

# The Observer

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## STERN HOSTS HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE

By ALIZA LEISER

Stern College for Women hosted a three day conference on the Individualization of the Holocaust, sponsored by the Eli and Diana Zborowski Holocaust Chair. Diaries, memoirs and personal accounts created during the Holocaust were read and lectured on. Panels of professors and researchers addressed subthemes of the general topic. This was the second Holocaust conference held at SCW.

The purpose of the conference is to encourage research in Holocaust studies as well as promote general awareness of the Holocaust. The planning for the conference was carried out by an organizing committee of Yeshiva University professor's Lucjan Dobroszycki, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, and Dr. Robert Shapiro.

The public conference included ten sessions and drew large crowds. The participating professors from YU included professors Pennina Schram, Dr. Hyman, Rabbi Kanarfogel, Dr. Ellen Schrecker, Dr. Haddasah

Kosak, Dr. Joanne Jacobson, and Dr. Richard Nochimson.

The outside speakers, several of whom were Holocaust survivors, came from varied backgrounds. Yitzhak Arad from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is a Holocaust survivor from Eastern Europe who had been a partisan fighter and member of the Haganah. His voice cracked as he read from a wartime letter found in a Soviet archive. He will bring his experiences to the classroom this spring semester.

Daniel Grinberg and Ruta Sakowska are from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Participants in the conference came from London, New York, Connecticut, Paris and Israel to present their papers.

At the keynote address, YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm announced that the papers from the first conference had just been published.

The discovery of diaries, memoirs, photographs, drawings generated by children, adults and the elderly, spans the Lodz ghetto to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Often taking elaborate notes to dis-

*Continued on page 11*

## UNION EMPLOYEES WANT ACTION

By PEARL KAPLAN

The Yeshiva University members of Union 1199 are actively protesting what they believe to be a failure on part of the department of personnel to take suitable actions against a University employee accused of calling several plant operation workers "Nazi and lowlife".

On Monday September 13th plant operations employees Rafael Algarin and Michael Como each sent a letter to Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting services, reporting separate incidents of offensive speech.

Union members began circulating copies of the letter on the Stern, Joel Jablonski, and Cordozo campuses on Thursday October 28 to inform the administration, faculty, and students of the events that took place.

Como, a plant trainee, related in his letter that while making rounds of the SCW building on August 30, he approached [name withheld] requesting aluminum foil. Como continues in his letter that [name withheld] responded, "if the foil was for Douglas Rogers or Ray Algarin he would not give the foil to me". The employee proceeded to tell him that, "Doug Rogers is a Nazi and Ray Algarin is a lowlife". Rogers is the associate director of plant operations.

Algarin, a plant mechanic, wrote to Rosengarten about a separate incident that occurred on

the morning of September 1, when he went with Jose Montalvo, another plant mechanic, to check the air conditioning in the cafeteria. He wrote that while conversing with one of the cafeteria employees, [name withheld] rudely interrupted our conversation, then proceeded to instruct Esther not to speak with us because we are a bunch of lowlives. Furthermore, [name withheld] referred to Douglas Rogers as a "Nazi and Hitler".

Algarin further related that upon telling [name withheld] that he should approach Rogers directly, [name withheld] responded, "if you follow Doug Rogers that makes you a Nazi too". According to Algarin, [name withheld] kept repeating that Doug Rogers, Jose Montalvo and myself [Algarin] were a bunch of lowlife Nazis.

Algarin referred in his letter to a previous confrontation with [name withheld] a year earlier, adding, [name withheld] in the years that I have known him has repeatedly offended me. Michael Sperling, personnel manager for mid-town campus, informed Algarin that "appropriate actions" were taken, and arranged a meeting between the parties involved. "Sperling said he wanted to put things behind them," explained Algarin. Neither Algarin nor Como received any response in writing.

Algarin asserted "I was hurt. I feel they didn't do anything, if I had done something to [name

withheld] I probably would have been tired". "If it would have been us we would have been in trouble. We all have a little bit of prejudice, but when it comes to saying Nazi its uncalled for," added Montalvo.

Sperling would not comment or answer any questions about the incident.

Ruth Schmelzer, assistant manager, was in the cafeteria at the time of the confrontation and came to [name withheld]'s defense.

When questioned about the incident, [name withheld] responded, "No Comment".

Union members met last week at SCW, JJC, and Cardozo, to discuss the events and how they should react. "It has happened in the past," commented one union member, "we used to just laugh it off."

Edgar Aracena Brador, union 1199 organizer, asserted, "Management acknowledged that the incident occurred. We want to make it clear to everybody that it's wrong and it shouldn't happen again."

Members voted on and approved a petition to be submitted to key administrators, if management does not give what union members consider an appropriate response within the next few weeks. The petition will describe the incidents that occurred, report the failure of management to respond and request such occurrences will not be repeated or tolerated.

## GUARDIAN ANGEL ADDRESSES ACTIVISM

By MEIRA SHATZ

Curtis Sliwa, leader of the Guardian Angels and WABC radio talk show host, addressed an audience of approximately 250 students at Belfer Hall on Monday, October 18.

Sliwa was focused on the passivity of the Jews during the Crown Heights riots. Sliwa was shocked by the small number of Jews who had rallied on Eastern Parkway.

He commented, "I thought they would be coming from Miami, from Monsey... and they did not even make it down the block."

Tammy Lightman, SCW junior, explained, "I felt almost embarrassed that here was a Roman Catholic who had to condemn our silence and explain the need to voice our rights as Jews."

Sliwa emphasized that the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum during the riots was not an isolated event. He cited the murder of Ely Rosen in 1986, the acquittal of El Sayid



Nosair who had been charged with the murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane, and the acquittal of Lemrick Nelson, as events that should have caused an outrage within the Jewish community but that instead

elicited virtually no response. Sliwa also criticized the inactivity of the mayor and the police force in Crown Heights. He said, "We have a mayor who to this day will not apologize for his lack of action, sending the translated message to others that it is O.K."

According to Sliwa, the Guardian Angels were formed, "to support fellow man for the purpose of his

own survival." Sliwa was inspired to create the organization as he saw the changing Crown Heights community of the 1960s and 1970s foster the mistreatment of minorities.

He discussed the influence of public school education in Crown Heights on anti-semitism. "We were weaned on that very concept of anti-semitism," says Sliwa. "When we read about the crucifixion and asked who did this to the son of G-d, Sister Ruth would say 'the Jews'." Sliwa commented that he recognized some of the rioters as fellow classmates.

Sliwa's final appeal was for students to attend a rally at city hall on October 18. The rally was dedicated to the propositions "justice for all" and "never ever again." "You do not need to have studied Torah," says Sliwa. "It is common sense. It happened once and will happen again and again... Justice for one, justice for all."

SCW Senior Ruth Samuels added, "He was a motivating speaker and I hope that students will be convinced to be more active in the future."

## SCHOOL BUILDING FLOODS

By REBECCA GOLDMAN  
and RACHEL ROSENBLUM

On Saturday, September 25, 1993, Yoni Kipper, Captain Louis Gonzalez, Stern College Security Supervisor, discovered a flood in the old SCW school building.

Gonzalez discovered the flood while checking every floor of the old SCW school building. He found water on almost every floor he inspected. There was about two inches of water in many of the rooms. A "pervasive smell" was detected in both the old and new school buildings.

