

THE OBSERVER

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women • Yeshiva University
Volume XXXV, Number 6

March 31, 1993

9 Nissan, 5753

RABIN ADDRESSES JEWISH SURVIVAL IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL

By Shana Bak

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed a crowd of YU students on Thursday, March 18, from the same podium in Lamport Auditorium where he received an honorary doctorate twenty-five years ago.

Rabin's address was attended by students of YC and SCW, as well as of several of the YU graduate institutions. Additionally, seats were reserved for members of the YU administration, its Board of Trustees and other distinguished philanthropists.

The program was chaired by Mr. Morry Weiss of Cleveland, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Greetings Corporation and a member of the YU Board of Trustees. Weiss introduced Prime Minister Rabin as the man who "epitomizes the struggle for independence and freedom of Israel."

Cantor Joseph Malovsky of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue Synagogue, Professor of Liturgical Music at the University's Philip and Sarah Belz School of

Jewish Music, led the crowd in the singing of the Israeli and U.S. national anthems.

YCSC President, Avi Steinlauf greeted the Prime Minister in Hebrew. He switched to English only to present Rabin, reputedly an avid tennis player, with a YU Maes sweatshirt, undoubtedly one of the more memorable mementos of the Prime Minister's visit.

SCWSC President Adeeva Laya Graubard, who greeted Rabin in English, shared with the audience the special honor she felt in greeting Prime Minister Rabin in the same manner in which her mother, a former SCWSC President, greeted Prime Minister David Ben Gurion 26 years ago.

YU President Dr. Norman Lamm lauded the YU student body's commitment to Israel which, he said, is evidenced by the large number of students who spend a year learning in Israel prior to attending YU, by those students who travelled to Israel during the Gulf War and by the many students who spend summers doing volunteer work in Israel. YU students, he proudly asserted, are, "neither uncritical lov-

ers or unloving critics...but identify with Israel heart, soul and mind."

Rabin, who recently celebrated his seventy-first birthday, spoke proudly of the progress that the State of Israel has made in the years since his birth. His generation witnessed two of the most dramatic events in the history of the Jewish people - the Holocaust and the subsequent rebirth of the State of Israel.

Rabin expressed his excitement that the State of Israel, which housed 150,000 Jews 71 years ago, now houses four million, and expressed his belief that in the next five to ten years, Israel will be home to more of the Jewish population than resides in the entire United States.

Most important for the survival of the Jewish nation in the State of Israel, said Rabin, is that we achieve a state of "peace with security." In fact, he even went so far as to say that an important expression of Jewish values lies in the attainment of peace.

While Rabin avoided any comment on specific issues, such as the

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Rabin reinforces YU's commitment to Israel as he addresses students and administration

A Washington Heights Retreat: Students and Administration Reconvene

By Beth Green

A follow-up meeting to the November 30 student-administration retreat was held uptown in the Schottenstein Student Center on March 19. The meeting was convened to continue and augment discussion of key university issues.

Dr. Norman Lamm began with a brief introduction by restating the purpose of the meeting, "to tie up loose ends." Dr. Eugene Buccini facilitated the discussions by serving as moderator.

The 17 students and 18 members of the administration then heard updates from the subcommittees. Mrs. Zeldia Braun reported on the university calendar conflict. Braun noted a "lack of effective communication" as the prime reason for scheduling conflicts.

Avi Greenbaum, YC junior, then made his case in the presentation of the grievances of the YC Student Court. His goal is to "re-establish and revitalize the Student Court." Presently, students have no student recourse to resolve disputes. Even with an operating court, cases will only be looked at once all appropriate options have been exhausted.

YC President Avi Steinlauf was unable to present his report on *Beit Midrash*, parking, and undergraduate male student life. This was in Steinlauf's words, "due to the time of year and the common cold."

An open discussion of the

undergraduate student newspapers followed. Lamm said, "student opinion should have maximum amount of latitude [in the paper]." Lamm himself used to write a humor column for the *Commentator* under a pen name. Lamm urged the *Commentator* staff to "report with sensitivity and refinement of *h'nei yeshiva*." *Commentator* Co-Editor Michael Eisenberg and News Editor Adam J. Anhang addressed Lamm's remarks.

The retreat participants then broke into two groups to discuss "Interpersonal Relations" and "Communication to the General Student Body." Nechama Polin, SSSB President, reported on the interpersonal group's discussion. They examined the relationship between students and employees of YU, from electricians to deans. Dean Bacon was the group moderator for the latter group. The participants offered suggestions as to how to make the student body more aware of their student services. A permanent display outlining all offices, including their members and impact was suggested as well as greater utilization of the undergraduate newspapers to disseminate information.

Steinlauf was positive in his reflections of the retreat's discussions and said, "I think a lot was accomplished by getting it all onto the floor and now we can begin to deal with the real issues."

Revel Fellowship Fund Rejuvenated Available Funding Doubles

By Tzalcha Rosen

Fourteen scholarships and eight fellowships for study at YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies are being offered to qualified candidates, drawing on money from several endowments, including one donation of \$500,000 from an anonymous donor. "We are not authorized to disclose her (the donor's) name" at present, said Director of Public Relations Sam Hartstein.

The gifts were pledged at the end of 1992, "through the (fundraising) efforts of Dr. Lamm," according to Dr. Arthur Hyman, Dean of BRGS. The President's Office added that the pledges were received as part of the solution to the Revel crisis last year, when the University disclosed plans to "restructure" the graduate school due to lack of funding. That disclosure sparked student protests which ended once Lamm announced that new monies had been pledged.

When asked exactly how

much money was pledged for fellowships, Hyman responded that he was not sure that that information is "in the public domain," but did say that "the amount that we are awarding this year is double

ing for tuition fees. Fourteen were awarded tuition scholarships, and eight of those were offered fellowships. Notifications of the offers were mailed to applicants on March 26; there is currently no information regarding acceptances.

Criteria for awarding fellowships, which are based on merit, were three: academic excellence, professors' letters of recommendation and a strong Jewish text-reading background. Revel is seeking "highly qualified recipients," said Hyman. Students currently in Revel were considered based on their performance in BRGS to date.

The increase in Fellowship funding is part of an attempt to offer fellowships competitive with those offered by Jewish studies graduate programs of other universities, including New York University. Hyman explained that because of the lack of financial support for students, "we have not been able to retain some of our stu-

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GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Jewish Studies at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University

Revel students featured on cover of new brochure of last year.

BRGS received 20 applications for two types of gifts: partial or full tuition scholarships, and fellowships, which provide financial support to the student above pay-

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EDITORIALS

HALAKHIC DIRECTION SOUGHT

One of the goals of SCW is to educate women from various backgrounds in Judaic Studies by offering courses ranging from the beginning to the advanced level.

Currently, at the beginners and elementary levels, about fifty students learn the rudiments of Hebrew, Bible and Jewish law, usually for the first time in their lives.

They enjoy their classes, but therein lies the problem. Students become absorbed by the things they learn about life as a Jew and become filled with practical questions.

Their professors, though, are not rabbis, and do not feel comfortable playing the role of halakhic authorities. Instead, they refer students to their "local orthodox rabbi," which almost none of them have.

Most students on these levels appreciate having predominantly female instructors, because it allows them to develop close ties and discuss Judaism in a more relaxed setting. Students view these women as role models who have opened them up to a new way of life.

But because these professors cannot answer their halakhic questions, these students also feel extremely lost. They are uncomfortable consulting with Rabbis in the school, because these men are not their teachers, and are not familiar with their complicated backgrounds. Also, about three quarters of these students are foreigners, coming from Russia and Iran struggling with a language problem.

Currently the Judaic Studies department is "looking into" the possibility of hiring additional faculty to accommodate the need for both role models and rabbinic direction on the beginner and elementary levels. The department plans to add Jewish concept classes aimed at balancing philosophical and hashkafic issues. Rabbi Kanarfogel is aware of the problem and is actively seeking a solution. Special extra-curricular sessions to supplement courses are also being considered by the Office of Student Services.

But "looking into" something can often take time, and in this case, students cannot afford to wait. Finding additional instructors should be a top priority for the Judaic Studies department at every level of learning.

This search must be carried out immediately.

LEADERSHIP LACKING

In this issue of the *Observer*, we had hoped to spotlight the presidential candidates for the upcoming year's student council. Unfortunately, as of now there are none.

The elections, which were originally scheduled for March 31, have been postponed to April 21 due to a "scheduling conflict." This conflict seems to be the need to give candidates more time to come forward. Currently, there are four candidates for the five positions on the Executive Board. (None of these four, incidentally, are running for president). Ideally, there should be many candidates so that no position is obtained unopposed, and students can choose the best possible candidate.

Although these positions involve hard work and dedication, the reward is the chance to take charge and effect change within the school. We urge students to rise to the occasion -- We need a leader!

The Observer would like to join the YU community in expressing condolences to the Tenzer family on the passing of Hon. Hebert Tenzer, who served as member of both SSSB and SCW Board of Directors and was Chairman Emeritus of the YU Board of Trustees. Ha'makom yinachem etchem b'toch avlei tzion v'yerushalayim

THE OBSERVER

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017-4817-2444 Fax (212) 725-9173 Published tri-weekly during the academic year by Stern College Student Council. The views expressed in signed columns are those of the writers only and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Observer, the student body, the faculty or the administration of Yeshiva University. The views expressed in unsigned columns are those of The Observer only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the student body, the faculty or the administration of Stern College. We do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages.

