

# The Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women • Yeshiva University

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## Debugging the Food Program

### A look inside the SCW Caf

by Loyaliza Klein

"I'm never eating salad again," said Chavie Levine, SCW senior, after finding a bug on the lettuce she had bought in the cafeteria. "I was nauseated," said SCW sophomore, Saralea Bienenfeld, "by the bug I found in my chicken-noodle soup."

Sally Rosen, a junior at SCW, seemed to sum up the feelings of many Stern students when she asserted, "The situation regarding bugs in the food is intolerable from a *Kashrut* and hygienic standpoint."

However, Mr. Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, said that the general standards of *Kashrut* in the caf and the International Cafe should not be in contention. Added Rabbi Phillip Reiss, Faculty Advisor to the Food Services of Yeshiva University, "People not only have a right to assume that things are kosher, but that any milk products used in food preparation are *Chalav Yisrael*!" He continued, "It is the same with regard to *Pat Yisrael*; if it is not a commercially packaged item, such as rolls, one may assume *Pat Yisrael*."

Rabbi Reiss, who has held his position for six years, added that the *Hashgachot* accepted for the caf's food come from a list he has compiled based on his 25 years

of experience in the field as a Rabbinic Administrator for the OU. The food comes from those sources which are "*halachically* accepted by religious communities, by Orthodox Jews."

Rabbi Reiss explained that while he himself gets down to Stern once every week or so to spot-check, it is Rabbi Moses Singer who is "responsible for on-the-spot *Hashgacha*."

Rabbi Singer actually functions in a dual capacity. In addition to being the manager of the Caf, he is also "technically responsible to see that the sources that are okayed are the sources being used."

"Some of the food is shipped from Uptown," said Rabbi Reiss. In that case, per *Halacha*, it must be properly packaged and sealed, since the delivery men are not necessarily religious Jews. Rabbi Reiss also assured Stern students that the Caf has separate dairy and meat kitchens and ovens, and that pots are color-coded (red for dairy, yellow for meat). The third "kitchen", located adjacent to the serving bar, is where pareve items are prepared.

Turning to the problem of crawling vegetables, Rabbi Reiss remarked that he had not received any reports lately of problems with bugs on lettuce. He added that each morning Mr.



Photo credit: Susan Kravitzman

Ignatz Goldglanz, a *Shomer Shabbat* Jew who is in charge of the salads, comes in at 7:30. It is his responsibility to see that each head of lettuce used that day is sectioned and inserted into a pot of salt and water containing a strainer, where it remains 15-20 minutes. Rabbi Singer added that the lettuce is then placed under a high pressure stream of water, as is broccoli and cauliflower. The process, said Rabbi Reiss, leaves nothing visible to the naked eye and is "enough to eliminate the possible appearance of bugs. It does exactly what is necessary."

And yet, SCW junior Pamela Schlanger, who is Chair of the Food Services Committee noted, "People have ap-

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## President's Circle Sponsors

### Koch to Speak

by Chava Boylan

This past Tuesday night over 600 people attended a speech by former New York City mayor Ed Koch on the Uptown Campus. The event was sponsored by The President's Circle.

Koch expressed satisfaction at no longer being mayor. "The people threw me out and now the people must be punished," began Koch.

He focused on what he described as his "righteous anger" resulting from the exoneration of Lemrick Nelson, Jr., accused murderer of Yankel Rosenbaum in the Crown Heights riots in the summer of 1991.

Koch also criticized mainstream Jewish organizations and

the Jewish community for the lack of action they displayed following the riots and following the acquittal of Nelson.

He questioned why only 4500 people attended the rally in Crown Heights after the verdict was announced. "There should have been 45,000," he said.

Koch urged involvement by the Jewish community in respect to Israel as well. "I got letters to save the whales, save the dolphins and save the Jews in that order - and that was a Jewish district. There has to be greater concern"

Koch ended by emphasizing the importance of Jewish pride. "You can call me a Jew. It will not insult me because I am proud of who I am."

## Krich Speaks Out On Behalf of Agunot

by Tzalcha Rosen

Mystery writer Rochelle Majer Krich, 1969 alumna of SCW, delivered a lecture to students, faculty and alumnae on Tuesday, November 10. An aspiring writer since she can remember, Krich has published three novels, with a fourth novel and a short story due out soon.

Her writing career began as editor of SCW's *Ashes and Sparks*, since renamed *Besamim*. After putting her aspirations on hold to start a family in Los Angeles, Krich began teaching English at local schools. She is currently the chair of the English department at YULA, Yeshiva University's high school in L.A., in her fourteenth year of teaching there.

A member of several mystery author organizations, Krich

asserted that achieving success is a "tedious, painstaking process." Professor Laurel Hatvary, Krich's college mentor, expressed her "delight" at her former student's success.

*Till Death Do Us Part*, Krich's second published novel, deals with a pressing Jewish issue. Published in 1987, the novel tells the story of Dina, an *agunah*, whose recalcitrant husband refuses to grant her a *get*, the required document for a Jewish divorce and therefore for the wife's remarriage. The novel brings to life the plight of the many *agunot* worldwide who remain trapped by their husbands' refusals, whether motivated by a desire for a larger portion of a settlement, custody or pure spite. Krich asserted that the novel was based not on one person's story, but on an amalgamation of cases the author en-



Photo Credit: Susan Kravitzman

countered during her research.

The novel ends with the statement that one of the women in the book did not have a chance "the way things are." That was a purposefully provocative closing, maintains Krich, while adding that she does not advocate changing the law: "I think there are ways to work within the law," she explained.

One of those ways is a prenuptial agreement, a civilly enforceable contract in which the

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## Accommodating SCW Growth: The Search Continues

by Lori Turkel

No final decisions have yet been concretized, but the University's administration is continuing its discussions and negotiations regarding the acquisition of a new SCW dormitory building.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, YU's Director of Supporting Service Administration and Personnel, outlined two possibilities that are currently being considered, however stated that other op-

tions will also not be ruled out.

One building, which according to Rosengarten was under consideration last year, is still being discussed. Currently an office building, it is zoned, correctly for conversion to a dormitory/apartment building and, if bought, would be renovated to meet the needs of the SCW student body. Discussions have been lengthy and complicated.

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## EDITORIALS

### Breaking the Chains

How ironic it is. In today's age of advanced Jewish education and awareness for both men and women, with today's emphasis on living as Torah-true Jews, with our modern conviction that women have equally important status in the eyes of *halakhab*, there remains one area that is more reminiscent of medieval times than modern.

The plight to which we refer is the one suffered by the *aganah*, the woman that remains chained to her husband and unable to remarry until he grants her a *get*. Today, this has turned into veritable blackmail by manipulative husbands who are aware that they can get away with it. The *get* is used for extortion, custody rights and sometimes plain malice.

While the woman also has the ability to withhold acceptance of the document, men have recourse. They can obtain a *heter me'ah rabanim*. For the woman, no such recourse exists.

In light of this, we strongly feel that it is about time rabbis and communities started paying more attention to this more embarrassing problem. After all, the weight of the *beit din*, the pressure of the community seem to be the only things that will cause these recalcitrant men to act properly, in a Torah fashion.

### Desperately Seeking School Spirit

Team spirit alone is not enough to win a game. Players need the cheers of the crowd. The Lady Macs could use some *school* spirit to keep them going. Aside from disappointing the team, a lack of attendance at school games sends a sad message about our support for our school to the other team. The problem used to be that there was no transportation aside from that provided for the team members themselves. However, all one must do now is sign up and free transportation to games is provided. This season is off to a new start with new coaches and an impressive team. The Lady Macs work hard and deserve recognition. The first game is Wednesday, November 18 at Marymount College. Hope to see you there.

### Exercise your Rights -- Somewhere else, Please

To the Editor:

Over the summer, many of our facilities here at Stern have been expanded for our benefit. A beautiful Beit Midrash is at our disposal, more apartments have been acquired to ease the crowding in the dorm and at great cost an exercise room was renovated in the dorm.

This new and improved exercise room is in 4C of Brookdale. Located in this room are some of the latest work-out machines. Among these include a stair machine, lifecycle and rowing machine. In addition to these there is a large barbell collection and a few Rebok steps - complete with an instructional video tape.

Everything about this room was well planned, from the mirrored walls with ballet bar to the VCR to play the step tape. Everything was thought out, with one small exception - the students in 3C. Somebody forgot that people have to live directly under this aerobic studio. Trying to concentrate, read, talk, never mind sleep, is virtually impossible with such loud stomping overhead.

We understand the futility of

our argument. The Student Body asked for something, and our wish was granted. The room is what we wanted and should be used and enjoyed. However, we would like our grievances understood. Memorizing history facts or organic compounds is not an easy task with step aerobics and falling barbells right upstairs. When we complained, we were told to use the study rooms. This is unfair to us. If our room is quiet why should we be forced to leave the comfort and privacy of our own room?

A compromise was reached. The exercise room is supposed to be locked from midnight until 8:00 a.m. However, the people who lock the door are only human and sometimes forget or are busy. It has also happened that the door was locked but somehow reopened. Signs are posted so even if the room is open students should know not to go in because someone may be sleeping below.

We are sorry for the inconvenience this restriction causes. Perhaps the exercise room should have been built on the ground floor, or the basement. We are not only concerned for ourselves but for the future occupants of 3C as well.

Laura Gross  
SCW '95  
Aviva Frisch  
SCW '95

## THE OBSERVER

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## LETTERS

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

### Welcome Addition to SCW Family

To the editor:

On November 3, the Torah Activities Council sponsored its first Keshet Club event for international students. This opening event was the Keshet Club Cafe - an elegant dinner in the cafeteria.

The event was a success thanks to the help of Mrs. Schmeltzer of Food Services. She was extremely accommodating and helped us by providing ideas. The time she took out was appreciated. Knowing the friction between the student body and food services we were delighted at this good will. She is a much needed and welcome addition to the Food services staff.

Mrs. Schmeltzer, if you're reading this, thank you!

Aliza Dworkin  
TAC Treasurer  
SCW '95

### Unfair Allegations

To the Editor:

As Chair of the Food Services Committee at Stern College, I was quite disturbed by the editorial regarding the Food Services Administration, in the September 23 issue of *The Observer*. A Food Services Committee was established several

years ago at Stern College to work with the FSA to develop improvements, changes and most importantly serve as a voice between students and the FSA.

When I took over the position of Chair of the committee in May 1992, a lengthy meeting was held to reflect on the past year as well as to project for the upcoming school year. Several of the issues addressed at this meeting came from responses to a FSC questionnaire distributed at the end of April. One of the issues was the lack of a convenience store at Stern College. The FSA was willing to build a convenience store but that would have resulted in the loss of the Orange Lounge. Understanding the importance of this lounge, the FSA and FSC focused on key items (in addition to food) that students wanted to purchase at the midtown campus on their dining card, rather than travel uptown to purchase these items. This focus helped eliminate the immediate need for expansion. The issue of students spending their money on sundries and toiletries (as opposed to food) is a personal decision. The FSA is just trying to provide the students' with additional ways to spend their money.

While some of the prices have gone up, the issue of "disproportionate pricing" suggested in the editorial, is simply not true. The issue of prices was discussed at great length at a meeting on August 25. Members of both SCWSC and YCSC and the FSC negotiated with the FSA to reach the current prices. Price lists comparing last year's prices and proposed prices were distrib-

uted, as well as menus and exact calculations of costs for items. Everything involved with pricing was clearly shown to the student representatives.

Regarding the item that students dislike scallops, the writer of the editorial is obviously unaware scallops is one of the largest sellers on the menu. While the writer also feels that "YU has nothing to lose by refusing student requests," we have found the FSA to be very willing to work with us to meet the needs and requests of the students.

The FSC is here to serve the students. We are open to any and all suggestions made by the students. I urge all students to take advantage of the existence of the Food Services Committee so that we may continue to address the needs of the student body.

Pamela Schlanger  
SCW '94

*Editor's Note: I have sat on the FSC for the last three years, and at no time has it been less productive and responsive to students' true needs than this year. To sit in a meeting, bring up an item on the agenda, and hear the response "well, THAT won't change," makes me question the worth of any of these time-consuming meetings. While I respect all of our efforts, it's time to cut the oil and serve us real food.*

## Editor's Note... Belated Mention

Sometimes the people who deserve the most credit are the ones who get overlooked the most easily. Who thanks a mother for raising her children well? Few people remember the person to whom they completely owe their lives on a daily basis.

*The Observer*, too, is only made up of a human staff. And we have erred, as good humans tend to do. In our last issue's article and editorial about the new *beit midrash* in the school building, we failed to credit the President's Circle for providing us with our financial backing. As interested and motivated as both the students and the administration were, the project would never have gotten off the ground if it had not sparked the interest of this incredible group as well.

