

THE OBSERVER

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BACON DELIVERS FIRST FACULTY SHIUR IN TAC SPONSORED SERIES

By ALIZA DWORKEN

The Torah Activities Council has launched a new series of *shiurim* which try to take advantage of the untapped potential of faculty members at SCW. The series began with a *shiur* given by Dr. Joshua Bacon, psychology professor, on Tuesday December 15.

The topic discussed was the *mitzvah of lo tikom v'lo titor*. (Do not take revenge nor hold a grudge), as shown through the *Gemara*, *Rambam*, *Sefer HaChinuch*, and other sources. Bacon ended with a new insight on the topic.

Rachel Levitt, co-coordinator of the TAC-sponsored *shiurim*, stated, "We're very excited that our faculty is taking such an interest in enhancing the Torah lives of SCW women both inside and out of the classroom. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming months."

This *shiur* was particularly exciting because it was a clear representation of what Torah U' Madda is all about - a secular studies professor sharing his Torah knowledge.

Yet, this lecture is only the beginning of such *shiurim* which will be scheduled in the future by TAC.

The purpose of such is to make use of our resources at SCW, in the Judaic and secular departments, to the fullest extent. Students are interested in seeing teachers outside of

the classroom teaching Torah, and in that way are able to relate to teachers on a new level.

"Many times, we import personalities to give *shiurim* and we do not appreciate the figures we have here," explains Nomi Dworken, TAC president. "We at SCW do not always realize how

topics. Bacon's *shiur* was the first of phase one, by which students were able to see him in a different light. Bacon was propelled to give this *shiur*, realizing its importance, as he stated that he was excited that he could share *divrei torah* with the students.

The second phase comprises teachers in the Judaic Studies department lecturing on topics of their expertise about which they do not usually have a chance to speak in regularly scheduled classes. Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, *masgiach ruchani* of Stern College, an expert on Medical Ethics, is only one example of abundant expertise present in our Judaic Studies faculty.

"I applaud the efforts of TAC in setting up a Jewish studies lecture series to present the wealth of our faculty to the entire student body," Dean Karen Bacon proudly asserts about the Stern College faculty and the opportunities presented by the TAC *shiurim*.

These new *shiurim* will be in addition to, not instead of, the regularly scheduled guest lectures, reminds Dworken. So far, the response has been extremely positive. These *shiurim* are meant to accomplish important tasks - to improve student morale, increase unity between students and teachers, and enhance our respect for and appreciation of rebbeim and professors in school."



Photo Credit: Kucharski '91

fortunate we are," Dworken adds. These *shiurim* are meant to remedy this problem by revealing the hidden talents and Torah knowledge of many different faculty members.

The overall goal of these faculty *shiurim* are twofold, as expressed by the two phases planned. The first phase consists of secular studies professors delivering in-depth *shiurim* on Torah

Australians Gain Exposure to YU Community

By TZALCHA ROSEN

Five Australian students flew to the United States on December 16 to participate in the second Counterpoint America program. The goal of the program, said founder Shoshana Levine, is to expose the recent high school graduates to the American Jewish community in general and to Yeshiva University in particular.

The four men and one woman, hailing from Melbourne and Perth, spent a week at YU, sitting in on classes and meeting students of YC and SCW. They visited Boston, and had a personal audience with the Bostoner Rebbe, which left the participants "very impressed," said Sylvia Haber, SCW junior and native Australian. They will also visit Washington, D.C. before returning to Australia in mid-January.

The program was initiated in 1991 by two Counterpoint Australia advisors, Levine and Moshe Rothschild. They approached YU President Norman Lamm and requested his support. According to Levine, Lamm was extremely excited at the prospect of a follow-up experience for the participants in Counterpoint Australia, a program he originated over twenty years ago.

Levine's and Rothschild's efforts were frustrated, however, as they found Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, academic assistant to the President, uncooperative. Finally, they decided to implement their idea independently of YU. Funding was provided by past Counterpoint advisors, and four Australian students came to the U.S.

"The program was 100% successful," effused Levine. Three out of the four 1991 participants decided to spend the 1992-93 year



Photo Credit: Counterpoint USA

Barry Gelman and Shoshana Levine, two Counterpoint advisors brought the group to Boston. They gained audience with the Bostoner Rebbe, Rabbi Horowitz.

studying in Israel; they had no plans to do so before they came, asserted Levine. Part of the objective of the program is to interest the students in furthering their Jewish education, either in Israel or at YU.

This year's program was also funded by past advisors, as well as with the fruits of their private fundraising efforts.

Sharon Segal, high school graduate from Perth, Australia, said that her visit to SCW "will definitely broaden my knowledge about Jewish life." She added, "[Being here] increased my Jewish pride."

Segal sat in on two classes

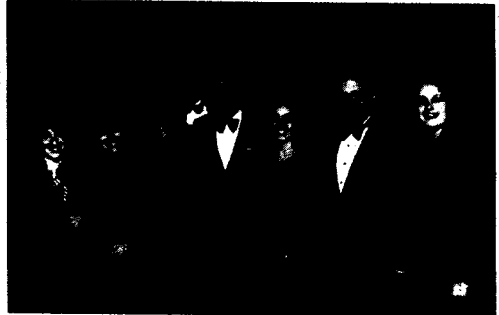


Photo Credit: YU PR

Students Ilana Dessau, Nomi Dworken, Shani Falk, Abraham Cohen, Assaf Tzur, Rachel Schenker, and Sylvia Haber with Presidents Chaim Herzog and Norman Lamm.

STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND YU CHANUKAH DINNER

By RACHEL SCHENKER

This year marked the first time that student leaders were invited to the annual YU Chanukah Dinner and Convocation as guests of President Norman Lamm. In past years, students had attended in the capacity to help with the robing and disrobing of the honorees, and were subsequently permitted to remain for the convocation and dinner.

This year, however, more than 30 SCW and YC students received formal invitations to the event. Mrs. Zelda Braun, director of student services at SCW commented that it was very much in the spirit of the positive relationship the University

wishes to promote with students. "It was a very nice gesture on the part of the University. It genuinely shows that they are actively trying to foster positive student-administration relations."

Even though students were officially invited as guests, they were contacted individually by Mrs. Vivian Owgang to "volunteer" to lend helping hands. Students agreed to assist Owgang and Rabbi Schwartz in their preparation of the honorees. Additionally, they escorted various personalities into the main ballroom and up to the stage throughout the meal.

The 68th Annual Dinner held at the Waldorf-Astoria honored General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and His Excellency Chaim Herzog, President of the State of Israel.

Powell, chief military advisor to President Bush and architect of Operation Desert Storm, delivered the keynote address and received an honorary doctoral degree from Lamm at the convocation, held in the Starlight Roof.

Herzog, who capped an illustrious career as a soldier, statesman, scholar, lawyer, and diplomat when elected President of Israel in 1983, was principal speaker at the dinner immediately following the convocation. He was the recipient of the University's first Second Century Award, presented by Ludwig Jesselson, chairman of the Board of Trustees of YU.

Honorary doctoral degrees were also honored to five philanthropists and communal leaders, including Dr. Jack Fishman, Mr. Earle I. Mack, Mr. Philip Rosen, Mrs. Anita Saltz, and Mr. Sheldon H. Solow.

**GOOD LUCK
ON
FINALS!**

EDITORIALS

Eliminating Network Nightmares

During the upcoming winter break the YU Network will undergo its sixth upgrade in six years at the Midtown Center. The upgrade has already been installed uptown and is currently under observation, according to Leonard Brandwein, pre-engineering advisor and acting head of the computer facilities at both campuses.

Originally created by students in 1987, the computer network has been upgraded yearly by various undergraduate students under the guise of work study and computer science "projects." While helpful on the resumes of those students, the piecemeal network we call our own is hardly beneficial to the average student who needs to utilize the computer center for her basic schoolwork. Crashing, power surges, and viruses are all part of the average student's daily fears. Hardly a day goes by without a handful of students on the verge of hysterics due to "Network Nightmares."

There are two basic problems and they both have relatively simple, albeit unpopular, solutions.

The first problem lies in the network itself. The upgrades have not been successful to date. Although expensive, the only solution is a network system created by professionals that would provide students with the most advanced technology in the most user-friendly environment.

The second problem involves those who use the computers. The amount of students who are completely ignorant in a computer environment is astounding in today's age of advanced technology. Students unfamiliar with the most basic wordprocessing techniques not only have a hard time themselves, but often cause the system damage. A viable solution would be to assign personal codes in order to access the network, issuable only upon successful passing of a basic computer seminar. For incoming students, mandatory computer workshops could be held during freshman orientation, as basic as the evaluation test that is currently given for English workshops. For attending students, there are currently seminars available which certainly deserve to be taken advantage of.

Living Up To Our Own Standards

The YU Alumni Review claims that the Max Stern Scholars' program "allows exceptional students...to participate in a special enrichment program which includes honors seminars and cultural events."

Translation: One freshman honors seminar and raffled tickets to Elie Wiesel's State of World Jewry Address at the 92nd Street Y. Perhaps the Alumni Review has gone out on a limb with its description.

Considering that this program is one of the main attractions of Yeshiva University Admissions PR, which draws many exceptionally bright, involved, and motivated students who might otherwise attend the more prestigious Ivy League college of their choice, it must be seriously revamped in order to honestly live up to its high expectations.

Efforts have been made in the past to provide special classes for the scholars; however, for some reason, no such classes are currently being offered.

The University has a responsibility to live up to its part of the agreement, and to fulfill the expectations it has created for the program.

ALUMNAE

If you have not paid your alumni dues for '93, this will be your last issue of this newspaper.

Send dues (\$25 for one year) payable to SCAA and mail to:

**Alumni Affairs
Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033**

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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 the administration of YU. Readers are invited to respond to these letters as well.

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

To the Editor:

We all remember the rap performed at the Chanukah Chagiga by Kol Isha and the Isur M'dioritas. It began with "Food, glorious food, so scrumious and luscious... where is the food?" Well, I'll tell you where the food is - it's everywhere.

According to a recent editorial in the last issue of *The Observer*, the garbage problem has infested our school. "Soda cups, containers, empty wrappers, and napkins litter the floor and surfaces of practically every classroom." The food and its remnants are on the first, second, third, fourth, fifth floors, etc. of the school building as well as in all the lounges and the caf.

