. Ronnie Po-Chia Hsia, which is based on the Trent Manuscript recently acquired by the Yeshiva University Museum.

Dr. David Berger, Professor of History at Brooklyn College and CUNY's Graduate School, and Visiting Professor of Jewish History at YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School, spoke about, "The Church, the Jews, and the Fantasy of Ritual Murder."

The exciting document, donated to the museum by Ludwig and Erica Jesselson, is written in German, and is one of three surviving records of the infamous trial accusing the Jewish community of Trent of murdering a Christian child for religious purposes. The manuscript itself is a beautiful piece of art, yet as Berger pointed out, its contents reveal the ugliness of which mankind is capable.

Berger presented an intriguing, and at times upsetting, outline of the history of the ritual murder accusation, repeatedly aimed at the Jews by their Christian neighbors

through the nineteenth century. Many are not aware however, that even in the twentieth century, the blood libel was a popular weapon used to justify the ruthless murder of unwanted Jews.

In 1911, Menahem Mendel Beilis was charged with ritual murder in Czarist Russia. On March 20 of that year, the mangled body of a twelve-year-old boy was discovered in a cave near Kiev. Soon after, the police traced the murder to a gang of thieves, but anti-semitic groups pressured the willing anti-semitic minister of justice to proceed with a formal investigation of the Jewish community. The chief district attorney of Kiev disregarded the police reports and, based on the testimony of a lampfinger who claimed that he witnessed Menahem Beilis kidnap the boy and pull him toward a brick kiln, imprisoned the Jewish suspect.

The world's reaction to this case was unanimous outrage: scientists, politicians and clergymen in Europe and the United States argued that the blood libel was a fraud. Beilis was represented by the most capable lawyers in Russia, and was ultimately declared "not guilty." But the message for the Jewish community at large was clear: the struggle against anti-semitism was not over.

Twenty-two years later, the

Nazi party came to power in Germany, leading to the most horrifying anti-semitic period ever witnessed by history. When Germany was finally defeated and the Holocaust came to an end, many European Jews staggered back to their hometowns determined to rebuild their shattered lives. On July 4, 1946, the Jewish survivors in the Polish town of Kielce, were accused once again of killing Christian children for ritual purposes. In the ensuing pogrom, government forces participated and the local church refused to intervene. Forty-two Jews were murdered and many more were injured.

Even our century has not been immune to the outrages which tormented the Jewish communities of the past. It is easier for us, only 50 years later, to feel the pain of the victims of these most recent blood libels, than to be sensitive to the suffering of those in the more distant past. Hsia, author of the newly published book on the Trent blood libel, poignantly reminded his audience that when studying about the victims of anti-semitism in earlier centuries, we cannot get lost in the dry dates and facts. We have an obligation to these victims to remember them as individuals with families, and with dreams for the future, which were brutally destroyed by their persecutors.

Senate Update

by Laurie Katzman

The Stern College Senate, consisting of student representatives as well as various faculty members, has begun meeting to discuss the issues that are currently troubling Stern students. The Senate meets throughout the year to try to improve upon or alter school policy to educationally benefit the students.

One issue that the Senators plan to raise is the possible extension of the Pass/No credit deadline in order for students to determine whether to P/N a class based on their mid-term grade. Students have found this deadline to be a problem in past semesters, when professors neglected to return mid-terms before the P/N deadline.

Another issue that will be discussed is the disproportionate distribution of Jewish Studies courses according to course level. Many students find that on their level only two or three classes are available to them.

This year's Senators, elected by their classmates at the close of last semester, are seniors Jasmine Conen and Miriam Bluth, juniors Ilana Breslau and Robin Byock, and sophomores Tammy Lightman and Laurie Katzman. The senators welcome suggestions from the student body. Suggestions can be placed in suggestion boxes in the school building and dormitory.

F Y I

SEPTEMBER:

22-Leil Iyun with Yitzchak Cohen of Bar Ilan

23-Careers in Business club hr-room 418

Speech Pathology -7:45 pm

Psychology club movie night

28-29-Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER:

6-21-Yom Kippur, Sukkot break

22-Classes resume, Tuesday schedule

27-Conference on Spanish Inquisition, at Stern

28-Career fair, 8pm, Belfer Hall

Philosophy club lecture

28-29-Psychology club forum

29-Sophomore class, Madison Square Garden: Rangers vs. Nordiques

NOVEMBER:

2-6-Besamim presentation display in Koch

4-Chemistry club lecture

9-Rabbi Flaum's shiur

13-14-SCWSC, TAC and SSSBSC Shabbaton

FYI from office of the registrar: Management and Marketing CLEPs are no longer acceptable for credit.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

A Herculean Task

Y.U. Takes Part in N.Y.C. Cleanup

by Naomi Rabinowitz

Last week, Manhattan was included in a mandated recycling program begun in New York City in 1989. In December there will be an expansion to the Bronx, followed by Queens and Brooklyn. By September of 1993 it is anticipated that the whole city will be involved in this step by step process.

Recycling processes garbage in order to regain material for human use. It solves several problems. First, it alleviates the problem of limited dumping space. Dumping in the oceans has been illegal since the 1930's. Staten Island, for example, has already been dumped upon beyond its capacity to hold existing garbage. Second, we have scarce resources. Recycling allows us to use materials several times over.

Recycling will be enforced by fines which will escalate upon repeated disobedience. Fines will start at \$25 per garbage bag.