The President's Circle, formed in 1989, is a coalition of Yeshiva graduates dedicated to their alma

maters. It was established in 1989 to help advance undergraduate programs. Members serve on special committees that make recommendations on Jewish studies, general studies and student life, based on meetings with student leaders, faculty and administration.

Firsthand, I can honestly say that they hear what we say and respond accordingly. Aside from the *beit midrash*, they are responsible for the renovation of the front lobby at Brookdale Hall, the acquisition of a new computer system for *The Observer's* use and the sponsorship of various lectures including A.M. Rosenthal and Ed Koch.

I want to personally thank Shalom Lamm and Louis Tuchman for all the time they invested in the *Observer* project. Their advice and help was invaluable to me.

Rachel Schenker

## CORRECTION

The recent microfilming project has shed light on *Observer* history. It has come to our attention that our volume number was inaccurate, due to a mistake that was made some years ago. We have renumbered it accordingly.

## Let's Talk TACHlis...

by Nomi Dworcen

What do new Sefarim Rosh Chodesh tefillah and breakfast davening minchah, learning b'chavrutah and chanukat habayit all have in common? They all refer to our new *beit midrash*. I'm proud to say that it is constantly filled with students learning. Thanks to you, TAC has raised almost \$11500 for sefarim. More money is still needed, and the *tzedakah* committed will be running fundraisers over the next few weeks. I'd like to thank the TAC *Beit midrash* Committee for being so efficient and helpful in setting the new *Beit midrash* up!

Our chanukat *beit midrash* will take place on Dec. 2 during club hour. Dr. Lamm will be addressing us, followed by a siyum made by SCW. Stay tuned for details.

TAC events and projects have gotten off to a great start. Rabbi Flaum's shiurim have had unprecedented attendances. The first Keshet Club event was

very successful. The *bikur Cholim*, *Tehillim*, and *Parsha Shiur* have all begun on a weekly basis, and the *midot* and *Rosh Chodesh* committees have made Cheshvan a little more bearable. The committee chairpeople are always interested in receiving input and suggestions. Please approach them with ideas of if you'd like to volunteer to help out.

The TAC publications are looking for contributors and editorial staff. Bina Yeteira welcomes *Divrei Torah* on the *Parsha*, *Haftorah*, and now on *Chanukah* for the special *Chanukah* edition of *Shivim Panim*. Our annual *Torah Journal* is currently accepting articles. We're looking forward to an impressive publication.

Information about the upcoming *chagigah*, carnival, *kashrut* newsletter and clothing drive will be forthcoming. Wishing you good luck on your midterms.

## Election Reflection

### "B" is For Bush ?

by Kesari Ruza

The Presidential Race -- After one year of it, one wonders how life could possibly be different. Though some say the economy is down in an election year, there are a plethora of benefits. For months, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Network* channels, *CNN* and every other form of media were occupied with "the issues" and the Presidential hopefuls. This makes the reporter's job much easier. In an off-election year, he must dig up stories about gun-wielding jealous lovers in order to fill up the pages.

The sign and button companies must benefit tremendously and the cocktail party circuit cuts down on those dreadful moments of silence that occasionally visit upon even the most experienced of minglers.

In the field of education, I associate the election year with

conservation of imagination. The Presidential candidates become the automatic replacers of X and Y. In my logic class, when the professor wants to demonstrate *Modus Ponens*, instead of pondering for minutes to come up with a catchy example, the election year begets it. Clinton wins the election, then Bush will call *Moishe's*. Clinton wins the election. Therefore, Bush calls *Moishe's*. This year is even more of a blessing for our pondering professor. Even the three clauses of a Hypothetical Syllogism can be produced with ease: If Perot enters the race, then Bush will insult his mother. If Bush insults Perot's mother, then Clinton can sit tight. Perot enters the race. Therefore Clinton can sit tight.

Let's not limit this luxury to logicians though. While attending shul in Riverdale, I heard the rabbi give a short explanation of a *Yom Kippur piyut*. He men-

tioned the poetic technique of kenning that appeared in the *piyut*. Assuming that most of us didn't know what kenning was, he said. For example, using "the Governor of Arkansas" instead of Bill Clinton when referring to that man.

This expression enhancer even extends to household conversation. When my uncle promises my 8 year old cousin waffles and then changes his mind, my cousin accuses him of waffling on the waffle issue by saying, "You pulled a Clinton on me!" My uncle's response could likely be, "So, Bush pulled a Clinton when he said he would not raise taxes!"

My most recent visit by the candidates was when I was giving over my address on the telephone. My apartment number is 6B. I wanted to say "B as in boy" but I was afraid someone would psychoanalyze this. "B as in Bush" was just much safer.

## SCW Women Vote on Use of Family in the Election

by Judith Solomon

The practice of candidates showcasing their family values was brought to a new level in the Senate race between Attorney General Robert Abrams, Mr. Alfonse D'amato, and City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzmann. In an informal survey conducted by this reporter, it was found that most SCW students consider familial relationships of little relevance to the election, preferring instead to hear about the capabilities of the candidates.

Abrams began the family competition by taking his daughters on the campaign trail. He brought his 6-year-old daughter, Becky, to a meeting of the local 3 of the Jewish Electrical Welfare Club in Flushing, Queens. His wife, Diane, has been cam-

paigned upstate on his behalf, focusing on women's issues.

D'amato, who is separating from his wife and has four grown children, took his family campaigning as well. On a Sunday before the election, his mother Antoinette, and his daughter Lisa Murphy, 30, began a two-day media tour to seven different cities. He also aired commercials featuring Lisa and his mother.

When asked whether such a practice is ethical, opinions were divided. Rebecca Grossman, SCW senior, said, "I see no problem with it." SCW sophomore Anne Sherman was a bit more vocal. "Politics is politics, and anything that can help a politician they will do. By bringing his daughter in, he's not robbing, he's not stealing...he's not doing

anything legally or morally wrong."

Some students were not so sanguine. "Their families aren't running for office, they are," stated Tamar Goldfischer, SCW junior. "It's also not fair to do that to a family."

Are families so relevant to the issue? Miriam Bluth, SCW senior, doesn't think so. "There's nothing wrong with having your family in your campaign, but it shouldn't be the whole campaign...I wouldn't vote for somebody based on his daughter's opinion of them."

But some students did see some value in family campaigning. "I think it definitely gets the family type voters. They see he's a family man. I think it helps," asserted SCW sophomore Adina Dershowitz.

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## AROUND THE CAMPUS

# Summer Research For SCW Students

# F Y I

### NOVEMBER:

9-16 *Besamim*  
presentation display in  
Koch

9-Rabbi Flaum's  
shiur

13-14-SCWSC, TAC and  
SSSBSC Shabbaton

18- 2:30 "How  
Forthrightly should  
Jewish History be  
taught?" - Miriam  
Wielgus

2:30 Russ Berry  
Trolls

19- 7 pm Russian  
Club Event

8 pm Freshman  
class event - ice  
skating

20-21 Sephardic Club  
Shabbaton

24- 1-1:45 Joint  
Nursing Program  
Sponsors Speaker From  
NYU

### DECEMBER:

1 7-8 pm Self-  
Defense Club  
8 pm CHANUKAH  
CHAGIGAH !!!!

2 Club Hour -  
CHANUKAT BEIT  
MIDRASH

4-5 Freshman  
shabbaton

**KEEP YOUR  
EYES POSTED  
FOR ANY  
CHANGES OR  
ADDITIONS TO  
THE SCHEDULE**

by Marcia Rashelle Palace

This past summer, SCW students participated in a variety of scholarly endeavors. Two current SCW seniors, Nava Goldman and Marcia Rashelle Palace, were awarded Roth Institute Scholarships for biomedical research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM). Several other notable research projects in biology and psychology were conducted by SCW women at a number of reputable institutions.

In AECOM's department of molecular pharmacology, Goldman worked in the laboratory of Dr. Susan Horwitz. Her research involved locating expressions of p-glycoprotein in frog. This glycoprotein prevents the anti-tumor drug toxicol from entering cancer cells, thus inhibiting the drug from exerting its beneficial effects. Comprehension of the function of this glycoprotein in normal cells is crucial to the development of effective anti-tumor agents.

In the biochemistry laboratory of Dr. Thomas Leyh at AECOM, Palace studied the enzyme ATP sulfurylase. This enzyme is required in order to metabolically activate sulfate, a relatively inert compound, so that it can be used in a variety of biological processes, including hormone regulation, blood clotting, and immunity. In order to determine the mechanism by which this enzyme catalyzes sulfate activation, she conducted assays utilizing various chromatography and radiolabelling techniques.

SCW sophomore Nadine Gurvich was a fellow of the Summer Research Program for Undergraduate Students at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Her work in the department of pharmacology involved attempts to identify dopamine receptors in the kidney which are important in the control of blood pressure. The knowledge of the structures of these receptors will allow the development of drugs to prevent and cure high blood pressure.

In the neurology department at Mount Sinai, Rashin Nouranifar, a junior, participated in a project concerning neuromuscular disorders in HIV infection and the role of AZT. She also worked on a study which compared levels of tumor necrosis factor, alpha interferon, and interleukin-6 in HIV positive patients.

At Long Island Jewish Medical Center, SCW junior Stacey Tuckman was in the laboratory of Dr. Karen Auburn, in the department of otolaryngology. She investigated the pathway of estrogen metabolism and its relationship to the human Papillomavirus (HPV). It is believed that this pathway augments HPV infections in females and is a causative factor for the development of cervical cancer.

Debbie Friedman, an SCW junior, worked with Dr. Debra L. Yourick and Dr. James Meyerhoff at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research for the United States Army Medical Research Command in Washington, D.C. They tested the ef-

fects of Henprodil, an experimental drug, on post-traumatic epilepsy. The drug was administered to rats through cannulas which were inserted surgically. Then, epileptic seizures were induced through electrical stimulation and the severity and duration of the seizures were measured and analyzed.

Nina Lebowitz, a senior, studied the causes of epilepsy. Aside from disappointing the team, a lack of attendance at school games sends a sad message about our school to the other team, under the direction of a neurologist and a child psychologist at Columbia Presbyterian. Her work involved the premise that some seizures may have psychogenic causes, rather than physiological ones.

At Jacobi Hospital, Inna Malostovker, a junior, worked on a study of the causes of suicidal and violent behavior by interviewing patients in the psychiatric ward.

SCW junior Ilana Breslau was

an intern at the Preventive Intervention Research Center at AECOM. She tabulated and analyzed data in the evaluation of a mental health intervention program for mothers of low birth weight infants. She was supervised by Dr. Jennifer Lauby, research director of the program.

Both Sara Mosak and Bina Brandwein worked under the direction of Dr. Susan A. Rose, of the Department of pediatrics at the Kennedy Center of AECOM. They investigated the development of visual memory in infants and assisted in a longitudinal study, attempting to correlate visual memory in infants with IQ-type scores.

All of these students had enjoyable and productive summers. They were able to put into practice the skills they acquired in college and gained valuable experience in their specific areas of interest while participating in important and exciting research.

## Club Connections Commence

by Aliza Dworken

The Keshet Club held a dinner for its participants on Tuesday evening, November 3, at 7:00 PM. Its first event, attended by approximately 30 members, included an elegant dinner in the cafeteria with classical music playing in the background.

The club, sponsored by Torah Activities Council, pairs up international students with American counterparts. The approximately sixty members come from Brazil, Iran, Russia, Venezuela, Israel

and (their partners from) America. Through the club, international students have an opportunity to form a "keshet" - a relationship - with other SCW students. Together, partners help each other in work, studies and adjusting to Stern College.

The club is headed by juniors Maya Braun, Aliza Dworken and Rozita Yaghaibian. Braun asserted, "The event was a tremendous success, and hopefully was just the beginning of a great year for the Keshet Club."

## 500th Anniversary Commemorations Continue

by Laurie Katzman

As part of the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain, a two-day symposium entitled, "Intellectual Creativity in a Community in Decline: 1391-1492" was held on October 26 and 27. Professors from Bar Ilan and Hebrew Universities in Israel and from Bernard Revel Graduate School participated.

The speakers on the first night focused on the contribution of Spain's rabbinic community to philosophy. Dr. Aviezer Ravitsky of Hebrew University discussed the concept of free will in medieval Jewish philosophy. He discussed determinism as compared with the belief that people have the power of free choice.

Dr. Warren Zev Harvey of Hebrew University spoke of "The Messianism of Rabbi, Hasdai Crescus." He discussed

whether or not it can be known if the Messiah has come.

On the following evening, Dr. Yaacov Sussman, also of Hebrew University, spoke on the topic of "Five Hundred Years of Rabbines in Spain" and Dr. Israel Ta-Shema's views on Spain's rabbinic literature were read aloud by Rabbi Kanarfogel, Director of Jewish Studies at SCW.

The two day symposium gave the audience "a glimpse of the tremendous impact that the Jews of Spain had on modern Jewish society," said SCW sophomore Naomi Liebowitz.