I have become so upset by this problem that I have asked my friends to clean up, asked other students to clean up as well as spoken to Dean Orlian regarding the situation. However, if all of these things won't make students clean up after themselves, what will it take? Do we need to issue tickets to those who violate the "cleanliness rule?"

Students need to take responsibility for this growing problem. First, they need to be aware that there is a problem, as well as take responsibility for the problem. If everyone would take responsibility for her own garbage then the problem would be eliminated.

Imagine how nice the school

would look if there was no garbage on the floors, tables, etc. We would actually be able to sit down in the classrooms and not have to worry about getting food all over our clothes. We would be able to sit in the TV lounge and not have an eight legged friend crawl up our leg. Just imagine!

It is my hope that every Stern student will take responsibility for her actions and throw away her food and containers when she has finished eating. Stern is everyone's home, so please throw away your foam!

Deborah Glick
SCW '93

Take Faculty Role into Consideration

To the Editor:

Your recent editorial shows that you are unaware that teaching is only one part of a faculty member's job -- although perhaps the most important part. Faculty members are expected to engage in professional activities, attend professional meetings, give papers, and publish books and articles. Their continuance at the University as well as their promotion and tenure depend upon these activities. Since the rest of the academic world does not run on the same calendar as Yeshiva, faculty members are sometimes forced to miss classes to attend to these other matters. Most of us attempt to make up for the

time lost. Perhaps you might ask the administration to make our school calendar more compatible with that of other universities. In the interim, be a bit more sensitive to the needs of your overworked (and underpaid) instructors.

Carole Silver
Professor of English,
Chair, Humanities Division,
Yeshiva University

Faculty Concern is Gratifying

To the Editor:

On the fifth night of Chanukah, Rabbi and Mrs. Mordechai Cohen opened up their latke-filled home, and hosted a beautiful *chagigah* for over 25 Stern students.

The warm atmosphere and relaxed Torah discussions which filled the evening were reminiscent of the special relationships many of us had with our teachers in *yeshivot* in Israel.

We all thank Rabbi and Mrs. Cohen for an enjoyable party, and are especially grateful to Rabbi Cohen for reminding us that even outside the world of weekly assignments, *pasuk* finds, and midterms, he is genuinely concerned about each and every one of us.

Jennie Shapiro
SCW '95

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Lasting Legacy

By RACHEL SCHENKER

There have been times when my strong words were labelled antagonistic and when many questioned why I continued my service to the University if I seemed so unhappy with it.

My answer was always consistent. I felt, and continue to feel, a very deep commitment. Not just to the women with whom I work, and not just to *The Observer* itself, but to Yeshiva University as an institution, a stronghold, a pillar of the Jewish Community. I viewed, and continue to view, my work on this newspaper as just the beginning of a life devoted to my community.

The editorship of the newspaper was one of the largest responsibilities I ever accepted upon myself. It proved to be, over the last year and a half, a great source of pride as well as a serious obligation. There were days when I did not think I would ever make it to the next (like yesterday) and there were other days that made me want to hold on to the helm indefinitely. Perhaps almost selfishly.

I owe a lot to Yeshiva. I think it instilled in me a set of values that I respect, provided me with role models that I hope to emulate, and impressed upon me the importance of leadership and

the influence each person carries with her.

Which brings us around to the character of YU. What is it that pulled me in so strongly and held me so securely? It is a question to which I have given a lot of thought over the past three years and which I have had to field many a time.

YU embodies the essence of the Jewish people. "I see a special kind of discipline in the Yeshiva community - a thirst for learning and a spirit of brotherhood," stated Colin Powell at the Chanukah Dinner. Over the years YU has remained committed to a standard of excellence in its undergraduate colleges. Additionally, YU has continued to govern itself as a barometer of the Jewish community.

Colin Powell correctly understood and eloquently identified exactly what is so special about Yeshiva University.

"It has to do with the fact that there is a special and inspiring sense of energy about Yeshiva University - a sense of destiny, of pride, of obligation - that goes to the very heart of the Jewish heritage."

That energy has become a part of my fiber. For that legacy, I thank Yeshiva University from the bottom of my heart and only hope that one day I am able to return in full all that I have so generously received.

The Women Behind the Computers

To the Editor:

It is that time of the year when a good percentage of Stern College students take up temporary residence in the computer room trying to complete the last flurry of papers, assignments, and graphs before the frenzy of finals descends. It is important that we acknowledge those generally unrecognized people who man (or should I say woman?) the room and are always available with a smile. The computer operators seem to be able to solve the problems of 10 hysterical students who have misplaced their papers while simultaneously formatting disks and fixing the laser printer.

Even in the midst of the many network failures which seem to afflict the system, the operators manage to remain calm and stoically remind everyone to save their work.

Special thanks (and Mazal Tov) go to Beth Zuckerman Prebor, the Head Operator, who

makes the mysterious world of computers accessible, even to technological dolts like myself. Beth goes way beyond the requirements of her job in helping students complete their papers efficiently. No question is too routine or petty for her to answer.

Our student existence at Stern is definitely enhanced by the presence of Beth and the other operators. While the computer facilities themselves require upgrading, we can't do much better in terms of those who make using them more palatable. Thank You!

Elisheva Berezin
SCW '93

In Defense of Rabbi Weiss

To the Editor:

I am writing to address *The Commentator's* November editorial against Rabbi Avi Weiss. I realize my response is late, but I cannot remain silent any longer. A teacher of mine was falsely

When the Hashmonaim, a small group of Torah-observant Jews, faced a massive Greek force in the battle of Chanukah, there was more at stake than just physical security. Prior to the battle, large scale assimilation threatened to take over the Jewish community as many Jews became excited by the exotic, modern culture that the Greeks brought with them when they entered the Land of Israel. Victory for the Hashmonaim was essential for the spiritual well-being of the Jewish people. The flame of assimilation that threatened to consume the nation had to be extinguished before it became uncontrollable.

In their time, the Hashmonaim succeeded in the struggle against assimilation. Today, when we commemorate the miracles that happened on Chanukah, we have a special commandment to say *hallev'hoda'ah*, prayers of praise and thanks to God, for preserving the Jewish faith. It is ironic, therefore, that because of its proximity to the non-Jewish holiday season, Chanukah is one of the most celebrated Jewish holidays by secular American Jews. Even more ironic, Chanukah itself has become assimilated; it has been made a part of popular American culture, to the point that it is viewed almost as the Jewish substitute for Christmas.

OPINIONS

Eight Cards For Chanukah

By DASSI BILLET

One example of the popularization of Chanukah is the new line of Chanukah greeting cards created by Hallmark's "Shoebbox Greetings." Many of the cards draw parallels between Chanukah and Christmas, suggesting that "this card will be one of your eight presents," a play on the idea of 12 presents, one for each night of Christmas. Some of the cards are lewd or suggestive. This is certainly not in line with the spirit of Chanukah, a holiday which is supposed to celebrate the eternal survival of Jewish values. The cards which express the fervent hope that "the Chanukah candles will light the way for a happy, healthy New Year" are especially ironic, considering that Rosh Hashanah was four months ago. The association of Chanukah with the secular New Year shows how far removed the holiday has become from its Jewish origins.

In fairness to the general Jewish population, it is important to note that the Chanukah greeting cards and other Chanukah marketing endeavors are the independent products of the companies which create them. It is very possible that Jews are not involved in their production. But the fact that the cards were created and are being sold reflects the non-

Jewish understanding of the assimilated Jew's psyche at this time of year. They have good reason to believe that there is a market for Christmas-style Chanukah cards.

Because the non-Jewish holiday season is such an important part of American culture, it is perhaps the only time of year that the Jew who is completely mainstreamed into American society feels any significant difference between himself and his Christian colleagues. The secular Jew will feel insecure and left out during the holiday season, because he can not honestly partake fully in the festivities. When this Jew walks into a Hallmark store and sees that just as there is a special section devoted solely to Christmas cards, there is a similar section devoted to Chanukah cards, his spirits will be lifted because he will feel like he, too, is an important part of popular American culture.

If the intent of Chanukah is to celebrate the preservation of the Jewish faith and to commemorate the defeat of assimilation, it is sadly ironic that secular Jews are forced to confront their Jewish identities only because of Chanukah's proximity to Christmas.

The Stern Advantage

By NECHAMA GOLDSTEIN

I confess, yes, I was the one who went around and hung up all those signs (in fashion colors) about the intra-campus vans.

"Did someone mention vans?"

How much do you know about them? Most of you know nothing about those vehicles you constantly see in front of the dorm and the school building.

Well, let me tell you about them. Notice I said "them," which brings me to my first point. There are two vans for

use by the women. You see, the security department of Y.U. really does have our best interests in mind. Not only have they given us these vans for quick easy and safe transportation to and from school, but the vans are there for personal and recreational use as well. The vans will take anyone to Grand Central station and Penn station, and to locations in the 30's.

The vans are also a great spiritual help. Yes, spiritual. They take students to the hospitals to perform the *mitzvah* of *bikur cholim*, and take soda cans

to be deposited, leaving the money for *zedakah*. This same van takes students to FIT and to off campus physical education sites.

So, the next time you see one of those automobiles driving by, take pride! It is your Student Council and the Security Department working to make your ever-so-hectic life just a little bit easier.

Please make sure to get a copy of the new inter-campus van schedule and note the changes on it. You requested them and they were made.

accused and as his *talmid* I feel obligated to respond.

The Commentator's editorial was vicious and cruel. Their accusations were out and out lies without an ounce of truth in them. People are always quick to judge even without knowing the person they are judging or all the facts of the situation. Having the opportunity to be in one of Rabbi Weiss' classes I see how completely different he is from how he was portrayed in the editorial.

Rabbi Weiss devotes his life to helping *clal Yisrael*. We all complain to each other about

how badly Jews are treated, but Rabbi Weiss has the courage to act. He fights for change through peace and non-violence. He is the most peaceful and caring Jew I have ever met. He believes that the safety of those demonstrating with him goes above his cause, and he always makes sure they are protected. This concern is shown in his halachic *p'sak* to his students forbidding them to get arrested.