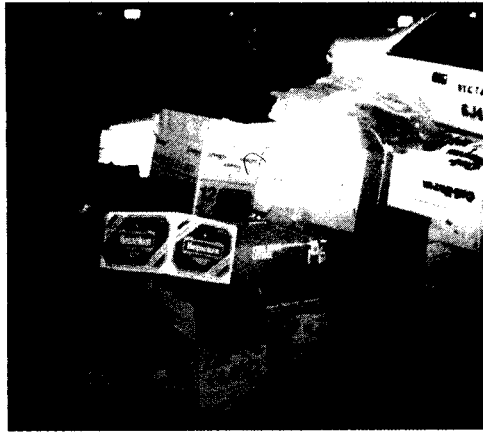
The logistics for recycling are simple. The plan is to separate refuse into categories. Garbage, the first category, consists of refuse

that cannot be used again for human purposes. Bottles, cans, plastics and glass comprise the second category. Newspapers, magazines and corrugated cardboard are included in the third. The garbage that cannot be recycled will be incinerated or landfilled.

Yeshiva University will also partake in this project. Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting service administration and personnel of Yeshiva University, met with Mr. Tony Solomita to discuss the University's role in the clean-up campaign. Solomita is in charge of organizing recycling projects in institutions. Residential garbage is collected by the Department of Sanitation.

The key to recycling, according to Rosengarten, is the weeding process of garbage before its disposal. Yeshiva University plans to set up stationary receptacles at strategic locations for proper garbage disposal. Students will find these recycling bins in the dorms and in the main school buildings.

Stern College students displayed positive attitudes toward the new project. Hana



Some of the cardboard boxes that line 34th Street nightly.

Werblosky, SC sophomore, commented, "I think it's an excellent idea. Whatever we can do for the environment is imperative. G-d gave us the world and we have to take care of it. That includes keeping it clean."

Another student at Stern, Suzanne Hersher, said, "I definitely think that it will be effective if properly publicized."

Overall, the goal of recycling is a 40% reduction of garbage. New York City and Yeshiva University have set the wheels in motion to fulfill it.

Orientation '92

The school year began on Sunday, August 30 with the new student orientation. This program was coordinated by junior Pamela Schlanger and sophomore Sam Langner. During the three-day program, students became acquainted with their new academic center, were introduced to their student leaders and advisors, and were offered guidance in selecting courses for the coming semester. The highlights of the program were the *Shur* delivered by Rabbi Kanartogel and the *Chavrusah*, which was well attended by both new students, as well as SCW returnees. The program concluded with a night at the theater.

TACHlis Talk

Continued from page 3

Involvement results in immediate gratification as well as in friendships and wonderful memories for the future.

"I have to agree with my new friend, we are fortunate to be here, because each of us has an opportunity to participate in something that interests us. Most importantly, we have a chance to contribute so much to our community in so many ways."

Looking forward to a very successful and productive year.

Nomi Dworkin

First Shabbaton at SCW Successful

The Israel Club organized the first shabbaton of the year this past weekend. The guest speaker was Matt Zieper - a field organizer for AIPAC who came in from Washington. The last shabbaton, last year, was also put together by the Israel Club. Its highlights included guest speaker Zev Maghen from Columbia University, skits about Israel prepared by the students and a bonfire on Saturday night.

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Wednesday, October 28, 1992

Weissberg Commons

Belfer Hall, 8:00PM

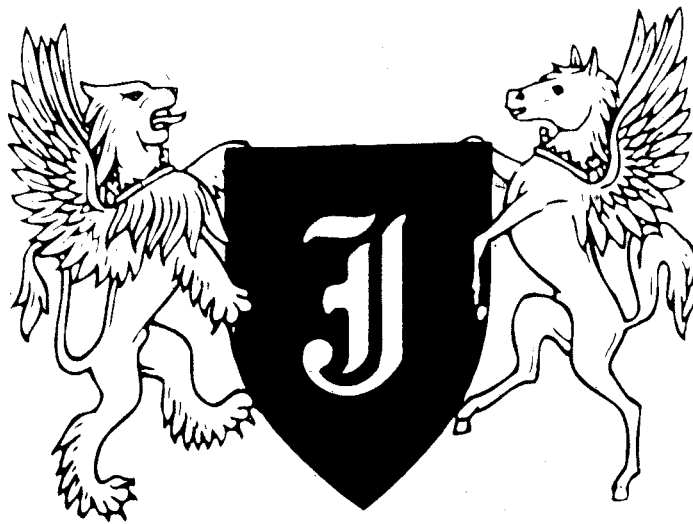
Vans leave Brookdale Hall at 7:00 PM

ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

AROUND OUR CAMPUS...



Once again, the Great American Health Bar opened its doors to SCW students. Tuesday night, September 15, more than one hundred new and returning students joined together for an evening of free food, door prizes and coupons. Each student received a special discount card. A good time was had by all.



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CULTURAL ARTS

Misc. Beth

Matisse, Morgan and Mein Make Manhattan

by Beth Green

The Museum of Modern Art is putting on a 400 piece Matisse exhibit beginning on September 21. MOMA's exhibit on the works of Henry Matisse (1869-1954) will also display a lost version of the second *La Danse* which was rumored to exist, but was only recently discovered in a family storehouse, much to the delight of the art world and his heirs. Art Historian Pierre Schneider believes the piece was lost by Matisse in his creative frenzy. Matisse was influenced by Cezanne's theory of reproducing light in art with color.

An afternoon spent at the Matisse show will engender relaxation and culture within you. Matisse wanted his work to be "an art of balance, or purity and serenity devoid of troubling or depressing subject matter... a mental soother." I encourage you to attend the exhibition so the MOMA will continue to sponsor such fantastic shows, for future mega-exhibits hinge on the success of this event.

Where else but New York City could Savonarola, Michelangelo, and George Washington be in the same house? Footsteps away from the hallowed halls of Brookdale is The Morgan Library. The current

exhibit has election paraphernalia from Washington to FDR. Dante's original drafts of *Divine Comedy* and the brilliant letters of Michelangelo and Machiavelli are also on display. So if you have a break in your schedule do something more exciting than just going back to the dorm. (Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a. m. - 5 p. m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.).