Management believes that a mechanical failure in the house tank on the roof, which provides all the water used in the building, caused a leak of 10,000 gallons of water. The damage was estimated at \$15,000 - \$20,000.

A SCW maintenance crew worked overtime to insure that

the clean-up would be completed before students returned to school. The majority of the job took about 12 hours, while the rest of the work was completed in the following week. Jeff Socol, associate director of facilities management, stated, "the damage was quickly repaired and the problem was corrected."

The majority of the damage occurred in the Psychology Laboratory. Items damaged included a wave form synthesizer, data graph system, Hewlett Packard X/Y recorder, and electrodex.

SCW has all-risk insurance with a deductible for small losses. The cost of the flood damage fell below the deductible and will be paid by YU. Paul Goldschmit, YU risk manager, said, "We have minimized all losses by using in-house workers and will pay the rest out-of-pocket."

# EDITORIALS

## Midterm or All-term?

Fall semester officially begins September 1, 1993 and ends December 23. That would place the *midterm* period between the last week of October and the first two weeks of November. This would correctly make the exams in the *middle* of the term.

As it stands now midterms range the entire semester. Some students have midterms until a week before Reading Week.

From an academic standpoint this is completely unacceptable. Having midterms hover over a student's head will distract the student from her other courses. It is difficult to concentrate on homework and readings if one is constantly taking midterms.

When professors give an exam late in the semester they are not being fair to the students who will elect the P/N option.

In many classes a midterm counts as much as the final examination. Before finals students have a week to devote to reading. Also, a student cannot have more than two exams in one day. No such treatment is given to midterms.

The most sensible solution is a "crunch" period of three weeks for all midterms. This way the focus is on exams, and students will have some end in sight.

The deans office sent a letter to all faculty members requesting that midterms end by November 16.

Some professors may think they are doing their students a favor by scheduling their exam earlier or later than the appropriate period. This is not the case.

The complaining about dates can be avoided if the midterm dates on the syllabus. This way any scheduling conflicts can be contained in the beginning of the year.

## When Overcrowding is Positive

The efforts of the Torah Activities Council, combined with a serious interest from students to dedicate time for learning, have yielded impressive results.

Attendance rates to extra curricular *shiurim* have tripled. The Brookdale *beit midrash* is overcrowded every Tuesday night when the student *parsha shiur* is delivered. The expanding Young Israel Chevura program, the multitude of volunteers for *Bina Yetiva*, all point to a growing commitment to Torah study.

Kudos to TAC for persevering and giving the students of Stern a chance to go the extra mile, and learn from another person.

# "BUY A BUILDING!"

Assistant Dean of Students **Zelda Braun**  
10/26/93

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DEAN EFREM NULMAN, ROCHELLE AND JOSHIE ON THE BIRTH OF YONATON SHMUEL

### Correction Box

In the last issue of the Observer Brent Mydland was mistakenly included in the concert review of the Grateful Dead. Also Bill Kreutzman's name appeared as Bob Kreutzman. Apologies to the band.

# The Observer

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## LETTERS

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

## GAMBLING WITH PEACE

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to Aliza Freud and Dassi Billets articles which appeared in the last issue of the *Observer*. I would like to add my own view.

Gather around the poker table folks; it's all right, you know the gang. To your right and left are the two age old foes, fresh from their White House visit. Sitting to their sides are the all too familiar Thursday night cast: Netanyahu, Jibril, Habash, and of course who can forget about Abu Marzuk of Hamas fame. A little extra nudge in the back, another picture perfect handshake, and let the games begin. Just one rule to remember - its all about Realpolitik and everything else is conversation.

There has never been a more crucial time in the long standing conflict now simply referred to as "The Situation" in Israel. President Clinton, now calling the agreement "an extraordinary act in one of history's defining dramas" understands all too well the significance that this issue will play in his administration. While events in the former Soviet/European front have left even the most moderate of Middle Eastern states stranded helplessly in the wind, their

troubles have only been multiplied by their own dismal economic conditions. Conditions which have served to underline the need to move more decisively against the rising threat of Islamic violence. And of course who can forget the recent Persian Gulf War?

Back at the table, the telegenic Netanyahu turns to Arafat, sensing a bluff, he wonders aloud, "What makes you think that you can effectively take control of Jericho and Gaza?" Arafat, that malevolent smile we've all grown used to, appears confident. As well he should. After all, it was this unofficial diplomat and representative of the Palestinian cause who's actions awoke the sleepy towns of Jericho and Gaza. I suppose that years spent carrying the banner for Palestinian autonomy must have its privileges. At least it's worth its weight in falafel.

Getting down to the real issue, its obvious that Mr. Marzuk knows all too well that where there is poverty there is no effective leadership. While \$20 million from their Iranian comrades may go a long way for you and me, it certainly does not compare to the three billion the world community has mustered up in support of Arafat's P.L.O.

"But has Arafat really changed his stripes, why should we trust him now?" goes the old argument. To that I employ the age old Jewish tradition of answering a question with another question. Does it really matter? I personally would not offer him a ride anytime soon, yet

I trust that he will still act from the same self-interested motives that brought him to the table in the first place. Arafat the terrorist is also Arafat the peacemaker, and what is good for the peacemaker is good for peace. Needless to say that while terrorist language in a Palestinian Charter should not be overlooked as mere rhetoric and surplage, I would hardly think about scrapping the whole deal before anyone got a chance to deal with that sore spot.

Smoke fills the room as the chips begin making their way to the center of the table. "But where is your Jewish mandate?" a voice from the table cries out. "Rabin, you had no Jewish majority here!" It gets louder. Rabin pulls closer to the action and draws his card as the ace he's been waiting for reads so prophetically that, "democratic governments recognize all legitimate voters, Jew or Arab." However, is there anything substantial enough to be gained from this agreement?

If the deal works, Israel may stand to gain more than just a little peace and quiet. This could move them one step closer towards normalizing relations with those states who have felt the pressure of this conflict. Let's be honest here. Rabin has really been raking up those frequent flyer miles around the Middle East these days. I doubt Morocco's King Hassan invited Rabin because of his interest in talking to the Prime Minister about his last visit to YU.

Continued on page 3.



# LITERARY JOURNAL CONFISCATED

By AMANDA NUSSBAUM

Only a few hours after the 1992-1993 issue of the Yeshiva College literary journal, *Kol*, was distributed in student mailboxes and in various other locations throughout the University, unclaimed copies were confiscated due to unsuitable language and content.

Thursday afternoon of October 14, a small contingent of students marched into Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman's office and showed him a copy of *Kol*. According to Nulman, the students were outraged and upset with the publication and claimed that their reaction was representative of the majority of students.

Upon seeing "Smiling John" by Howard Katz and "Ruminations of an Ex-Boyfriend or the Night God Called," the short stories that caused the response, Nulman reached the same conclusion: that the journal "was out of place and out of line." "It is not like this is a grey area," Nulman said. "In the nine years that I have worked in Yeshiva, I have never seen anything as blatant as this. It was very clearly wrong, and does not belong at

Yeshiva or for that matter anywhere or for anyone with good taste." Although Nulman felt that the publication should be removed, he believed that the final decision should be in the hands of the students. Yeshiva College Student Council President Danny Gurell was pulled out of class by Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, assistant dean of students. Gurell was stunned by the contents of the journal and called for any copies which had not yet been claimed to be removed.