Another program sponsored by Yeshiva University commemorating the expulsion from Spain was the Sephardic Cultural Festival, held this past winter. According to the Public Relations department of YU, various other programs dealing with this theme will take place soon.



Photo credit: Susan Kreigsmann

## AROUND THE CAMPUS

## '67 Alumnae Donate Gift To Beit Midrash

by Tzalcha Rosen

Over \$2,700 was donated to the new *beit midrash* at SCW by the Class of 1967. The alumnae raised the money as part of their 25th anniversary reunion, held this year.

It is traditional, explained Mrs. Carol Hart, chair of the fundraising committee for the event, for the class to offer the school a gift. The members of the Class of 1967 were determined that their gift would be earmarked for a purpose specifically for Stern College women. Mrs. Zelda Braun, Director of Student Services at SCW, suggested that their gift could go toward the purchase of *sefarim* for the new facility, which had been donated by the President's Circle and they accepted her proposal.

Hart commented that because of the "recessionary times," people were not able to give as much as the committee would have hoped. In addition, she said, many of the alumnae have students in day schools and universities, which tightens their budgets.

Chair of the reunion Mrs. Gittel Novogroder summed up that "we're delighted that we were able to augment...our new *beit midrash*...[it is] a fabulous new addition to the school."

**Interested in donating  
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for the *beit midrash*?  
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### Dramatics Society

q With its first meeting behind it, the Stern College Dramatics Society assembled a second time to conduct tryouts for this year's SCDS play, "The Dybbuk." The drama will be performed on the nights of December 19-20. Aspiring actresses had the opportunity to participate in "improv (isation)" exercises.

### Sigma Delta Rho

q On October 26th, Professor Yallow, a Nobel Prize Laureate, spoke in Belfer Hall about the effects of radiation and cancer causing agents. A second lecture, given by Dr. Meinwald, took place on November 4th. The topic discussed was "Sex, Drugs, and Violence in the every day life of insects." Additionally, a Shabbaton was held at Stern College on November 5th-7th.

### Education Society

q The Education Society will have a peer advisor night on November 16th at 8:00 p.m. in Room 906 in the school building. Newcomers to the field will have the opportunity to share their ideas and discuss their thoughts, with experienced upperclassmen. Anyone interested in the education field is invited to join.

### Psychology Club

q In early October, the SCW Psychology Club showed the psychological drama "Cybil." On the 28th of October, a Graduate School Forum was jointly sponsored by SCW and YU. Both another movie night and a guest speaker are planned for this month.

### Shadow Program

q The Shadow Program provides students with the opportunity to "preview" the career of their choice. Students are

matched with a professional in the field they are interested in. Questionnaires are now available for all interested in "test running a career." Contact Pamela Schlanger, BH 5C, for more information.

### Food Services Committee

q The Food Services Committee meets monthly with the Food Services Administration to develop, improve, and initiate change. Student comments are welcomed. Available now at Millner's Mart are cans of tuna, Entenmann's, and other foods that have been requested by students.

### Fine Arts Society

q After the Orientation play, the SCW Fine Arts Society, in conjunction with the Sephardic Club, organized a night out to see "Les Miserables" on November 5th.

### The J.P. Dunner Political Science Society

q On October 28th, the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society sponsored a lecture by Betty Ehrenberg-the Executive Director of the Institute for Public Affairs at the Union of Orthodox Congregations. She addressed the issues that Jewish Americans should take into consideration in the November election. On November 19th-22nd, a delegation of ten students, from SCW and YC, will be sent to the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations. Yeshiva University will represent New Zealand.

### Pre-Law

q On Thursday October 29th, Pre-Law students attended a lecture entitled "Human Rights and the Israeli Peace Process", presented by Justus Weiner, Adv., the Director of the Division of American Law and External Relations from the

Ministry of Justice and Law in Israel. The program was held in the Moot Court Room at the Cardozo School of Law.

### Israel Club

q The Israel Club, in a fundraising effort, is holding a raffle, the grand prize of which is a trip to Israel. In addition, the club sells nameplates for MIA soldier Ron Arad, as well as Israeli flags.

### Sephardic Club

q On Wednesday October 28th, the Sephardic Club held their opening event in Koch Auditorium. Games played at the event included: wheel of fortune, win-lose-or draw, and the club's own series of monopoly called "sephardopoly." Free pizza and prizes also graced the evening.

### College Republican Club

q On September 21st-22nd, a voter registration drive was held in the lobby of Stern College. Over seventy voters were registered.

### Self Defense Club

q The second meeting of the year was held on October 28th in the Front Lounge. A self defense seminar, led by Sarah Cohen, 2nd cue brown belt, and assisted by Renee Glickman, high purple belt, will take place in December.

### Student Association for Global Awareness

q A recycling program is in the plans with the help of the SAGA committee.

### Speech Arts Forum

q Scheduled to visit Stern College this month, in conjunction with "Besamim," is guest lecturer Arthur Kuzweil. A panel of professionals, including career television actors people with careers in television, radio, public relations, advertising, and journalism, is planned to visit

## Club Beats

SCW in December.

### Besamim

q This year, *Besamim* has expanded beyond the Literary and Arts magazine into a club of its own right. *Besamim* has sponsored the first meeting of the Creative Writing Peer Group, on October 27. The CWPG will be holding workshops Tuesday nights at 10:30pm. November 9 through 12, a *Besamim* sponsored a Students Works Exhibit was displayed in the Koch Auditorium. On the 9th, the exhibit was opened with a presentation by Dr. Hatvary and attendance of several experts in the art and literary fields. *Besamim* is currently organizing many upcoming events including: a havdalah candle sale, a note-card design contest, the painting of a wall mural in the school building, a short story contest, open mike sessions, speeches and workshops conducted by prominent members of the literary and art fields, and of course, "*Besamim*," the magazine.

### Student Life Committee

q The Student Life Committee's first meeting of the year was held during club hour on October 28th. The issues addressed include: short term alternatives to the dorming problem and the possibility of a new dorm, improvement of both inter- and intra-campus van service, and potential health club facilities to be made available for SCW students.

*If you would like your club listed in this column please contact Amanda Nussbaum.*

## Bryant Park Restored

by Robin Byock

Last spring, while remaining in school for a *shabbat*, my friends and I decided to take a hop, skip, and a jump to 40th Street and 6th Avenue to the newly restored Bryant Park. The grass was green and litterfree, the benches were freshly painted, and the flowers were newly planted. There were policemen scattered throughout the park, and people were sitting on the park-owned chairs that were on the grass. This was the result of almost nine million dollars in city funds and private donations allocated to the restoration of Bryant Park.

One can see the restored, majestic statue of the nineteenth century poet, editor and aboli-

tionist William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), for whom the park was named. He was sometimes referred to as the American Wordsworth because both men wrote about nature. In the *New York Times* of June 13, 1991, Bryant's great-great-granddaughter exclaimed that she was looking forward to being able to return to the park without being scared.

Other people spending time in the park had similar feelings about the restoration. One woman in her mid-forties said that she enjoyed spending her lunch hour there. A policeman said that the park is safe, and there is a constant watch for crimes. A young couple remarked that they chose to sit in

the park because of its beautiful and serene fountain.

When asked if this was a good use of the tax-payers' money, one woman agreed that it was, but she would not want to contribute more money to build more parks. She exclaimed, "There are enough parks in New York City." A foreigner claimed that she sat in the park because "it was the first place she passed to rest her feet, and it was nice to see grass."

The restoration is not yet complete. Two restrooms, 1911 historic landmarks, are close to completion, and there is more land that the park owns that has not yet been restored. When you get some free time, stop by, it's worth your visit.

## AROUND OUR CAMPUS...



Photo Credit: Susan Krizman

## Portraits

In an attempt to find a "new angle," The Observer cultural arts staff has decided to trace the fine arts from their origins, exploring the creative forces of fresh, young artists. This "Portraits" series will include a number of interviews with young people, specializing in various fine arts disciplines, who are studying, creating, and performing in New York. Of particular interest to Observer readers will be the fact that all of the individuals to be included in the series will be Jewish. How feelings about religion and culture effect an individual's outlook on his or her discipline will be a focus of each interview. Keep these articles. These people will be famous some day.

## The Visual Artist

by Sara Klein

I followed Azriel Cohen as he guided me through a large Manhattan studio, a co-op space which he shares with a number of other artists. One of the first small cubicles belongs to Azriel, a 27-year-old artist, illustrator, and graphic designer from Toronto.

Azriel began his formal artistic training while he was in yeshiva in Israel, during which time he studied in a small art school founded by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. The time Azriel spent in yeshiva has had a major influence on his work. Cohen says that in particular, the philosophy of the Maharal which he studied there has effected his whole creative approach. "In everything there is theoretically the potential for purity and for impurity. There is something deeply beautiful about life's complex grey areas and seeming contradictions," says Cohen. Azriel thinks of life as a fluid interchange of ideas, and feels that the more subtle charm in life is often less defined. The full picture, contends Cohen, is the only key to understanding life.

His artwork is directly reflective of this philosophy. Cohen's

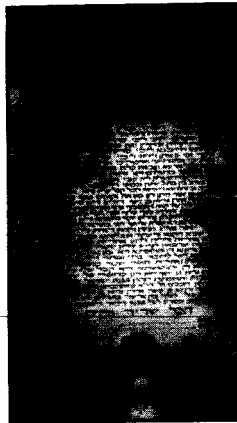
images, like those of the Impressionists, often melt into one another. His work is mellow and atmospheric, often using nature as its inspiration. The paintings have motion and fluidity, rather than angular lines and clearly defined borders. What is most important to Azriel, he says, is for his work to "hit a chord". He mentioned that he wants his art to look like it was drawn by a human hand, not replicated by a machine.

As a result of his artistic flexibility, having studied all of the visual arts disciplines in various schools in Israel, the U.S., and Canada, Azriel prefers not to use a set medium of expression. Instead, he employs multiple painting methods, textures, and color combinations, often using a unique layering technique, with the goal of producing an effect, which he prefers over fixed methodology.

For example, Azriel may use airbrush to produce smoothness of atmosphere, layered above guash for a textural effect, and may then pencil in small details to add depth and detail.

Using his natural, boundary free style, Azriel creates an original brand of breath taking

ketubot, usually super imposing the text over a mellow, organic scene (see illustrations). He also does other types of Judaica work, such as invitations and lithographs depicting particular *pesukim*. Additionally, Cohen has done a good amount of editorial illustration, appearing in



such publications as *Jewish Homemaker* and *Jewish Action*, and is now attending The School of Visual Arts, obtaining a Mas-

ters of Fine Arts in computer arts and graphic design. He feels that this is the most practical route to his career, since nearly all of his work is commissioned.

In this way, Cohen sounded a bit disappointed in himself, admitting that he often feels that he is "selling out" as a fine artist by creating art for the market, rather than for the sake of self expression. Because of this, Azriel feels that his work "doesn't completely have him in it". If it did, he said, he could not sell it. However, Cohen still sees himself in the beginning stages of his career, and is always willing to grow and change artistically.

A Y.U. graduate, Azriel has always been an active member of the Jewish community, directing various programs for youth groups here and in Israel. The two fields of art and community work presented Azriel with a conflict when he was deciding on a career. He is still hoping to connect the two. He feels that the Jewish community should know more about art and its history, and may gain spiritually and religiously from cultural exposure. Azriel asserts, in the spirit of our sages, that one is only wise if he can learn from everyone

and everything. He thinks that raised artistic consciousness in Jewish circles would increase appreciation of the world by confronting issues honestly. This artist feels, in concurrence with many Jewish thinkers, that part of our duty on Earth includes using the world to its fullest extent, and understanding our roles in harnessing its energies.

Azriel sees the Jewish artist as unique in that his or her art involves a search with more substantial depth, because his or her religion provides a structure for soul searching, and some direction as to where this quest should lead. Other artists, says Cohen, end up seeing art as an ends, rather than as a means, and often make it their sole source of spirituality.

Azriel's mission in life, he says, is to grow as a human being through his art. He is by no means a static individual, as is evidenced by the changes and progressions in his art over the years. He is centered in himself, gaining structure through internal focus, rather than life's artificially imposed boundaries. Much like his art, Azriel wishes to find a certain harmony in the world, emanating from within.

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## At The Movies

### Exposing Antisemitism: A Timely Message

by Rachel Annenberg

Even though the movie "School Ties" is set in the 1950's, its theme of covert antisemitism is still relevant to audiences today. This film breaks down Jewish stereotypes as it depicts the range and effects of racism through one boy's experiences at a private school.

Awarded a football scholarship, David Green (played by Brendan Fraser) leaves his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania to spend his senior year in an elite North Eastern prep school. Thrown in with a pack of hard, handsome, young White Anglo Saxon Protestants, David chooses to conceal his Jewish identity in order to establish himself as "one of the guys".