If you are looking for a definite dining change, I have found one quite off the *mein* path. There is a fantastic Buddhist restaurant in midtown that just became kosher. Buddhist priests do not eat meat, fowl, garlic or onions because they believe those foods contaminate their body and change their scent. Much like the Catholic Lent, the Chinese had a meatless period every year decreed by the Emperor. The monks of China made an art form out of preparing foods from natural ingredients and making it look and taste exactly like meat. You could fool any gourmand with these dishes. The abundant menu has a picture of each item and the waiters are very helpful. The eatery has a two-tiered lay-out which adds a spacious and comfortable feeling. It's a really fun place for a birthday party, trust me. It's called **Vegetarian Heaven** and is located at 987 W. 58th off 8th Ave. *Bon Appetit.*

You still have time to take advantage of the weather and activities at Central Park. The boat house at 72nd Street is a fun way to get away from it all without going too far. The water is a little murky, but the rest of the atmosphere makes up for it. They also rent rollerblades for those who want a more active day in the park. You can also just go to study or play a wild game of frisbee or volleyball. Remember to expect the unexpected in the park.

If you are still adjusting to life on 34th street, then take advantage of a great walking tour sponsored by the 34th Street Partnership. Either a cartologist or urban historian will guide you through the area filling you with tales and tid-bits of the history and legends of our famous locale. If you happen to be free on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., then go to the Empire State Building entrance on 5th and 34th. The tour changes every week so you can make a habit out of this. If you want more information about this miracle on 34th St (the miracle being that something is free on 34th St), then call 868-0521 for more details.

Sources: ART News, New Yorker, Delta In-Flight Magazine, Shira Shimoni and Dafna Kalish.

An Epic of The Jewish American

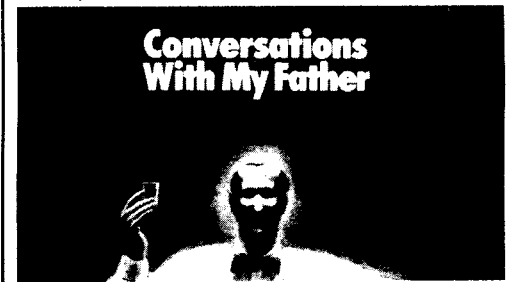
by Rena Maslansky

Historically, Broadway has not devoted an enormous amount of time to producing plays about Jewish identity. There certainly have been many plays involving Jewish characters, and even some portraying Biblical events (do we all remember *Joseph?*), but there have not been quite as many that dealt with "THE JEW" him/herself. *Conversations with My Father*, however, exists among that rare genre of Broadway shows that unabashedly speak about the distinct Jewish nature. A play such as this one therefore allows any Jew, however infrequently she may go to the theater (a Jew such as myself, for instance) - to be a critic.

Conversations is about the uniquely contemporary problem of the Americanizing Jew. Eddie Goldberg, played very convincingly by Judd Hirsch, is a Jewish bar owner on the Lower East Side from the 1930's to the 1960's. His family came to America from Eastern Europe when he was a child,

and always would be "Goldberg." I found myself aghast that one of Goldberg's opinions (which I believe that this is not the playwright's intention) is that, for instance, Goldberg tried to marry someone with a belief in God, but was rebuffed. The notion that a Jew, except instead of the "barbaric" Hebrews of old, the candle-miracle etc. - God would look out for him when His providence was needed (just as an aside, this bears a striking resemblance to the equally upsetting concept of the "coronary Jewish nature." This is a marriage formed on the basis that at some point one of the partners will have a heart attack. The role of the other partner in this union would be, of course, to save his/her spouse.)

Goldberg did indeed manage to inspire his sons with these and other personal axioms for living the American dream. His son Charlie, who narrated the play, turned out to be just what his father hoped he would be: rich, successful, mildly Jewish, and -



at which time he decided that he would rather be a Jewish *American* than an American *Jew*. He succeeded. I believe it was Goldberg's tenant Zaretsky who put it best when he said, "You came to the melting pot and melted." But Truth prevailed once again: Once a Jew, always a Jew. Even after Goldberg changed his name to "Ross," in the eyes of his non-Jewish neighbors he was still

American. Ironically, or perhaps not so ironically, the two individuals despised each other.

I found the play to be highly enjoyable, although it was entirely too long and uneventful. On the other hand, I always enjoy a good snooze on the comfort of a theater chair. This play contains some very insightful comments, though, so stay awake and pay attention.

"WIND" Struck

by Cheryl Langner

I was not too excited when I checked out the preview tickets for "Wind." The movie was advertised as a story about winning the America's Cup, and I have absolutely no interest in yacht racing. However, director Carrol Ballard, through the eyes of the builders, sailors, navigators and skippers, brings the wonder and excitement of the sea to the screen, and "Wind" is a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Matthew Modine is Will Parker, a yachtsman whose love for sailing and the Cup race overshadows the rest of his life. Modine made me believe that the only thing that matters is the sea and the wind, and "the only thing better than winning is losing something and winning it back."

Will's fiancee, Kate Bass (Jennifer Grey), first postpones a prestigious research project in aerodynamics to sail by his side and help him achieve his dream of defending the Cup. She later leaves him when he fails to see that she has goals and dreams of her own. Grey, as the assertive, strong-willed, passionate researcher who gives up love for work, has come a long way from the whiney Baby in "Dirty Dancing".

At first, there is the uncertainty that "Wind" would get caught up in the familiar "love lost, love reclaimed" story line, but the buoyant plot steers toward a more involved and much more interesting "America's Cup lost, America's Cup reclaimed" line. It works because the camera and the characters both love the sea and they

mesh to create a realistic, involvement with it. The water lapping, then crashing against the yacht's hull and the wind catching in the sails and whipping through everyone's hair brought me as close to the yachts as possible without getting seasick. The camaraderie and good will of the *Geronomio's* crew when they go out to win back the Cup as if they were a team out to win Color War, brought the audience together and there wasn't a person who was not audibly rooting and cheering them on.