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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.

Stern Recycles

To The Editor,

This semester Stern's environmental club, SAGA (Student Alliance for Global Awareness) has joined the Yeshiva University community in its campus wide recycling program.

Yeshiva University began recycling last semester, due to the newly-enforced law. In Stern, paper from the school office and computer rooms, were set aside in special trash bins. This semester, the program has expanded to include bins for aluminum cans on each floor of the school building.

SAGA has brought the recycling program to the dorm. Each week, hall monitors collect "white" paper and newspapers from the students on each floor. "White" paper includes lined notebook sheets, flyers (even the florescent colored kind), TAC stationary, or any type of non-glossy paper (no magazines). Bins for both paper types are kept in the RA room on the first floor.

SAGA hopes that students will increase their participation in the recycling program. In the dorm, students should store their papers in a special pile until their hall monitors collect them. In the school building, they should throw their unused computer paper in the designated bins and make sure not to throw any garbage into the aluminum can re-

ceptacles. The more we follow these guidelines, the better our world will be.

Naomi Bennett
SCW, '94

Hakarat Hatov to SOY

To The Editor,

We would like to express our gratitude to Hillel Scheinfeld, SOY President, and his board, for their efforts that enabled the women of Stern College to partake in the YU Purim Chagiga. We recognize the many hours that Hillel and his board put into planning this event, and we thank them for their hard work.

Nomi Dworken
President, TAC
SCW '93

Tehilla Goldberg
Vice-President, TAC
SCW '93

Beth Lieberstein
Vice-President, TAC
SCW '93

Aliza Dworken
Treasurer, TAC
SCW '94

Layaliza Klein
Secretary, TAC
SCW '94

Faculty: Take A Walk

To The Editor,

Having been at Stern College now for three years, I have seen numerous problems with the elevators being so overcrowded, so full, that they do not open up level to the floor. People are still taking them up or down one floor during the busiest times.

I was very happy to see the "up one, down two" plan that was instituted. It is great seeing the majority of students adopting this policy and helping to decongest the elevators.

But the problem that still disturbs me is the fact that I have seen numerous employees (faculty members and workers) of Yeshiva University take the elevator up one floor or down one floor during all hours of the day. It annoys me so much that these people feel that the policy does not apply to them. The students are just as tired throughout the day as the faculty are, yet we accept the new program and implement it.

The congestion in the elevators is still problematic, and it may never be completely rectified, but it can be helped out if the faculty would get up off their duffs and take a little walk.

Cynthia Kravette
SCW '93

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Chavie Levine

Of Limud & Ma'aseh: A Self Evaluation

"Now the question was put before them: Is study greater, or is practice greater? ...Rabbi Akiba replied: Study is greater...for study leads to practice."

-Kiddushin 10b

This Gemara is clearly distinguishing between *limud*, the purely educational aspect of our lives, and *ma'aseh*, the pragmatic arena. The conclusion: *limud* is to be prioritized, since it is a precursor to *ma'aseh*.

I find this Talmudic passage particularly relevant to our daily lifestyles and experiences within the Yeshiva University framework.

This tension between *limud* and *ma'aseh* is one which we encounter regularly. We try to accomplish both simultaneously -- while attending classes and immersing ourselves in our schoolwork, we find ourselves running on the *kiruv* high, going from one program to the next, constantly *doing* -- preparing sessions, programs and skits, until we drop from exhaustion.

The problem which I wish to address is the *kiruv* trap which I myself have dangerously teetered on, and have given much

thought to. The problem exists on a twofold level.

First, all too often do we overdose on the *ma'aseh* aspect, and eschew our obligations to be dedicated to our *limud*. Yes, there are many wonderful opportunities available to us to sincerely prove our *kiruv* talents, through reaching out to various people, in numerous cities, states, and continents. However, many times we become so caught up with helping and giving to others, that we forget that *chessed* starts at home. We really can't successfully reach out until we reach in -- to ourselves. One should not be neglecting herself -- and there are two reasons for this warning:

a) The purely selfish reason. We must not forget that college is a time for self improvement and development. It is during this maturing period when one begins independent decision-making, becomes a truly thinking individual with a unique philosophy on life, and develops her religious convictions. It is crucial to seize the chance to focus on ourselves for once. Also, don't forget the monetary investment our parents are making in our education. We have every obligation,

as responsible students, to regularly attend our classes and devote time to our studies.

b) Short and simple: we cannot give from a vacuum. We must utilize this available time to study and learn; to amass knowledge in order to share what we have with others. There are so many students in YU whose names may not be found on the top 20 *kiruv macher* list, or on written programs, simply because they are in the library or *Beit Midrash* working on themselves and focusing on their learning, so that in the future they will be able to give. And there are many professors and *Rebbeim* who will attribute their successful careers to their having dedicating time in their college years to themselves.

Second, the more we get pulled along with the *kiruv* current, the easier it is to lose sight of our reasons for the involvement. I find that I often have to pause and ask myself if I really believe in the program which I am dedicating my time and self to. If the answer is an honest "no," and I can admit to myself that the sole reason I desire to be involved is for its intrinsic prestige, elitism and social opportu-

nities, then I try to reevaluate my priorities. *Kiruv* is surely attractive. It can become one's life, help to lift one's confidence and it is a ticket in to the YU *kiruv chevrah*. I am not necessarily knocking this; however, I am just sharing with you my personal encounters (and those of my friends) with the problems which result from these feelings. If it becomes a competition to see who can be invited to more shabbatons for one weekend, or who can miss more schooldays for the sake of *kiruv*, then something has gone awry. Qualitatively outdoing our roommates and *chavrutahs* should not be the goal.

One of my friends sheepishly admitted to me the other day that she feels inadequate because she has been concentrating "too much" on school this year, cannot go to sleep at four am every night, and therefore has only been on two shabbatons in the past six months. Well, kudos to her for being true to herself. And if people feel inadequate and embarrassed for not living up to others' standards, then these standards must be readjusted. We are inextricably mired in this warped mentality of judging people by their involvements and histories of session-giving. Or so

it appears. Perhaps we are giving off the wrong impression. It is important to slow down every so often and reflect on our sincerities.

Don't get me wrong here. I love YU and the opportunities it offers. I think *kiruv* is great, and I value its worth. The individuals involved are special, and exhibit a true *Ahavat Hashem*, which they share with others. Rav Moshe Feinstein himself maintains that one should give *ma'aseh* of his time to giving to others (Even HaEzer, 8:26:4). A balance is necessary, and one must maintain, or gain, perspective on life.

It is crucial to slow down and introspect. Spend time with yourself -- get to know yourselves better before spending 99% of your time helping others discover themselves. And, while doing so, you will better understand the reasons for your involvement in the first place.

Maybe a new dimension should be added to the YU philosophy. We should strive for a synthesis of *Torah/Madda U' Kiruv*.

CTL

OPINIONS

Committed To The Student's Life

By Nechama Goldstein

"Do you know what you want to be when you grow up? If you are trying to make this important decision, let me give you a little hint" - Naomi Kapp.

Who? Our career guidance counselor.

Did you know we even had a counselor here to help you figure out what you should be doing with your life? Well, we do and we, the student life committee, very much want you to make use of Ms. Kapp's availability, as well as talents.

Interested? Wonderful! Go to the office of student services and make yourself an appointment

(please try to come on time so everyone can be seen and helped). Kapp can offer suggestions and guide you through your career decisions. If your schedule doesn't allow for a visit to Kapp or if you're in SSSB, than in that case Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolff are also here to answer your questions and help you as much as they can (M,T,Th 9-5:30).

While you are contemplating your future, you might like a nice quiet place to sit and ponder. Even though the library is (as stated recently) only a 15 minute walk and a great place to study,

You might want something in the dorm itself. Well, look no further. The Student Life Committee is looking into furnishing the 11th and 18th floor study halls with individual desks. These carrels would increase privacy and hopefully enhance your studies.

We want you to you to do well and we know what's best for you. While the Student Life Committee is doing all this wanting and caring, we are also trying to come up with a way to increase shuttle service uptown during peak hours. Yes, I'm about to ask you, "How much do you know about the inter-campus vans?"

Remember, the Student Life Committee is here to try to make your life easier and less complicated so if there are any problems, please contact us. We're here to help you.

Fists of Rage

By Judith Solomon

When I consider the recent action (or inaction) of the National Jewish Community Relations Council (NJCRAC) on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, my anger knows no bounds. Their decision not to send a letter to President Clinton asking for a review of Jonathan Pollard's case is a shameful and heartless act.

Pollard's punishment does not fit his crime. He was spying for a friendly ally; not for Saddam Hussein. Yet, Pollard was sentenced to a maximum security prison for life, and he reportedly suffers abuse daily

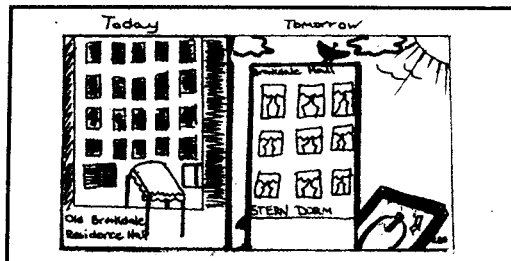
from guards and prisoners alike. Many of these reported abuses are anti-semitic in nature.