It hurts me that there is even a need to justify Rabbi Weiss' actions because I believe they speak for themselves. We should be thanking him from the

bottom of our hearts for his efforts for the sake of *clal Yisrael*. I understand that *The Commentator* retracted its editorial but I don't believe they did it "with sincerity of heart" or understood the severity and falsity of their words. The editors should beg on their knees for Rabbi Weiss' forgiveness. I sincerely apologize to Rabbi Weiss for having to take abuse from such ignorant people. It is a pity that in a world filled with hatred there is contempt among Jews as well.

Rachel Iskowitz
SCW '95

AROUND THE CAMPUS

SCW Blood Drive Exceeds Projected Goal

By TZALCHA ROSEN

Due to this year's excellent turnout at the first blood drive of the academic school year, NY Blood Services has asked if SCW would sponsor a third blood drive this year instead of the two that are usually run.

More than 80 SCW students each donated a pint of blood at the December 24 SCW blood drive, held last Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

New York Blood Services set up their cots, various preliminary testing tables, and a refreshment area in the 11th floor gym. Student and faculty donors were greeted by one of 28 volunteers, who rotated throughout the day, giving them literature to read and forms to complete. Music played in the background

as donors lined up to contribute.

Out of the 150 who signed up to donate, there were more than 50 rejections for health reasons such as colds, diet problems, and low iron levels. Five potential donors left, too squeamish to give blood. Two students felt faint and nauseated after donating; most donors reported feeling fine afterwards.

Faculty members and employees who went to donate included Dean Karen Bacon, Dr. Joshua Bacon, Dr. Marcel Perlman, and Rudy Stern of Food Services.

Organizer Dee-Dee Macklin, SCW junior, commented that the blood drive was the culmination of two months of effort. "All our hard work was worth it be-

cause we were successful in exceeding our projected goal. Last year's goal was 80 and they reached 64; this year's goal was also 80 and we reached 86 - even without the incentive of presents! Everyone really seemed to care," commented Macklin.

Jon Cardozo of NY Blood Services expressed his thanks to Macklin and all the captains and volunteers.

Donor Beth Green, SCW junior, asserted that the turnout at the blood drive exhibited an encouraging "anti-apathy mood" and was in tune with the holiday spirit.

Each pint of blood can save five people's lives, according to NY Blood Services. The blood donated at SCW will help to alleviate the shortage due to the increased needs of the holiday season and especially the platelet shortage.

The next SCW drive is projected for February, with a final one in April 1993.

Sports Agent Fischof Surprises Students with Channel Two Celebrity

By LAURA GROSS

David Fischof, agent of many professional baseball and football players, surprised about 85 YU students with his mystery guest, Mr. G., the Channel Two News Weatherman, Tuesday December 22 at Belfer Hall. Fischof, whose clients include celebrities Lou Pinella and Phil Simms, is not only very successful and respected in his field, but is also an orthodox Jew.

Mr. G., who introduced Fischof, spoke about client agent relationships, and the importance

of an agent with a good reputation and the knowledge to negotiate. However, he said that "once the deal is signed, your client sells your agent." About his agent Fischof, Mr. G. remarked "he's a good guy in a tough business."

In his two hour lecture, Fischof offered advice on how to enter into and succeed in the entertainment business. His first rule of thumb is not to sit in a classroom learning what to do, but rather to go out, get a client, and do it. However, he stressed the importance of higher education and warned about the competitiveness of the field.

Fischof further emphasized the importance of remembering that "this is a people business." He maintained that an agent must always do what is in his client's best interests. To prove this, he established the definition of a winner in the pro sport world, "a winner is not the player with the best statistics, it's the one with the best contract."

According to Fischof, there are three basic rules of negotiation. First: Research. One can never have enough information; some small detail may make all the difference in the negotiation process. Second: Timing. Never be in a rush when working on a contract. Third: Power of mind. Never be intimidated when dealing with the other side. Additionally, he underscored the ability to use and manipulate the media and the press to advantage.

Regarding his status as a religious man and its effects on his business life, Fischof said his Judaism did not interfere. He recounted to students about the several times when his being *shomer shabbat* actually aided his negotiation. Fischof added that he learns most about sport gossip and public opinion by going to synagogue every week.

Senate Hoping to Add Classes and Improve Resources

By ROBIN BYOCK

Do you know which students are members of the Student Senate? Did you even know that such a group exists at SCW?

The purpose of the Senate is to effect improvements for the students' academic lives. There are nine student members: freshman representative Emily Witty, sophomores Tammy Lightman and Laurie Katzman, juniors Ilana Breslau and Robin Byock, and seniors Miriam Bluth and Jasmine Conen. Faculty representation consists of Dean Bacon, Dean Orlian, Rabbi Kanarfogel, Dr. Blau, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Groszof, Dr. Havatzelet, Dr. Raffel, and Mrs. Braun. The elected chairman and secretary are Dr. Raffel and Robin Byock, respectively.

At the first meeting the Senate resolved the problem of the P/N date. Students who do not receive their marked midterms by the P/N period may now petition the Dean for an extension of the deadline.

The Senate also formed a committee, headed by Jasmine Conen, to assess with Rabbi Kanarfogel the lack of Jewish Studies courses for less-advanced students. As a result, more classes have been added to the elementary and lower-intermediate levels.

Additionally, the problem of the unbearably warm temperature in the library was discussed and is presently being remedied

to make the library more comfortable.

The Senate's October meeting brought about many results. The Senate has arranged for the schedule of finals to be distributed earlier in the semester. Members are also working on improving the dormitory study halls by adding more desks to the rooms to utilize the space more effectively and to increase privacy there. Another matter has been favorably resolved - the addition of more description to classes in the course registration booklet. The Senate further discussed the possibility of making available the syllabi for all courses offerings prior to registration. Consequently, students will be informed that syllabi for most classes are on-hand in the library; other class descriptions will be posted at the registration desk.

Senate members are presently working on projects to add classes to the course schedule and to increase academic advisement, career advisement, and career resources.

However, the Student Senate functions on the input of the student body. In order to improve your academic life, please provide the Senate with your suggestions by speaking directly to members or by placing ideas in the suggestion box which can be found in the Brookdale Hall lobby.

F Y I

Library Schedule

12/27	Sun.	12-2 AM
12/28-31	Mon-Thurs.	9-2 AM
1/1	Fri.	9-1 PM
1/2	Sat.	7:30-1AM
1/3	Sun.	12-2AM
1/4-7	Mon-Thurs.	9-2AM
1/8	Fri.	9-1PM
1/9	Sat.	7:30-2AM
1/10	Sun.	12-2AM
1/11	Mon.	9-2AM
1/12-13	Tues-Weds.	9-5:30PM
1/14	Thurs.	9-8PM
1/15	Fri.	9-1PM
1/16-17	Sat&Sun	CLOSED
1/18-21	Mon-Thurs	9-5:30PM
1/22	Fri.	9-1PM
1/23-24	Sat&Sun	CLOSED
1/25	Mon.	9-1AM

Regular Schedule Resumes

Dates To Remember

12/29-1/4	Reading Week
1/5-1/14	Final Period
1/15-1/25	Vacation

Upcoming Events

1/24	YU Museum Exhibition Opening <i>Creations for the Life of a Jewish Family</i>
2/1	SOY Sefarim Sale Belfer Hall Room 502
2/3	Sarah Lee Kessler Koch Auditorium 8PM
2/5-6	Observer-Commentator Shabbaton Guest Speaker TBA
2/15	Forum On the Arts: The Making of Fiddler on the Roof Koch Auditorium 8PM

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AROUND THE CAMPUS

Panelists Offer Insight Into Communication Fields

By CHAVA BOYLAN

More than 40 students attended a "Communications Panel" on Tuesday December 8, which featured professionals in the fields of advertising, journalism, and broadcasting. The event was co-sponsored by the Joint Business Society and the Speech Arts Forum. This was the first time that the JBC co-sponsored an event with a club outside of SSSB.

The panel consisted of: Michael Schram, account manager at the Hensley & Co. advertising agency; Winston Pickett, editor-in-chief of the *Long Island Jewish World*; and Sasha Liebler, news reporter for WCBS News, a local radio station.

During the first part of the program, each panelist gave a job description and explained how he initially entered his respective field. He also commented on the necessity, or lack thereof, for graduate studies in communications.

Notably, Liebler spoke about

balancing a career in broadcasting with the restricted hours of an Orthodox lifestyle.

A question-answer session followed the individual presentations. Refreshments were then served.

"I found the panel very informative," commented SCW Sophomore Meira Shatz. "It made entering the advertising field seem more within my reach." Shatz is majoring in English communications with a focus in advertising.

"People are not aware that the Joint Business Society serves SCW as well as SSSB," commented SCW Senior and JBS Vice President Elana Hartstein. "Because of the growing interest in communication fields, we felt that this would be a beneficial program."

"The JBS hopes to co-sponsor similar programs in the future with other SCW clubs," she added.

Miami Boys Featured at Annual Chanukah Concert

By SHANA BAK

On Thursday night, December 17, Yeshiva University's Lamport Auditorium filled up for the annual YU Student Council Chanukah Concert. This year's featured stars were Yerachmiel Begun and the Miami Boys' Choir.

The great success of the concert reflected the tireless efforts of a number of YU students, notably, Sylvia Haber and Abraham Cohen, Vice Presidents of SCW and YC Student Councils, respectively; Zahava Safran, SCW junior and Reid Shapiro, YC senior. The concert was jointly sponsored by Mr. Broadway Deli Restaurant and Jerusalem II Pizza, who in addition to providing a post-concert dinner for those involved in the concert, offered a 10 percent off coupon on the back of each ticket.

The concert opened with the Israeli, three-brother musical group, Kol Achai, who touched the audience with their music and gestures of brotherly love. The trio received an impressive response when the oldest of the three shared his career plans and marital status with the audience.

Next up was the YU A Capella Group, a collection of YU students, who sang songs in honor of Chanukah. They were followed by Beatachon, another A Capella group, comprising YU and

Columbia alumni, who performed some jazzy tunes with Jewish themes.

Andrew Lanter, a YU student, came next, singing some well known Mordechai Ben David and Avraham Fried tunes. His voice and gestures resembled those of the original singers.

Intermission followed and then came the moment that everyone had been waiting for - Yerachmiel Begun and the Miami Boys' Choir, who as always, gave a superb performance. The music, costumes and choreography were outstanding and the performers were adorable. Yerachmiel Begun made himself right at home, seizing every possible opportunity to joke about the ubiquitous topic of marriage (dedicating one song to those who will be married in the near future and another to those who would like to be).