I didn't understand most of the nautical terminology, and the movie dragged because much of it had to be explained through dialogue and boating scenes. The first 45 minutes was a prologue to the story, and most of the audience

were shifting in their seats until the action kicked in and the plot started rolling. "Wind" is a long movie (2 hours, 6 minutes), so there was enough action and suspense before and after the technical-definition-and-character-introduction part of the movie to make it worthwhile.

The film lives and breathes through the fun and freedom of the sea, and misses the mark when trying to be symbolic, deep and mysterious. When it's not explaining and defining, much of its excess length is due to shots of statues, calm waters and Matthew Modine thinking. "Wind" seems a bit indecisive as to whether it's about "clean air and clean fun" or about being politically correct with its numerous unresolved subplots (Will and Kate's relationship, the work vs. family dilemma, dealing

with failure, the exclusivity of the "Old Boys' Club", etc., etc.). To make up for its inconsistencies, the camera only has to hit the shoe waves, and "Wind" is back on course once more.

All in all, "Wind" is worth the \$7.50 just for the boat races. In almost every shot, the contrast of the sky and water is breathtaking, and there aren't too many movies that go to such great lengths to bring to screen the vast beauty and wonder of nature. Despite its shortcomings, "Wind" is a suspenseful and engrossing movie that isn't about the drug war, crooked cops, politicians, taxpayers, a murder, a love triangle, or the smuggling industry.

And that is always a breath of fresh air.

The Status of the Loan Guarantees

by Lori Turkel

After more than a year of refusal by the Bush Administration to extend loan guarantees to Israel, President George Bush and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin worked out a \$10 billion loan guarantee package during their August talks in Kennebunkport, Maine. The President agreed to the guarantees on the condition that all settlement-building be halted in the territories.

The American backing of the \$10 billion loan guarantees will enable Israel to borrow \$2 billion annually for five years from American commercial banks at preferential credit rates.

These funds will be used to absorb the 400,000 immigrants who have already arrived in Israel, and the one million more who are expected over the next three to five years. It is estimated that the total

cost of immigrant absorption will be between \$40 and \$60 billion.

Last week, at a B'nai B'rith convention held in Washington, Bush announced that he would be sending loan guarantee approval legislation to Congress. He urged his audience to lobby Congress for passage of the proposed legislation, apparently trying to show that activity in the "occupied territories" was what caused him to lash out at Jewish lobby organization exactly one year ago. His comments last year, which criticized lobbying efforts to secure the loan guarantees, earned Bush a bad reputation within much of the Jewish community, and many speculate that Bush's current endeavors are an attempt at smoothing things over before November's presidential election.

The U.S., which exported more

than \$3.5 billion worth of goods to Israel in 1991, stands to gain substantially from the loan guarantees. It is estimated by the U.S. Department of Commerce that tens of thousands of American jobs will be created, and that Israel's population growth due to immigration will necessitate an import of \$30 billion of American goods.

Nevertheless, the guarantees have been facing some opposition on Capitol Hill. According to U.S. law, in order to be protected in the event of a loan default, a small percentage of a loan's value must be taken from the U.S. foreign aid account and kept in a reserve fund. Although Israel has never defaulted on a loan, and is considered a low-risk credit customer, both the Senate and the House chairmen of the foreign appropriations subcommittees are hesitant to approve the

loan guarantee legislation because they refuse to pay these insurance measures. The cost of this "insurance policy," known as the loan-scoring cost, would be paid partially through congressional appropriations, and would therefore need to be approved by Congress.

Representative David Obey, Chairman of the House foreign appropriations committee, insists that if the loan guarantees are approved, Israel must pay the scoring costs. In Kennebunkport, Rabin agreed that Israel would pay scoring costs of up to 3.5% of the loan guarantees. The administration, however, has not yet released its figures for the costs of scoring the loans, making it difficult to project how Congress will vote on the loan guarantee legislation.

If the legislation is passed by Congress, many economists pre-

dict that the funds will dramatically improve Israel's economy. The approval will signify that Israel's credit is strong enough for the U.S. to guarantee loans, encouraging other countries, like Germany, to provide their own loan guarantees to Israel.

The expanded economy will witness the creation of new jobs, and foreign companies, taking note of its highly educated scientific work force and low labor costs, will consider Israel a good investment opportunity. The transition toward a much-promised free-market economy will also become much simpler, on the wave of the economic loan guarantees are likely to cause.

Hurricane Andrew Affects Jewish Community And Stern College

by Aliza Dworkin

On Monday August 23, Hurricane Andrew swept through Florida. The following Sunday, residents were ordered to evacuate the area. One million people left South Florida. In Dade County alone the hurricane caused \$20 billion worth of damage. Businesses were devastated, houses destroyed, trees uprooted, and tens of thousands of people displaced. In the aftermath, 2,151 people are living in tents erected by the military.

Rachel Mergi, an SCW senior from Miami, recounts the experience of her family during the storms. "My family spent a night in a shelter, and of course we were all very nervous. The shelter was in a school and was packed with all sorts of people -- bums from the streets... We were told to bring insurance papers and bottled water.

Other than that, all we brought were a change of clothes, diapers for the babies and blankets."

Lack of electricity for one and a half weeks posed many difficulties. In the absence of refrigeration, food was bought from day to day and kept in ice. There was no air conditioning to offer relief from the sweltering Florida summer. The water was undrinkable. A curfew was imposed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and subsequently extended from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. "There were soldiers everywhere," Mergi recalls.

The Kendall area, located near Miami, was also hard hit. The hurricane struck the Jewish community, demolishing the four-year-old Bet Shira Synagogue building. "The roof collapsed, the carpet was drenched, a wall... was torn apart... doors... were ripped from their hinges..." (Intermountain

Jewish News, Sept. 4, 1992).