By turning their backs on Pollard, the members of the NJCRAC have informed the world that Jewish blood is cheap and anti-semitism is acceptable. Would any other community turn their backs so completely on a member who has been so mistreated?

NJCRAC may believe they speak for the Jewish community; they do not speak for me. If this is what it means to be Jewish, count me out.

Correction

In the February 17, 1993 issue of *The Observer*, page 1, column 5 "In return, the employee/student will have to remain under YU employment for 11 months" should read "...to remain under 1199 employment for 18 months for every year of full tuition received, or repay the loan."



AROUND THE CAMPUS

Rabbi Rosensweig Addresses Halakhic Change

By Observer Staff

Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, YU Rosh Yeshiva, delivered a Torah U'Mada lecture on Wednesday, March 17 at 8:00 pm at the uptown campus, as part of the year-long Torah U'Mada project. Approximately 50 students and alumni of Yeshiva University schools attended.

Rabbi Rosensweig's topic was "The Interaction of Halakha and Society: Guidelines and Parameters." When changes arise in society, he asserted, one needs to work within the Halakhic system to deter-

mine the appropriate response. He stressed the importance of responsible and learned *poskim*, who will determine how Halakha needs to be modified in the face of social change. "Halakha should confront with confidence on the one hand, and with *yirah* (fear) and humility on the other," he stated.

SCW alumna Dina Najman said of the lecture, "It was enlightening to hear Rav Rosensweig's view that incorporates our society, our developments and our overall experiences as significant contributions to the Halakhic system."

Mindy Spear, also an alumna, commented on the connection of the lecture to its audience. "The status of Halakha in modern society and that of modern society within Halakha should be an especially important issue for Yeshiva University students," she said, adding that "it's too bad more students didn't attend the lecture."

The Making of Fiddler: Lyricist Addresses SCW

By Tzalcha Rosen

Sheldon Harnick, lyricist of the world famous musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, described to a crowd of approximately 75 students, faculty and guests how the show came together. The February 15 lecture was sponsored by the Speech/Arts Forum.

Harnick gave a history of the production, originally based on a Shalom Aleichem story. He nostalgically described the time, thought and energy that went into developing the play, under

the direction of the renowned Jerome Robbins, into a universally moving production.

The talk was peppered with humorous anecdotes that occurred in the development and implementation of the production. Harnick also reflected on the messages of the production, including the depth of the loving relationship between Teyve and Golda, remarking that his parents never achieved their level of relating.

Photo Credit: Jeff Stier



Giuliani Receives YU Students' Support

YU Involvement in Giuliani Campaign Continues

By Observer Staff

Mrs. Donna Hanover, channel five news anchorwoman and wife of former U.S. attorney and probable mayoral candidate Rudy Giuliani, held a town hall meeting with the Yeshiva University community on Sunday, March 28, 1993, at Belfer Hall on the uptown campus.

Hanover spoke briefly about Giuliani's ideas for improving New York City, and then welcomed questions from the audience. Student activists registered voters, recruited volunteers, and spoke with prospective interns.

According to Jeff Stier, YU senior and Political Director of Students for Giuliani, "YU and SCW are just two of more than 30 New York City colleges that have been actively involved in the Giuliani campaign. This is an excellent opportunity for students from our university to play an active role in this year's mayoral election."

Giuliani himself appeared at YU in February at the Cardozo Law School.

The most recent Daily News poll shows Giuliani leads Mayor Dinkins by two points, 49 to 47. In 1990, Giuliani lost to Dinkins by one point, 48 to 47.

As part of the Republican, Liberal, and Independent Fusion parties, Giuliani lost the election to David Dinkins by only two percent—the closest mayoral election since 1905.

—with supporting research by Jeff Stier

Journalism Workshop Given by Bernstein of the New York Times

By Laurie Katzman

On Tuesday March 9, journalist Richard Bernstein of the *New York Times*, spoke to 30 members of the editorial boards and staffs of *The Observer* and *The Commentator*. His purpose was to discuss what the students could do to improve the undergraduate papers.

Prior to the speech, Bernstein received several issues of the college newspapers to pinpoint problems and specify areas that need improvement. He said that on the whole, both papers were comparable with other college newspapers.

Bernstein mentioned that fact checking is of utmost importance to a newspaper, as accuracy is essential for respectability. He noted that *The Commentator's* editorial on Rabbi Avi Weiss should never have been printed, since the paper's only source was the media and no one spoke with Weiss to verify the accusation.

Bernstein added that every newspaper staff member should read George Orwell's book *Politics and the English Language*, to improve their writing skills. He also suggested that reporters write in the active voice, and thus give appropriate emphasis to an event, as opposed to the passive voice which sets a less aggressive tone.

New Projects Underway: SCW Senate Strives For Success

By Laurie Katzman

In the past few months, the SCW Senate, made up of seven students and chaired by Dr. Charles Raffel, has been working hard to improve the academic life at Stern.

Among their accomplishments was the printing of additional "Fact Sheets" for majors in economics, political science, sociology, nursing and other health professions. These sheets are now available in the registrar's office.

Senators are currently working on several other projects, in-

cluding updating the Senate's constitution, and facilitating additional career advisement by giving students access to more information on graduate schools, options after graduation, and careers relating to various majors.

The Senators asserted that suggestions from students are welcome. They are freshman Emily Witty, sophomores Laurie Katzman and Tammy Lightman, juniors Ilana Breslau, Yaffa Schindler and Rachel Annenberg and senior Miriam Rosman.

Women's History Month Celebrated at SCW

By Loyaliza Klein

Natalie Zemon Davis, Professor of History at Princeton University, visited Stern College to discuss the autobiography of a seventeenth century German Jewish woman. The March 3 lecture was part of an annual series run by the History Department at Stern College in honor of Women's History Month.

The subject of Davis' lecture was an analysis of Gluckel of Hambourg's testament to her children. In this seven-volume work, written in Yiddish, Gluckel describes how she ran her husband's business after his early death, even while singlehandedly raising and marrying off her children. When asked, Davis confirmed that Gluckel was not an exception in the German Jewish community.

The work paints a vivid pic-

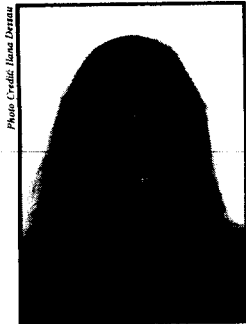
ture of a surprisingly modern-sounding Jewish woman, with all the overtones, Davis pointed out, of the stereotypical Jewish mother. Gluckel's story debunks our notions of Judaism in the pre-modern period as a repressive, patriarchal regime.

Jennie Shapiro, SCW sophomore, enthused, "It was exciting to listen to history come alive."

Davis remarked that it was enjoyable to have a Jewish audience because of the subject, and noted that it is interesting that the lecture has been received even when delivered elsewhere.

Dr. Ellen Schrecker, head of the SCW History Department and coordinator of the program, said that if students request a particular topic or speaker for next year, she would be happy to accommodate them.

The Observer wishes the entire student body and faculty a *Chag Kasher V'Sameach*



Bena Brandwein: Selected From Among 600 Applicants

Student Awarded Yale Fellowship

By Tzippy Tischler

Bena Brandwein, SCW senior, has recently been accepted to the prestigious five year doctoral program in developmental psychology at Yale University. Brandwein was one of only several students selected out of an applicant pool of 600. Yale has granted her a full tuition-scholarship as well as a \$8,300 stipend for each of her five years of study there, commencing next year.

"They don't let the grass grow under their feet!" said an admissions officer at New York University when he heard about Yale's quick offer. Brandwein applied not only to Yale, but also to five other institutions, including NYU, from which she is still awaiting responses.

Congratulations Bena!

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Unprecedented Number of Sophomores Attend MSDCS Seminar

By Rena Maslansky

A tremendous turnout of 312 *yeshiva* high school sophomores from the tri state area participated in the 1993 annual Sophomore Seminar, sponsored by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services. The seminar took place from Wednesday, March 17 through Sunday, March 21 at the Penn Harris Inn in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Director of Max Stern Communal Services, Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, coordinated the retreat, along with head advisor YU *Semicha* student Barry Gelman, and a supervisory staff of eight YC and SCW students. Nearly 50 other collegiates were advisors and waiters.

The Seminar, initiated over 25 years ago, was created to allow for high school students to learn more about Judaism through the use of creative programs and sessions, and to interact with their faculty members in an informal setting. High school faculty members attended, and they and the collegiate advisors came prepared with various sessions and trigger skits for the students to discuss.

SCW junior Tamar David, a member of the seminar supervisory staff, commented, "The purpose of seminar is to bring informal learning to *yeshiva* high school students. They study for tests and it goes in one ear and out the other. This is learning for the sake of learning... a chance to learn from

someone they can relate to more than a teacher."

For almost a week, the advisors worked to forge relationships with the sophomores. They shared rooms, ate meals together, and constantly discussed the sessions and programs.

Most of the programs were in the form of short skits. They dealt with issues such as *Shabbat*, *tefillah*, anti-semitism, family relationships, ethical dilemmas, and Israel. One program, entitled "Seminar in Hell," a takeoff of *The Screw-tape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis, was a parody of the seminar itself. The skit portrayed an advisor endeavoring to dissuade a young "seminarian" from attending sessions and programs. The program concluded with a discussion of the *yetzer harah*.