David Green is extremely likeable, and the movie really stacks the deck in his favor. He embodies none of the "Jewish Boy"

stereotypes that Hollywood has perpetuated. He is athletic, good-looking, and very witty. David proceeds to make friends, become the star of the football team and capture the heart of his dream girl.

The plot exposes antisemitism in its insidious everyday forms, such as students' attitudes and casual language. When asked if he got a deal on his new stereo, a student boasts that he "Jewed him down." Expressions like this one have become so prevalent that people are often immune to their racist content. David's story also reveals the shallowness, falsehood and hypocrisy in racism; students who befriend him and even admired David suddenly turn against him when his secret is found out.

The movie's pensive tone is strongly reminiscent of "Dead

Poet's Society", and the theme echoes that of the 1947 movie "Gentleman's Agreement" in which a magazine writer poses as a Jew to expose discrimination. "School Ties" raises public consciousness at a time when despite the 1990's trend of "political correctness", antisemitism is on the rise.

"School Ties" definitely deserves a viewing. Fraser's debut performance is well done. He has the audience rooting for him, and successfully balances the seriousness of David's situation with comedic one-liners. Despite what might be a predictable plotline, "School Ties" is intelligent, honest, thought provoking and entertaining. Although many of us already realize the ramifications of antisemitism, it is gratifying to watch "School Ties" deliver its important message to audiences across America.

CULTURAL ARTS

# Matisse Shows His True Colors at the MoMA: A Retrospective of his Life and Works

by Judi Goodman

A retrospective of Henri Matisse's art is currently on exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. This extraordinary compilation of Matisse's work is the first of its kind in over twenty years. The two floor show reviews Matisse's career in a comprehensive study that includes 400 paintings, sculptures and drawings that span sixty-four years of the artist's career.

The museum has broken down the collection into a chronological study of Matisse's development as an artist. This allows the visitor to visually witness the transformation and varying style of Matisse's work. Even for the non-art major, this can be exciting.

Every step of the way, the visitor is confronted with dramatic contrasts in Matisse's work. In the first area of the show, one sees the influence of Auguste Renoir and Claude Monet, especially in *The Dinner Table*, 1896-97. One can see the heavy, visible brushstrokes and the way Matisse captured the reflection of colors in the glassware. One notices that Matisse was an observer (no pun intended) of the world around him.

A dramatic change occurs in the next part of the exhibit. The critics of the time called Matisse and his fellow artists "Fauves" because their roughly painted and crude works looked like they were done by "wild beasts." In reality, these artists took their cue from Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin who frequently left areas of their canvases bare and often used brash, dissonant colors. Matisse's focus was on this powerful use of color energy, used to express a feeling and not simply to replicate nature.

Matisse continued to develop his skills with color after he left the Fauvist movement. Three highly recognizable paintings represent this stage in the artist's career. The first is *Harmony in Red*, 1908 which depicts a table with a woman bending over it. Reminiscent of *The Dinner Table*, Matisse again shows his sensitivity towards color,

adding a new appreciation for figure-ground relationship. [Now, don't get too excited. All that "figure-ground relationship" means is that the figure(s) and the background somehow relate to each other.] In *Harmony*, this relationship is seen through the decorative art Matisse used on the tablecloth and on the wallpaper. One will also notice the circular yellow fruit and flowers. Matisse consciously placed the fruits and flowers in that order to move the viewer's eye across the canvas.

The second and third recognizable paintings are *Dance I* and *Dance II*. This exhibit marks the first time since their creation that these works have been reunited. The second version has been in the St. Petersburg's Hermitage and is a rare sight to see. It is the more fiery and fierce of the two paintings, demonstrating how interesting a difference color makes. Matisse was also concentrating on combining the fluidity of the dancers' shape with the negative space surrounding them. [I know, I know. I'm throwing these terms at you like an automatic teller. "Negative space" means the area around the figure. See? This isn't so bad.]

The exhibit also includes Matisse's venture through abstraction and his works from Nice, but the last part of the display is the best, (at least in my most humble opinion). At this point in his life, Matisse was bedridden and in declining health. In these last eight years of his life, Matisse did some of his best work. His entire career was spent trying to unify shape, color and composition. His paper cutouts in the last section of the exhibit are the culmination of his entire career. Cutting out shapes from preprinted pieces of paper, Matisse was finally "drawing directly in color."

*The Swimming Pool* once decorated the walls of Matisse's own dining room. Walking by these pieces gives one the feeling of floating underwater. That will only happen if one allows her mind to wander a bit [and I promise it will not hurt]. Matisse uses

by Beth Green

You might wonder why the best improvisational comedy troupe in New York is called Chicago City Limits, but they are so funny you don't care. They are a highly talented cast who are ready for anything you throw at them. They can sing about platonic friendship or act out a Siamese quadruplet running for president. They don't

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825 hotel rooms, and seasonal entertainment. The place is pretty crowded though, an estimated 200,000 mortals visit it daily.



Attn: Fly Girls. If you are looking for a great release from mid-terms, there just aren't many things that compare to a helicopter ride. Forty dollars will get you airborne for a tour of Manhattan's famous skyline, a ten mile trip. It is a breathtaking trip and can be taken day or night. The heli-pad is right down 34th St on the East River. Call for more details: (212) 683-4575.



Iraqi tanks are in New York. They are a part of the newly expanded Intrepid Museum's Armed Forces display. The Museum has the only nuclear submarine in the world available for civilian exploration. You can walk through the hangars of the USS Growler to its formerly secret command center. The fastest planes ever built, Lockheed's A-12 Blackbird, are also on display in addition to the regular ships. The Intrepid Museum is located at W 46 th ST and the Hudson River, for more details call (212) 245-0072.



Stay tuned for more...



miss a beat in their fast paced show. It is so amazing to see such talent, the act is fresh and even the scripted routines feel new. It isn't playing in a smoke filled room where they get you with a two drink minimum. Chicago City Limits takes no prisoners but makes lots of fans. We were still laughing during intermission. Go out of your way to catch them in the act.

ride takes as long as the Brookdale elevator does to reach the twentieth floor.) You can gaze through any of the 232 windows or weather and fear of heights aside, you can go up to the rooftop promenade. The promenade is the world's highest outdoor sightseeing platform. For the less adventurous the World Trade Center is home to lots of shops, a TKTS booth.

recognizable but flat shapes with color to create a slow, synchronized movement that can be compared to water ballet for the eyes.

The exhibit is long and benches are scarce but it's definitely worth seeing. One does not have to be an art expert to know what's going on, for there are explanations on the wall throughout the exhibit. In addition, because the number of works is in the hundreds, one is not compelled to view each individual painting. Be aware that once you exit one floor of the exhibit, you will not be allowed to re-enter. The admission fee is \$12.50 and the crowds are usually large, so get there early. Tickets may be reserved through Ticketmaster, but it costs extra. *Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St., NYC.*

Photo Credit: by MoMA PR

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Henri Matisse A RETROSPECTIVE



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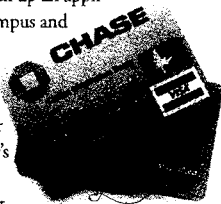
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# A Word From Israel...

*This column will introduce a variety of voices new to the SCW student body. Each month a student enrolled in the Joint YU-Israel Program will formally or informally discuss topics relevant to her experiences in Eretz Yisrael covering Limud Torah, politics, culture, chesed opportunities, humor or emotions unique to a year spent in Eretz. Bear in mind that the women writing come from a wide range of schools and backgrounds. Enjoy.*

## An Initial Impression: The Year in Israel

by Yael Reiss

A year of concentration in *limudei kodesh* in Israel is reputed to be the formative year of most young adult lives. It is the time when one's life transcends the realm of immaturity, in search of one defined by a more "adult" lifestyle. Known to us all is the most hackneyed phrase "the best year of your life." Also known is that this is not merely hearsay, since the evidence has proven consistently supportive, year in and year out people return from their year in Israel, more aware of themselves both spiritually and intellectually.

This "hype" therefore catalyzes a process in which all energies prior to the crucial year in Israel are directed toward achieving fulfillment of the goals entwined in the Israel experience. Or, on the flip side, certain people delay aspects of self actualization, doing so only in the knowledge that there is a specific year designated for intense "soul searching." The process reaches its pinnacle subsequent to departure. It is therefore with glorious expectations that many of us have taken this journey across the world.

Some people here are already reaching their goals by basking in the light of revelation that is omnipresent in the fabric of Eretz Yisrael. However, many others have not been fortunate enough to be struck by the same bolt of lightning. It is only upon

arrival here that people become cognizant of certain elements within the "Israel Experience" which are not frequently discussed.

Those of us who have been away from home for significant periods of time are already sensitive to the issue of homesickness. However, in Israel for a year, the word acquires a much more serious implication. It is defined by a sense of emptiness that pervades you in the knowledge that important familial ties have been severed and will never be exactly resutured. Elements of relationships with family are sacrificed in order to establish a more intimate relationship with yourself. Granted, this is the first step towards adulthood if one acts responsibly and utilizes this new found independence. This is for some, however, a very trying adjustment period. This initially hinders the ability to focus on ultimate aspirations.

Another adaption correlated with missing home is that of becoming accustomed to a way of life in a new country. Needless to say, one must distinguish between another country, and our country, Eretz Yisrael. Hence, there is a lot of guilt associated with the desire to embark upon a journey back to America, where all is comfortable. On a more practical level, people are grappling with the fact that their *aliyah* dreams are slightly illusionary. No one goes so far

continued on page 10

# ELECTROLYSIS

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## Political Talk

by Chava Boylan

Which actions, or inactions, of Mayor David Dinkins concerning the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum and last year's riots in Crown Heights have been the most insulting? Well, it's a tough call.

After the October 29 announcement of the verdict exonerating accused murderer Lemrick Nelson Jr. of all charges, despite police testimony of Rosenbaum having identified Lemrick as his attacker, Mayor Dinkins called for calm and then asked that the Jewish community put last year's rioting in Crown Heights "behind them." Despite the surprising verdict, he stated, "I have no reason to doubt that the criminal justice system has operated fairly and openly." He then offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the murderer of Yankel Rosenbaum.

"We cannot rest until the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum is solved," he said. It appears, however, that Mayor Dinkins has been resting comfortably until now. How good of him to

offer a reward only 14 months late.

Dinkins' response to the Crown Heights case is even more insulting when put in context of his recent reactions to other events.

This past summer, rioting broke out in Washington Heights after it was rumored that a police officer unjustly shot and killed an alleged drug dealer. It was later determined that the officer acted in self defense. Yet without speaking to the police officer, Dinkins attended the funeral of the drug dealer and had the city pay for the funeral.

Dinkins then called for the establishment of an all-civilian review board of police activities. This decision incited the police to demonstrate. Civilians are unfamiliar with proper police procedure, they claimed, and should therefore not alone judge police officers' actions.

10,000 off-duty police officers attended this rally. A few of them, a small minority of the demonstrators, were rowdy and drunk and yelled racial epithets. Mayor Dinkins made this group the focus of his reaction to the

rally, and addressed the main complaint of the police officers as a secondary issue. He had video tapes of the demonstration reviewed to identify the drunk officers had yelled the racial slurs.

Dinkins proved by this reaction that if something is important enough to him, he has the ability to have it investigated thoroughly. Obviously, the riots in Crown Heights were not quite that important.

In stark contrast to his calm and unemotional reaction to the verdict in the Yankel Rosenbaum murder trial, was Dinkins' reaction to the Rodney King verdict. When that verdict was handed down, somehow Dinkins did not find virtue in the judicial system.

The case against the Los Angeles police officers charged with beating Rodney King was accompanied by a videotape which was hard to ignore. In this case, too, there was highly incriminating police testimony that the dying Rosenbaum pointed towards Nelson and identified him as his attacker. Nelson was found wearing blood-stained clothing, with a knife smattered with blood the type of Rosenbaum's. The jury, however, completely disavowed the testimony of the police because of "too many inconsistencies."

I was not in the courtroom so I cannot say that Lemrick Nelson Jr. was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; what is clear is that Mayor Dinkins along with several minority leaders have succeeded in creating an atmosphere in New York City in which its citizens no longer trust police officers, the very people whose job it is to protect them.

Questions also arise as to police behavior on the night of the riot and murder in Crown Heights. Why was such restraint shown by the police the night of the rioting? There are conflicting reports from police officials who say they were instructed to do so and from Mayor Dinkins who says that no such instructions were given. In addition, why was no one else in the gang of people that surrounded Yankel Rosenbaum the night he was killed arrested? Although Nelson was arrested immediately, there was a gang of an estimated 20 people that attacked Yankel Rosenbaum that night. Nelson was clearly not the only one involved in the stabbing. In other similar cases such as the murder of Yusuf Hawkins, several people were arrested and tried for murder. Why has it taken 14 months for a significant investigation to get under way?