In Miami, Temple Samuel Or Olam suffered \$200,000 to \$400,000 worth of damage and will not be ready for High Holiday services. Much of the damage to Jewish communities is still being assessed. It is clear, though, that the synagogues in Homestead are badly damaged.

A number of organizations have established funds and are conducting drives to aid the Hurricane Andrew victims, especially for the members of the various Jewish communities in Florida. Among these organizations are Kol Ami Hunger Fund, Hurricane Andrew Tzedakah Fund, and Hadassah Andrew Relief Fund.

Stern College students have become involved with two major drives in the area. The first was organized by Conway Inc., with

juniors Mindy Preminger and Rachel Levitt as Stern College contacts. Volunteers for the Conway stores packed and labeled boxes for transport. Supplies were sent to New Jersey, where students at Rutgers University loaded them onto trains on way to the National Guard in Florida.

Another such program in our area, publicized in Stern College by Naomi Bennet, is the Orthodox Union's Operation Compassion. Following the hurricane, the Orthodox Union was notified by the American Red Cross of the need for kosher food.

The dual campaign includes both the sending of supplies and a fundraising drive. Kosher food and various products are sent to distribution centers in Kendall and Homestead in vans donated by Pathmark supermarkets. These

vans are stationed in areas such as Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence, N.Y. where contributors can deposit their donations. The campaign is a "youth to youth hurricane relief program," stated Judy Tashbook of the Orthodox Union. The youngsters of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth in New York and New Jersey are helping send the supplies to Florida, where NCSY members there will help unpack and distribute them.

The second stage of the operation is the fundraising drive, specifically conducted to help the Jewish communities. All checks collected are distributed by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Any contributions can be sent to the Orthodox Union: Operation Compassion, 333 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001.

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Homeless Living on 34th Street

Continued from page 1

Observer: Where are you from originally?

Dennis: I was born in South America, I speak Spanish, so that helps out a lot, and I speak Swedish also, that's good for when I go to Sweden, I used to work there as a... I used to cut hair, I went like an apprentice, and I was ready to be in my mother's shop, she's a New York State licensed barber. So I learned in her shop. It took me like five years altogether, because I used to work on and off, sometimes there was nothing to do, you know, but I still got paid a certain amount, so it was my mother, I didn't want to just sit there and get paid for nothing, you know.

"don't steal here...I know the guy"

Observer: How do you feel about the people who pass by here; do you find them in general kind to you?

Dennis: Well, there are all kinds. You know it's hell out here. Some of them are very nice, no problem with them.

Observer: Do you find that most people here are generous or do you sometimes not have enough food to eat?

Dennis: Well, people sometimes surprise me. Nickels, dimes, a dollar, things like that, it helps out for food, but I could never get an apartment, somewhere to live and even with welfare I couldn't get a decent place to live.

"Do unto others like how others do unto you"

Observer: So it's enough money to eat, but not enough to live?

Dennis: Oh no, and even like I said, and even the welfare they pay out like \$110 for your rent. Where could you live for \$110?

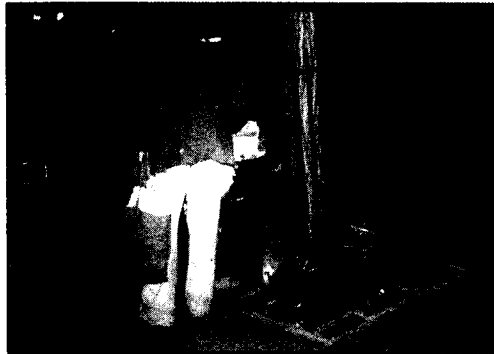
Observer: Do you mostly use the money for food?

Dennis: Yeah, mostly for food, unless sometimes I drink some beer like because I want to get a good night's sleep, all this traffic gets to you, you know.

Observer: Where else have you lived?

Dennis: Well, I used to be traveling in the United States since I got back from Sweden. I wanted to see the country, so I was on the road from 1986 to 1991. My mom said she was moving, she didn't tell me she was moving back to Sweden, but I came to visit her before she moved, and I stayed, and now I'm waiting to see if I can get my passport, it could help me out with my ticket. Then I'll go back there and go to school, see if I could get my diploma in, uh, haircutting.

Observer: How do you feel specifically about the women who go



One homeless man rummaging for dinner.

to Stern, the girls that you see pass by every day?

Dennis: They're okay, they're fine.

Observer: Would you say they're relatively generous?

Dennis: You go to college; I can't afford school. I didn't even go to high school. I had to go try to get a job; that's why I went an apprentice. My father died and I didn't get anything, because he was married before, and his kids got two million dollars, and he didn't leave me nothing, because that would've been against the law, you know. My mother was - she just got pregnant by my father, so, my mom didn't want any problems with those guys, so, uh...

Observer: How would you describe your relationship with other people in your situation?