Simultaneously, President Norman Lamm was informed of the situation. According to Nulman, Lamm agreed that the stories were completely inappropriate and supported the decision to remove the remaining copies.

Gurell, as YC president, is considered the publisher of *Kol* and was therefore required to put his decision in writing. Gurell documented his basic position for the confiscation that is, the literary works in question were inappropriate due to the "obscene and sexual nature" of their content.

Nulman consulted with lawyers to ascertain whether the re-

moval of the remaining copies was legal. It was determined that since Yeshiva University is a private institution and *Kol*, which is funded by Yeshiva College Student Council, is a privately financed publication, confiscating the remaining copies of the journal does not violate first amendment rights. Nulman added that the YC dormitory rules and regulations clearly delineate that although federal mail cannot be touched, university documents can be removed from a student's mailbox.

The remaining copies of *Kol* were removed from the mailboxes and from the various locations around campus by the dorm staff.

Nulman was pleased with the full cooperation between the students and the administration on this issue.

Nulman offered the editorial board of *Kol* the opportunity to reprint the journal either without the two offensive selections or with two new appropriate pieces, with the University underwriting the cost. Nulman related that he "doesn't want to hurt those that did it properly."

# HOW KOL WAS PUBLISHED THE EDITOR RESPONDS

By AMANDA NUSSBAUM

Approximately 30 years ago, *Kol* the Yeshiva College literary journal was first published. The journal has been published intermittently, with three issues published in the past ten years. The publication is for internal distribution only.

The 1992-1993 editorial board included Editor-in-Chief Joel Haber and Executive Editors Ari Blech and Senior Editor David Flatto. Dr. Joanne Jacobson and Dr. William Lee, faculty members of the English Department, served as advisors.

While selecting materials for the journal, Haber foresaw problems. He understood that both pieces contained language and subject matter that some students might find objectionable. One of the selections in question, a short story called "Smiling John" by Howard Katz, won the English Department's short story contest. The tradition of *Kol* is to print the winning short story and poem.

Haber, when considering the publishing of the winning entry, felt that he had three options - to print the story as written, to edit it, or to leave it out entirely. Haber felt that he could not leave out the selection because of the quality of the story and more importantly, because it had won the literary contest. Haber also believed that editing was not a favorable option due to the difficulty of contacting the author of the piece for approval. He further explained that editing the story would detract from its integrity and value.

Haber was secure with the decision to print the piece for two reasons. First, he maintained that the quality of the story rendered it worthy of publication. Secondly, he asserted that all the objectionable material in the voice of persons-the editor did not represent the views of the author, editors, or anyone at Yeshiva University, rather, it was the voices of characters.

Haber presented the literature to the rest of the editorial board. Both Blech and Flatto raised objections to the two stories. They felt uncomfortable with the idea of printing the stories and were concerned about the appropriateness and *halakic* permissibility of publishing them.

Haber then showed the selections to the advisory board. Both professors discussed the issues with Haber and gave him advice. However, neither advisor gave Haber a definite answer as to whether the stories should be included.

Lee explained that in principle, the final selection process should be left to the editors of the publication; "I recognize that students might make mistakes in judgement but college is a place that one is suppose to make mistakes and people point out those mistakes to you." Both Lee and Jacobson agreed that it was the job of the students, not the faculty advisor, to make final editorial decisions.

Following Haber's conference with the advisors, a decision was reached by the editorial board to print the stories.

Haber, realizing that some people would have problems with the content of the stories, added a disclaimer on the page with the Table of Contents, as well as the reasons why the two selections were left intact.

Following the confiscation of *Kol*, Haber declared that he "is very upset at what appears to be the extreme measures that this has come to and urges the administration to reconsider its position."

Lee is outraged by the events. "It diminishes YU as a university and I am not sure if it enhances it so much as a yeshiva." However, Lee is not shocked by the events. He was part of an ad hoc committee on academic freedom in the mid-80s. At that time, he wrote a report together with Dr. Shalom Carmy in response to the university's withdrawal of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society's invitation to a member of the Arab League to address the student body.

Dr. Joan Haber, one of the members of the selection committee for the literary contest, commented, "I am somewhat dismayed with what occurred. On material on which people differ to then somehow silently and subversively withdraw an issue of a periodical without any discussion seems not what one would expect of a university setting."

# ACADEMIC ISSUES PRESENTED TO VP

By LAURIE KATZMAN

Dr. William Schwartz, Yeshiva University's newly appointed vice president for academic affairs stressed his "open door policy" when he met with student leaders on Friday, September 28. The meeting gave students an opportunity to express their opinions on academic life.

Schwartz, previously a dean at Boston University's Law School, officially undertook his position on October 11. Since then, he has actively tried to familiarize himself with YU's policies and problems by meeting with different groups in the undergraduate institution.

At the meeting, students expressed discontent with YC's Judaic studies programs. Schwartz announced that there will be "a thorough and" intense review of YC's curriculum, especially the Bible department." Nulman commented that members of the student body and faculty have shown interest in possibly restructuring the Maizer Yeshiva Program and there is some consideration to instituting a fourth program.

Schwartz said that a school's

curriculum should be reviewed at least every 10 years, and mentioned that an informal review of Stern's core requirement would also be included. He said that ultimately the faculty has the authority to make curriculum changes and that students should voice their opinions to the faculty as well as to the administration.

Students issued the complaint that mid-term examinations last throughout the semester and can continue until the final exams period. Schwartz agreed that this type of testing is not conducive to the education system. He said that, "if students are constantly preparing for exams, then they are not preparing for their daily classes." He expressed his preference for a set schedule for mid-terms.

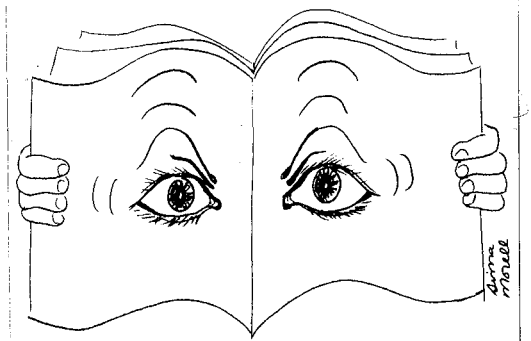
Students also raised the issue of the inconvenience caused by the short notice of a professor's sabbatical leave. Schwartz said that this situation could be rectified through notification a semester in advance of a professor's leave. He further added that before taking a sabbatical, there must be proper coverage for a professor's counseling functions as well as for his

classes.

Schwartz discussed the removal of the *Kol* journal. He explained that anything that is directly or indirectly a publication of the university is legally considered the university's publication, and therefore the trustees are held responsible for its content. He stated that he is a strong believer in freedom of speech, but maintained that YU does have the right to have an official publication policy that all publications, including student newspapers and journals, are required to follow.

Senior Adeena Braun was, "delighted to meet with Dr. Schwartz because he was so positive and showed concern about the students. He really wanted to work with the students to improve YU's conditions."

Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, assistant vice president of academic affairs, Jeffrey Chaitoff, and Zeldia Braun, assistant dean of students, also attended the breakfast



# STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS

By TAMAR RASKAS

This year, two SCW seniors, Michelle Brown and Rachel Goodman, are teaching the Experimental Psychology Laboratories. Students instructing fellow students is not an uncommon tradition in Stern College.