David related, "This year the students were really interested in getting involved. On Saturday night we ran a program about Israel. We played Israel related songs and showed slides... they clapped after each one. When it the program was over they all spontaneously stood up and sang "Hatikvah."

Elly Storch, YC junior and member of the supervisory team, commented on the overall success of this year's seminar. "Months of hard work, organization and careful planning on the part of the dedicated, enthusiastic seminar staff resulted in a smoothly executed seminar. The positive feedback that we received from the seminarians clearly indicated that this year's seminar was sensational."

SCW Student Court in Limbo

By Laura Gross

As part of the implementation of suggestions made at the November student-administration retreat, a Student Court will likely be established at SCW, probably in Fall 1993.

Following the November retreat, a subcommittee was formed to investigate the possibility of reforming the old Student Court at YC, and initiating one at SCW. YC junior Avi Greenbaum, a member of this subcommittee, presented the committee's recommendations of guidelines for re-establishing the Student Court at the March 19 retreat.

The purpose of the Student Court would be to handle violations of the Residence Hall Handbook and the Student Catalog. However, the cases

will not include, however, incidents that the Dean of Students and Chief Justice deem as psychological, illegal or confidential.

SCW junior Batya Markowitz, the SCW representative on the subcommittee, spoke with SCWSC to determine the necessity of a Student Court at the midtown campus. The SCWSC executive board agreed that a Student Court/Grievance Committee would facilitate better communication between students and administration.

Markowitz commented that she hopes "it will be in operation by the 1993 Fall Semester." She also added her appreciation for the administration's help. "They really want our plans to be successful," she said.

The Dynamic Duo: TAC and Student Council

By Dassi Billet

SCW Students are used to having two student representative boards, Student Council (SCWSC) and Torah Activities Council (TAC). However, some have questioned the need for both organizations. Should not an institution which advocates *Torah U'Maddah* be able to synthesize its student councils into one cohesive body? According to Adeeva Laya Graubard, SCWSC President, and Nomi Dworken, TAC President, it is necessary for the two organizations to function as separate units.

Graubard explained that SCWSC concentrates on enhancing the social and academic aspects of student life. The many committees and clubs under SCWSC jurisdiction work towards these goals. The Student Senate and Academic Standards Committee deal with student living problems and educational issues.

Various clubs and societies help a student expand her knowledge in her chosen field and help decide if her interests truly lie in that area. Some clubs give students a creative outlet, such as the Dramatics Society, Speech

Arts Forum, Besamim, and *The Observer*. Clubs such as AIPAC and Israel Club are meant to expand the political horizons of SCW women.

"Student Council's main concern is to aid the students' social and academic growth and to increase the students' worldliness and political aware-

nessed activities including *Bikur Cholim*, *Chevratot* with *Bu'alei Teshuvah*. Adopt a Bubbie, Russian Carnivals, and more. These programs are well attended by Stern women.

"TAC works hard to strengthen Jewish life in our own Stern College community while also servicing the Jewish community at large," said Dworken.

According to Graubard and Dworken, both councils are absolutely necessary.

"Student life has so developed on this campus that it would be virtually impossible for one board to effectively implement all events and pro-

grams. Because of the unique dual curriculum and philosophy of SCW students, it is imperative that their religious, academic and extra curricular needs be equally represented," said Dworken.

Graubard emphasized that the two organizations work together. "We don't conflict. We are working toward a common goal: giving [students] a full college experience, academically, socially and religiously."



Adeeva Laya Graubard & Nomi Dworken: SCW Student Leaders

ness," said Graubard.

Focusing on another dimension, Dworken explained, "TAC's purpose is to enhance the religious aspects of life at SCW." The organization keeps the *beit midrash* in order and full of books, and arranges weekly *shiurim*. TAC encourages Torah study and enables students to learn Torah on their own, with the *Shivim Panim Torah Journal* and the *Bina Yeteira parsha* paper.

TAC also coordinates

Inopportune Scheduling of Blood Drive Poses Problems For Donors

By Chana Pearl

The scheduling of SCW's second blood drive for Wednesday, March 3, the day before *Ta'anit Esther*, and in the midst of midterm season, posed various problems for student donors. However, the previously biannual drive, sponsored by the New York Blood Center, still attracted 84 participants. Due to this large turnout, coupled with the 86 donors at the first blood drive on December 24, a third blood drive will take place on April 29.

Blood donations can take place minimally at 57-day intervals. To allow for three blood drives this year, the March event had to be scheduled for the day before *Ta'anit Esther*. This scheduling was problematic for many students who were concerned about fasting the day after donating blood, since the Blood Center advises donors to double their fluid intake for two days following blood donation. "I heard about the double fluid intake on Tuesday, and I was worried. I didn't know if I should eat on Thursday and give blood, or not give blood and

keep the fast," admitted SCW sophomore Rivka Temima Goldberg.

Students had checked with SCW *Mashgiach Ruchani* Rabbi Tzvi Flaum before scheduling the drive for that day.

To encourage students to give blood, volunteers were stationed in Stern's front lobby for two days prior to the drive to schedule appointments and offer reassurance to potential donors. "It's a *mitzvah*," commented SCW sophomore Beth Posner, "plus it's painless, and one pint can save up to five people's lives."

Some students were still concerned about the pain and needed some inspiration from the humorous list of the "Top Ten Reasons to Give Blood" posted in the lobby. The New York Blood Center also offered as an incentive a free portable stereo for all donors.

SCW senior Elana Hartstein remarked that "since it was my first time giving blood, I was nervous, but I realized that the

benefits of giving blood far supersede any slight discomfort." She also preferred giving blood in Stern, surrounded by her friends, over the unfamiliar environment of a blood bank.

More students than usual fainted after donating blood at the March 3 drive. SCW junior and blood drive coordinator, DeeDee Macklin, explained that "one reason" may be that the drive took place near midterms and students were more tired than usual and possibly were not eating as much as usual.

Macklin, however, maintained her enthusiasm. "This blood drive was quite exceptional," commented Macklin. "It was prepared on short notice and lasted for only four hours, yet there still was a large number of donors." The previous drive lasted for six hours and attracted almost the same number of donors. She expressed her thanks to Director of Facilities Management Sam Mandelbaum for arranging the logistics on such short notice.

STUDENTS DISSATISFIED WITH MILNER'S MART

By Laurie Katzman

The purpose of Milner's Mart, SCW's student market, is to serve the student body by offering a variety of food products and toiletries at reasonable prices. Students claim that Milner's does not always serve its purpose. Milner's is often not open when it should be, on many occasions it does not replenish its products, and many items are priced above the average market price.

Students are often dissatisfied with the service that they receive at Milner's. They cannot count on buying dinner at Milner's because the chances are that is not carrying any of the frozen dinners or snacks that it claims to sell. Students have learned to rely on local supermarkets for items that they need. "Many times I've gone down to get something to eat and either there was no food left or

Milner's was closed," said SCW junior Susan Kriegsman.

SCW senior Ilana Brandwein, manager of Milner's, addressed this problem by explaining that "many of the companies do not deliver when they are supposed to." She has spent a lot of time calling companies such as Paske and Blooms, placing orders and insisting that they deliver; nevertheless, they do not deliver when expected, she claims. "Once the companies deliver, the food is sold out within two days," said Brandwein. "Then the process of ordering food begins all over again."

In addition, Brandwein explained that the cashiers in Milner's are responsible for getting substitutes for themselves when they cannot work. "When no one shows up to work, then Milner's cannot open."

Brandwein added that she cannot be held responsible for cashiers who do not find replacements for themselves.

Another major contention with Milner's is that many items are overpriced. After comparing Milner's prices to several supermarkets, the results indicated that some of Milner's products are sold at an average price, however, other prices are well above supermarket prices. Charmin toilet paper is sold at Milner's for \$2.15; at supermarkets the average price is \$1.19. A four pack of Ivory soap can be purchased at Milner's for \$2.00, while at Duane Reed the same product is sold for \$1.29. Ramen soups are sold for \$1.00 at Milner's, whereas at other stores they are sold for \$0.69.

Although it is understandable that Milner's will not be cheaper than other stores, and a college



Milner's Mart: Source of Contention

market is not expected to run sales, students feel that the Milner's should at least sell items for the average market price. "I prefer to buy food and toiletries right down the block, rather than pay Milner's prices," said SCW junior Chanie Pearlman.

Brandwein commented that the products that Milner's sells are all pre-priced. The staff at Milner's does not decide the prices. "The toiletries are all brought from uptown and they already have the prices on them. We only charge what it says on the label. Pricing is not in our hands."

ering Board. Board members are elected by the disk jockeys, and are required to have six months disk jockey experience. Elections for next year's board will be held next year.

Other major improvements at the station include the purchase of new sound equipment designed to improve the quality of the broadcasts. WYUR's music library of records, CDs, and tapes is also being updated, giving disk jockeys a larger selection of music from which to choose.

In the Office of the Registrar, a student can find the following forms necessary to request that her transcript be sent to the institutions of her choice: Transcript Request Forms, Mailing Label Form T17m and a Request for Supplementary Transcripts which provides grades for courses incomplete at the time the transcript was sent. The question is whether this system is efficient.