Cohen expressed his excitement at the great success of this year's concert, saying that "even though the concert lasted for three hours, they were three fun-filled hours. It went by really quickly and everyone seemed to be having a great time."

CLUB BEATS

College Republicans

On December 15, at 5:30 p.m., approximately twenty students, from Yeshiva College, Stern College, Cardozo School of Law, and Yeshiva University Alumni, attended the filming of a political talk show, the Rush Limbaugh show. The producer wishes to invite Yeshiva University students back for another showing. Approximately 15 students are involved in working on Rudolph Giuliani's Mayoral campaign. Additional internships are available. For more information contact Elana Hartstein (Br 6B).

Food Services Committee

The Food Services Committee met on December 2. Issues discussed included: hours of operation of the International Cafe in Koch Auditorium during the week of the SCW play, sizes of portions, Shabbat at Stern College, and methods being employed in order to control the insect problems in the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to contact members of the FSC with any input and to fill out comment cards.

Israel Club

On December 21, at 11:00 p.m., in the Orange Lounge, Lights in Action had a meeting in

preparation for its third mailing. The YC Israel Club, on December 22, invited students to join its Chanukah *Chagiga* in the Rubin Shul. The program featured guest speaker Rabbi Meir Goldvicht and included games, food, and candle lighting. The Stern Israel Club showed "Raid on Entebbe" on December 23.

Joint Business Society

On Tuesday December 8, a very successful communications panel was held in conjunction with the Speech Arts Forum involving careers in advertising, journalism, and radio. Additionally, on Sunday December 13, a pizza night was held in the Orange Lounge.

Sephardic Club

On December 18-19, The Sephardic Clubs of Yeshiva College and Stern College held their second annual *shabbaton*. This *shabbaton* was quite unique: it was the first *shabbaton* to be held at Yeshiva College. The girls were housed by members of the Washington Heights community. The *shabbaton's* guest speaker was Rav Herschel Schechter, *Rosh Yeshiva*. His lecture dealt with the reasons behind certain *halachot* and *mitzvot*, a subject

requested by the Sephardic students. The Sephardic Club invites all students to participate in the upcoming semester events and activities in order that students may integrate and extend their knowledge of other backgrounds.

Shadow Committee

The Shadow Committee is busy expanding the list of professionals "to shadow." Anyone interested in shadowing a professional, should contact Pamela Schlanger (Br 5C).

Student Senate

The Student Senate has actively been working on a number of very important issues this year. Issues discussed include: more career advisement for students, creating additional classes in Judaic studies on the lower tracts, and greater description of classes in the schedule of courses. The Senate already accomplished several important items this semester, including an extension of the date to file for a P/N grade if midterms have not yet been returned and the displaying of the schedule of final exams earlier in the semester (effective next semester).

TAC Carnival Cheers Recent Immigrants

By RACHEL POSNER

The second annual Chanukah celebration for Russian immigrants was held on Sunday December 20 in Belfer Hall on the uptown campus.

The program opened with a concert, given by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Simultaneously, SCW students ran a carnival for the chil-

dren, sponsored the Torah Activities Council of SCW. Among the booths were "make-your own menorah," decorating yarmulkes and throwing a wet sponge at *Antiochus*, played good-naturedly by sophomore Jennie Shapiro. Every child left with a

prize. At the end of the activities, "Lights," a short video about Chanukah, was shown with Russian narration.

After the video, a group of children from the Jewish Community Council performed Chanukah songs. A meal of *latkes* and *sufganiot* was served, followed by over an hour of dancing with students of YC and SCW.

Participants expressed their satisfaction at the success of the program. The next such celebration is planned for Purim.

ALL EIGHTEEN SCW NOMINEES ACCEPTED TO WHO'S WHO

By OBSERVER STAFF

Eighteen graduating SCW seniors have been nominated and accepted to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

This honor is awarded in recognition of outstanding academic performance and leadership in both school and communal activities.

The selection process is rigorous. Students are originally nomi-

nated by the Dean, based on their academic standing through the first half of the fall semester of their senior year. The other factors then considered, the names of the nominees are sent to members of the national organization of *Who's Who*, who make the final choices.

All SCW students nominated this year were accepted.

They are: Shana Bak, Yael Blejer, Jasmine Conen, Ann Diamant, Nomi Dworken, Aliza Feigenblum, Miriam Gaisin, Tehilla Goldberg, Judi Goodman, Adeeva Laya Graubard, Shelly Klein, Joyce Markowitz, Nechama Polin, Paulette Shapiro, Rachel Schenker, Rachel Schneider, Alisa Wachtel, and Adina Zdanowitz.

A WORD FROM ISRAEL

THE OLD CITY: Ancient Roots of a Modern People

By SHIFRA GREENGART

The adage "it's not what you know, it's who you know," has once again proven its veracity. I know someone who knows someone who lives in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. As such, I was privileged to spend Shabbat in the most spiritual place in the world.

As my hostess and I gazed out the window overlooking the plaza in the center of the Old City, she remarked, "The whole world passes through my courtyard." Outside, as Shabbat settled into Jerusalem, men sporting black hats, long black coats, beards, and *payot* strode purposefully, and blue-jeaned, cigarette-puffing teenagers drifted aimlessly. Nearby, tourist groups brandishing cameras paused to hear explanations or snap pictures.

"I have met many old friends and acquaintances," she continued, "who were simply walking by under my window." The whole world passes through the Old City, because deep inside his *neshamah*, each Jew is drawn to the Kotel and the *kedushah* that it represents.

One Friday night 500 years ago, the Arizal, the great kabbalistic leader in Tzfat, was so uplifted by the spirit of *kabbalat shabbat* that he exhorted his students to walk with him from Tzfat to Jerusalem to greet the Shabbat queen. Had his students actually listened, the Arizal said, *mashiach* would have come that night. The beauty and strength of that story overwhelmed me as I walked toward

the Kotel for my own *kabbalat shabbat* and watched fellow Jews approach the Kotel with reverence.

A visit to the Kotel is a lesson in the many different kinds of Jews that make up *clal yisrael*. Most of the women at the Kotel were davening, and some were chattering among themselves. During *maariv*, however, a few women rustled in their handbags for pens and paper (probably hotel stationery) with which to write a note to slip into a crevice of the wall. They were visibly moved by their experience at the Kotel. They clearly wanted to reach out to Hashem in a positive way at this holy site.

Ironically, however, they did not realize that writing on Shabbat is forbidden. Watching them showed me how much progress the Jewish nation still needs to make, in order that one day soon even secular Jews will come to realize the Torah-prescribed way to serve Hashem.

At the Kotel, however, all Jews, from the most observant to the most estranged, feel at home and welcome. Friday night at the Kotel is an insight to many facets of the jewel that is *am yisrael*.

Shabbat in the Jewish Quarter is a look at millennia of Jewish History. As my hostess said, "It's a city, atop a city, atop a city," its layers reach down under the earth as far as the time of Avraham Avinu. Any remodeling of apartments must be

done from the inside, to preserve the outside of the building and its connection with the past. In the *Cardo*, once the main market street at the heart of Jerusalem in Roman times, now stand cheerful, well-lit, modern stores and restaurants. Another outstanding example of the blend of the old and the new are the small apartment buildings surrounding a hexagonal courtyard lush with verdant trees. At one time they were Crusader hostels. Now, one of the families in that complex, Chabadnicks, hangs out the yellow sign that pervade the *charedi* neighborhoods declaiming, "Prepare for the Coming of *Mashiach*."

The Jews who live in the Old City today are steeped in Jewish history, absorbing it as they hang out the wash, shop, or take a Shabbat walk.

The idea that Jerusalem is the center of the world is a thread that runs through the writings of Chazal. Nine-tenths of the *kedushah* bestowed on the world was given to Israel, and nine-tenths of that *kedushah* shines upon Jerusalem. The Old City is the nucleus of Jewish life and activity in Jerusalem and Israel. The fortunate Jews living their daily lives opposite the site of the *batei mikdashot* of old and the *beit mikdash* of the future must realize there is no loftier spot on earth to build a home.

Clinton: The Man Who Stands Behind Our Country

By ROBIN BYOCK

Bill Clinton swept the Jewish vote in the 1992 presidential election.

Many American Jews felt that he would be a better ally for Israel than was his predecessor, George Bush. Jews favored many of Clinton's proposals regarding Israel and saw hope in his vice-president, Al Gore, who is a proven supporter of Israel.

Concerning the loan guarantees, Clinton has promised assistance to Israel in coping with her recent influx of immigrants. In his campaign position paper, Clinton stated that he would "not hold hostage to political struggle hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children whose freedom we've demanded for decades."

Clinton promises to work alongside the Israeli government

in promoting peace, and he maintains three guiding principles by which the U.S. must abide in her involvement with Israeli affairs.

First, America must serve honestly and intervene only when necessary to be a catalyst for change in Israeli policy. Clinton affirms that no country should be forced to make any unilateral concessions. In a speech to the New York JCR (Jewish Community Relations Council) last March, Clinton promised that he would not press any mandates on Israel as the Bush administration had in its involvement with the peace process.

Second, Clinton states that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that entry to the city must be accessible to people of all faiths. While previous presidents have also claimed to recognize Jerusa-

lem as the capital of Israel, none have transferred the US embassy in Israel from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem, a move which would formally identify the city as the state's capital.

Last, the president-elect contends that Israel should not be coerced into a temporary peace, but rather Israel's security must be secure and lasting.

Clinton believes that Palestinians do possess the right to be involved in decisions that affect them, but that they have no right to determine Israel's future; he opposes the formation of an independent Palestinian State. Additionally, Clinton promises that his administration will never form "strategic relationships with dangerous, despotic regimes."

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ARE THE MIAS STILL ALIVE?

By TEMIMA GOLDBERG

Despite gusty winds and rain, a determined crowd gathered for a rally at the UN Plaza on December 10 in the name of what would be called a modern day *pidyon shevuyim*.

The date was chosen because it was UN Human Rights Day. The rally, situated on the Raul Wallenberg Walk, protested the ongoing captivity of four Israeli hostages, renown Captain Ron Arad and Sergeants Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz.

The three sergeants were taken captive at a tank battle with Syrian forces in 1982. Arad was captured by terrorists in 1986. In national news coverage Israeli sources have indicated repeatedly that if any of the hostages are surviving, it is likely to be Arad.