Dean Karen Bacon points out that "we've been using students on and off for years" in the Computer and Biology departments as well as in the Psychology lab. "We promote our students and graduates and we believe in them," asserts Dean Bacon.

During the summer, Dr. Joshua Bacon, head of the Psychology Department, along with Ms. Gila Iskowitz, the substitute Experimental Psychology teacher, selected the new Psychology lab instructors. Bacon is currently on sabbatical in Israel this year.

Iskowitz is responsible for designing the course and labs. Every Monday, she meets with Brown and Goodman and outlines what they should accomplish in the following week. Brown and Goodman then present the infor-

mation in their own individual ways.

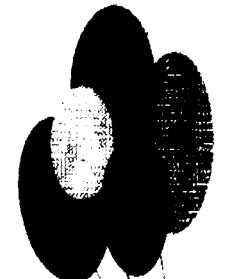
Michelle Brown admits she was surprised when Bacon called her. In fact, her response was, "who am I to teach an experimental psych lab?" However, Brown has asserted herself as a serious teacher. In the beginning of the course she set some ground rules. She did not want students to assume that the class would be easier as a result of Bacon's absence. "I take the subject seriously so they know I'm expecting them to take it seriously also," Brown says. The course, however, is more relaxed because the students view Brown as a friend who can guide and help them. She even gave her students her home phone number and expects them to utilize it if questions arise.

The other psychology lab teacher, Rachel Goodman, found it peculiar to see fellow students in her classroom. She says, "it's very strange and I was nervous before, but it's working out well. The nature of the class is more laid back and the atmo-

sphere is less pressured." Goodman hopes to help enrich the Experimental Psychology lectures. She believes teaching provides her with the opportunity to meet new students. Furthermore, Goodman feels she can relate to them because she understands what they are experiencing.

Bacon finds this set-up mutually beneficial to the pupil and the teacher. The instructor is more approachable and accessible to the pupil because she is a student herself. Also, the instructor gains valuable teaching experience which is impressive to potential Psychology graduate programs.

There initially was a mixed reaction from the students in these classes. One student notes, "At first I was apprehensive because I expected someone at least two years older than me, but it's turning out for the better." It seems that many students are finding they can relate better to their student-teachers, particularly because they are all at a similar stage in life.



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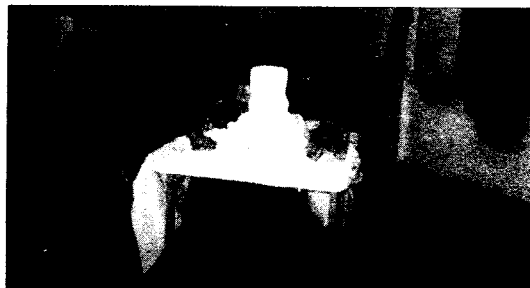
# TALENT DISPLAYED

By ILANA BACHMAN

On October 25, Besamim, the Literary and Fine Arts Club of Stern College for Women launched the second annual Student Works Exhibit. The exhibit features original literary and visual art generated by Stern College students. Dean Karen Bacon delivered a special address to the students. In addition to all Stern College students and faculty, members of publishing companies and others in the art field were invited to attend. Sary Langner, SCW junior, and seniors Ilana Katz and Naomi Bennet, planned and coordinated the exhibit with the help of other Besamim members.

Approximately 70 works are featured in this year's exhibit in Louis Koch Auditorium. The visual arts featured in the exhibit include various types of drawing, paintings, and sculpture. The literary arts include different styles of poetry, prose, and short essay.

One area of the exhibit is a series of three art pieces and two literary pieces that center around a death/Holocaust theme. "Anguish" by Ilana Katz is a woodcut drawing of two pain-filled, colored faces. "DI: Because you draw blood", by Sara Landt, is an emotional poem that is set up between "Anguish" and a Holocaust drawing by Chani Koenigsberg. The next piece, a poem by Caroline Koch titled "Instructions," is adjacent to a pastel drawing by Deborah Gruenberger of two fig-



Senior Naomi Bennet viewing student works in Koch Auditorium.

ures huddled against a grey background where the word Jude drips in red. According to one viewer, "even the easels in this area look like coffins."

The hexagon shaped display in the center of the room centers around a somewhat religious theme. A drawing of a Rabbi, by Naomi Liebowitz was selected from an original series of four Rabbi pictures. A watercolor of Jerusalem by Sara Rosman and a landscape of a bridge by Faigie Hochdorf complete the art work featured in this section. In between each art piece are literary pieces written by Miriam Gaisson, Layaliza Klein and Julia Kahn. Kahn, an early admissions freshman at SCW commented, "I cannot believe that something of mine is actually on display for all to see. I am beginning to feel that my dream of becoming a writer is coming true."

Two abstract works by Tanya Zilberberg and Sara Rosman from the Beginning Painting class are fea-

tured in the exhibit. "As a beginner, I didn't expect my work to be chosen for display, but much to my surprise I was accepted and I am very excited about it," said Zilberberg.

The coordinators of the exhibit were pleased with the results. "I was very impressed with the quality of the work that was submitted and the students all seem very enthusiastic about displaying their creativity," stated Bennet. Langner added that "the exhibit was planned to give artists and writers exposure and make the Stern community aware of the talent that exists in our school. Judging from the response of students and faculty it is a success."

Julia Frohlich, a SCW senior, who assisted in preparing the exhibit and whose work is featured in the exhibit remarked, "it is a wonderful opportunity for the rest of the students to see the caliber of work produced by their fellow students."

Photo Credit: Ruth Sommer

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# COSTA RICA

By YAFFA SCHINDLER

Debbie Schechter, a Junior majoring in Chemistry, is one of the 53 foreign students at Stern. She, as well as the rest of the foreign students add diversity to Stern.

Schechter comes from San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. For the geographically challenged, Costa Rica is a Spanish-speaking country in Central America. The climate is tropical and the city is clean. Schechter wistfully recalls San Jose as beautiful.

"Everyone knows everyone" in Schechter's community. When people here ask her "Do you know...?" she always does. This is because the Jewish community has only about 500 families, mostly traditional Jews. There are five religious families, including the Schechters. A person from San Jose found Debbie's Meah Shearim born father in England, and recruited him as the *shochet* and the *mohel* for the community. He has since given up *shechita*.

The Jewish community in San Jose is the only Jewish community in Costa Rica. There is a JCC and a Jewish High School. There is also

a large shul which has a *minyan* every day. The standard of living among the Jews is basically the same in Costa Rica as it is in New York.

The community offers a Jewish education from the elementary through the high school level. The school is Orthodox, and the Jewish education is good. "They always bring in *shlichim* to teach in the school." When asked whether growing up in a predominantly irreligious community affected her negatively, she replied, "No, not really, because my parents gave me a really good education."

After graduating from high school, most students go on to university in Costa Rica, although some choose to "go to the States to study." Many Jewish students opt for a kibbutz program in Israel before starting college. Schechter decided to spend a semester learning at Machon Gold.

"When you're religious, it's very hard to live in Costa Rica - not so hard when you're young, but... after high school, when you're not in a Jewish environment anymore, you have to go to



Debbie Schechter

university, and there aren't so many Jews there," said Schechter. Because of the lack of a Jewish community at the university in Costa Rica, Schechter chose to come to YU, following in the footsteps of her older sister and brother.