Dennis: Well, it depends. I meet all kinds of people. Like I say, I was traveling in the United States since 1986 and I, one thing I knew is I prefer to be alone, travel alone, and the people I meet, many of them are very nice, and some of them have stolen my possessions, like beat me up. I try to be nice to them, because other people help me out, like it says, uh, "Do unto others like how others do unto you," and like that, right, so I try to help somebody out because it's cold or something like that, it doesn't matter if it's a girl or a man, if, you know, you can talk serious; I speak English, not only Spanish and like that, but, they just, like, walk off with everything, you know, and I'm left out there with shorts! So I try very carefully, like, not to help people out sometimes...somebody gives me, like, uh, clothing, I give 'em pants and things like that, they just throw bottles at me and things like that, you know. I give 'em cigarettes and things like that, they just - I feel bad about that, because - I did it in Florida, I rented a room, I helped these two guys out from, uh, New Jersey; we got a room, I paid, uh, like thirty dollars, they say we'll pay you tomorrow, and I had to go out and leave, you know. One of the guys said let's go get a sandwich, I'm going to buy some beer, I said, okay, it's okay, you want to buy some beer. He goes to the store

- I know the guys at the Seven-Eleven in Florida...the guy the day before, he invites me for some jelly doughnuts some coffee, and he gave me like a dollar, right, and this guy, secret admirer of mine, helping him out, he walks out with like a six - a twelve-pack of beer, I feel like a real, I told him, don't steal here - I know the guy, he just helped me out, what are you doing? And so that went on, they took it away from him, right, and then his other friend is like, uh, doing laundry in the room, and uh, watching television, it was really s---y, and the next day, I'm trying to get half of the room, you know, half of the money, they're telling me to go f--- myself, I say well, that's helping

"I fast sometimes..."

somebody out, I mean, I don't like to say that to people, I prefer not to even take a penny from people, you know, but I tell them to keep your sandwich or something like that, and I don't want it, I don't throw it in the garbage, I just put it aside. I fast sometimes - life is not just food...like I said, I help some people out, and it's really bad.

Observer: Is there anything that you want to tell the Stern population, any message you want to send?

Dennis: Yeah, vote for Bush.

Observer: Vote for Bush??

Dennis: Yeah. He's experienced, he's a good President. Clinton, I never heard of Clinton. But, you never know, everybody has a right to vote.

Observer: Are you going to vote?

Dennis: I'm not voting; I have no identification. This is how I lost all my papers...this guy gave me a ride, right, he's going from one state to the other state, and we're talking, he said he has a wife, he has a family, and all this, he needs to travel, to go see his family, who was in another state, so I said, uh, okay, I trust the guy, and he's like Cuban, we're speaking Spanish, I told him to stop at the - I had a nice bag from Florida that I found in the garbage, some people throw out nice things, you know, even nice

B. Chezna Green

I'm currently gazing through my silt glazed window off 34th Street. I look into the top floors of an abandoned warehouse, a model of excess pared down. A strange black substance is growing on the bricks like a sixth toe off your left foot. What has happened to America? There is so much decay, my head is filled with disillusionment. Tonight is the eve of my twentieth birthday. I am precariously perched between my childhood and the future. Being that it is *Live Your Hallelujah*, my thoughts are of what the year will bring.

I basically can predict the year, the routine is pretty polished by now. Inertia has basically taken over and carried me thus far. I am a junior cog in the YU wheel, but is this where I truly want to be? Our elders tell us we can do anything we want; the world is open to our exploration. So please tell me, why do we let inertia rule us? Why aren't we out doing the things we think are more important?

Ask yourself where you would rather be right now. You might answer in a different job, locale, major, or just curled up in bed.

It's a shame that we do not change our situations and overpower our passivity. You should not let your creativity suffer as a result of not having the right outlet. Find a change you can make; be daring. I am not suggesting shirking certain responsibilities and rejecting all societal norms, but there are modifications within our halachic and societal parameters we can attain.

We have the free will to choose our path and the will to effect that change comes from within. Our lives are bombarded with choices, yet we make the safe decisions and stay away

shoes, nice pants, you just wash them, so I picked it there. He stopped at the McDonald's - I had

"...and I'm left there with shorts"

to go to the bathroom, because it was about six hours he was gonna drive, so I have a radio and all that, a big bag like that because I'm going to California, I tell him, can I leave my bag here, I don't usually do that, and he said, yeah, you can trust me, I say okay, I trust you, and I say in the back of my mouth. Oh this is going to be a nice one, I come out there, ain't no car around, and all my papers, that was the worst, and I'm left there with shorts. Well, have a nice day.

Observer: Thanks. It was nice meeting you.

Dennis: It was nice talking to you, excuse me. So you can trust people, you know, but you gotta be careful, some people, they just don't care. G-d bless you - thank you...some people, like, you ask them, are you in the need of money, just because they stand there on the corner or something,

Green's Pasture

from the risqué ones. We stick to the worn ways of experience and leave the pristine paths for those with more pain. He I am not out to be a prophet for radical anti-establishment activity. I am humbly suggesting there is room for the unknown and we are wimp if we do not dare to do that out our universe.

There is a Jewish concept of living each day as if it were your last (opposite of the secular idea of a last day of gluttony, illicit relations and Disney World). So if we knew tomorrow we would draw our last breath, what would we be doing today? We would not let inertia guide us. Our hours would not be wasted. We would be doing what was important; we would change our direction.

Listen to Hamlet's words, "To this above all, to thine own self be true."

I am not at the level to live my life in this idealistic way. My moons are still filled with empty moments and things I do on automatic pilot, thanks to Newton and his laws. I know as I pen these words that I want to be in Israel. I also know I am finishing my studies before I go, in deference to my parental units and my respect for certain folkways. It is the change I hope to make.

In the meantime I will try to explore other paths and make the most of my time here. I cannot throw all CW to the wind, but I can change the wind to carry me there. Fix your rut, voice your cause and do what you think is right.

Don't let change just be something you get at the grocery store...

and they really, they like, wanna sue you. Have you ever heard of that, that they get offended like if you were standing on the corner or something and like I walk up to you and say are you hungry? would you like something to eat? you're...if it was a girl then she might think I'm a homeless this and that, know what I mean, and you're just trying to be nice and helpful or something like that, so it's not just excuse herself when you just ask, but like I say, get beat up, be left out with no clothes and all that and like the hotel in Florida, that was bad. G-d willing, everything'll be okay, I'm like really asking G-d, so I can get back to Sweden, and I can always come back to the United States, there's nothing wrong with the United States, but in Sweden or any place in the world, if you have no money, the street is the street, but I learned a lot...