Organized and supported by youth organizations, among them Tagar, Bnei Akiva, Hashomer Hatzair and Betar, the rally consisted mostly of students.

Student representation included high school students from Frisch and Hillel Yeshiva High School, both located in New Jersey, as well as Magen David Yeshiva High School, MTA, Ramaz and the Sepharadic High School, all of New York. There was also a group from the Betar sponsored Shalom Stuyvesant organization from Stuyvesant

High School.

College students hailed from various schools including Brooklyn College, New York University, Rutgers University, Yeshiva University, Hunter College, Columbia University, and SUNY Albany.

Many students proudly wore dog-tags bearing the imprint "Ron Arad, 10-16-86 MIA" (Missing Israeli soldier in Action); the distribution of dog-tags followed a campaign begun by David Williger from Tagar. As a result, thousands of students across the country are wearing these tags as a sign of solidarity with the Israeli hostages.

One such student at SCW is Jasmine Conen, head of the Israel Club. "It is hard to believe that they have been in captivity for almost eight years and no one has managed to do anything for them. It was disappointing to see as little as 200 people (at the rally), but at the same time it was positive, considering the weather," noted Conen.

While solemn songs were led by a cantor, two YU students walked through the audience blind-folded and bound at the wrists in attempting to offer a realistic portrayal of the situation for the protesters.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, a professor at SCW and a Jewish activist,

Continued on Page 9

in the Gulf War do not elude the president-elect, but while he advocates strategic relations between Israel and the US, he has not detailed concrete plans for interaction between the countries.

Clinton promotes "an international effort and tough sanctions to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of tyrants like those in Iran, Iraq, and Libya." But, he has also vocalized his desire to ensure the completion of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile. The Clinton administration will face such decisions regarding the sale of military aircraft to countries such as Saudi Arabia. These sales could preserve thousands of jobs for American workers.

Clinton acknowledges that American exports to Israel are

important for the American economy. In 1991 alone, exports to Israel totaled \$3.3 billion and Clinton projects that Israel will spend \$30 billion in the US during the next five years. The president-elect also plans to create a Joint American-Israeli High-Tech Commission "to work on research and development on the technologies of the twenty-first century."

New York Times editor A. M. Rosenthal states that "Clinton understands the moral, political, and economic strength of political freedom." Clinton's positions seem to support Israel in issues in which she opposes her Arab neighbors. Now it is up to the Jewish people to ensure that Clinton fulfills his promises.

CULTURAL ARTS

ALADDIN:

A Diamond in the Rough

By MARGY BERKOWITZ

One of the biggest movies out this Thanksgiving is Walt Disney's *Aladdin*. It is a full-length animated feature about a young boy and the genie that pops out of a lamp ready to grant him the token three wishes. If you go to see *Aladdin* ready to be wowed with a *Beauty and the Beast* look-alike, be warned. Last year's blockbuster was a masterpiece that may not be repeatable. Don't expect miracles. But, if you go to *Aladdin* to have an enjoyable evening and laugh non-stop for an hour and a half, this is the movie for you.

The plot from the *Arabian Nights* isn't too creative: a poor boy (resembling any teenager from any given century) who must steal for food falls in love with Princess Jasmine, a young girl who is dying to escape from the trappings of palace life. Law says she must marry a prince, but she doesn't want to. Both of them want the lifestyle that the other has. Meanwhile, there is the villain (every good Disney movie has one), The Grand Vizir, who wishes to become the sultan by recovering an old magic lamp that has a genie inside. He isn't able to enter the lamp's resting place; only one who is a pure soul, a "diamond in the rough," may enter. The Vizir comes up with Aladdin. He captures the young boy and sends Aladdin down into the cave for the lamp. Aladdin realizes (nearly too late) that the Vizir has villainous intentions, and he is trapped inside the cave. He rubs the lamp, and voila! A genie who has the voice of Robin Williams, and any countenance he desires, pops out, ready to help Aladdin escape from the cave and thus be able to marry the princess.

Until now, the story has a few chuckles along the way, but it isn't until the genie appears that the movie gets rolling. It is one laugh after another as Robin Williams changes the character of the genie every five seconds.

He uses the voices of Jack Nicholson, Arsenio Hall, Robert De Niro, Rodney Dangerfield and Ed Sullivan, to name just a few. The genie begins to take on the persona of a stand-up comic, and the effect is hilarious. It is mainly because of Williams that the movie is as wonderful as it is. He even gets to sing his own song. (Did you know that Robin Williams could sing?)

The music was done by Alan Menken, the same man who scored *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*, but somehow the music doesn't measure up. Some of the song lyrics were written by Howard Ashman, the lyricist of the two aforementioned films who died while working on *Aladdin*, and some were written by Tim Rice (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat). On the whole, the music is not as wonderful as it could have been. Sometimes, the lyrics are not clear unless you see the film twice.

The film does contain all the delightful Disney sidekicks. Gilbert Gottfried is fantastic as the voice of Iago, the Grand Vizir's partner in crime. The parrot even resembles Gottfried some of the time. Aladdin has a pet monkey, Abu, who doesn't really speak but makes adorable noises and facial expressions. And in the cave of the lamp, Aladdin and Abu discover a magical flying carpet that has a personality. It may seem difficult to show a carpet with expression, but the wonderful animators managed to do so. The carpet's different anthropomorphisms are excellently rendered. The animation in general is very well done.

On the whole, for a Disney movie, *Aladdin* is on the caliber of *The Little Mermaid* and other films of the past decades. It has wonderful voices and animation, and is an excellent movie for the kids, or for the kid in all of us. It is a lot of fun, and a great way to spend your time.

• MISC. BETH •

Operas, Plays and Humus

By BETH GREEN

OOOH la *La Boheme*! Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme* is one of my favorite operas. The opera was first scoffed at in Turin, but when it opened in Palermo, the audiences, "refused to leave the theater until the final scene had been repeated." It's a story about Bohemian Parisians and their loves. The opera revolves around the classic love of Mimi and Rodolfo and the dynamic relationship between Musetta and Marcello. Mimi is supposed to hold your attention, but the flirtatious Musetta is so much more amusing. Some pretentious opera buffs look down on *La Boheme* as being too human, and accuse Puccini of brazenly wanting audiences to enjoy it. Puccini knew it was no crime. Franco Zeffirelli designed the charming garret and the wonderful Latin Quarter setting.

This is a great first opera to see. Before the opera you should buy the libretto or rent the movie because being lost in hours of Italian is a little overwhelming. Get comfortable with the story and then dress up for a night at the opera. Unfortunately there aren't any student tickets, but \$20 will buy you a seat in the Family Circle. It is pretty high up, but the melodies float. Lincoln Center is worth every penny. Last performances are Jan 12 and 23 1993. Call the Met box office number 212-362-6000 for more details.

□ □ □

Semiramide is an opera based on the works of Voltaire and composed by Gioachino Rossini. Rossini wrote over 40 operas with the Barber of Seville being the most famous. *Semiramide* was the final opera Rossini wrote in Italy. *Semiramide* is the Queen of Babylon and the opera is about her struggle for power. She murders the king and attempts to remarry until her husband's ghost, and the high priest get involved. An Oedipal complication also occurs, Rossini adds it to heighten the drama. The best part, aside from the moving arias are definitely the animals that nobly transverse the stage. The costumes are very elaborate and the sets are really fantastic. The last remaining performance is January 13 1993. Catch it at the Metropolitan Opera House. Call 212-362-6000 or go to 64th and Broadway.

□ □ □

Free tours at Lincoln Center are given of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York State Theater, Avery Fisher Hall, or the Vivian Beaumont Theater. It is an exciting look behind the scenes of the great stages. The tour is filled with trivia and stories about the famous theaters and the lively people who bring these things to life. The tour lasts an hour and runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy Lincoln Center, where "all the world's onstage." Call 212-875-5350 for details.

Way off Broadway, the long running mystery, "Perfect Crime" is playing. The thriller only has five actors, but the story is a bit complicated. During intermission the audience was abuzz in conversation about who did it and why. Never ignore foreshadowing, listen for clues, and don't feel stupid if you still can't figure it out. They do use fire-arms in the show, but don't worry they follow all NYPD, OSHA, and BATF regulations. If a play can last in New York for six years it has to have a niche. Call the Perfect Crime Hotline at 212-481-7839 or stand in line at TKTS and receive their flyer. The playhouse is located on 55th St between 9th and 10th.

□ □ □

Down in the Village lies the Village Crown. It is a Middle Eastern eatery with silver prints of Israel dressing the walls. The benches are hand painted by the resident artist. The food is inexpensive and the portions are generous. Prices run \$2.50 to \$14 and don't forget the 10% with the YU identification card. I wouldn't recommend it for a birthday party, unless you don't care about chasing out the other customers. For more information call Sylvia Haber or the restaurant at 212-674-2061. Happy Birthday Miss Schenker!

□ □ □

Stay Tuned For More...

A Possession of Talent

By CHERYL BERMAN

"Spellbinding!" one observer commented upon being asked of the Stern play. Few can deny that Stern college has surpassed its own theatrical record in this year's presentation of *The Dybbuk*.

The mystical story of a tortured soul's reunification with the subconscious of his "chosen" mate, and the subsequent exorcism of that soul, was presented with rare proficiency.

One entered the room and was transferred into the realm of the supernatural. A combination of incandescent lighting (Jeanne Konig, Stephanie Pliskin) and ghostly music (Ehran Elisha, Randy McKean) created a chilling aura that pervaded the entire play. The costumes were intricately designed (Annette Modesitt), and enhanced the

general haunting mystique of the play. The director, Rina Elisha, excelled in choreographing the wedding scene, which succeeded in creating a terrifying, chaotic environment. The stage was symbolically set as a chuppah and each backdrop was fraught with meaning.

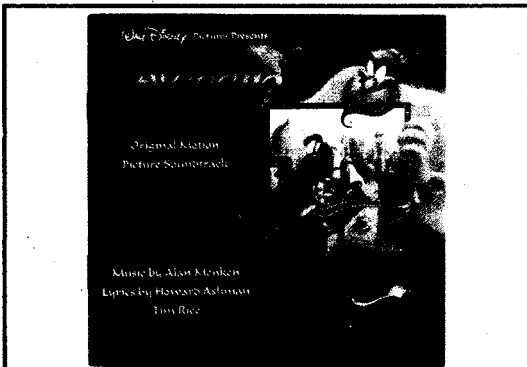
But the real acclaim must be attributed to the cast. Dafna Kalishi (Chanan) made the saga of a tormented soul real to her audience. We were mesmerized by her powerful performance. Kayla Kaplan Shapiro (Leah) had us entranced when she cried "No!" as she was being bestowed to another. She demonstrated the rare ability of drawing her audience in.