When asked how she feels about Stern and New York, Schechter replied, "I love it...[but] it's different. The societies are really different."

Schechter cites moral and materialistic differences. Still, Schechter asserted that she does not intend to return to Costa Rica after completing her education in New York. She said she wants to live "any-

where where they have a big religious community, because that's the whole point of coming here, and not staying in Costa Rica. My father sent us away so we can study and be in a religious environment."

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By JENNIE SHAPIRO

Ilanit Benjamin arrived in New York only two weeks ago. While her parents continue to lead the Jewish community in Bombay, India, she will be studying here at Stern.

Only 8000 Jews live in all of India. Of these 8000, more than 5000 reside in Bombay, where Benjamin's father serves as Chief Rabbi, *mohel*, *shochet*, and Hebrew teacher.

Benjamin described her community as "traditional." The laws of *kashrut* and *shabbat* are followed. But living as a Jew is not as easy in Bombay as in America. A lack of resources poses severe obstacles to those eager to follow Jewish law.

However, in some ways, Indian Jews have an advantage over others. "There is absolutely no sign of anti-Semitism in India," reports Benjamin. "India's whole philosophy is based on tolerance. No-

where in the world [are] Jews not persecuted in some way except in India...But in India, it's a hard life in terms of access to libraries and other religious things."

Benjamin's father recently opened a small library in their synagogue with imported religious books. Many children come every Sunday to use the collection and strengthen their Jewish education.

The only Jewish school is three hours away from the Benjamin home. Though Rabbi Benjamin travels there and back everyday to teach Hebrew, his daughter attended the local Catholic school. "I had no formal training in Hebrew. My parents taught me everything I know about Judaism."

Rabbi Abraham Benjamin studied at Yeshiva University in the early 1970s, and then continued his studies in Israel. His wife studied in Machon Gold. According to

Benjamin, "more and more young Jews from Bombay are traveling to Israel to learn Torah, and many are making *aliya*." Her father has helped 3000 people settle in Israel, where they attend school, serve in the army, and enter the work force.

Benjamin explains that her community is comprised of two groups. The B'nai Israelis are descendants of those Jews who settled in India immediately after the destruction of the Second Temple. The Iraqi Jews' ancestors

went first to Iraq, and came to India later to be a part of a thriving trade industry.

Most of the Iraqi Jews have returned to Israel, but the B'nai Israelis are still active.

In addition to internally run programs, Chabad representatives from America and Hong Kong organize camps for Jewish youth in December and May.

Though she has not been in Stern for long, Benjamin already feels comfortable here. "I got a very warm welcome from Mrs. Kenig and Mrs. Braun. Dean Bacon helped me a lot because I had missed so many classes. And girls keep helping me to catch up and fill in the gaps that I'm missing."

Benjamin chose to come to Stern because of the Judaic Studies program, and she is also excited about her major in Computer Science. Soon after graduation, she hopes to join her many cousins who live in Israel.



Ilanit Benjamin

# UKRAINE

By MARCIE SCHNEIDER

The impression of a single moment can last a lifetime. How much greater, then, are the effects of an entire summer?

Yeshiva University Students for the Spiritual Revival of Soviet Jews (YUSSR) program sends students to cities in the former Soviet Union to run Jewish summer camps for the Jewish youth there.

Tanya Gitman, a native of the Ukraine, spent the past two summers working as a translator for American counselors with YUSSR.

The impression YUSSR incurred resulted in Gitman's decision to study at Stern College. With the help of Mark Ziering, YC graduate, who Gitman described as a "person who cares about every person he meets on his way," Gitman applied to Stern College and was accepted. This fall semester, she came to America.

Stern's dual curriculum appealed to Tanya and inspired her to face the challenges of an American university. "I came to Stern because of the great opportunity to pursue both secular and Jewish studies. Stern gives information about the Jewish heritage and traditions and gives the opportunity to get a secular education, which is important to me.

"It is very different from Russian university. Everyone is very friendly," she explains.

Gitman's greatest praise of Stern regards the cordial, open-door policy the administrators extend to students. "I really, really like the atmosphere. Here everyone goes to the dean's office. People are here to help and decide problems."

"I was so confused when I came. [Assistant Dean of Students] Mrs. [Zelda] Braun and [International Student Administrator] Mrs. [Margal] Marx were so helpful."

"In Russia it was much more official. You try not to go to the dean's office at all. You only go when you are summoned and it is not to discuss personal difficulties."

As a foreign student Gitman is limited to an "unloaded" curriculum consisting of six courses. Although undecided as to her major she is inclined toward business and accounting.

Gitman's impressive mastery of the English language was achieved in only two years of high school English and three summers in English-speaking camps. "I mostly understand what's going on in class. I have to work harder



Tanya Gitman

and it takes a longer time because English is not my mother tongue."

Studying with American friends is difficult because of the language barrier. Even her trusty English-Russian dictionary does not always provide assistance. "[Problems often arise regarding] a lot of technical terms, such as those used in textbooks and in Hebrew subjects."

In her short two-month stay in America, thus far Gitman has

formed a fairly clear picture of the "Big Apple." "New York is very busy, but it has some charm. It has some advantages- it is easy to get around from one place to another. There is also a big contrast between rich and poor."

As with any move, differences are anticipated between former and present locations. Kherson, the city where Gitman grew up, has a population of 400,000. "The Jew-

ish community is not that big. It used to be big but all synagogues were closed under the communists. A few years ago some synagogues were reopened and are now run by Chabad."

Still, certain parallels remain. "The main thing I pay attention to is people. Deep down, people are the same everywhere."

Distance does not hinder Gitman's communication with her family. "I write to them and speak once in a while."

In between her studying, socializing and sightseeing she participates in a number of other activities. "I like sports, like aerobics and swimming. I take ballet here at Stern. I'm very interested in literature- American literature and definitely Russian literature."

Dorm life was another new experience for Gitman. "I didn't know what to expect. I was very lucky with my roommates."

Michelle Litman, one of Gitman's roommates describes her as "very studious and very neat." In exchange for insight into Russian customs and culture, Gitman's roommates provide an invaluable service. "We teach her slang," Litman said.

# JEWISH GEOGRAPHY

By DEBRA YOSHOR

Caracas, the capitol of Venezuela, has a Jewish population of between 25- 30,000. One of the members of the Caracas Jewish community, Anita Sibony, is currently a Junior at Stern College for Women.

Sibony described what it was like to grow up in a small, Jewish community. She attended elementary and high school at The Hebraica, a Jewish school with about 900 students. Sibony said that although the religious denomination of the school is Conservative, Orthodox students study there as well. Among the topics they study are Hebrew, Jewish History, Halacha, and Tanach.

Generally speaking, when the Jewish students graduate from high school, they continue their education in university in Venezuela. Sibony noted that once a student leaves the close knit community, "It is difficult to maintain contact with other Jews."

When she was 15 years old, Sibony toured Europe and Israel. "It was that year that I decided I would leave home to continue my education. I wanted to learn English and more about Judaism." Sibony's strong Jewish identity and her desire to live within a Jew-

ish community eventually led her to New York.

Sibony's mother studied in Stern for one year in the late 1960s. In 1991, she encouraged her daughter to continue both her Jewish and secular educations as a student in SCW. "Everything was very fast- the decision to come, saying goodbye to my friends. I didn't think about what to expect."