Observer: Nice to meet you, Dennis.

Dennis: You, too, the same. G-d bless you, ladies.

This interview was conducted by Pearl Kaplan and Tzachi Rosen.

Whom Are You Going To Vote For?

by Cheryl Berman

The 1992 presidential election deals with a series of confusing issues. With the sluggish economy, tailing education system, rising unemployment and socio-moral decline in this country, the candidates have much to contend with.

Both George Bush and Bill Clinton have proposed solutions for this ailing populace. The following is an outline of the particular stands the candidates have taken in regard to some important political issues.

EDUCATION

In the 1988 presidential election, Bush dubbed himself the "education president." Yet little progress has been made in this area since that time. Experts have predicted that students today are unprepared for the jobs of the 21st century. With the future of our country at stake, Bush proposes to unify 60 job training programs into one national system. He also wants to distribute tuition vouchers which could be used by parents for private schooling for their children.

Clinton offers a different solution. While he proposes a national apprenticeship program and supports education reform, he does not endorse offering the choice of private education for children.

TAXES

In 1988 Bush promised "no new taxes!" Since that declaration, Bush claims to have only raised taxes once. In his 1992 campaign, Bush has mentioned cuts in capital gains taxes to serve as an incentive for industry. He also wants to allow taxpayers to set aside ten percent of their tax dollars in order to reduce the national budget.

Clinton's tax proposals are: tax the rich and help the poor. He'll allow the middle class the option of choosing between a lower income-tax bracket or tax credits for child care.

HEALTHCARE

George Bush's health care program would provide health benefits for 20 million of the 36 million people who currently do not have any such benefits.

Clinton offers a national system of managed healthcare financed by employers. He would tax those firms that refuse to participate in the program he outlines.

ISRAEL

Bush's stand on the ten billion dollar loan guarantees for Israel had many American Jews worried. Additionally, Bush's newfound friendship with Assad and his views on the "occupied territories" suggest unfair treatment toward Israel in the peace talks.

Clinton in contrast is perceived to support Israel, and would favor a strong U.S.-Israeli relationship; the ticket is said to have views regarding Israel which are similar to those opinions held by American Jews.

ABORTION

George Bush maintains a conservative pro-life attitude, while Clinton sides with pro-choice supporters.

Many people claim that women's issues will decide what may turn out to be a close election. Although Clinton's ticket is presently ahead in the polls, both candidates are campaigning vigorously as election day nears.

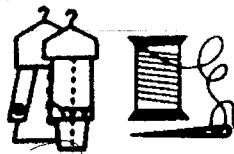
The *Observer* conducted a poll asking students who their "favorite" candidate was and whom they were going to vote for. Of the 250 polls collected, an overwhelming 195 students said they would vote for Clinton, seven chose Bush and the rest were as of yet undecided. The majority of those who chose Clinton cited Israel as the main reason for their selection. The abortion platform was also a deciding factor.



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Recession: SCW Students Not Exempt

by Temima Goldberg

Have you ever thought of what to do once you have your hard-earned degree in your hand?

For those students who will attempt to venture into the "real world" to earn a living, a brief outline of the economic state of affairs can be helpful.

A recession, a moderate and temporary decline in economic activity, has hit the U.S. in the last year, a result of the free spending in the 1980s. The recession has affected most of the states, but some states have been hit worse than others.

New York has been greatly affected by the recession. During the 1980s this state was noted for being the center of the real-estate market. Because of this, once the recession took place, real-estate value plummeted, causing many to lose jobs and become homeless.

The recession was in full gear by January 1992, affecting many more businesses and leaving even more Americans jobless. Unemployment in the U.S. is at an all time high and hasn't ceased from plunging further.

In the September 5 issue of *Time Magazine*, a study showed that unemployment was at its peak in August since June 1992.

Speaking with Stern College students regarding their summer employment, *The Observer* found this study accurate.

Yaffa Schindler, a junior from Silver Spring, Md., said she applied for jobs at 20 offices and received one response. Her employment aspiration at the beginning of her search was to be a scientist's aide. The recession also hit Schindler. She became a clerical worker for the summer.

Even though a bleak picture has

been drawn, people remain optimistic.

Dean of Sy Syms School of Business Harold Nierenberg said that the school has had success with job placement at entry level for its students.

"I have every hope that students in general will not feel much of a pinch at entry level. There have been structural changes in our economy and the recession has had an effect."

But, he added, "I am positive, particularly for young people. I encourage them to keep on sending their resumes out."

Students should evaluate the recession not only for personal reasons, but also for national interest -- it should be one reason for evaluating a candidate for the November ballot.

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SPORTS

Unprecedented Number of Basketball Hopefuls

by Adina Weiss

In an unprecedented display of school spirit and enthusiasm, 33 athletic hopefuls arrived at the WANG Gymnasium on September 14th for the Lady Macs basketball team tryouts. The players included a mix of students, from freshman to seniors, nearly half of whom were over 5 feet 5 inches or taller.

"This is double the amount of people than last year," said returning team member Tamar "TK" Kirschenbaum. Assistant Coach Michael Cohen was also pleasantly surprised. "In my seven years in Yeshiva I have never seen anything like this," he said. "It's fantastic."

The three hour tryouts included rigorous exercises and drills through which the players demonstrated basic basketball skills. Though it was physically challenging, all the participants remained enthusiastic and involved throughout the evening. "It's a great feel-

ing to have practice with people who want to play and coaches who want to coach," said returning player DeeDee Macklin.

Indeed, everyone who showed up wanted to play and there was plenty of competition. Coach David Kufeld was pleased with the new players. "There is a lot of potential for a decent team," he said approvingly. However, according to Kufeld, the talent displayed on Monday night's practice makes choosing the 12-15 team members extremely difficult.