Layaliza Klein captured the essence of Reb Azriel - the Tzaddik destined to face the

challenge of his life. We all fell in love with Margy Berkowitz's (Frade) portrayal of the bubbe, as we empathized with the innocent Shoshana Naider (Osher) as the slightly overwhelmed groom to be. Emily Amie Witty was superb as Sender, the opulent father of a daughter possessed. Shana Blaustien's (messenger) haunting role provided an eerie commentary to the action.

Sarah Altman, Chavi Sussman, Adina Weiss, Malka Rothner, Yaffa Schindler, Mindy Berrebi, Rina Cohen, and Leah Finkel provided the perfect balance of comic relief to this very serious subject matter.

The Dramatics Society is to be commended for this year's performance, and we are all anxiously awaiting their next...



Sephardic Festival Heralded as Unique Opportunity

By RENA MASLANSKY

Yeshiva University co-sponsored the 21st annual Semana Sephardic Cultural Festival. The festival, the week of December 6 to 13, commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Jewish expulsion from Spain during the Inquisition.

Rabbi Dr. M. Mitchell Serels, University director of Sephardic community programs and associate director of the Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies at YU, feels that the festival is "a unique opportunity, especially in this year, commemorating the fact that we survived after 500 years and that we continue to persevere." Through the festival, said Rabbi Serels, "We hope to perpetuate greater understanding of Sephardic culture and the shared relationship of Jews and non-Jews in Spain."

Under the auspices of Sephardic Community Programs of RIETS, Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac

Elchanan Theological Seminary, numerous programs were held in various communities throughout the United States and Canada.

The first day of the festival featured two programs. Shaare Rahamim Sephardic Congregation in the Bronx hosted RIETS student, Naftali Haleva. Haleva, the future chief Rabbi of Turkey, and recent graduate of Yeshiva College, spoke about his recent experience. "A Turkish Jew Returns to Spain."

In the evening, Dr. Edna Aizenberg delivered a lecture on "Spanish Shylocks and Jewish Dancing Girls," at the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills, Queens. Aizenberg, an associate professor of Spanish at Marymount Manhattan College has written extensively about Sephardic culture.

The program continued on Monday at Congregation Etz Haim, in Highland Park, NJ, with

Dr. Ronald Surtz, a Spanish Professor at Princeton University. Surtz discussed the Spanish Inquisition in a discourse entitled, "My Life Hangs on the Testimony of Drunkards: Inez Lopez and the Spanish Inquisition."

The fourth event, on December 8, was held at the Sephardic Jewish Center of Canarsie. The guest lecturer at the Center was Dr. Reginetta Habousha, a Sephardic folklore expert and professor of Spanish at Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. Dr. Habousha reviewed the "Popular Literature of the Sephardim."

The fifth installment in the festival series, at the Sephardic Temple in Cedarhurst, NY featured Dr. Jonathan Helfand, professor of Jewish history and deputy chairperson for graduate studies in the Judaic studies department at Brooklyn College of

City University. In his lecture, entitled, "Sephardim of Bordeaux from Conversos to Community," Dr. Helfand addressed the issue of Jewish refugees in France.

Thursday December 10 saw two more programs: one at the Sephardic Home for the Aged in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, and the other at the Sephardic House of Shearith Israel (The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue).

RIETS student Abraham Benhamu spoke at the Sephardic Home about the experience of being witness to "The Visit of the King of Spain to the Synagogue." Benhamu had been invited by the Spanish Government to attend a recent ceremony in which Spain's King Juan Carlos annulled the expulsion decree.

Audience members at the program in Shearith Israel were treated to a lecture and slide show, delivered by Dr. Louise Mirrer, professor of romance languages at Fordham University. The discourse was entitled, "The Image of Jews in Spanish Literature: A Slide Presentation."

The culminating event of the festival was hosted by the Yeshiva University Museum on the afternoon of Sunday December

13. The program was organized in cooperation with the Judaica Museum of the Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale. The guest orator was Dr. Madeline Pelner Cosman, professor at City College and recent author of a book about traditional wedding ceremonies. Dr. Cosman reviewed ancient Spanish Jewish wedding ceremonies in a lecture entitled, "A Medieval Spanish Jewish Wedding: A Slide Presentation."

The festival programs were highlighted by visits from Spanish Government representatives and performances by noted singers of Judeo-Spanish music. Gerard Edery - a guitarist and opera singer who has performed Sephardic music in the U.S. and Europe - entertained at the locations in Canarsie, Bensonhurst and Cedarhurst. The Joe Elias Ensemble - an interpreter of Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) music - performed in the Bronx, Highland Park, and at the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue. Shaare Rahamim in the Bronx and the Yeshiva University museum were entertained by Elias Sarkar Ensemble, who played traditional Ladino, Turkish and Israeli music.

STORM HITS NYC

Several SCW Students Stranded

By LAURIE KATZMAN

The violent rain and snow-storm that wreaked havoc on New York City from Thursday December 10 until Saturday December 12, left many New Yorkers stranded in the city; some SCW students were among them.

The rain began on Thursday evening. With 70 MPH winds and a heavy down-pour, people were advised not to leave their homes unless absolutely necessary.

Coastal areas were flooded by the strong tides resulting in electrical failures to 112,000 homes. People were evicted from their flooded homes and some houses near the shore collapsed. Certain areas of Fire Island were flooded with 8 feet of water. Thousands of people in Long Island, New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut were forced to sleep in shelters or remain in their unheated flooded homes.

People who commute to NYC were quite inconvenienced by the storm. Various NYC subways, highways, bridges and tunnels were closed down because of flooding. Many commuters were forced to remain in the city overnight or at least until the bridges were reopened. One of the most severely stricken areas in NYC was the FDR Drive which was closed since part of the drive was submerged under 3-4 feet of water.

Many Stern students were adversely affected by the storm as well. Students who had intended to leave school on Friday found it quite difficult, if not impossible, to reach their Shabbat destinations. Some remained in the dormitory for the weekend: "I thought it was dangerous out-

side and I felt a lot safer remaining indoors," remarked SCW Senior Yona Markowitz. Leora Zucker, the Resident Assistant on duty for Shabbat, said that despite the cancelled plans, "in the end everyone enjoyed [the Shabbat]."

Other students ventured out into the storm and found themselves stranded in Washington Heights. One group sought refuge in the home of Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, who gladly welcomed them.

"My wife and I enjoyed having the opportunity to become acquainted with students' aspirations and frustrations. The Shabbat could not have turned out any better even if it had been planned in advance," he concluded.

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POLITICAL TALK

Extremism or Foresight?

By CHAVA BOYLAN

Another day, another U.N. condemnation. It's become pretty routine by now.

Following its deportation of over 400 Palestinian terrorists allegedly connected to the extreme Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, Israel has received worldwide criticism including disapproval from both the Bush administration (surprise) and President-Elect Bill Clinton.

Yet this mass deportation comes in response to the recent murders of four Israeli soldiers and, perhaps most shocking, the kidnapping and subsequent murder of Sgt. Maj. Nissim Toledano, an Israeli border policeman from Lod, by Hamas terrorists.

Upon the abduction of Sgt. Maj. Toledano, Hamas requested that Israel release Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Furthermore, they refused to provide any proof that Toledano was, indeed, alive.

Even with proof of Toledano's whereabouts, it would be difficult for Israel to hand over Sheikh Yassin without endangering the lives of other Israeli border police, as Oded Ben-Ami explained. "If I give you what you want, every soldier, every policeman, every Israeli will become victim to such a negotiation. This is a terrorist activity. There's no way to accept such demands."

Hamas is an extreme group which makes the P.L.O. look moderate in comparison. It has widespread support, specifically in the Gaza Strip. It poses a serious threat to Israel's security as well as threaten the current peace talks, just ending its eighth session in Washington.

To combat this recent wave of terrorism, therefore, the Israeli government voted in favor of the deportation. The Israeli supreme court upheld this decision. Even the more left-wing members of the government voted to expel the 400.

After the Gulf War, Kuwait, the country we "liberated," expelled 300,000 Palestinians because of the P.L.O.'s support for Saddam Hussein. Yet Kuwait did not receive U.N. condemnation.

I sense something strange here. I think it's called a double standard.

In 1981, Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Then, too, she was condemned by the entire world. In 1990, however, the world thanked her.

Israel must respond to extremists in an extreme way. Giving in to terrorist demands only furthers terror. There comes a point, therefore, when Israel must put aside its public relations, say to help with the rest of the world, and use the foresight it is known for.

Now is such a time.

AMCHA: An Organization With Many Missions

By NAOMI RABINOWITZ

Icy wind welcomed more than 30 SCW students and community members on December 21, as they rallied in support of Israel's decision to deport 383 Hamas activists.

"The Hamas should learn that the Israeli government will not hesitate to react to its terrorist attacks," said Michal Schwartz - Shanbaum, an SCW senior.

Students holding signs which read "UN hypocrisy" and "where was the UN when Saudi Arabia expelled 1,000,000 Arabs?" were chanting "we back Israel - deport the terrorists now."

"We're here to express solidarity with Israel. We declare: deport the arab terrorists now" said Rabbi Avi Weiss, AMCHA's national president and organizer of the rally.

It began as one individual's expression of outrage towards former President Ronald Reagan, as he paid a visit to the

Bittburgh Nazi cemetery, and it resulted in the emergence of a national organization, known as AMCHA.

AMCHA - Coalition for Jewish Concerns provides a vehicle for the common Jewish people to speak out on issues of concern. The organization takes a direct action approach and conveys its message in a strong manner, but without the use of violence or scare tactics.

It is intended to represent individuals who are unaffiliated with any other specific organizations, and allows people who find themselves in the trenches to have their views on current pressing Jewish issues expressed.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, National President of AMCHA, and Senior Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, first started the organization when Ronald Reagan visited the Nazi cemetery in Bittburgh. Since then, AMCHA has expanded into an organization

"Yuval Arad Wants Her Daddy Home"

Continued From Page 6

spoke and stirred the audience to cheer and clap. "This should become a struggle like the struggle to free (Natan) Scharansky," Rabbi Weiss said as he stood on the Scharansky Steps, referring to the long-held captive of the

former USSR who was freed in 1986.