Sibony came to Stern with no friends and little knowledge of English. "I like Stern very much," she said. "It's a nice school with everything I need- Jewish people, my art classes."

To brush up on her skills, Sibony spent the last two summers studying at Neveh Yerushalayim in Israel. "It was a good experience," and she learned not only Judaic studies but also many new things about different cultures.

The Jewish community in Caracas is quite different from its counterpart in New York. There is a large Conservative constituency and a smaller Orthodox section, which is basically run by Lubavitch. Sibony enjoys living in the small community because "everyone knows everyone." Most of the community is Sephardic.

Sibony noted that the average Venezuelan knows little about

# VENEZUELA

Jews. "Most assume that Jew means Israeli." There is little Anti-Semitism, and if a rare incident occurs, Sibony said it is "mostly out of ignorance."

The lifestyle of Jews in Caracas is similar to that of Jews in New York. Of course, Sibony misses the "beautiful view of the mountains and the tropical weather," but she has grown accustomed to the skyscrapers and chilly winters.

Being in the New York Jewish community is an eye-opener for Sibony. In Caracas, most of the Jewish community observes Judaism on the same level. The only Orthodox outsiders the community has encountered are Lubavitch.

"It was new to me to see all the black hats, the Chasidim, and the Modern Orthodox. In New York, every different type of Orthodox Jew can find someone to identify with."

"Seeing the different communities- Boro Park, Monsey, the Upper West Side- is interesting for me. I never knew there were so many different kinds of Orthodox Jews."

Sibony believes the diversity is "unique to New York." She is enjoying her experience in New York, and she hopes to study in



Anita Sibony

graduate school here. She has not yet decided if she will return permanently to Caracas.

# THE ACTS OF T.A.C.

By RENA MASLANSKY

The Torah Activities Council is an integral part of the religious aspects and atmosphere in SCW. T.A.C. is an organization composed of 23 attempts to enhance different areas of religious life at Stern. When asked what those specific areas are, Aliza Dworken, T.A.C. President, outlined them as Talmud Torah, Chesed (Outreach and "In-reach"), "Atmosphere" and the serving of practical religious needs.

## Talmud Torah

Nine of T.A.C.'s committees enhance Torah learning outside the classroom, for all levels and backgrounds. "Just having these programs around shows that Stern's Torah is not just a series of courses - but much more - it's an atmosphere," says Maya Braun, SCW senior. The programs to which Braun was referring are numerous.

T.A.C. publications are a large part of these programs. The *Bina Yeteira*, T.A.C.'s weekly *parsha* newsletter, provides students with interesting insights about the weekly Torah portion.

A monthly newsletter which covers *halachot* of that month is published every *Rosh Chodesh*, along with the source books developed by the *Middot* (a.k.a. "Deep Thoughts") Committee.

The *Shivim Panim Torah Journal* is a brand new work which is written, edited and published by Stern students. The Journal allows the women to submit papers on a wide range of topics which they themselves chose and researched.

Another new publication which serves the more practical religious needs of students is the *Kashrut Newsletter*. This bi-weekly provides the students with a list of newly certified *kosher* products; articles pertaining to *hilchot kashrut* (laws of *kashrut*), and Rabbi Tzvi Flaum's column, in which he answers *kashrut* questions submitted by students.

Learning programs are a second part of the Talmud Torah aspect of

T.A.C. The *Beit Midrash* - "It is so impressive when I walk by and see so many people in there learning," expresses Leah Operman, SCW junior. Stern's relatively new Beit Midrash serves as the center of learning at SCW. T.A.C.'s "sefarim campaign" is currently underway to encourage donations for the purchase of more *sefarim*. The recent addition of Judaica art has made the *Beit Midrash* a welcome place for students to spend their free time.

The *chevruta* program is yet another aspect of T.A.C. This project matches Stern College students with suitable learning partners. The program is ideal for all those who want to enhance their learning outside the classroom, or for those interested in helping others or receiving help with their classwork.

The *Beit Midrash* is also home to the Tuesday night *Parsha Shiur*. Informal, relaxed and accompanied by refreshments, the *shiur* is delivered by a different student each week. Thus far, this



Bikur Cholim

program has seen a packed *Beit Midrash*.

Aside from this weekly *shiur* delivered by students, every Monday night, Rabbi Tzvi Flaum,

*maschiach ruchani*, delivers a T.A.C. sponsored *shiur* on a gamut of topics. Additionally, each month, T.A.C. invites *Roshei Yeshiva*, speakers and guest lecturers to address the students. The first such event featuring Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm was a success, attracting over 200 students.

T.A.C.'s *chesed* committees provide many opportunities for Stern women to give of themselves and of their time to others. The *tzedakah* Committee coordinates fundraisers such as notebook sales, raffles etc. The money raised by these campaigns is distributed to many worthy causes such as *Yad Eliezer*. To help fill needs other than monetary ones, the Clothing and Toy Drives collect hundreds of items for the needy.

While some are in need of physical objects, others merely need a simple cheering-up. Through T.A.C.'s *Bikur Cholim* program, Stern women bring that cheer to Jewish patients in various area hospitals, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Through Adopt-A-Bubbie, students make weekly, friendly visits to shut-ins and nursing homes to their "adopted grandparents," and senior citizens will be invited to Stern for activities. *Tehillim* for the sick are recited twice a week from lists compiled with names from various communities across the country. In conjunction with this program, *Sifsei Tehillim* will be distributed throughout the school for a *siyum Tehillim*.

Other T.A.C. volunteer projects accomplish religious outreach. Stern women participate in



Parasha Shiur

programs learning with women in local synagogues. To meet the religious needs of Russian immigrants, T.A.C. sponsors *Chanukah* and *Purim* carnivals for the Russian children of Washington Heights to learn about the holidays while having fun.

"In-reach" is another aspect of SCW volunteer-spirit. To ensure that all students have places to spend *shabbat*, the Home Hospitality committee sets them up in homes of fellow students and alumni. The new *Knei Lecha Rav* program allows students to spend *Shabbat* at a teacher's home, thereby strengthening teacher-student bonds.

*Kesher* Club, a club for international students, is another program which cares for the individual needs of Stern women. Through various events and *shiurim* American and international members of *Kesher* Club form friendships and exchange ideas and culture.

## ATMOSPHERE

T.A.C. contributes to an "atmosphere" of *Torah* at SCW. The *Chagigot* at Stern add to the holiday spirit on *Chanukah* and *Purim*. The *shepil*, dancing and choir are the highlights. The *Chagiga* committee has already begun preparations for the big event. This year, the *chagigot* are on December 14, and February 14.

Monthly *Rosh Chodesh* breakfasts with *Tefilla* and *divrei Torah*,

along with timely decorations, contribute to that *Torah* atmosphere, as well.

## RELIGIOUS NEEDS

T.A.C. also serves the essential role of providing students with all practical religious needs. Included in such a service is the distribution of washing cups and *tzedakah* cans to the entire student body.

*Sefarim* sales at the beginning of each semester make available books needed for Jewish studies courses. Religious articles for the *chagim* such as *lulavim* and *etrogim*, *sukka* decorations, *machzorim*, *viduy* booklets, and *biur chametz* kits are either provided or sold, as well.