But perhaps most disturbing was the reaction (or lack thereof) last summer from the mainstream Jewish organizations. Although extremist groups held protests immedi-

B. Chezna Green

Does ANWR mean anything to you? ANWR stands for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is currently locked up from oil development. ANWR is a hot issue in Congress and will soon be a household phrase. ANWR is thousands of acres in scope. The area currently up for development is a minor section of its million acreage. I believe the oil industry has been unfairly stigmatized by radical environmentalists who believe they can live in an oil free world. ANWR is an important issue to be informed about, read on and then make an intelligent decision, not just an emotional one.

Currently the United States' biggest import is oil. This dependence adds to our massive trade imbalance. Why are we throwing our money out of the country when those dollars can be invested at home? Before the crippling 1973 oil embargo by Middle Eastern nations we were 50% dependent on foreign oil, today we are over 70% dependent. No lessons were learned. How can we let ourselves be so vulnerable to outside interests, so vulnerable that we justified a war to continue the flow of this black gold.

It is easy to be a big Hollywood star, pulling in seven figures, to come out against oil exploration. The real people of this country need real jobs though. ANWR has the potential to create approximately 100,000 jobs. We are completely dependent on oil and its products. Plastic is a petroleum product, imagine a day without plastic, a little drastic. Oil is vital to progress, the United States' without oil is a machine without moving parts. It is economic suicide not to re-evaluate the necessity of opening ANWR for the benefit of this country. Let us stimulate economic opportunities where we can. Oil companies will have to

atally following the riots, reaction was slow from other organizations.

"Just the same as the 6 million, my brother was killed for the crime of being Jewish," said Norman Rosenbaum, the brother of Yankel Rosenbaum, in a demonstration on the steps of Brooklyn Supreme Court immediately following the announcement of the verdict. An editorial in The New York Post describes the Crown Heights riots as "the first pogrom anywhere in the Western world since that which took place in Kielce, Poland, in 1946." Where, then, was everybody between August 19, 1991 and early October of the same year when a rally was finally held in Union Square Park?

At a rally this past November 1, attended by over 4000 people, the Anti-Defamation League announced a \$100,000 award for information leading to a conviction in the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum. The American Jewish Committee offered \$5,000. This rally was a necessary and quick response to the

## Green's Pasture

pay the government millions in the leasing of the land.

ANWR is located in the north ern region of Alaska. Alaska's land mass is 59.5% controlled by the Feds, 49.5% is owned by the state, and 1% is privately owned. The proposed development is so small compared to how much land is preserved. Alaska is a fifth the size of the United States, and has more coastline than the coastline of the rest of the U.S. put together. There is room for everything. There are existing wells in the Arctic Slope producing millions of barrels, but it is finite. They do their best to protect the environment where they drill.

Over 600 separate permits must be approved before any well is drilled for oil on the slope. They work closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in studying their impact before entering any fauna inhabited areas. The Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline is a model of environmental planning. It covers thousands of miles transporting oil from wells to ships. Every mile was studied for animal migration patterns and was built to accommodate them. The pipeline goes underground where it would have disturbed their patterns and above the ice-capped mountains. It is an engineering miracle with a total concern for the land it traverses.

The most important resource is people. I strongly believe in recycling and conservation; this, however, does not negate the fact that utilization of our resources is necessary. It would be great if oil fell from the sky in shiny red barrels. Unfortunately it does not.

acquittal. Yet why did it take mainstream Jewish organizations 14 months to offer these monetary rewards?

The night that the verdict was announced, I listened to Jay Diamond, a talk show host on radio station WABC. Large numbers of New Yorkers, not only Jews, were outraged by the decision. Callers echoed opinions expressed in this column and mostly vented their rage toward Mayor Dinkins.

Norman Rosenbaum was interviewed by Diamond after 1:00 AM. The host told Rosenbaum that one of the most beautiful things he saw throughout this trial and the past months was the love Norman displayed for his murdered brother Yankel. Rosenbaum responded by saying that one thing he knows for sure is that "were the situation reversed, Yankel would be here."

Through his actions and vigilance, Norman Rosenbaum has exemplified the meaning of "my brother's keeper."

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## A Word From Israel

continued from page 8

as to immediately relinquish her dreams to an initial view of financial and emotional impediments; however, we realize there is more involved in the *alivah* process than that which we conceived. Others see these obstacles as incentive to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *vishuv ha'aretz*, with added *chut* of overcoming the newly apparent hardships.

One of the main desires in coming to Eretz Yisrael for the year is to gain a better grasp of the unique aspects of the individual psyche, and apply this knowledge practically by viewing and choosing ways of life based on learning Torah. Previously for many, Torah has been just another subject; unconnected with day to day activity. Some expected that here Torah would automatically be seen in a new light and truth would stare us in the face. However, realization quickly dawns

that the ultimate truth is not simple to attain.

The equation seemed so simple: learning Torah in Israel = happiness. Granted that vision is visible over the horizon, but the grasp of it takes tremendous effort. The tools are present and the workers are ready to commence yet it takes time to lay the foundation. With each passing day, new but subtle dimensions are added to our *neshamot*. This makes the finished product more difficult to visualize. Many people are content and if "silence is acquiescence," that description defines the multitudes. Yet there are many who remain unsure and with much still desired. Nevertheless, common to almost all is an optimism and belief that this year will indeed develop into one (when defined by growth personally and in *da'at haTorah*) unparalleled by any other year of our lives.

## Debugging the Cafeteria

continued from page 1

proached me with complaints." Asserted Rachel Annenberg, SCW junior. "It's not the first time I've found bugs. I don't eat from the *safad bar* anymore.

Leiberman replied that "there has been a great improvement in the process of soaking the lettuce," and that he has not "received any reports whatsoever." He wondered why students were not coming forward if they had complaints.

Annenberg pointed out that complaining "doesn't seem to help, and it takes too much time." "When I found a bug in my macaroni they offered me a free lunch," said Levine.

Rabbi Reiss agreed that a "free lunch" was no solution. He said, "That reaction, if it was the reaction, was not the proper reaction or procedure since it did

not attack the problem."

Rabbi Reiss added that he would not at all mind having an informal evening at Stern to address the questions of concerned students. The number at which Rabbi Reiss and Food Services can be reached for questions is (212)960-5248.

He also mentioned that the candy in the vending machines comes from a list he approves each semester. Food served on Shabbat is shipped "almost entirely from Uptown," and waiters receive clear instructions on warming the food in the International Cafe from Rabbi Hoffman.

Reiss concluded, "Now that it has been brought to my attention, I will try to see to it as much as possible myself to prevent future problems."

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## Dorm Update

continued from page 1

because, Rosengarten stated "there's more than a buyer and a seller involved - there's at least one bank involved." This has created a complex legal situation, made even more difficult by the building owner's failing business situation.

The second possible building, which first came to the administration's attention last year, is a dormitory building, located at the NYU Medical Center, which NYU expressed an interest in selling. The location is nearly ideal, because it is on 34th Street, and is about one and a half times the size of Brookdale Hall. Negotiations to buy the dorm began between NYU and YU last spring, but in early September, NYU decided, perhaps because of the difficult economic times, that "they didn't want to sell - only lease," said Rosengarten.

But, "unless the lease is a long-term one, leasing is risky,"

said Rosengarten. Buying the NYU dormitory would require the University to sell Brookdale Hall because "the University can't afford to manage both facilities." According to Dean Karen Bacon, however, the University would not sell Brookdale Hall; "it is too aware of the value of real estate to let go of a site and a building," she maintained. In Rosengarten's scenario, however, if the lease on the NYU building were to lapse and was not renewed, YU would be left with nothing. However, the administration, still hopeful, has scheduled a meeting between the two universities to see if something can be agreed upon.

In the meantime, Rosengarten said that he is still open to other suggestions, and is in fact contacted almost daily with information regarding alternate possibilities. Mr. David Yagoda, Chairman of the SCW Board, agreed. "If I see anything feasible I look into it," Yagoda, who is in the real-estate business, has been able to adapt his

knowledge of the field to the challenge of finding a building that meets a few basic requirements.

Aside from fitting specific price guidelines, the building "should reasonably accommodate the number of on-campus students now, with some room for growth and room for other functions," said Rosengarten. Another factor is the building's location. Ideally, the new dormitory would be within comfortable walking distance from the school building.

Although Rosengarten concedes that a new dorm will not be awaiting students in September, he is optimistic. "We have a good team of attorneys, architects and people from the Business Affairs and Development offices. We're keeping an open mind, and being meticulous about details." Yagoda agreed, calling the acquisition of a new dormitory "the prime concern of SCW" and "the main thing I would like to accomplish as Chairman of the Board."

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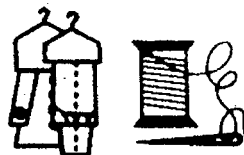
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## SPORTS

## '92-'93 Sports Year Beginning:

### A New Team is On The Ball

by Adina Weiss

After long deliberations and grueling tryouts, Coach David Kufeld and Assistant Coach Mike Cohen announced the 1992-93 Lady Macs. The immense talent displayed at the two tryout sessions made the new team selection extremely difficult, but the team comprises the best players. The hardest part for Kufeld and Cohen was filling in the last few spots.

Team members range from freshmen to seniors all with varying degrees of experience. Some are rookies who are learning the basics this season, while others have played on teams throughout high school. "We have the potential to be a very good team," said Kufeld. "There are some very intelligent players."

Not having seen the opposition, though, it is difficult to make any type of prediction for the coming season. According to Kufeld it may even take half a season before the team gets into the swing of things. Part of the problem is the current gym prob-

lem. The team can only have practice once a week in Queens, as opposed to other schools which have access to a full court a minimum of four times a week. With that kind of competition stacked against them, the Lady Macs might have a tough season ahead of them.

Kufeld, however, is not distressed by this. "The season is not only measured in terms of wins and losses," he said. "It sets unfair expectations on the players." Kufeld is concentrating on improving the players' skills and ensuring every student a chance to play. He admits, though, that it may be difficult, to afford each player this opportunity in a highly pressurized game.

Kufeld is also willing to share his knowledge of basketball with those students who did not make the team. The Athletic Department is currently trying to coordinate an intramural league for interested players. The first team game of the season will be at Marymount State College on Wednesday November 18.

## SCW Alumna Runs Marathon

by Shira Shimoni

Sunday November 1st marked the 22nd Annual New York City Marathon, the marathon was started by Fred Lebow in 1970. The 26 mile run begins at the Verazanno Bridge and continues through the five boroughs concluding in Central Park.

Thousands of participants from all over the world came together to run the marathon. Among them was former Stern College student, Malkie Brilliant. Brilliant with no prior running experience began her training last February. At first she

could not even do a mile without panting but after proper training and plenty of practice she felt confident about running the race. Crossing the finish line in 5 hours and 5 minutes, Brilliant says she felt that she accomplished something "real." It is the best feeling to cross that finish line with all the fans cheering you on, she also commented.

Brilliant was last years only Physical education major and played for the Lady Macs. She is currently working in the Diamond district and resides on the Upper west side.

## Krich Speaks Out

continued from page 1

husband agrees to pay a certain amount of money for each day that he withholds a *get* from his wife. Various Rabbinical associations and courts have different requirements for the construction and wording of such a document, as Jewish law prohibits a coerced *get* under certain circumstances.

The author asserted that prenuptial agreements must become as routine and required as blood tests and marriage licenses. Rabbis should refuse to perform a marriage ceremony without them, as does Rabbi Abner Weiss of L.A., she continued. Krich and her husband

did not sign such an agreement when they were married twenty-two years ago.

In addition to pre-nuptials, community action can be much stronger, suggested Krich. Men can be ostracized from their communities, boycotted and the like. In one instance in Canada, the women of a community collectively refused to go to the *mikveh* until the recalcitrant husband granted the document, related one alumna.

There are New York based organizations, such as GET and *Agumah*, which provide assistance and support to women trapped in such unfortunate situations.

## 1992-1993 Lady Macs

### GUARDS

Rebecca Bienenstock  
Mirit Craven  
Nani Fredman  
Judith Kelsen  
Tamar Kirschenbaum  
Dee Dee Macklin  
Malka Sheftel

### FORWARDS

Elana Citron  
Malka Kayman  
Tomara Lehman  
Blair Rush

### CENTERS

Tanya Cohen  
Leba Spiegelman

### ALTERNATES

Sharyn Berezin  
Kimberly Galbut  
Sharon Kaminetsky  
Stephanie Pliskin  
Dorit Stern

by Adina Weiss

The second and final round of basketball tryouts were marred Monday September 21 when rising young star, and SCW freshman Rebecca Bienenstock sustained the first injury of the season. Bienenstock, who was playing a scrimmage with fellow players, said she "jumped and landed wrong," thereby injuring her foot.