The crowd came close to blocking traffic as students stood on the street holding large posters with messages and drawings of the Jewish star and the Israeli flag. An especially

moving placard read "Yuval Arad wants her daddy home!"

Other speakers included Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Gad Yaacobi and General Uzi Narkiss. Following his speech, Narkiss was asked by a student what exactly the Israeli government is doing to assist and speed the release of the hostages. "I cannot give specific detail as not to get in the way of saving them," was Narkiss' response.

Toward the end of the rally a torch of hope was lit. The rally ended on a positive note as all broke into song, singing "Hevenu shalom aleichem. Bring peace onto us."

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which galvanizes, on a national level, different Jewish communities to unite and deal with issues of concern.

The national director of AMCHA, Judy Balint, relayed reasons for the creation of this organization.

"A schism exists between leaders of many national Jewish organizations and their membership." There are issues such as the unjust prolonged sentence of Jonathan Pollard that many people have chosen to ignore. Their claim is that it is not a Jewish issue. AMCHA, however, disagrees. It printed a full page ad in the *New York Times* containing hundreds of rabbis' signatures all expressing their beliefs the Pollard issue is an important one, and that it should remain a Jewish consciousness in our times.

AMCHA has also become involved in the issue of Israeli MIAs. Balint said that this matter has been "brushed under the table" and AMCHA will not tolerate it.

On September 23, AMCHA held a demonstration to protest Lebanon's failure to return Israeli soldier Ron Arad after being captured in 1983. The date marked the last day of the Arab-Israeli peace talks before it recessed for the Jewish holidays. The organization held a vigil and blew a shofar to let the Israeli government know that American Jews are also concerned about Israel's soldiers.

Another prime issue of concern for Amcha is the oppression of Jews on the whole. Direct aid projects have been initiated to send medical relief to Jews who are in desperate need of supplies in various countries.

More recently, the fiery controversy which erupted in Crown Heights led AMCHA to conduct highly publicized demonstrations.

Future plans for the organization include "Solidarity With Pollard Day," scheduled for the week of Chanukah. Both rabbis and lay leaders will rally in front of court houses on Pollard's behalf.

AMCHA will give Israel the incentive to speak out on the United States' sale of F15s to Saudi Arabia. Various rallies of protest have been planned. Israel has remained silent until now because it does not want to spoil the chance of receiving the loan guarantees America has promised. This issue can not be resolved until Congress resumes session.

AMCHA has shed new light on how an organization is to be governed. In many major Jewish organizations rabbis have been reduced to secondary status. AMCHA feels, though, that rabbis of all denominations should be allowed to give direct moral and spiritual guidance, and give its rabbis a prominent role in the organization. The leadership council of AMCHA therefore includes lay leaders and Rabbis, both setting the agenda. Its agenda will focus on concerns that all can agree on, rather than divisive ones.

AMCHA is located in six regions distributed throughout California, the Midwest and New York. The organization works with student groups in various college campuses, including Yeshiva University. It appeals to students because they generally like its direct action approach, and feel strongly about its issues.

SCW has participated by selling dog tags with Ron Arad's name imprinted on them. The money collected will go toward the funding of future protest events on Arad's behalf.

AMCHA maintains that it will not stand for the Jewish people's silent suffering. It believes the Jewish people's voice must be heard in order to bring about justice.

The Facts Behind the Story

By JASMINE CONEN

"Nissim Toledano was not granted the right to appeal the brutal, bloody sentence passed on him. The Hamas deportees get that right," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin responded to those criticizing the deportation of 383 Hamas activists. Earlier that week, on December 15, border police had discovered Sergeant Major Toledano's body, the fifth serviceman killed by the Hamas in eight days.

The next morning, the Israeli government decided to take severe measures against Hamas, the Moslem fundamentalist terror organization, and released an order to "temporarily remove persons regarded as responsible for incitement to bloodshed." On the following evening, the UN Security Council strongly condemned the expulsion and demanded the immediate return of the Palestinians.

International law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, forbids the deportation of civilians living under foreign military control and grants them a right to judicial review. As Rabin pointed out, the Hamas Activists were temporarily deported (up to two years). Following the deportation, they have 60 days in which to apply to an appeals committee, though they may not do so in person.

"Where was the UN when two years ago, 350,000 Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait?" asked Israel's President Chaim Herzog at the Annual Chanukah Dinner on December 20. He pointed out that both Egypt and Algeria, who have taken steps in recent weeks to "eradicate the fundamentalist...who endanger [their] society," were met with world understanding. "It is time for this council to cease condemning the victims of terrorism," said Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gad Yaacobi.

Union Negotiations Continue as Employees Rally at Chanukah Dinner

By ELANA HARTSTEIN

On Sunday, December 20, union employees rallied once again, this time across the street from the Waldorf Astoria hotel during the annual Yeshiva University Chanukah dinner. Union members felt this would help their plight, as influential board members attending the dinner looked with curiosity at the assembly.

YU labor union members continued their pursuit of a mutually agreed upon new contract to replace the contracts which expired on Oct. 1, 1992. The issues at stake include better health benefits, job security, a lesser disparity between AECOM perks, and training upgrades.

Approximately 75-100 labor union members, assisted by supporters of other institutions such as Columbia Presbyterian, NYU, Isabella, and AECOM participated in the demonstration. Posters were displayed, indicating how workers have been performing over an extended time period without a contract. The message was that the workers will fight to get a fair contract and new benefits.

Matthew Hagan, a labor member and maintenance worker, felt that "the rally went well. There were a lot of people there." Additionally, he noted that Associate Director of Facili-

ties Management Jeff Sokol and SCW Security Supervisor Louis Gonzalez were standing in front of the hotel, watching the rally. This is a clear indication that "we know they were watching so we know we were heard."

Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, who is in charge of the negotiations, attended the banquet. He was aware that a rally was scheduled but said that due to the divider on Park Avenue, he did not even notice the group. If he had seen them, he added, he would "have said hello." He expressed happiness that there were no repercussions from the demonstration.

According to Klarence Barnett, a painter and a labor member, "Yeshiva has been slow to negotiate...They are playing hardball with us at the table." A fifth meeting was scheduled for the evening of December 22 in an attempt to continue the negotiations. Barnett "wants to see the outcome tonight," he asserted.

Rosengarten feels progress was made at the meeting of December 16. The negotiators from both sides, "worked hard and made decent progress." Rosengarten remains hopeful that a settlement will be made shortly, that it will be, "some-

thing that Yeshiva University can live with." Rosengarten wants the process to be as painless as possible, and would like to meet the workers' expectations. Rosengarten also feels that flexibility from both ends of the table is critical, as it is in no one's interest not to be.

Upon asking Rosengarten whether this prolonging in settling a contract is deviant, he explained that, "this is actually quite normal. It is traditional to be late." This is attributed to the Jewish holidays and other contracts that arise at the same time as the labor union for renewal. In the past contracts have been negotiated as late as February. The contracts will remain unsigned until the point where YU is sure that it is, "something that YU can live with." YU does not want to give a contract and have to recant.

As far as feeling different from AECOM and other institutions, Rosengarten wants it known that YU is a small private university, relying on tuition and gifts from benefactors to remain operative. It is unlike a hospital that can rely on the government and insurance companies to "pick up the tab."

The consensus of the union members is that they have a fair proposal and they are not asking for anything that no other institution has. Rosengarten is optimistic that a resolution will be passed soon, but "sometimes by preparing for the worst," as there are contingencies and plans for dealing with a strike, "makes for the best."

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Lighting Up the Dorm

By KHAYA NOVICK

Hanukkah candles may be lit only in the front lounge of the Stern dormitory, not in students' individual rooms. Questions have been raised as to whether this is halachically correct--shouldn't one have a chanukiah burning in one's own apartment in order to truly fulfill the mitzvah?

According to Rabbi Flaum, "It has been determined by the administration that it would be a *sacarah* [for SCW students] to light in their private rooms. The dorm fee paid in the beginning of the year includes the lounge--it is considered like their living room."

Rabbi Flaum also mentioned that since the room gets very warm, it is necessary to light candles that will burn for a sufficient amount of time without melting from the heat of the lounge.

Some students do feel negatively about having to light in the

lounge. However, far more students do not find it to be an imposition and in fact feel it enhances their enjoyment of Hanukkah. One SCW senior remembered the resentment she felt in a previous year when her roommate insisted on lighting in the apartment, as she felt it was a fire hazard.

SCW senior Jasmine Conen pointed out that the abundance of *chanukkiot* in the lounge visible from the street "...draws people in to ask questions and really adds to the spirit."

SCW senior Shana Bak summed it up: "I think it's beautiful--you get a very warm feeling when you come down and see lots of women singing *Maoz Tzur* together. The room is warm from the candles...this adds a family dimension to dorm life and makes it feel more like a home, and not just a dormitory."

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT What Have They Done For Us Lately?

By LORI TURKEL

You'll be surprised to know that the New York City Police Department's 17th Precinct, which includes the SCW school building, has the third lowest crime rate in the five boroughs of New York.

The precinct receives about 40 to 50 crime reports each day, but this number is relatively low. The crimes listed on these re-

ports range from minor occurrences to burglary and car theft. There have been few incidents of murder or rape in the area in the past year.

Twenty of the precinct's 150 officers are assigned to specific beats, which they patrol daily by foot. This practice is part of a larger program initiated five years ago by the NYPD called the Community Policing Unit,

which originally sought to shift some of its manpower back on to the streets.

"Officers on regular beats can keep track of all conditions and patterns of criminal activity in the area," explained Community Affairs Officer Frank Boggucki. "They can work with residents to stop crime before it happens."

Before it began its effort to establish an organized beat system, the precinct had different officers covering its beats each day of the week. It decided, however, that for officers to do their jobs effectively, they would be better off patrolling the same area every day, because this would allow them to isolate patterns of crime.

It organized nine beats, assigning two officers - one daytime, one nighttime - and one detective to each. SCW is located in beat number two, and is assigned to Officers Ermet and Smigiel and Detective Dinan.