"Most of all, the Torah Activities Council is for every student, states Dworken. One of T.A.C.'s goals is to get everyone involved with its projects, providing for all needs of the student body. Operman, truly sums it up when commenting about T.A.C., "They make a big effort to meet different students and different needs. There's something out there for everyone, and that's important!"

Interested in getting involved in any of these programs? A booklet is available in the Office of Student Services listing the heads of each committee.

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# DEAD SEA SCROLLS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK

By MICHELE BERMAN

"It's excellent, authentic. It attaches Judaism with a scholarly perspective."

"An exhibit to bring all nations together."

These are the kinds of comments that can be heard at The New York Public Library which is presently exhibiting the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"I'm interested in knowing more of the Jewish religion - to find a distinction between religion and culture," one African-American woman commented. Another woman explained her interest in the exhibit as connected to her firm belief in the Bible. "we believe in the promise of the Bible... Whatever's written in the Bible is true." A retired man felt the historical aspect was what drove him to see the scrolls. "I'm interested in history [and this exhibit is] put together very interestingly. I get a good picture."

This "good picture" origi-

nated in 1946 or 1947 when a Bedouin shepherd found the scrolls in caves overlooking the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, near Qumran. Many of us know this story of the young shepherd who threw a stone into a cave in an attempt to recover a stray animal and heard the strike of a pottery jar. After going inside to investigate, the young shepherd discovered the famous scrolls.

The writings of The Second Temple period, where the groundwork for rabbinic Judaism was being laid, were made public. The scrolls have caused many debates as to their origin. Many scholars believe they were the library of the Essenes, a Jewish sect who lived in Qumran. To this day, scholars still disagree on the scrolls' true origin.

In order to preserve the scrolls, actual pieces are situated behind thick glass under lighting that only stays on for a couple of seconds at a time. Thus it is difficult to read them. Nevertheless, it is fascinating to attempt to make out the He-

brew lettering that is so different from the alph-bet we know today. Also, the blow-up of a woman preserving these ancient scrolls makes us ponder the ties to our Jewish past. Numerous pottery fragments and a small-scale model of the Temple add to the exhibit's uniqueness.

On a lighter side, the exhibit shows an excerpt from the June 1, 1954 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* that reads: "The Four Dead Sea Scrolls, Biblical Manuscripts dating back to at least 200 B.C. are for sale. This would be an ideal gift to an educational or religious institution by an individual or group."

*The New York Public Library Exhibit runs through January 8. Free passes are issued each day on a first-come, first-served basis.*

## THE LITTLE PRINCE AROUND THE CORNER



Photo credit: David Langlois

By ROSA HOLLANDER

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Antoine de Saint-Exupery's *The Little Prince*, the Pierpont Morgan Library is presenting an exhibition of the original manuscripts and illustrations of *The Little Prince*. First editions of the work and photographs, taken by former *Life* photographer John Phillips, of Saint-Exupery are also on display. *The Little Prince* is a fable about a pilot whose plane crashes in the desert and his experience with a cartoon character, the Little Prince. Their relationship grows as the Little Prince teaches the pilot about the important things in life.

The book is a parable that illustrates the author's view on the deeper side of existence. The writing of Saint-Exupery, a well-known World War II pilot, reflects the moral sense of an aviation man. At the same time, a childlike humanism flows throughout the pages of *The Little*

*Prince*, a tale which speaks to both the young and the old.

The idea to write *The Little Prince* was suggested to Saint-Exupery by Curtice Hitchcock, his publisher. During lunch one day, Hitchcock noticed the author doodling on a restaurant tablecloth and asked him what he was drawing. Saint-Exupery replied, "Just a little fellow I carry around in my heart." Hitchcock immediately encouraged Saint-Exupery to write a children's book about this little fellow.

Among the items on display at the Morgan Library is a stunning watercolor of the Little Prince, created after it was apparently crumpled in rejection. The original manuscript is marked by cigarette burns, coffee rings and extensive corrections; evidence of Saint-Exupery's working methods.

A vital lesson that *The Little Prince* introduces to the reader is that the perspective of a child is often clearer than the filtered outlook of an adult. A child's naivete

affords a certain insight into the events of our lives. The exhibit touches upon the inner-child in all of us that yearns to observe and analyze and to only see the innocence in the world. Saint-Exupery said it best, "there is one problem and only one in the world: to revive in people some sense of spiritual meaning...we can no longer live without poetry, color, love...one absolutely must speak to humanity."

The Pierpont Morgan Library, located at 29 East 36th Street, is both a museum and a center for scholarly research. Its collections of rare books, manuscripts, and drawings have as their principal focus the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:30-5 and Sundays 1-5, the Morgan Library is open to students for \$3.00. *The Little Prince* exhibit will run through January 2.

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# 100 PEOPLE ATTEND SHABBRATON

By AMANDA NUSSBAUM

Over one hundred Yeshiva University students attended the Israel Club's first shabraton of the year on October 22-23. In addition to the high number of SCW and YU students present, many recent graduates of YU who had been former Israel Club members returned to participate in the weekend at Stern.

YU's first shabraton was held at Stern's first shabraton. The event was held at Stern's first shabraton. The event was held at Stern's first shabraton. The event was held at Stern's first shabraton.

...his involvement with the club... founded the Israel Club when he was a student at Yeshiva College. He spoke about the YU's role in Israel today. Students shared stories about their personal experiences in Israel and discussed their attitudes towards the current peace treaty. The role of AIPAC, the American Israel Political Affairs Committee, was also informally addressed.

Liam Schneider, SCW junior and president of the Israel Club, commented: "I was excited there was a tremendous increase in the number of new students who want to get involved in the Israel Club." She attributes its success to the fact that since everyone has had a personal experience with Israel, many are willing to do something about it.

# SCIENCE RESEARCH

By RAYZEL KINDERLEHRER

There has been an explosion in the number of SCW students involved in scientific research over the past summer and present school year. Presently, over 15 students are committed to research positions, and many more students are attempting to secure positions for the spring semester or the summer.

Dr. Lea Blau, SCW professor of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, noted that "this is the largest Organic Chemistry class I can recall, at least in my 14 years of experience at SCW." The class enrollment has increased by 50% since last year and the number of SCW students taking medical or dental school entrance exams and/or applying is at an all-time high.

While Blau stressed the educational importance of scientific research, stating "students need to realize that not everything in science is known, as well as gain hands-on experience in a lab," students not specifically interested in

pure research discuss the trend from a different angle.

Judy Ehrenberg, SCW junior, like most students involved in research decided to pursue research work within the college primarily because she enjoys science, but also because medical schools have come to expect applicants to have research experience.

Ehrenberg works with Dr. A. Burdowski, Biology and Cell Structure and Function professor at SCW, researching breast cancer in mice.

Stacey Tuckman, SCW senior was one of three SCW students awarded the Roth Institute Scholarship at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Tuckman was enamored with the novelty of seeing science from my textbook come to life. She realized that some of the techniques she had acquired in Immunology lab with Burdowski at SCW were vital for her research. Tuckman is now applying to medical school, and feels that her clinical experi-

ence at Einstein was valuable.

At the first meeting of the Sigma Delta Rho Science Honors Research Society this semester, Dee Dee Macklin, SCW senior and president of the club, stated her desire to revive the research emphasis of the society in response to the surge of interest in the college. She plans on dedicating her time to aiding students involved in the hunt for research positions.