Coach David Kufeld and Assistant Coach Mike Cohen rushed to her aid with ice packs. Tamar Kirschenbaum, a SCW junior, and a certified E.M.T. also came to assist. However, despite the pain and swelling, Bienenstock jumped back in to finish the game - a move which greatly exasperated Kufeld and further complicated her injury.

While fellow players admired her stamina and determination, Bienenstock attributed her brave yet unwise action to simple denial. Though she has played Basketball throughout high school, this was her first injury and it worried her greatly. "I wanted to ignore it," said Bienenstock through clenched teeth as she was dragged off the court a second time. "I don't like the reality of pain."

Coach Kufeld was torn between letting Bienenstock continue playing and forcing her to sit out the rest of tryouts. "From

experience I know she wanted to get back on the court," said Kufeld, who himself had once finished a game with a broken leg. "She really wanted to play but sometimes you have to protect people from hurting themselves."

The remaining aspiring players were left wondering if this injury was a sign of things to come. "I never thought of getting hurt on the court," said SCW Freshman Shuli Cooper. "I never knew it was so serious." But SCW Junior Leba Spiegelman was not jolted. "It's a risk you have to take," she said.

Kirschenbaum was in control of the situation and greatly assisted Security, which acted efficiently and quickly in notifying *Hatzolah*. Bienenstock was taken to the NYU Medical Center where she was diagnosed with a severe sprain and given a full cast. Though she was told not to play for six to eight weeks, she recovered more quickly than expected and was back on the court after just three weeks.

Bienenstock has had little pain since, and is confident that she will not have any problems with her ankle for the rest of the season. With her drive and determination, we are sure to expect great things from this rising young star.

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# Kadima Bnei Akiva

by Aliza Dworcen

Bnei Akiva, the only *dati leumi* (religious Zionist) youth organization in the world, is often considered to be a movement for elementary and high school students. However, it is also an organization in which college students can become very much involved.

The purpose of Bnei Akiva for *bogrim* (college students) is three-fold, as outlined by Jerry Morgenstern, Director of Bnei Akiva of North America. First, it provides a social group for individuals with similar ideas and ideals. Programs like the Simchat Torah Shabbaton which was held this year in Congregation Hadar of Monsey, New York are highly attended by collegiates from the New York and New Jersey areas. In addition, a Chanukah *Chagigah* is planned each year.

A second purpose Bnei Akiva serves is allowing people to keep the "kesher" with Israel alive until they make *aliyah*. It is easier to keep strong the desire to move to Israel when surrounded by a network of *aliyah*-oriented people.

And, in practical ways, Bnei Akiva provides these future olim with resources to research issues such as job options in Israel and legalities, such as *zechuyot* (privileges available to olim), which affect their *aliyah*.

In fact, this December 27, Bnei Akiva will run a pilot trip to Israel for individuals who are planning to

make *aliyah* within the year. Those on the trip will visit *yishuvim*, *Kibbutzim* and various other settlements, as well as assess the job market in Israel. The trip is being subsidized by Bnei Akiva and will cost participants \$800.

Another opportunity offered by Bnei Akiva for collegiates is education about Israel, the third aim of the movement's programs. The group's motto is "Torah, *Avodah* and *Aliyah*," explains SCW senior Yael Thurm, educational director of Bnei Akiva in America. Through education, these three ideas are stressed.

This feat is accomplished through *shiurim*. Called a "leil *limud*," the event features guest speakers at the *Lishka* -- the Bnei Ak

office located at 25 W. 26th St. -- and takes place on Thursday nights at 8:00. On September 30, the first *leil limud* was held on the topic of *lulavim* and *etrogim*. This lecture launched the Bnei Akiva "Mifal Etrogim" fundraiser, selling *lulavim* and *etrogim*. The topic of the second lecture on October 2

is "mitzvos *hateluyot* b'aretz," (laws pertaining to the land of Israel). Furthermore, speakers about Israeli politics, religion in Israel and current events issues are sought out by Bnei Akiva.

The goal of such programming is that college students will not only

get involved for their own benefit, but will teach others as well. As *madrichim*, collegiates spread the aims of Bnei Akiva to high school and elementary school students. *Madrichim* coordinate *snifim* -- chapters -- which have activities on *Shabbat* and Sundays in ten different communities in the New York area.

*Yimay Iyun* are also run by collegiates, through which Bnei Akiva programs about Israel are brought to schools. Atara Gorsetman, SCW senior, is the school coordinator who heads multi-media programs in Ramaz elementary school. Half-hour programs are conducted every Friday for grades three to six to increase awareness of Israel. (Ramaz makes a donation to the organization in return for the weekly events Bnei Akiva runs at the school.)

One opening program consisted of a simulated flight to the Holy Land to launch the group's "journey" through Israel. Although Ramaz is the only school which currently takes advantage of this weekly program, (as op-

posed to special programming for Yom Ha'atzmaut etc. of which other schools do avail themselves), Bnei Akiva hopes that other schools will be interested in establishing the weekly event.

Many young people who have experienced such programs and attended Camp Moshava comprise the population of collegiates involved in Bnei Akiva today. However, SCW senior Shanna Blaustein is quick to add that many of the college students now active in the movement discovered Bnei Akiva for the first time in college.

Collegiates generally hear about the organization's programming through fliers hung up around area colleges by Bnei Akiva campus representatives. (Pamela Brill is Bnei Akiva's representative here at SCW.)

Also, all Bnei Akiva members receive *Zeraim*, a magazine which is printed every two months; *Zeraim* contains the schedule of Bnei Akiva events.

Clearly, Bnei Akiva is unlike most other organizations. It is a "youth movement run by the

youth," says Sandra Marx, *mazkirat hagali*. The average age of the administrative staff is twenty to thirty years old. This phenomenon may be attributed to the fact that members of Bnei Akiva tend to make *aliyah*, and therefore the Bnei Akiva leadership is constantly changing as people fulfill their dreams of moving to Israel.

The success rate of Bnei Akiva is fairly high. A dinner is held each year to honor those members who make *aliyah* and these past two years approximately 30-40 members have been honored. Within the past two years in particular, there has been an increase in *aliyah* among the *bogrim*. It is especially heartening that so many members are making *aliyah* because moving to Israel is the organization's ultimate goal.



## Reaching Out Through Kiruv

by Jennie Shapiro

A strong and energetic core of orthodox students from Yeshiva University and other institutions are actively involved in many various Jewish outreach organizations. But one program is unlike most others. "This is not High School outreach," cautions director Barry Bender. "Real life comes and smacks you in the face."

"Kiruv-Lewish Identity Through Understanding" was launched in 1986. Bender, Kiruv's first full time director, took charge three years ago. Under his guidance, advisors, who meet with college students on campuses around the country, do not concentrate on spreading Orthodoxy. Rather, their goal is to lower the current alarming rate of intermarriage by fostering Jewish awareness in people who are indifferent towards or even resentful of their Jewish backgrounds. Advisors also hope to leave students with a more positive image of Orthodox Judaism.

Each year, thirty to forty students are accepted as advisors. "I have to be picky," says Bender, "because advisors have to be sensitive to the people who are there. You can't come on too strong because they won't want to hear the message again."

Kiruv programs include sessions on interdating, intermar-

riage, sexual ethics, business ethics, feminism, and other topics. Bender trains his advisors to be intellectually honest. "We recognize and admit the problems of Orthodoxy, and we are very respectful when discussing the problems of the Conservative and Reform branches of Judaism."

Because Kiruv is non-coercive in principle, they have successfully made inroads with both students and Hillel directors, who are often wary of Orthodoxy themselves. One particularly antagonistic director discouraged students from attending a Kiruv session on interdating. A curious few showed up anyway, including one student who broke down crying in the middle of the discussion. The Hillel leader was so impressed by the advisors' sensitivities that she apologized for her original hostility.

Students themselves often try to resist Kiruv's efforts. At a program on interdating and intermarriage at North Carolina State University, one student collected the names of others at the session, intending to arrange a support group that offered peer encouragement for those involved in problematic relationships. Later though, the student reconsidered, unable to refute any of the Kiruv session leader's persuasive arguments. Bender also learned that as a result of that session, three couples origi-

nally headed for intermarriage ended their relationships.

Emotional reactions to sessions are not unusual. In Duke University, one couple approached Bender at the end of a program. After accusing him of being unfair and presenting only one side of the issue, they admitted that they knew he was right and were simply feeling frustrated. "We've been married for nine years but we haven't had any children because we don't know how to raise them."

Kiruv's purpose is to prevent such tragedies by heightening people's sensitivities to the issues. In addition to Shabbat programs, Kiruv sponsors a newsletter which is sent to 250 universities. In it, students read about ecology, separation of church and state on college campuses, and other contemporary issues. "Again," emphasizes Bender, "the views are not loudly presented as Orthodox, and students are often surprised to discover that the newsletter happens to be under traditional auspices."

This year, Kiruv will have reached over twenty-five different campuses. Students who are interested in learning more about Kiruv's approach to outreach can attend classes, sponsored by The Carl and Sylvia Freyer Professional Outreach Program, which will be offered later this year at Yeshiva University.

## Torah Hits The Road

by Naomi Rabinowitz

This past *Simchat Torah*, twenty Torah Tours were sent out to different communities across the United States. A total of one hundred and forty four University students, mostly from Yeshiva University, participated as advisors.

Torah Tours were initiated twelve years ago by Rabbi Aryeh Weil, spiritual leader of Bnei-Yeshurun in Teaneck, New Jersey. Today, Torah Tours are run by Rabbi Aaron Tirschwell, coordinator of the Department of Youth Services of the Max Stern division of community services.

Many Jewish communities throughout North America are lacking in religious aspects of Judaism. Torah Tours were created to help these Jewish communities increase their awareness and love for Torah.

Torah Tours play an active role in aiding local Rabbis in orthodox communities. They particularly strengthen Jewish knowledge in areas such as Shabbat and the *Yamim Tovim*. While bringing Jewish life to the

people, Torah Tours also allow students to become familiar with, and learn about other Jewish communities.

Students who were involved in the program were very enthusiastic and had positive things to say.

Jennie Shapiro, SCW sophomore, went to Providence, R.I. as an advisor. She gave a brief description of the program: "We ran children's groups and taught about the holidays. Some members gave *shiurim*. There was a lot of dancing and singing. We really showed them a good time."

Jordana Engel, SCW Junior who was an advisor in Matawan, N.J. commented, "What a better way to spend *Simchat Torah* than actually spreading Torah."

Upcoming Torah Tours will be held on Thanksgiving Weekend, Purim (which will include the preceding *Shabbat*), and *Shavuos*.

The Jewish communities visited this past *Simchat Torah* are anxiously awaiting for Torah Tours' return.

# The Canadian Referendum: One Country, Many Views

by Pearl Kaplan

On October 26th 1992, fifty four percent of Canadians rejected the proposal of a new constitutional accord in a national referendum. Canadians were faced with the question "Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28th, 1992?" Six out of the ten provinces responded with a resounding "NO".

## The Agreement

The accord, known as the Charlottetown agreement for the capital of Prince Edward Island where it was framed, was a complex package of constitutional reform drawn up by the Canadian Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, and the Provincial Premiers. Among its primary concerns was the appeasement of autonomous feelings in Quebec.

The Charlottetown agreement created a shift in Federal

and Provincial Power. Areas such as Forestry, mining, municipal and urban affairs, tourism, and housing, previously under Federal jurisdiction, would be handed over to Provincial governments. An even greater move would have been the shift in Power for Supreme Court appointments. In addition to Quebec's allotted three seats (out of nine) in the Supreme court, the federal court appointments would have had to be limited to candidates recommended by each of the provinces.

The constitutional amendment would have also created a popularly elected senate, with six representatives from each Province. Only Quebec would have had appointed senators, with a majority of its francophone (definition remains uncertain) representatives allowed to block any bills dealing with French language and culture.

Also established in the Charlottetown agreement was

the right of Aboriginal self-government. In addition, the accord afforded the Western Provinces greater power in Ottawa.

The most outstanding feature of the accord was the "Canada Clause". The Canada Clause identified Canada as a country committed to democracy, respect for minority groups, sexual equality and human rights. However, the significance of the Clause lay in its claim that "Quebec is a Distinct Society." That statement, open to vast interpretation, distinguishes Quebec as a society that has special collective rights and privileges.

## Political Implication

The Political implications of the accord were many. The agreement created strange political bedfellows. Clearly, the Prime Minister and the Premiers, the authors of the accord, supported it. The government leaders felt that the accord would put an end to the country's ever present constitutional squabbles

and would enable it to address its economic and social concerns.

The No supporters were divided into two basic camps: federalist and separatist. Jacques Parizeau, the leader of the Parti Quebecois, the separatist opposition party in Quebec, and former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, a strong federalist, were both strongly opposed to the accord, both for completely different reasons. This alignment is representative of the irony of the political situation.