SCW registrar Michal Wacks maintained that the process for requesting transcripts is uncomplicated; the student must fill out the Transcript Request Form with its mailing label and pay a fee. "Regular service," which

POINTS OF DISSENSION ON CAMPUS: SCW STUDENTS EVALUATE

OF TRANSCRIPTS AND TRAVESTIES

By Elana Hartstein

within the large institution to which a student is applying. Wacks' impression is that "the system at SCW works efficiently."

Some students have encountered problems with proper sending of faculty recommendations. When a student needs a recommendation, she asks one of her SCW instructors to complete the faculty recommendation form of the school to which is applying. Deans and several professors have their drafted letters typed by the secretaries in the Dean's office.

An informal poll of Stern College women reveals that most of the student body knows very little about the Academic Standards Committee. Some, however, are slightly more familiar with it.

One such student spent last

summer on YUSSR, working with Russian Jewish teenagers eager to learn more about Judaism. The organization asked her to return to the former Soviet Union for a few weeks in January to continue teaching. Realizing that her leaving would involve missing some of her final exams, the student asked if the tests could be rescheduled. The Academic Standards Committee denied her request.

Another student managed to complete requirements for a joint Judaic Studies/ Biology major in only three semesters. Her record contained over 128 credits. She and her fiance are planning to move to Israel next year. Despite a school rule which requires a student to be registered for at least four semesters, the student asked per-

"...Students who come here for two years are not getting an education at Stern College."

mission to leave Stern one semester early. Her request was also turned down. When she appealed and presented the committee with new information, they modified their decision and arrived at a compromise.

A third student was faced with a similar problem, but the Dean's Office discouraged her from even approaching the committee. Her fiance currently lives in Israel, so the couple postponed their wedding until the summer. "I know marriage can sometimes be an epidemic at Stern,

but I'm not talking about moving elsewhere in America. I want to make aliyah!"

Her implied frustration was expressed more clearly by the student who was unable to return to Russia because of a committee decision: "Stern encourages *kiruv*; it encourages *aliyah*. It is not just the standards of the school that are the issue. There's a time to bend [the rules] and a time not to bend. This is a time to

commitment. Then [they] can say that their learning is valuable..." On a more practical level, the committee also works with the principle that everyone must be treated fairly. "Someone wanting an exception creates inequality."

Responding to the claim that this principle is taken to an extreme, Bacon admitted, "When I first got here, I told students, 'Try [approaching the committee]! See what happens! But I now realize that if [students]

committee members include Dr. J. Bacon, Prof. P. Schram, Rabbi A. Metzger, Prof. M. Dalezman, Prof. E. Schrecker, and Mrs. M. Wacks. Stern College Registrar. Others, including the deans, also attend meetings, of which there have been about three this year.

A student voice is present every time the committee convenes. Seniors Nechama Gershon and Shana Bak report that their opinions are solicited during discussions.

While both student representatives feel that the committee operates with professionalism and integrity, they are disturbed by a problem inherent in the system: Bak sometimes feels that "cases are not treated as exceptions. Obviously, the student knows the rule. Students aren't petitioning to know the rule—they're asking for a special privilege...but then again, I see [the committee's] point. Despite the fact that the school emphasizes *kiruv* or *aliyah*, school has to be a priority. I understand that [the committee] has tough deci-

sions to make. People feel negatively towards the committee but they're really doing their best."

Dr. Bacon is the head of the committee. "He cares about the University," says Bak, "but he also wants to help the students." During an extensive interview, Bacon repeatedly emphasized that he could speak only for himself, but he felt that he represented most of his colleagues when saying, "This is not a fun committee to be on. We make tough decisions, and then spend a lot of time feeling miserable. The underlying premise of the committee is that this is an academic institution. The primary responsibility of everybody involved is academic. This brings along with it opportuni-

ties and responsibilities." Bacon did add however, that "As a Jewish institution, we do encourage students to engage in extra-curricular activities such as *kiruv*, as well as outside research, and this is important and valuable—but it's still secondary to [the] specific responsibilities of class. We hope the students value this commitment. Then [they] can say that their learning is valuable..." On a more practical level, the committee also works with the principle that everyone must be treated fairly. "Someone wanting an exception creates inequality."

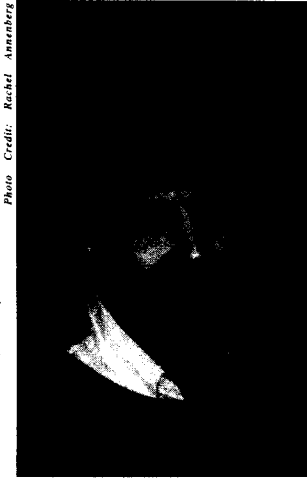
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committee also works with the principle that everyone must be treated fairly. "Someone wanting an exception creates inequality."

Those who want to take eight courses for financial reasons present a difficult dilemma. "Unfortunately, finances cannot usually be considered a basis for academic decisions."

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Dr. Josh Bacon: Chair of Academic Standards Committee



ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE: SOURCE OF TENSION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND FACULTY

By Jennie Shapiro

truly valued [their] education, [they] wouldn't even ask the question."

"If a student values *kiruv* more than a final, then there's a decision to be made. I would never fault a student for making a decision. But you have to take responsibility for that action. If you expect everyone to fit into your decision, then your *kiruv* is worthless - what kind of values are you communicating?"

Bacon spoke on behalf of the administration "We understand that choices must be made, and we respect these choices. But we ask that students understand and accept the ramifications of their decisions. We must take responsibility for our actions, too. Sometimes ill-will is created, or there may be negative consequences to our decisions. But we never make decisions capriciously. Decisions are made based on what we see as the goals of the college."

Bacon also clarified the practical issues involved in rescheduling finals. First, if there is a designated time for everyone else to be tested, a special privilege creates an unequitable situation, in which students are not taking an exam under the same circumstances. Second, the technicalities involved in a make-up exam place a tremendous strain on the office. Rescheduling also puts an extra burden on the teacher who, if realistic, understands the need for a separate exam. "When asked if he favors the YU policy of granting full credit for a year of study in Israel, Dr. Bacon commented, "In terms of the value of secular education, the year of credit in Israel is, in my mind, detrimental."

Bacon explained why he considers the residency requirement, or the rule which limits academic programs to seven courses each semester, to be so important: "[These issues] ultimately erode the academic and educational environment of the college. Students who come here for two years are not getting an education at Stern College. If you say you can choose your courses so that eight won't be a burden, then how serious are you about your education?"

What about students who want to register for eight courses not to fulfill requirements but to broaden their education? "Audit," suggested Bacon, "and if you are afraid that you need the motivation, then you need to re-evaluate your commitment."

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POLITICAL TALK

Necessary Truths

By Chava Boylan

As in the past, Academy members face a difficult decision this year in bestowing their annual movie awards. This year's vote for "Best Documentary Feature" is going to be slightly more difficult than usual because among the nominated films is, *Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in World War II*, a moving yet much disputed film on the role that African American soldiers played during World War II.

Through a series of interviews, *Liberators* focuses on the black 761st Tank Battalion and discusses in lesser detail the accomplishments of the black 183rd Battalion of combat engineers. The military accomplishments of these battalions and discrimination within the American army was the main focus of the film and remains undisputed. Yet *Liberators* also implies that black battalions liberated concentration camps.

One of the most emotional scenes of the film in which two black soldiers walk through Buchenwald together, is also one of the most troublesome. The narrator says, "Nearly 50 years later, two veterans of the 761st

Tank Battalion returned to Buchenwald with Benjamin Bender, who had been imprisoned there as a boy."

One little problem: Ex-soldiers A.C. McConnel and Leonard Smith, had never been to Buchenwald before 1991. This was their first time there and it's difficult to "return" to a place to which you've never been. While it is true that some black soldiers helped liberate concentration camps, military records show that the 761st was many miles from Dachau and Buchenwald when American soldiers first reached the camps.

A special screening of *Liberators* took place on December 17 in New York's Apollo Theater on 125th Street in Harlem and was attended by several African-American and Jewish leaders. The full page newspaper ads announcing the event read, "Forty-eight years ago, African-American soldiers from segregated units of the U.S. army became the first troops to free Jews from Nazi concentration camps...the film profiles the dramatic liberations of Dachau and Buchenwald." It further

stated, "In 1944, there was an historic act of brotherhood in Europe. Tonight, we build on that spirit in New York" (The liberation, in fact, took place in 1945). At a time of conflict between the Black and Jewish communities, community leaders hoped that this gathering would serve as a healing, unifying program.

Disturbed, however, by perceived historical inaccuracies contained in this film, the UJC investigated and published a report in which it stated, "the film has serious factual flaws, well beyond what can be written off as 'artistic license.'"

WNET/Channel 13, PBS's flagship station, after first supporting the film, pulled it in order to investigate the UJC findings. Still, others continue to use *Liberators* in programs designed to encourage ethnic cooperation and understanding. A screening similar to the one in New York, took place in Harvard during February and Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition has a screening planned for later this Spring in Los Angeles.

They say that "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Certainly the makers of *Liberators* had a lofty goal, but through its inaccuracies, the film ignores those battalions that did liberate the camps and even more so, it take away from the honor which rightly belongs to the 761st and 183rd battalions.

Former president of the JCRC, Mrs. Peggy Tishman,

one of the co-hosts of the New York event and supporter of the film told *The New Republic* that the purpose of the Apollo event was to encourage Jews and blacks to come together in "dialogue." "There are a lot of truths that are very necessary," she explained. But "This [the film] is not a truth that's necessary," she concluded.