The beat cops often handle crimes that are about to happen, because "90 percent of the time patrol cars in the area are handling 911 calls - things that already happened," said Boggucki. "They don't have

much real patrol time."

The precinct's main concerns are not as gruesome as one might expect. They include the homeless, windshield washers, and the UN. To help solve the homeless problem, police officers enlist aid from the Human Resources Association, the New York City Sanitation Department and the Parks Department. Officers try to get homeless individuals off the streets of their precinct by giving them the option of using shelters and other services offered by the city, or packing their bags and moving somewhere else.

Particularly at the entrance to the Midtown Tunnel, windshield washers are another problem group the officers confront. "The washers are very threatening for drivers," said Boggucki, and officers have tried to persuade nearby store owners not to sell these people any washing equipment. Officers also patrol the streets near the tunnel, making sure the windshield washers do not pose a menace to drivers.

The 17th Precinct also includes the United Nations building, where "there's one demonstration held every single day,

and we have to cover them," Boggucki said. Most are peaceful, and pose no problem to the officers.

As Community Affairs Officer, Boggucki spends many nights on the job meeting with community residents and listening to their concerns. "They live here, they know what's going on."

Residents give him specific complaints that are usually followed up by police action. For example, "Because we meet with people in the community, if someone were selling drugs in a certain area we would know about it."

Boggucki said he is happy to report that generally the complaints he receives from residents deal with quality of life problems. People complain about the bikers who ride recklessly through the city's streets, the black livery cars that can be found double parked on many blocks, and windshield washers.

After consulting with residents, the problems are discussed at the Station, and solutions are sought. After all, said Boggucki, "we're here for the public."

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SPORTS

KUFELD AND COHEN The Dynamic Duo

By SARAH ALTMAN and ADINA WEISS

While watching the Lady Macs play, one can easily forget all the hard work and long hours that go into preparing for a game. The players come out in a blaze and thunder across the court, faking left, passing right, going for lay-ups and running up the scoreboard. We cheer at their victories and mourn their defeats. For the spectator, the game only lasts for two hours, but for the players it is a year long struggle. They help each other out and pull each other through the gruelling season. However, without the support of Coach David Kufeld and Assistant Coach Mike Cohen, the team would never make it to a game.

Kufeld, a Yeshiva University alumnus and former Mac superstar, brings to the Stern College basketball arena a strong knowledge of the game and years of professional experience. As an All-American on the Macs, Kufeld was the NCAA rebounding champion in 1979 and 1980. He proceeded to become the only YU graduate ever to be drafted by the National Basketball Association, when he was selected by the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers. Kufeld later took his talents east, where he played

professionally for the Maccabi Ramat Gan in Israel's first division. In 1991 he won a gold medal at the Pan American Maccabiah games in Uruguay.

In addition to coaching the Lady Macs, Kufeld is president and founder of the Jewish Sports Congress. His expertise in basketball is certainly felt on the court. "He is a well educated

athlete," says SCW senior Tania Cohen. "He thinks up excellent plays but leaves it up to the team to execute them."

While Kufeld's intimidating

height - a nice 6'9" - makes him a dominant presence at every game, it is hard to miss assistant coach Mike Cohen's booming voice arguing with the referees and direct-

ing the players.

Cohen, also educated at Yeshiva University, got his start at the media end of the basketball world, as an award winning Sports Information Director at YU. A dedicated fan of Bernard "Red" Sarachek, Cohen helped him get elected to the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame.

Lou Carnesecca, former St. John's coach said, "Red would have had to wait a while for induction if it wasn't for Mike." Cohen incorporates his love of basketball with his journalistic abilities to cover the NCAA and NBA

for *M'ariv* as senior basketball analyst. In addition, Cohen is a scout for several European basketball agents, and serves as the executive vice president of the Jewish Sports Congress.

Combine his vast basketball experience with his years in the Israeli Defense Forces and you get the tough Mike Cohen the players know so well. According to some of the players, there was a lot of shouting and pounding on the court at first. "But then he mellowed out," said an anonymous source.

Together, this dynamic duo put together a team par excellence. Their dedication and determination is reflected in the performance of the team. The embodiment of Kufeld's power and experience with Cohen's spirit and knowledge of the game truly yield a winning team (regardless of the stats). Says team captain Tamar "T.K." Kirschenbaum, "The coaches for the Lady Macs are extremely dedicated to the game of basketball and to the team. They have taken 14 women, each with different skills and abilities, and formed us into a cohesive winning unit."



Head coach Dave Kufeld (right) of Great Neck, NY, a former captain of the YC Macs, and Assistant coach Mike Cohen (left), former publicist for Yeshiva Sports.

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SPOTLIGHT

DR. C. NOVETSKY: A ROLE MODEL THAT WOMEN CAN EMULATE

By ILANA BRESLAU
more convenient and the hours more accommodating to her schedule.



Dr. C. Novetsky has been teaching at SCW since 1989.

Currently, Novetsky teaches Tanakh on the elementary and advanced levels at SCW. She

especially enjoys teaching the subject to women "because I think women are striving for excellence today in areas in which they never had opportunities before."

Novetsky's excitement in the classroom is contagious to her students. Sylvia Haber, SCWSC vice president, credits Novetsky with providing a role model both to herself and to her fellow students. "In today's environment, where there is so much more emphasis on women's abilities and capabilities, Dr. Novetsky is one of the few instructors who are true role models. She presents a way of life and an earnest love of that life that truly motivates one to pursue a similar lifestyle."

However, despite the strides she believes women are making within *limudei kodesh*, Novetsky is disheartened by the lack of progress of Jewish education in elementary and high schools. "We're losing a lot of our stu-

dents ... wasting potential in elementary schools," she says. Novetsky maintains that the Jewish community must enhance the pride it takes in Jewish education, as well as raise its expectations of teachers.

"We have to show people that it's a worthwhile profession, so people will be interested in teaching," Novetsky asserts.

Clearly, Novetsky has conveyed this notion to her children. Her daughter Ayelet, SCW '92, has moved to Israel and is currently studying at Midreshet Lindenbaum's Bruria Scholars Program, and her son Hillel, YC '91, is finishing *smikhah* at The Gruss Institute. Both children plan to be involved in Jewish education.

Novetsky and her husband currently live in Staten Island with their youngest son, Akiva, who will graduate elementary school this year. Novetsky plans on making *aliyah* in the future.

Around Chanukah, students in Dr. Chaikie Novetsky's elementary Tanakh class learn about the basic laws and ideas relating to the festival. Although the class curriculum doesn't call for instruction of *chagim*, Novetsky stresses the importance of meeting the needs of students who lack strong backgrounds in Judaism and are ignorant of many elementary concepts.

Novetsky maintains that many students are "playing catch-up," starting 12 or 13 years behind women who have received a yeshiva education all their lives. "We need to give them *hushkafah*, an understanding and a love for Judaism ... that's why they're here."

It is to her own elementary and high school Jewish Studies teachers that Novetsky attributes her desire to enter the field of Jewish education.

Growing up on the North Side of Chicago, Novetsky was ac-

tive in Bnei Akiva. Following high school graduation, she studied for a year in Israel at Machon Gold. "Being in Israel made me all the more determined to go into Jewish education," she says.

Upon returning from Israel, Novetsky attended college in Chicago, where she graduated from Roosevelt University. She moved to New York after graduation and later went back to school for an MA in elementary education, an MA in Biblical Hebrew, and a PhD in Bible and Biblical Hebrew at New York University, all while raising her three children.

After receiving her PhD, Novetsky worked for the Jewish Education Association in West Caldwell, NJ, where she coordinated the Adult Education program.

In 1988 Novetsky began teaching at YC. The following year she switched to SCW because the midtown location was

A Miracle on Forty Fifth Street

By REBECCA WOLF

The corner of Fifth Avenue and 45th Street boasts this year's Chanukah House, an annual project of Tzivos Hashem, the International Lubavitch Jewish children's organization.

The multifaceted enterprise introduces New York's public to the history and concepts of Chanukah, through various exhibits and activities designed to increase awareness of the holiday. The windows of the building depict Chanukah scenes: Chana and her seven sons, the death of Elazar the Maccabi, and the burning of the *menorah* for eight days and nights, to mention a few. A brief explanation accompanies each display.

Inside the building, an enlarged picture of the Lubavitch Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, as well as a Lubavitch volunteer, greets each visitor. Inside a huge dreidel, named the "Dreidel House", stands Judah the Maccabi (in complete costume, including a Tzivos Hashem shield!) who explains the story of Chanukah to those who enter. A gift shop sells Chanukah books and paraphernalia.

Behind the exhibit children are invited to engage in various Chanukah-related arts and crafts projects. In an adjoining room, volunteers run a workshop demonstrating the use of an olive press in transforming olives into usable oil.

Stairs lead visitors to a video room, which periodically screens "Lights," an animated film depicting the Chanukah story. The movie focuses on the struggle between acculturation and the Jewish identity, a conflict with which modern youth grapples as well.

According to the Supervisor of the Chanukah House, Rabbi Binyamin Steinmetz, the project has been in existence for a number of years, occupying different Manhattan sites. The building in which the present Chanukah House is located, once occupied by Quantas Airlines, was loaned to Tzivos Hashem by its owner, Silverstein Properties.

Steinmetz commented that the Chanukah House's primary goal is to show some of the basics of Chanukah to the "Jewish kinderlach who are out there and see Jesus and the nativity" displayed incessantly during the holiday season, and are not exposed to Chanukah. He asserted that Jews from all walks of life and religious backgrounds visit the House and are able to gain from the experience.

The House is staffed with volunteers from the Lubavitch community. Two such volunteers, Chaya Vogel, age 17, and Nechama Dina Schtroks, age 18, are students at the Beis Rivka Seminary in Crown Heights. Schtroks works in the arts and crafts room, while Vogel

stands by the door, greeting visitors, and distributing pamphlets, lollipops, Chanukah gelt, and dreidels. Both agreed that the Chanukah House "is a fantastic place" and that they hoped to volunteer throughout Chanukah.

The Grand Opening of the 1992 Chanukah House took place on Monday, December 14 at 12:30 p.m.. Since then, it has been open on Saturday nights from 8 p.m. until midnight, Sundays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.. It will be open throughout Chanukah, until December 27.

A trip to the Chanukah House is highly recommended to infuse the holiday season with some Chanukah spirit.

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