Parizeau, along with many Quebec separatists, believes that the accord did not offer enough concessions to Quebec. The Parti Quebecois leader felt that a NO vote would accelerate Quebec's efforts toward sovereignty.

Trudeau asserts that Quebec, with Premier Robert Bourassa at its head, is using the threat and fear of separation to "blackmail" the country into accepting an accord of increased autonomy for Quebec. The former Prime Minister is of the opinion

that the agreement gave too much to Quebec. He believes in a strong Federal Government, which was threatened by the increase in Provincial power allotted in the accord. Furthermore, Trudeau maintained that the accord, with its emphasis on Quebec as a Distinct Society, would undermine individual freedoms. That is, that the right of the individual would be forsaken for the collective interest.

## The Vote

Like their political leaders, the Canadian people decided between two paths for many different reasons. While there were supporters of the accord who had faith in its constitutional content and quality, for the most part the Yes vote was a vote of caution. Canadians feared that a No vote would only lead to more internal friction and debate and would further instigate separatist tendencies in Quebec, leading to the break-up

continued on page 14

# Can This Be Happening Now? Bigotry In America And Germany

by: Ilana Breslau

Frequently appearing newspaper stories reporting bias attacks demonstrate a dramatic increase in hate-motivated violence.

In recent weeks, coinciding with *Yom Kippur* and *Succot*, seven apparently unrelated anti-semitic attacks were perpetrated against Jews. The episodes included an attempted kidnapping, the painting of swastikas, and the use of anti-semitic slurs -- in one case accompanied by a tire iron flung through a Jewish woman's window, and in another a lighted cigarette was thrown at a Jewish woman and her brother.

Evidently, Jews remain a target of hateful feelings.

Current neo-Nazi groups in America include the American Nazi Party (created in 1959 by George Lincoln Rockwell), the Ku Klux Klan, the Christian Identity Movement, which is an Aryan-inspired religious denomination maintaining that Jews are descended from Satan, and skinheads.

The ideologies of the groups include hostility to blacks, homosexuals, and foreigners. But, the centrality of Jew-hating to these groups' doctrines has earned them the "neo-Nazi" label.

The Jew is considered the ultimate target because the groups believe that to avoid being recog-

nized as a race, Jews have implemented a variety of political strategies designed to minimize differences between the races.

Watchdog organizations estimated that there were between 10,000 and 20,000 members of various neo-Nazi groups in 1990 - with an approximated 10 passive supporters for every hardcore member. Investigators gauge a possible total of up to 200,000 members of such groups.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) tracks the number of acts of anti-semitic harassment, threats and assaults occurring in communities across America. In 1991, the 1,879 anti-semitic incidents reported surpassed by 11% the 1,685 such incidents reported the year before.

Additionally, the ADL monitors the activities of neo-Nazi skinheads.

The skinhead movement originated in England during the cultural revolution of the 1960's. The youth movement was largely composed of working-class teens whose style included military boots, shaved heads and tattoos. The skinheads' appearance was meant to mirror a tough, angry attitude which included the glorification of violence.

The group's beliefs include

hostility and hatred for non-whites, Jews, foreigners and homosexuals.

A distinction is made between skinheads and racist skinheads, the latter of whom identify with neo-Nazi organizations. The ADL estimates that only 10% of skinheads are neo-Nazis. Yet, the distinction seems to be a relatively insignificant one, since both groups harass minorities and share many neo-Nazi beliefs.

The skinhead movement's ideas are diffused through magazines and music. The No-Remorse skinhead band, for example, performed at an "Aryan-Fest" in Oklahoma. Included in the program was the group's hit song "Six Million Lies."

A 1990 ADL status report approximated the number of racist skinheads to be 3,000 - active in 34 states across the nation during that year.

According to the ADL's survey, members of skinhead gangs are young, angry and confused. Poverty and joblessness are not thought to be the causes of the escalating skinhead movement. Rather, many members come from broken homes, have a low level of self-esteem, and lack a sense of individual identity. Nazi and skinhead propaganda is appealing to such youths because it offers them a tough, macho image with promises of power

and security.

Germany has also witnessed a rise in neo-Nazi activity. The immediate cause of violence in Germany is attributed to the ever-growing number of foreigners seeking political asylum there. Germany's liberal asylum laws entitle these refugees to live at the government's expense until their cases are decided. Meanwhile, in some areas of the country, an estimated 40% of German citizens are unemployed. Jobless individuals are suffering the effects of the nation's new economic burdens, a result of German unification.

Also, the unification process was compressed into too short a time, leaving many youth feeling overwhelmed and disoriented. Before the unification, their basic

needs were met. Now, many lack jobs and housing. These people are looking for the nearest scapegoat.

In addition to fierce assaults on foreigners, there have also been attacks on Jewish monuments in Germany, including the destruction of a new Jewish memorial and museum at the site of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In America, watchdog groups which monitor neo-Nazi activity maintain that the best course of action in controlling hate movements is stiffer penalties for bias attacks and strong law enforcement for crimes. If enacted, these efforts will declare to all extremists that society has no tolerance for racism or bigotry of any kind.

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# Computerized GREs: The Wave of the Future

by Rena Maslansky

Computerized GREs may very well be the "wave of the future," and according to Mr. Tom Ewing of the Educational Testing Service (E.T.S.), "The future is now." As of October twelfth of this year, computerized Graduate Record Exams have been administered at Sylvan Learning Centers in major cities across the nation. Since that time, approximately thirty GREs have been administered at the center in Teaneck, New Jersey alone.

Sylvan Learning Centers offer remedial and enrichment programs as well as S.A.T preparation courses for students of all ages. A new aspect of Sylvan, however, is computer technology. A special branch of Sylvan works with E.T.S. and administers the GRE via computer.

As innovative as they sound, computerized GREs were not invented yesterday. Since 1984,

E.T.S. has been working on the computerized version of the GRE (as well as other standardized tests) in conjunction with the college board.

The format of the standardized test remains the same. The only difference is that the questions are viewed on a monitor and not on a piece of paper. This one difference, however, has many ramifications.

A tutorial for the computerized version of the GRE is given at the start of every exam. Answers are selected with the click of a mouse, instead of the old fill-in-the-space method. If a student chooses to skip a question, he may "flag" the unanswered question and return to it at the end of the section. The computer keeps track of the time and of unanswered questions, informing the student, at the end of each section, of the number of questions he has omitted. The student has the option of returning to answered ques-

tions as well as unanswered ones. Once a section has been completed though, the student may not return to any questions.

At each Sylvan Learning Center only five computers are used simultaneously. It would seem impossible for five computers to accommodate the many undergraduate students registered to take the Graduate Record Exam. This paradox reveals one of the many advantages of the computerized GREs. The written GRE is offered only five times every year. The computerized GRE may be scheduled by appointment at the student's convenience. The written GRE is administered in a crowded, often extremely tense environment. In contrast, the computerized GRE, given in a room of only five students, provides a more relaxed atmosphere.

Perhaps the most beneficial advantage of computerized GREs is immediate score reporting. Upon completion of the exam, a student instantaneously receives his score, enabling him to immediately decide the graduate schools to which he would like to send it.

Like other exciting new products on the market, computerized GREs also have their disadvantages. For one, the cost of

taking the GRE on computer is twice as expensive as taking it on paper. Both Kaplan and Princeton review courses feel, though, that the benefits of taking the computerized version of the GRE are heavily outweighed by its drawbacks. They would not recommend the method to students on the undergraduate level. Mr. Richard Lowenthal of Kaplan review courses asserts that most students find it easier to read, skim, and maneuver around sections of the exam on paper. Lowenthal has found that the reactions of students to computerized GREs "range from mild to strong revulsion."

Mr. John Katzman of Princeton review courses believes that unless a student absolutely must have his score immediately, the disadvantages of the system outweigh the advantages "by a mile". At the present time, as Katzman explains, the tests are given on old computers with small monitors, forcing students to continually "flip" back screens in sections such as reading comprehension. E.T.S. does allow two extra minutes on the exam due to the slow-running computers, but according to Katzman, one has no way of knowing if this is an appropriate amount of leeway. Furthermore,

says Katzman, during the exam students are only permitted to have one piece of scratch paper at a time. It can become a nuisance as well as an expenditure of time when student, often needing extra paper, must constantly search for the proctor.

An improved version of the computerized GRE, called "computer adaptive" (due out next fall) will solve some of the aforementioned problems. A student taking the computer adaptive GRE will answer questions based on his ability to respond correctly. This will be implemented in the following way: If a student answers a question incorrectly, the subsequent question will be tailored to the student's required level of difficulty. When the student responds correctly, the ensuing question will either remain on the existing level of difficulty or advance to a higher one. This will make the exam more concise, and will allow it to proceed more rapidly than the present one.

For the time being, students still have the option of taking the test on paper.

Information about scheduling an exam near your place of residence will be posted around the school in the near future.

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## Canadian Referendum: One Country, Many Views

continued from page 13

of the country. Furthermore, concern for the Canadian economy was a significant factor. Supporters believed that a No vote would result in economic downfall. In Quebec, a Yes vote also indicated the acceptance of an increase Quebec's autonomy within a federal framework.

Rejection of the accord can also be attributed to many varied factors. For some Canadians dissatisfied with the Federal government, especially with its leader, a No vote was a vote against Mulroney. Others rejected the accord because they felt it was constitutional unsound, and that it undermined basic democratic principles. Many Canadians were simply opposed to an increase in Quebec autonomy or to any of the other constitutional changes

### Jewish Community Response

The Canadian Jewish community officially supported and promoted the Charlottetown

agreement. Several Jewish leaders were actively involved in the development of the accord. The Jewish community did not wish to part from the agenda set forth by the federal and Provincial Government. Furthermore, Quebec Jews feared the approach of Quebec Sovereignty, which would counter the community's economic and social interests. In fact, the Quebec Riding with the largest concentration of Jews had the highest percentage of the Yes vote in the Province. There was a very small minority of Jews who spoke out against the accord on constitutional grounds.

### Canadians at SCW

The voter response of Canadian Stern Students reflected the Canadian Jewish vote. According to a poll conducted among Stern students, six voted Yes and one voted No. Moreover, many of the students approached, expressed surprise at

the question, the assumption being that it was obvious that their vote was Yes. Adeena Davis, a SCW junior from Montreal who supported the accord, commented on the agreement, "It's the best solution we have. It can never be perfect for everyone; we have to compromise."

### Canada After The Vote

Since Referendum day of October 26, little has changed on the Canadian scene. In the immediate aftermath all is quiet. The Unity of Canada remains intact. The economy, albeit a poor one, is relatively stable. What will be in the future is as yet unknown. Even with a swell in separatist feelings in Quebec, the Parti Quebecois would have to be elected to power, and only then could Parizeau call a referendum on Sovereignty. In the meantime, Canada remains a unified country with many confrontations ahead.

# New Phases For YUSSR

by Dassi Billet

When the board of YUSSR began searching for a new director last spring, it formulated a specific picture of the type of leader it felt would best suit the program. "We were looking for someone who had been involved previously [in YUSSR], who would understand the situation in Russia and would know what to do about it. He or she would have the ability to confidently lead others, and would preferably be a college graduate with time to devote to programming and fundraising. Most important, we wanted our new director to want the job," said Elana Goldscheider, who presently serves as a YUSSR board member.

Eli Schick, a *smichah* student who is doing graduate work at BRGS, fit the bill. After spending the summer of 1991 working in a YUSSR summer program, Schick returned to America with a head full of new ideas and a desire to get more involved in the planning procedure. Last spring, when the former director of YUSSR, Jeffrey Hollman, was occupied with problems in the winter/school year program, a group of volunteers, headed by Jonathan Muskat, YC senior, mobilized to coordinate the summer program. Schick jumped in then and got his first taste of the administrative aspects of the program, chiefly in the financial department.

At about the same time, Hollman approached Schick with the news that he was leav-

ing the program, informing him that he wanted Schick as his successor. Schick said he was very excited about the prospect of becoming director. "I looked forward to being in a position in which I could set policy and implement new ideas," he said. He feels that his intense belief in the program, as well as his deep emotional connection with the Russian Jews he encountered over his past two summers in YUSSR camps will be tremendous assets to him in his new position, and that his personal perspective helps him formulate innovative ideas important for the future growth of the Russian Jewish community.