Mrs. Tishman has missed an important point. Black-Jewish relations have deteriorated because of "misunderstanding and false perceptions. An inaccurate presentation of history, therefore, even if done with the best intentions, can only prove to be counterproductive.

Truth is always necessary, Mrs. Tishman.

Academic Standards Committee Scrutinized

Continued from page 7

Dr. Bacon did cite one instance in which an exception to this rule was made. "An Iranian girl was supporting her entire family. It was a truly unusual case."

The committee also handles other cases unrelated to the more controversial issues of the residency requirement or final exam schedules. Requests by students put on probation for academic reasons are often discussed at meetings. "According to regulations, certain students should not be allowed back because of a problematic record, but we try to find ways to help them."

Some ask to spend their senior years at other institutions, often in Israel. Though the college requires that a student's final year be spent on campus, the committee has waived this rule in certain circumstances.

Certain committee decisions do sometimes result in frustration on the part of students. Despite this, the members of the committee remain devoted to what they feel are the only ways of maintaining rigorous academic standards for the school.

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High School Students Try to Solve the World's Problems

By Beth Green & Amanda Nussbaum

Yeshiva high school students from the United States and Canada gathered in the Hilton Meadowlands to debate international issues in a model United Nations. The conference, which was held February 28 through March 2, was organized by YU students and sponsored by the Office of Admissions.

Preparation for the conference began last year under the direction of YU students Jennifer Cutler, Stephen Davidson, and Bonnie Franklin who served as Secretary General and Director Generals respectively. During the summer, the chairpersons of the various UN committees and agencies researched the topics the delegates would debate.

Each school sent delegates to represent their assigned countries. Students prepared position papers based on their country's opinions on committee issues ranging from "Insuring Palestinian Independence" to "Clash in the Balkans."

Five sessions were held, in which delegates espoused possible solutions to these international problems. Attempts were made to sponsor resolutions that were often amended. All resolutions that passed in committee session were then voted on by all committees in the General Assembly Plenary. Students also had to deal with crisis situations that arose in their sessions; one committee was even awakened during

the night to hold an emergency meeting.

Students who accurately represented their countries' positions and were successful in passing resolutions received delegate awards at a closing ceremonies. The best delegation went to Belgium, represented by Ramaz. There was no doubt as to the tremendous preparation of the Albanian delegates whose chief export is chrome.

"The conference was very successful due to all the hours of work put in," said Cynthia Kravette, SCW senior and Assistant Chair of Political Security.

Preparation has already begun for the fourth annual Yeshiva University Network Model United Nations conference.

All those interested in working on model UN should contact Amanda Nussbaum, Br 16C.

--With Supporting Research by Julie Wilks--

After the World Trade Center: Are You Safe? A Glimpse at SCW Safety Measures

By Rachel Posner

Following the explosion at the World Trade Center, institutions around New York City have tightened and reinforced security, to prevent a similar occurrence on their premises. While the University has also jumped on this safety bandwagon, organized emergency procedures have always been in place.

The Office of Safety and Security recently circulated a memo, reminding people of emergency procedures.

But copies of "Fire and Safety Procedures", a pamphlet put out by the Depart-

ment of Facilities Management, have always been available in the Office of the Residence Hall Supervisor.

According to Don Sommers, Chief of Safety and Security at the University, the administration constantly stresses the need for excellent security. He said that this priority has made the YU security staff have "the most training of any University in the country." The staff also works closely with the local police and fire departments.

In the World Trade Center explosion, the rescue procedure

became more complicated because many office workers in the buildings lacked basic knowledge of fire safety. Panic prevailed as people debated over the actions they were to take to stay safe. Some broke windows to ventilate smoke-filled offices.

At the start of every academic year at SCW, resident assistants are required to participate in a fire-emergency training session. The RAs are taught about the fire alarm system and are given instruction on how to detect a fire.

A WORD FROM ISRAEL

Reflections of the Ramada Renaissance

By Michelle Litman

It is hard to believe that 1. along with hundreds of post high school students, have already finished the first half of the year in *Eretz Yisroel*, and that the second half has already begun. I think it is safe to say that a large group of us are wondering where the first five months have gone, and we are eagerly looking forward to part two of the *shana alef* experience. It is at this mid-year point that we are receiving much advice from our Rabbis, teachers, families, and friends. We are aware that due to the number of *chagim* that fall between now and the end of the year, the amount of remaining learning time is limited. We are constantly being warned about taking advantage of the second half of the year, and the necessity of making every moment count. Many of us have been asked to stay yet for another year and are seriously considering this option.

Personally, the greatest "mid-year advice" that I have received thus far has been to make a *cheshbon hanefesh*; to look honestly into my inner self and evaluate how much I have accomplished, and seriously contemplate whether I have achieved any of the goals that I had set back in September. Taking this suggestion to heart, I realize that there is one particular area in which I have gained a deeper understanding and into which I have gotten greater insight—that is, the meaning behind the concept of *Kloul Yisroel*.

After spending the first few weeks of my year in Israel, I admit that were a number of things that disappointed me. What was most difficult for me to accept was that there were people who actually drove on *shabbos*; that there were those who completely ignored the laws of *kashrut*, among others.

Throughout the course of my life I have heard about the "holiness" of *Eretz Yisroel*. Israel was built up in my mind as a utopia for Jews. To me, it seemed that living in Israel was the equivalent of being a religious Jew. What else should I have expected?

As the year progressed, however, I realized that despite the difficulties Israel experiences daily, there is one idea that out-

weighs them all, and that is that all Jews who live in *Eretz Yisroel* make up one large unit known as *Kloul Yisroel*. While Jews outside of Israel are undoubtedly part of *Am Yisroel* as well, each Jew in the *Diaspora* remains an individual who is ultimately responsible for caring for himself. Jews in Israel, on the other hand, constitute parts of a larger whole. They all share in the common goal of defending and developing a land that is so precious to each of them uniquely. This alone is enough to unite them into one people, *Kloul Yisroel*. The *Gemara* in *Horayot*, 3a says that Jews living in Israel are considered a *kahal* (congregation) but those living outside the land cannot maintain this status. This idea is one that I have started to understand now that I have lived here for half the year.

Recently, I experienced what I would describe as an incredible event which solidified my belief in the strength of *Am Yisroel* in *Eretz Yisroel*. A few weeks ago, at the Ramada Renaissance in Jerusalem, there was a blood screening for Jay Feinberg, a well known leukemia patient who is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. A large number of men and women of all ages continuously poured into the Ramada, determined to discover if he or she could save Jay. Those who were running the drive and performing the tests continuously remarked that they did not expect such a large turnout, and in fact had to turn people away due to a lack of equipment. It was at this point that I realized that they should have had every reason to anticipate such a large turnout.

After all, it is especially true in *Eretz Yisroel* that the Jew, as part of *Kloul Yisroel*, feels the desire and need to help others. As I stood on line for over an hour to be tested, I heard many people saying, "I really hope I am the one," or "wouldn't it be great if I matched?" Clearly, it was the connection each person felt with the Jewish nation which made him or her feel the true need to help Jay. It is the strength of this *kesher* unique to Jews living in Israel, that makes them one united structure -- that of *Kloul Yisroel*, which we have been fortunate to partake in for the past six months.

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CULTURAL ARTS

IN LIVING COLOR

By Michele Berman

Imagine walking into a spectrum of colors. A vivid array from gold to blue. Now picture these colors attached to the familiar tenants of Jewish life. Scenes such as *Parim* in Jerusalem, old men on a street in Brooklyn, the *kotel*, Jews fleeing from a pogrom, a *Simchat Torah* celebration, or men learning in an old synagogue. These are the illustrations and paintings of Itshak Holtz. The World of Itshak Holtz: A 20th Century Genre Painter is the Yeshiva University Museum exhibit through July 1993.

Itshak Holtz has been painting for the past forty years, creating captivating and realistic displays of Jewish life. Portraits such as a Jewish wedding and a Jewish funeral detail the Jewish life cycle. Bright colors exude off of the bride, groom, and fiddlers' faces in Holtz's *Wedding in Jerusalem*, contrasted with the colors of mourning and sadness in the funeral procession line in Holtz's *The Funeral*.

Each painting has a true Jew-

ish flavor, as is evident in his illustrations of a butcher, tailor, fiddler, and scribe. His attention to detail invites the viewer to look deeper into the faces and places in the illustrations. Holtz paints a magnificent scene of the Dome of the Rock behind the *kotel*, the

hattan and painted the scenes he observed, but his true yearning was to paint Jewish themes. Holtz returned to Jerusalem, the place where he was raised, because he wished to put his childhood memories of Israel on canvas. He painted the Hasidim, the Old City, the country, its landscape and hills, because he did not want them to be forgotten.

An excerpt from a biographical sketch by Aliza Holtz, Ph.D. describes the artist. "Holtz paints to bring the warmth

and the tradition of Jewish life into people's homes...to share with them the beauty and character of Jerusalem - the Holy City, and the city of his fondest childhood memories."

The museum is open Sunday from 12:00-6:00 and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30-5:00 and is free with valid YU ID. For more information call: 960-5390 (Mon-Thurs 9-5:30 and Fri 9-12:30). The Yeshiva University Museum at 2520 Amsterdam Avenue in the uptown library.