Macklin noted, "I am happy to see Sigma Delta Rho is no longer just a biology club, but will start representing a group of students devoted to research."

SCW plans on being represented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Student Research by two of the students involved a Society-organized display of research posters. The display will be ready in time for the SCW open house on November 21. Macklin and Blau both expressed the same sentiment, "the importance of research by SCW students can not be over emphasized."

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# LOUNGE OPENS IN LEXINGTON

By RACHEL RADINSKY

Adeeva Laya Graubard, graduate resident assistant for the independent housing program (IHP), hosted an open house on Tuesday October 19 and Wednesday October 20. The former SCW student council president 1992-1993 and graduate student at Wurtzweiler School of Social Work, held the open house in order to introduce herself to the residents of independent housing.

There are close to 90 students living in the independent housing.

Graubard's apartment provides some of the student facilities available to residents of Brookdale Hall. Her apartment, located on the third floor of 184 Lexington Avenue, has a lounge area with a television and a study hall. Her apartment is open to students from Sunday through Thursday, 9 p.m. to midnight.

Most IHP Students have reacted positively toward the institution of a resident assistant and the new facilities. SCW junior, Debra Wengrofsky comments "I'm happy that the University has taken a greater interest in the IHP and I look forward to more improvements."

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# SPOTLIGHT MILLER LIGHT

By RENA MASLANSKY

If you thought it was impossible to add to Stern's already impressive faculty of Philosophy professors, think again. Then think some more, because that is exactly what Dr. Izchak Miller wants his students to be able to do.

As a child growing up in Israel, Miller was inspired by teachers who encouraged independent thought. Additionally, the birth of the State of Israel served as a catalyst for Miller's initial interest in social/political philosophy. "Israel was just created, people were talking about new ways in which the country should be run."

After completing his service in the Israeli army, where he met and married his wife Rachel Snir, Miller came to the United States to pursue his studies in Mathematics. It was only after completing his BA that Miller decided to make the transition to Philosophy, in pursuit of a PhD. He attributes his change of heart to an interest, "in philosophical questions about mathematics."

After he earned his doctorate Miller began to teach. He taught

first at M.I.T., and then at Brandeis, where his daughter Tamar now studies. He then proceeded to the University of Pennsylvania, where his son Ronnen now studies. Next he taught at Stanford University and he presently teaches at Yeshiva University. Miller does not recommend this route to all philosophy majors. "You've got to make sure there are two things you care for: That you care for Philosophy, that you really enjoy it, and that you care for teaching...if you don't enjoy either of them, don't get into it."

Aside from teaching, Miller has also published a book and a number of articles. He has two books in the making about "phenomenology, existentialism, and the philosophy of the mind."

A newcomer, to Yeshiva University, Miller finds the institution to be "a fine place...[with] a good reputation." Miller currently teaches full-time at Yeshiva College and part-time at Stern. His course in Stern, Theories of the

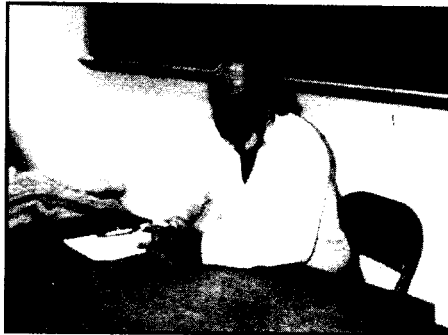


Photo Credit: Ruth Nemecoff

is "a lecture but, it's a discussion...it's an interaction...a dialogue."

Aside from Miller's "open" classroom environment, if a student feels a need to voice opinions outside of the classroom arena, Miller is ac-

cessible for individual discussion with all of his students. Miller commented, "The teachers that would be receptive to a one-on-one interaction- I always felt were impressive. I felt I gained a great deal from them as well. So when I started teaching, I adapted that as a style - giving an opportunity to people to interact directly if they have an interest to ask their own questions and discuss their own conclusions about material."

Miller has found that his personal discussion with students has enhanced the classroom atmosphere. Says Miller, "the people who end up talking to [me] a little bit are not so much anymore concerned about [my] status and they begin to see [me] a little bit more in human terms. I don't really think...that my authority is disrupted..."

The most important thing that Miller wants his students to gain from his class is the ability to think independently. Thus, if a student merely spits back information on an exam, Miller finds that "to be totally uninteresting and probably a failure because [the student] only memorize..."

For Miller's purposes, it really "doesn't matter, whether they will remember after the semester is over; what Hume said, what Descartes said, what I say, because if they want to remind themselves they can look in the notes...if as a result of what they did in class they become better thinkers then they are winners and I'm a winner, otherwise we are just passing time."

Mind, is offered on Tuesday and Thursday morning. Regarding the class, Miller commented "I'm very gratified, it's one of the nicest classes I've taught in a long, long time."

The class is conducted in what Miller termed a "dialectic" that is, a question and answer style. I present something and then I proceed to extract a discussion. I don't force people to participate but if they don't participate I don't feel that I've succeeded." The class, said Miller,

cessible for individual discussion with all of his students. Miller commented, "The teachers that would be receptive to a one-on-one interaction- I always felt were impressive. I felt I gained a great deal from them as well. So when I started teaching, I adapted that as a style - giving an opportunity to people to interact directly if they have an interest to ask their own questions and discuss their own conclusions about material."

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## HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

guese their work and hide their materials. A case was reported of a crematoria worker who found a diary on a body, read it, added his own opinions, and buried it in the ground. Crematoria workers in Auschwitz indicated that they buried many things in the ground, but only some have been uncovered.

Diaries and letters were detected in the margins of novels or on scraps of paper. A purchaser of old *sefarim* accidentally discovered a diary in the margins of a *siddur*.

Many in the audience were Holocaust survivors. One woman was drawn to the conference by her guilt for having left right before the war.

Another audience member was Isabella Leitner, a survivor who has written three books about her experiences.

Speakers stressed that as the Holocaust generation is slowly leaving us, the recording of stories is all the more important. The conference ran from October 17 - 19.

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By AMANDA NUSSBAUM

David S. Gottesman, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University, has announced the election of Sy Syms as vice chairman, Ludwig Bravmann as treasurer, and Michael Jesselson, Ira L. Rennert, Jay Schottenstein, and Joseph Wilf as trustees to the 40 member board. The board includes top professional, communal, and business leaders from across the country.

Syms, ceo and chairman of the national clothier Syms Corp., has been a member of the Board since 1984 and has served as treasurer since 1989. His major gift to the University in 1986 resulted in the establishment of the Sy Syms School of Business.

Bravmann, managing director of the investment banking firm Oppenheimer and Co., has been a Board member since 1987. In addition, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, the Board of YU High Schools, and SSSB.

Jesselson, executive officer of the Jesselson investment firm, is also a member of the Board of YUHS, of which he is an alumnus (1963).

Rennert, ceo and chairman of the Renco Group, a private holding company which concentrates on industrial products, is active in the leadership of many Jewish organizations.

Schottenstein, chairman of the board of Schottenstein Stores Corp., a retail merchandising chain, currently serves on the Board of Directors of Yeshiva College. Established in 1990, he is a founding member of the College's Board.

Wilf, partner of Garden Homes Management, a real estate development, building, and management firm, has been a member of the SSSB since 1990. Together with his late brother, he helped establish the Harry and Joseph Wilf Scholars program for merit students at SCW, YC, and SSSB.



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