"We want to keep everyone involved," Cohen said, "though we're not sure how yet." One idea the coaches have is to provide instructional play for those who don't make the team and possibly intramural games.

Regardless of who makes the final cut, all who participated enjoyed the good workout and the excitement which permeated the room.

Just Do It

by Fredda Margolin

There's nothing quite like feeling that little knot of tension creeping into the back of your neck and just hanging out there. Class, homework, exams and all aspects of college life contribute to stress build-up. We all get the urge to release the tension somehow or another. Otherwise, one gets that sinking sensation that the knot crawls its way up from the neck into the brain and EXPLODES!

Physical exercise, short of decapitating yourself, is the best way to relieve tension, while at the same time it tones your body and keeps you energetic.

In college, there is a constant accent on bettering one's mind, but as the Greeks taught us, a powerful mind is nearly meaningless in a weak body.

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SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 12.

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SPOTLIGHT

Rabbi M. Cohen - Back to the Biblical Basics

by Ilana Breslau

"Not only is there an art in knowing a thing, but also a certain art in teaching it" (Cicero, 2:19).

While just a high school student, Mordechai Cohen was giving Gemara and Tanakh classes to adults at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. While a student at Gush Har Etzion, Rabbi Cohen led advanced classes in Tanakh, this time to fellow students on the high school and college level.

Apparently, Ka'bi Cohen had the knack.

A recent addition to SCW's Judaic Studies faculty, Rabbi Cohen is teaching three classes here this term, in addition to one course at YC, where he has been teaching since 1988.

Although he has been teaching at SCW for only a short time, Rabbi Cohen is pleased with his students' enthusiasm for learning. Rabbi Cohen expects a great deal of preparation from his students; however, thus far, he is impressed with their willingness to work and

ability to analyze Tanakh.

Rabbi Cohen's own days as a student are not far behind him. Growing up on the East side of Manhattan, he graduated Rabbi Shlomo Riskin's Manhattan Hebrew High School (currently Ohr Torah Institute), whereupon Rabbi Cohen studied at Kerem B'Yavneh for a year and a half, and then at Gush for another one and a half years. After completing his studies in Israel, Rabbi Cohen attended YU where he studied in Rabbi Hershel Shachter's *shivur* and double majored in philosophy and math.

In 1986, while finishing his last year at YC, Rabbi Cohen began his studies at Revel graduate school, where he started to work toward a Ph.D. in Tanakh. After graduating YC, Rabbi Cohen decided to return to Gush to study for another year. During this time he also learned privately with Nehama Lebowitz.

The following year, Rabbi Cohen returned to teach Tanakh at YC. In 1989 he completed his MA

at Revel and received *smikha* from RIETS. In 1990 he married



Suzanne Rappaport, SCW '89. Presently, Rabbi Cohen has fin-

ished his coursework at Revel, and he is working on his doctoral dissertation, entitled "Radak's Treatment of Metaphors in Tanakh." That is, Rabbi Cohen is researching the subject when he is not spending time preparing for classes, learning in Rabbi Shachter's YU *kollel* and, last but not least, spending time with his wife.

Rabbi Cohen acknowledges the large amount of time that is necessary to put into his classes. His responsibilities, he says, are to challenge his students, while encouraging and enabling them to learn Tanakh in depth independently.

Rabbi Cohen would advise aspiring Jewish Studies teachers to prepare themselves as best as possible by reading and studying as much as they can on their own while in college, "because the success of your teaching depends on what you know."

He further recommends that would-be teachers attend graduate

school in Judaic Studies before starting to teach, because generally, once one has begun to teach it is difficult to step back and return to school. Rabbi Cohen also believes that the quality of instructors involved in Jewish education has increased enormously with more students attending graduate school in Jewish Studies.

His own outlook and philosophy have much to do with his past and present teachers. Rabbis Aharon Lichtenstein and Shachter both encouraged him to study Tanakh by stressing its primacy in Jewish learning. He also sees Lebowitz as a formative influence on his methods of studying Tanakh.

For the future, Rabbi Cohen plans on remaining a teacher at the college level. Says Rabbi Cohen, "I'm dedicated to teaching and studying, and I plan on being in this field for as long as I can challenge my students."

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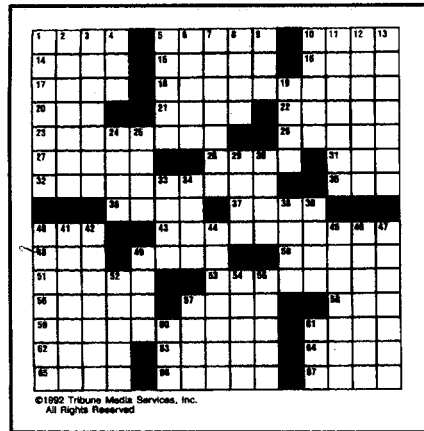
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15. Ease
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17. Krupa or Kelly
18. Solid Ground
20. Wife
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22. Speaks violently
23. Bridge supports
26. Action Center
27. Estonian city
28. Paris airport
31. Moral lapse
32. Poe heroine
35. Do handwork
36. Human or rat
37. Hardy heroine
40. Tax man
43. Society's seamy side
48. Bee talk
49. Ornamental stone
50. Moslem prince
51. Begin

DOWN

3. Boat race
2. Swamped
3. Portable light
4. Chemical suffix
5. Of birth
6. Poplar
7. Sunshade
8. Raison d'
9. Red or Black
10. Franciscan
11. Most comprehensive
12. Ancient Asian land
13. Feudal farm worker
19. Skirmish
24. Lead performer
25. Wind instrument
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40. Body of a car
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45. Performs
46. Fr. poet de Lisle
47. Bureau
49. Scott
52. Precipitous
54. Open
56. Freshet
57. Entwined
58. John Passos
59. Solemn person
61. Certain bills
62. Small land mass
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by Judith Perry



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