One of Holtz's Famous Works realistic imagery putting the observer right there.

Holtz's interest in art was instilled by his father at age five. His family later moved from Poland to Israel where he strengthened his skill as an artist, enrolling in the prestigious Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem. His interest in painting then drew him to the United States, and in 1950 he studied at the Art Student's League in New York City and later continued at the National Academy of Design.

Holtz walked around Man-

Rabin Visits YU

Continued from page 1

possible return of some of the Golan Heights, he made it clear that the need for some sort of peace treaty with Israel's neighbors is critical. In fact, said Rabin, there are only two options for the Jewish State: to try to eliminate war and maintain peace or to live under incessant threats of war and violence. Although the Prime Minister's visit had to be cut short so that he could return to Israel to deal with renewed Arab violence, he expressed his confidence in the Jewish nation's ability to continue to build the country and to work at achieving peace and security.

The Prime Minister concluded his address by wishing YU the strength to continue its unique role of educating the younger generation of this country.

Following Rabin's address, Lamm presented the Prime Minister with the Second Century Award, an honor accorded only once previously, to Israeli Presi-

dent Chaim Herzog.

Philanthropist Ludwig Jesselson of Riverdale, New York, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, read the award which, he asserted, "marks YU's entry into a second generation of service to the Jewish community," and also, "memorializes our deep commitment to training of Jewish leaders."

The proceedings were followed by the singing of "Am Yisrael Chai."

The student gathering was followed by a private luncheon with University leaders in the Weissberg Commons in Belfer Hall.

The Observer welcomes new staff writers. All those interested please contact Chavie Levine as soon as possible.

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The Good Men Perform

By Sara Klein

I'm beginning to notice a pattern in Yeshiva College Dramatics Society productions. They are consistently professional, well casted and acted, technically impressive, and always a few degrees too dramatic, as if being graded on intensity and volume.

YCDS's rendition of "A Few Good Men" (March 20-25) was, for the most part, uniquely entertaining and well executed. Especially striking was the expertise with which the cast handled the difficult task of turning themselves into marines. The actors quite obviously put an enormous amount of time and energy into perfecting their precision, posture, choreography and demeanor (particularly Jake Freiman as the instruction-barking Corporal Dunn).

In fact, the acting was altogether impressive, maintaining the play's intentional blend of dry humor and intense drama. The actors were at an a priori disadvantage due to the fact that much of the audience had seen the recent movie production of this play, and were undoubtedly comparing Effy Zinkin and Barry Bessler, the play's protagonist and antagonist, to Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson, who played these roles in the movie. Despite this handicap, these two did an excellent job, as did their supporting cast members, Joel Haber, A.J. Sender and Jason Broth. All of these actors, as well as the rest of the cast, really drew the audience into their realistic and personable perfor-

mances, creating a tangibly tense theatrical atmosphere.

The technical staff was equally talented. The limitations of the Schottenstein Theater were dealt with inventively through the use of lighting, clever set construction, and a stirring musical arrangement, all of which set the suspenseful ambience necessary for the production's success. Since the direction of the play required frequent switching back and forth of both time and place, the smooth technical coordination was crucial.

The overall effect of the production was outstanding, but could have been better if there had not been quite so much melodrama, as has become signature of Dr. Beukas and YCDS. The sometimes surreal and always too loud performance reminded me of the 1991-92 production of "Suddenly Last Summer", which is still giving me nightmares. The character and plot analyses might have been better served had only the lower order officers yelled loudly and barked militarily, while the conniving higher ups maintained a more sardonic and calmly malevolent affect. This would have been truer, I think, to the intent of the playwright (Aaron Sorkin), who seems to wish to separate the evil of dumb, machinated servicemen, from that of their caustic and crafty superiors.

All in all, though, YCDS has once again executed a marvelous performance. Good work, men. Forward march.

Evaluating SCW Registrar

Continued from page 7

The letter is placed in the teacher's box for proofreading and correcting, and then laser printed onto the teacher recommendation form.

Dr. Ruth Bevan, David Petegorsky Professor of Political Science Chair, handles 100-200 letters of recommendations for various graduate schools, law schools and internships. Bevan asks her students to allow her two weeks to write and type the letter; she then returns the letter to the student in a sealed envelope to mail personally. Bevan claims that she has never lost a recommenda-

tion form.

"Letters of recommendation for the student are not a right, but a privilege," said Bevan. She will tell a student outright if she cannot write a letter in good faith. There are expenses involved to the professor, as many utilize their own computers, ribbons, and time. Bevan feels that it is, "a burden which has to be done."

All those interested in the position of Advertising Editor - Please contact Rona Gross 532-7024

CULTURAL ARTS

The Art of Propaganda

By Gila Reinitz

Picture yourself walking into a toy store and finding a racist board game for sale. Or perhaps walking into a book store and discovering the shelves stacked with photo guides of what New Yorkers should look like. That would never happen, right? That is exactly what the German Jews of the 1930s thought.

Today's art, literature, cinema, and music do not tend to make headlines, unless the work is controversial. It might become news-worthy for a couple of weeks, but it is soon forgotten. This was not true in Germany of the 1930s. Hitler knew the power of art and other mediums, and took full advantage of these disciplines, and made them a central feature of German life.

The New York Public Library is currently featuring **Assault on the Arts**, a display of the audio and visual elements of the German Third Reich. **Assault on the Arts** explores the art which was commissioned and celebrated,

as well as art that was condemned and banned. In 1933 Hitler began a cultural cleansing of the country. Over 20,000 books were destroyed during the Nazi "Crusade Against the Un-German Spirit." These books did not depict the Germans as the world's perfect race, and were therefore burned.

Once the works were removed, Hitler was able to instruct his artists to produce propaganda art. Board games such as *Juden Raus*, *Jews Out*, were available for children, along with stories expressing anti-semitic ideas.

Nietzsche once wrote that the "new order is to base a state on a race." This order encompassed every aspect of the German culture. German art glorified perfection of the body, expanding on the values of the ancient Greeks. There were books replete with photographs to delineate proper hygiene habits. New science books depicted Germans as having the ideal face and body in contrast

to the various shapes of the imperfect Jews. Zeigler, head of Hitler's Visual Arts Chamber, openly admitted the arts were not merely a form of entertainment, but a powerful propaganda vehicle.

Assault on the Arts is a powerful exhibit and should be viewed by today's Jewish youth, the third generation of Holocaust survivors. It is not another display of corpses or neat rows of heartless soldiers. It is an artistic presentation of a manipulated society. Due to its familiar mediums: art, literature, and music, the cultural brainwashing of 50 years ago is not so remote. The exhibit runs through May 28; make some time for it. The library is located on 42nd and 5th.

BRGS Monies Available

Continued from page 1

dents."

"We are trying to attract doctoral and masters students," asserted Hyman. A poster describing the school, its purpose and its courses was printed and 2400 copies distributed to the Association for Jewish Studies, Hillel and RIETS alumni to publicize the programs. Hyman paid a recruitment visit to SCW on March 24 and described the program in his club hour talk.

As part of an attempt to improve the doctoral and masters programs at Revel, the Dean's primary concern, is an ongoing review of the course offerings in accordance with the 1992 task force's report. Currently, there are 30 courses offered each year, 15 per semester. Professor Bezalel Safran will offer Jewish Philosophy courses next year; Professor Menachem Ben-Sasson of Hebrew University will offer summer courses in Islamic Jewish History over the next two years. The program, Hyman said, is "probably as good as anything you can get in this country in our fields."

**The Observer
welcomes
Letters To The
Editor &
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them off in
Br. 11E**

★ Misc Beth ★

A Mélange of Dance With a Bit of Italian

By Beth Green

I wonder what Lyman Frank Baum would have thought of "The Wiz?" I do not believe that even his vivid imagination could have brought us fly girl filled poppy fields. Stephanie Mills stars as Dorothy and Andre De Shields brings the Wiz to life in this latest unpolitically correct production.

The Wiz is laced with contemporary references while still maintaining the original story theme. The motif of personal discovery, finding out that what we need has been there all along, is done with a humorous satiric touch.

The Wiz first debuted in 1974 as an all-black musical. The music is sometimes reminiscent of a gospel choir but then shifts into disco fever. The performers are always in colorful costume. You cannot help but rock in your seat or tap your feet.

The production is filled with creative ideas to deal with its limited stage. Dorothy is danced to OZ in a tornado ballet, and eased on down the brick road by dancers all in yellow. So go have a good time with this creative ethnicity. Leave your bubble for a while, try to get the jokes, and listen to the words above the deafening music and the jubilant crowd. *Now playing at the Beacon Theatre 74th and Broadway.*

The New York City Ballet will be performing some of the greatest ballets of master choreographer George Balanchine. Balanchine died ten years ago and this is the first retrospective on his work. It will only cover 73 of his astonishing 400 ballets of his (over) half century career. "Some said he was a poet. Others said he was without emotion. He was a humanitarian. Some said he was a tyrant."

In memory and reverence to the genius of Balanchine eight weeks of the season will be devoted to him. His tribute will cover the (1928) Apollo to his (1980) Walpurgisnacht Ballet. Balanchine fell in love with the ballet after seeing *Sleeping Beauty*. *Sleeping Beauty* will be danced from April 22-May 2. *The Balanchine Celebration* will run May 4-June 27. The box office opens April 5, call (212) 870-5570 for more information.