The recent holiday season was Schick's opportunity to implement his first idea. Nine experienced YUSSR volunteers divided themselves among five different cities in Russia, where they celebrated Yom Kippur and Succot in the Jewish communities of those cities. Yakov Kermeier, a *smichah* student who is doing graduate work at BRGS, spent Yom Kippur in Novosibirsk, a city in Siberia. Since the shul is a two hour walk from the Jewish area in which Kermeier spent Yom Tov, he and two other YUSSR volunteers decided to conduct services closer to home. On Yom Kippur eve, they led the community in the *kol nidrei* prayers and discussed the significance of the prayer with the congregants. On Yom Kippur day, the community braved the snowy weather and came to hear the reading of the

book of *Yonah*, the Prophets portion of the *Yom Kippur minchah* service. Using Hebrew-Russian copies of *Yonah*, Kermeier and his colleagues taught the entire book to the crowd. Then, Kermeier delivered a lecture about the importance of repentance on Yom Kippur and the five Torah prohibitions that are unique to the day. After the holiday was over, Kermeier's two colleagues moved on to a different Russian city. Kermeier stayed on for Succot, and continued conducting programs in the community.

For the other eight YUSSR volunteers and between thirty and forty Russian Jewish teenagers, the highlight of the holidays was clearly Simchat Torah. Many of the youths, who came together in St. Petersburg from four cities in different areas of Russia, were celebrating Simchat Torah for the first time. They all participated in the first ever "leadership seminar" for the future leaders of the developing Jewish communities in Russia.

Schick explained that the Jewish communities in Russia are not yet strong enough or stable enough to encourage religious growth in their young men and young women. Especially after being motivated to explore their Jewishness in intense YUSSR summer camps, Schick said the teenagers need a "community of believers" to give them support and encouragement in their search for their Jewish roots. This kind of support

system does not exist in the communities in Russia, where young and old are just beginning to discover the wealth and the breadth of their Jewish heritage.

The program was a success. Chaya Batya Glazer, an SCW senior, was one of the leaders of the group from Minsk. She picked ten of the most promising boys and girls to attend the seminar. She says the Jewish youths were very excited about the seminar. "They know they need it," says Glazer. "The adjustment after the Americans left in August was difficult for them. They are aware of their community's need to become more self-sufficient Jewishly. They know that we on YUSSR will help them, but they also know that they can not be too dependent on us for all their religious guidance, simply because we are not always here."

Glazer says she conducted special leadership training sessions with her group. She helped the teenagers outline the problems that they, as leaders of a Jewish community in Russia, will inevitably face. A particularly severe current problem for Russian Jews are a group of Swedish Dutch Christian missionaries who are helping Jews reach Israel and preaching Christian doctrines to the unsuspecting Jews in the process. Glazer told her group about this problem, and she had them discuss possible ways to confront and deal with the problem. She told them to conduct their discussion exclusively in Russian, and

let her know what was happening only every so often. "These are the problems they will have to deal with. As Jewish leaders, they have to come up with solutions on their own," she says.

Atara Dickstein, also an SCW Senior, described the holiday atmosphere at the Simchat Torah celebration held in the tiny Lubavitch synagogue in St. Petersburg. "The kids who came together know almost nothing about Yom Tov," she said. "They'd never seen it before. With the help of the Americans, they had a real Simchat Torah experience."

Particularly moving was one thirteen year old boy from Tollen who especially wanted to come because he was celebrating his Bar Mitzvah. "It was a new experience for all the kids. Everyone was singing *Siman Tov U'Mazal Tov* and dancing with the Bar Mitzvah boy. And, he was called up to the Torah. It really contributed to the simcha of Yom Tov," said Dickstein with a smile.

The seminar sprang from the idea that if Jewish youths were brought together, perhaps they could forge an internal support system in which they could help one another. Schick added that "it is important that the kids see that there are others like them, other Jewish teenagers going through similar growth processes." Schick's hope is that together, over time, the Russian Jewish young men and young women will be able to create a framework for their growth.

## State Of The Art On 34th Street!

by Tzippy Tischler

High tech euro-toilets have hit the street in three New York locations. If you haven't built up enough courage yet to try the unusual gigantic mechanisms, you have until the end of the month. The cubicles were installed free of charge by the French company JC Decaux as an experiment to see how well people would adapt to the toilets. Mayor David N. Dinkins will determine, at the end of the month, if the Europotties are a sufficient answer to the city's lack of clean public toilets.

It costs only 25 cents to immerse yourself in the world of high-tech. An automatic door opens and closes once you safely step inside the stall. Instructions, located in the bright, shiny interior, are available in several languages and explain how to operate the device. And, the state of the art toilet self-cleans and disinfects itself for 55 seconds after each use, leaving a sparkling clean cubicle.

An electronic sensor turns

the water faucet and hand-dryer on and off when it detects a person standing near the units. A dispenser for toilet paper, a round mirror on the wall, and a garbage chute all add to the convenience of the europottie. To exit, patrons must push the door latch down to open the door; once the toilet has been exited, a red light turns off to indicate the booth is vacant.

Long lines have amassed to use the toilets and some tourists snap pictures of friends beside the amazing technology. Other passers-by gaze in amazement. Little does the average pedestrian know that the booth and toilet seat have the capability of being heated during the winter!

The toilets have been installed on 34th St., 125th St. in Harlem and beside City Hall. The city installed one wheelchair accessible toilet booth near each of the regular booths in order to accommodate disabled patrons.

JC Decaux feared the larger toilets would be used by criminals; in order to avoid this possi-

bility, wheelchair bound people were given special magnetic cards (obtainable at the sight of each pottie) with which to access the stalls. The French Company hired attendants to assist disabled users and distribute the cards.

Dragonui Livic, a native of Croatia, was hired by JC Decaux to be the 34th Street attendant. "People group around it to take photos like it was the Statue of Liberty," he says.

JC Decaux representatives report that they have heard no accounts of failure with the toilets and that New Yorkers have taken a quick liking to them.

However, there have been a few embarrassing episodes involving the cubicles. While sitting on the toilet seat, one patron wanted to make sure the door was closed, so she pulled on the door latch, causing the door to open. Exposed to the street, she screamed, slammed the door, and quickly redressed herself. The woman left without a second try.

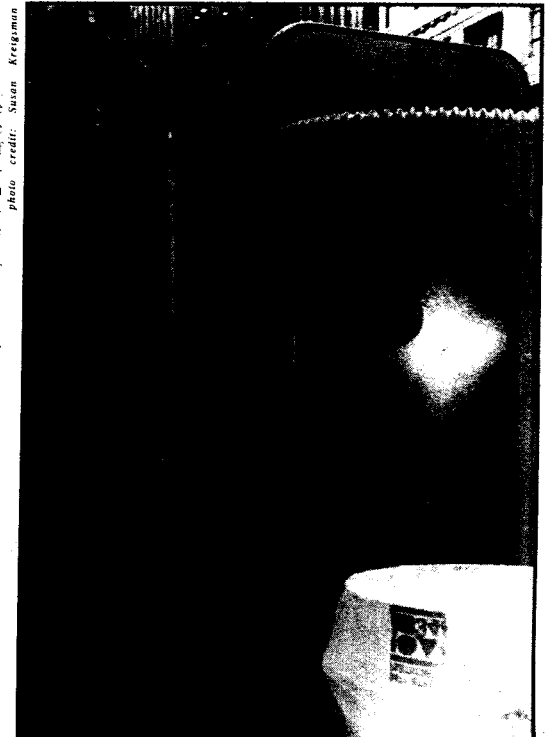


Photo credit: Susan Kregeman

## SPOTLIGHT

## Professor J. Freedman - Hailing History

by Yocheved Kaganoff

"I have a firm conviction that we are historical beings. Who we are has to be answered by the people and places we come from. We cannot define our identity outside of our history," asserted Professor Jeffrey Freedman, SCW's recent addition to its history department.

"The answer is not so easily determined; where we come from is not so obvious. We each stand at the intersection of multiple histories."

Born and raised in New York, Freedman received his B.A. from the University of Rochester. Pursuing his studies on the graduate level, he earned his Masters and Doctorate in Modern European History from Princeton University.

His previous teaching experience includes a year at his alma mater and another year at Franklin and Marshall, a small college located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He cites several reasons for choosing to teach at Stern College. A native New Yorker, he wanted to be closer to his father as well as the rest of his family. Moreover, Freedman explains, "I enjoy teaching at a small college; I find it rewarding and this way I get to know the students as individuals."

Currently, Freedman teaches three European history courses. His largest class, Western Civilization, has an enrollment of 45 students. The other 2 classes are entitled 'European Enlightenment' and 'Renaissance and

Reformation'.

Recently in his Western Civilization class, he covered the topic of the New Testament.



PHOTO: JEFFREY FREEDMAN

"Yeshiva has a mission to combine Torah U'Madda, so I conduct my history courses as I would in any college. I assign the same books and readings; however, the discussions that ensue are definitely different. I sense some tension in our study of the New Testament, but." Freedman stressed, "it all depends on the context in which you read it. Since this is a history course, I am demystifying it [New Testament] and in fact, stripping it of its sacricity by comparing it to Homer and Plato.

Freedman also views teaching at SCW as a learning experience. "I am learning much from my students because they obviously know more about the Jewish texts than I do. They enrich my knowledge of the

Sadducees, Essenes and other sects of that era. Thus we establish a dialogue in which we are all learning from each other which is indeed wonderful."

Personally, Freedman regards himself as most attached to two particular eras: the French Revolution and the European Enlightenment. Religious tolerance, equality of all mankind and universal rights of man, the ideas epitomized by those periods in history, are of utmost importance to him.

During his spare time, Freedman enjoys playing basketball (certainly his tall frame gives him an advantage in that sport) and involving himself in political activities, most recently he campaigned to prevent raises in rent.

## 34 Years of The Observer Now Available On Microfilm:

### Missing Issues Sought

*The Observer* (1959-1992) has been microfilmed. The films are available for consultation at the Hedi Steinberg and Pollack Libraries. The filming project was coordinated by the Yeshiva University Archives with the help of Professor Edith Lubetski, Head Librarian of the Hedi Steinberg Library, Mrs. Toby Weiss, Director of University Alumni Affairs, Mrs. Zelda Braun, Director of Student Services, and their staffs.

Preparation of *The Observer* for microfilming was source of both pleasure and frustration for the Archives staff. Sandwiched between curiosities such as the one cent charge to fill a pen in the library (1960), the selection of Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein as favorite professor by the students (1961), and the "twenty story fluorescent menorah" which illuminated all of 34th street from the front of the new dorm (*Hanukah* 1966) were torn or

missing issues or confusing volume numbers.

This situation made it difficult to ascertain exactly when *The Observer* started publishing and which issues are missing. The first issue on the microfilm is dated May 29, 1959 (volume II, number 6). An editorial in that issue states that a one sheet newspaper without ads or pictures named *The First Step* appeared in Spring 1958 (this was apparently a trial run for a more professional school paper), and since then *The Observer* has been published regularly and has a circulation of over 900."

We would like to locate the issues which were not yet microfilmed. Please contact Ms. Shulamith Berger at Yeshiva University Archives, 500 W. 185th St., New York, NY 10033, (212) 960-5451, if you have any of the following issues of *The Observer*:

*The First Step*, Spring, 1958 anything prior to May, 1959  
Nov. 25, 1959  
any issues from 1961-1963  
March 1968 (Vol. 10, no. 7)  
Vol. 11 (1968-69), nos. 3, 4, 10  
Jan. 1970 (Vol. 12, no. 8)  
Nov.-Dec. 1978 (Vol. 40, no. 3)  
May or June 1980 (Vol. 42, no. 1)  
Jan. or Feb. 1983  
Sept. or Oct. 1983  
March or April 1984  
Sept.-Oct. 1984  
March or April 1986 (Vol. 47, no. 8)  
April or May 1987 (Vol. 48, no. 7)  
April or May 1988 (Vol. 49, no. 8)  
Sept. 1988 (Vol. 50, no. 1)  
April and May 1989 (Vol. 50, nos. 8-9)

## What Do Insects Do? A Lecture at YU

by Laura Gross

"Sex, Drugs and Violence - the everyday chemistry of insects," was the title of the third annual chemistry lecture sponsored by Dr. Ira Kukin and the chemistry club given Thursday November 4.

The lecture was given by Dr. Jerrod Meinwald, Professor of Chemistry at Cornell University. Before the presentation, many Yeshiva science professors and some students in high level chemistry courses were invited to a dinner in Belfer Hall.

According to Meinwald in the introduction to his speech, insects are "the forgotten animals of God's creation. He claims that although over one half of animals on this planet are insects, they still do not receive the attention they deserve. If spiders and "creepy crawlies" are included than almost two thirds of all living creatures are bugs.

What does an insect do and

why was Dr. Meinwald's main topic. His work includes studying behavioral actions and responses to stimuli of different species of insects. He then attempts to identify the exact chemical that causes the specific action or response. After the responsible compound is isolated, experiments are conducted to study what happens if the substance is altered or not present at all.

The lecture was well attended. Deedee Macklin, SCW junior, attended the lecture for organic chemistry. She commented, "he was interesting, and related very well to the topic." A general chemistry student mentioned that the lecture was "understandable and even the chemistry things were easy to follow." A few students agreed that "it was cool hearing in a lecture things just done in lab."

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