I finally saw *Cats* and I liked it. The critics complain about its lack of plot and its repetitious dance moves, but what kind of plot would satisfy you? A detec-

tive or love story perhaps? Would you want really to see *Watership Down* on stage?

One must appreciate *Cats* for what it does offer the audience, fantastic dancing and great music. They manage to create cats with personality and emotion. My favorite cat was Rum Tum Tugger danced by Bradford Minkoff, an 80s cat now simply out of place in the 90s.

Cats is taken from Nobel Laureate Thomas Stearns Eliot's 1939 *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, and other poems. Eliot was posthumously given a Tony for *Cats* in 1983. Andrew Lloyd Weber composed *Cats* in 1981.

Cats is playing at the *Winter Garden Theater 1634 Broadway at 50th Street. I think I want to see it again and again and again....*

On a completely different plane is Giuseppe Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, loosely translated, the *Wayward Woman*. I saw the opera under the guidance of Plácido Domingo as conductor. Franco Zeffirelli designed the sets and elaborate costumes. Tiziana Fabbricini makes her Met debut as the wayward Violetta.

The production is filled with moving duets and beautiful arias. My favorite scene is scene two of act two with the dancing gypsies and matadors who sing of Piquillo. The stage is so full of movement you cannot begin to follow all of the action. So much color, so much life, a grand operatic scene.

The opera has the classic love story. Courtesan meets earnest lover. They find love, his father breaks them up, she develops tuberculosis, they reunite, a brief moment of peace, and she dies.

So buy the libretto, close your eyes, and go enjoy the music. Remember, Yamaha is the official piano of the Metropolitan Opera. *The Met is located on 64th and Broadway.*

To subscribe to the *New York Philharmonic's 1993-94 season* or to receive a free brochure, call 800-432-7470. It should be an amazing 151st season.

Sources: D. Eliovson, A. Aharon, M. Wernick, and NYC Ballet.

Misc Beth has returned from an extended vacation and has finally finished her finals. Ideas and suggestions to this column can be sent to the *Observer*.

Sounds of Silence: The Sign of True Beauty

By Rinah Cohen

Call it "Hamlet" with a twist. The play is "Ophelia" and the twist is not only that the emphasis is on Ophelia and not Hamlet, but that it is put on by the National Theatre of the Deaf. I had no idea what I was in for when my father, who is hearing impaired, invited me to see the play with him. However, it was an incredible experience.

The most interesting aspect of the play is that it is presented in sign language. There are two hearing actors who speak during the entire play, but the rest of the actors are hearing impaired. Because they cannot use their own voices, the actors must use sign language, facial expression, and body language to replace the spoken word. This creates the beautiful effect of seeing the words as they are spoken. The dialogue flows off of the actors' bodies in a truly graceful manner.

As a member of the audience, I felt like I was being inducted into an entirely new world. Words and sounds, a vital part of my normal life, were replaced by signs and symbols. Instead of clapping at the end of a performance, the audience raised their hands in a "deaf wave" so the actors could "hear" the applause. The experience gave me a small idea of what it would be like to live in a silent world.

The play is a slightly warped version of "Hamlet" with text largely pirated from Shakespeare. Ophelia delivers most of Hamlet's soliloquies including "To be or not to be..." This makes the play interesting from a feminist point of view, because instead of Ophelia disappearing into oblivion and killing herself, she retains her strong character throughout the play. Shakespeare usually writes strong female characters in comedies, so seeing a woman in the role of a tragic figure is extremely different.

This form of theater has added much to the world of acting and entertainment. Not only did the creation of the National Theatre of the Deaf in 1967 gain the jobs and respect for hearing impaired actors, but it also emphasized the power of effective body movement in acting. Hearing actors have much to learn from this style of theater.

The National Theatre of the Deaf is a national and international touring group that presents one play each year. The group only performs in our area once a year, so unfortunately they have already moved on. But if you enjoy unusual culture and you are interested in an intensified theater experience, be sure to catch them next year. You won't believe your eyes!

SPOTLIGHT

A MULTIFACETED INDIVIDUAL: DR. EDWARD LEVY

By Joy A. Weinstein

Too often we think of teachers as one track minded individuals whose interests only lie within the discipline they teach. Rarely do we get a chance to see the other sides that make teachers unique. Having been a student of Dr. Edward Levy for the past three years, I have learned of his life beyond the classroom and can share some of the attitudes, philosophies, and activities of a man whom most will agree leaves a lasting impression.

He learned to play the clarinet and the trumpet at an early age, and hoped to play with the great jazz bands of his time. But after hearing a concert by Wolpe, a classical composer, Levy dropped jazz and arranged to learn from Wolpe himself. Determined to gain all he could, he studied under Wolpe for three years. During that time Levy also came under the tutelage of composer and musical theorist Milton Babbitt.

Unable to find music work,

Levy began to teach English at RJJ. His music background helped him coherently present his subject matter. By comparing, for example, the structure and repeating motives of a sonata to the plot structure, meter, and language usage in King Lear, Levy bridged the gap between the two disciplines.

Levy began teaching music full time at YC in 1967. He remained the only full-time music teacher at YU until 1987 when Dr. Noyes Bartholomew joined the faculty. Part-time teachers filled the void in the interim.

Levy attributes the high turnover rate of part-time music instructors to the pursuit of doctoral degrees. "We [YU] usually get them as they are finishing up their degrees and want to get some in class experience. Once they receive their degrees they leave to seek full-time positions that we can't offer," he said.

Over the years Levy's reputation as a scholar as well as a social activist has landed him on

the board of many organizations. He is presently on the national advisory board of FAIR, the Federation of American Immigration Reform. Additionally, as



Photo credit: Judy Keltos

The Music Man: Dr. E. Levy a member of the Social Contract, a group of intellectuals who gather together to discuss political and social issues.

His association with the Stephan Wolpe Society, an orga-

nization that promotes the music of Wolpe through various publications and performances, has provided him with much honor. In the summer of 1990, Levy was invited to the International Composers Conference in Darmstadt, Germany to lecture on Wolpe. Two years later he was invited to return as both a lecturer and a composer, enabling him to perform his own original flute solo, "Where the Wolf Once Walked." The title was a play on words, paying homage to Wolpe's love for the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Later in the conference, Levy lectured, comparing the music and prose of Wolpe and Babbitt.

Presently, Levy is working with Bartholomew on the Concert of Chamber Music and Jazz that will be performed on March 20 at SCW.

Levy also demonstrates his social awareness on a level closer to home. He and his wife Mary will not buy any products

from a company that is not environmentally safe or that conducts animal testing.

This caring nature is sometimes hidden from his first-time students under a seemingly tough facade. He expects his students to come into his room forgetting all they think they know about music. Levy often says "the beginning of learning is to admit you are ignorant. Only then can the learning begin."

He forces his students to think intelligently and to ask questions. If questions are not well thought out, he lets his students know. He said he uses this approach, "because I respect these students too much to coddle them like babies. I want them to establish their own convictions and question others."

Since turning sixty, Dr. Levy has been asked about his retirement plans. His response, "the range of interests of some of my students is a continuous source of satisfaction. Why would I retire while I am having fun?"

An Ambulance in our Midst: Sokolow Services New York City

By Shana Bak

Feeling a little queasy after a scallop and mashed potato-filled lunch? Are midterms getting you sick? Well, have no fear - Hatzolah is here!

Dr. Moshe Sokolow has been a professor of Tanakh, Jewish History, and Semitic languages at SCW for the past eight years.

About five and a half years ago, on his way to school, Sokolow witnessed an unnerving scene - a motorcycle had been overturned and its driver was lying on the road with blood gushing from his head.

Shortly thereafter, Sokolow was enjoying his Friday night dinner at a weekend *Bar Mitzvah*, when one of the guests clutched at his chest and passed out.

Moved by the two scenes, Sokolow decided his actions could make a difference. After undergoing the usual Emergency Medical Training and obtaining permission from his employers to respond to an emergency during work hours, Sokolow was appointed as one of the coordinators of *Hatzolah* for the west-side and midtown sections of Manhattan.

Sokolow's responsibilities include ensuring that there are enough ambulances to respond to an emergency. *Hatzolah* has designated two ambulances for Man-

hattan. During the week, one remains on the upper west side,

to midtown Manhattan. While Sokolow is usually able to leave

his ambulance with a co-worker in the city, when assistance is unavailable, it is left parked outside of the SCW school building.

Sokolow's emergency equipment, which is permanently stored in the school's Office of Student Services, has come in handy on more than one occasion. The unavoidable tension which permeates the air during finals has been cause for several incidents, ranging, in

and the other, for which Sokolow is responsible, comes

Sokolow's words, "from the sublime to the ridiculous."

Sokolow and some of his crew recently spent several hours at the World Trade Center, treating people and transporting patients to the local hospitals.

Sokolow is proud that *Hatzolah* often rushes to the scene of an accident, irrespective of the fact that the parties involved are not Orthodox Jews. However, the organization's prime commitment is to the Orthodox Jewish community, for it is entirely maintained by donations from the orthodox communities without government funding. *Hatzolah* responds to any emergencies, when the city medical system calls for its assistance.

Photo Credit: Rachel Amersberg



Dr. Sokolow: Hatzolah member

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