

The Observer

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Photo: YUPE

Yeshiva University's Senior Vice-President: Rabbi Israel Miller

DR. MILLER STEPS DOWN AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

By RACHEL ROSENBLUM

After sixty years of association with Yeshiva University and fifteen years as its senior vice president, Dr. Israel Miller tendered his resignation on November 1, 1993 to take effect on August 31, 1994.

In 1938, Miller, a native of Baltimore, obtained a Bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Yeshiva College. By 1941, he was ordained at Yeshiva University's Rabbi

Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS). Miller then received his master's degree from Columbia University in 1949.

Miller has dedicated his life towards Jewish service. In 1967, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Yeshiva University. He was referred to as "the symbol of the ideal rabbi" by then University President, Dr. Samuel Belkin. After serving as the rabbi of Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center for over 25 years, Miller joined the Yeshiva University administration in 1968, as the assistant to the president for student affairs.

Miller was appointed YU vice-president in 1970. After Belkin's death he was named the chairman of the Executive Committee for University Affairs. This was the interim governing body that followed Belkin's death and continued after Dr. Norman Lamm's election as the University's third president.

According to Lamm, Miller's career at Yeshiva University and "at the helm of many of the most significant national and international Jewish organizations of our times--has been marked by unflinching loyalty, uncompromised commitment, and undiminished personal dignity." Lamm added that Miller's involvement with YU

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ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT CENTER PROPOSED

By TEMIMA GOLDBERG

In an attempt to respond to students' needs, Dean Karen Bacon said that Stern College is researching new methods for academic advisement. An official announcement has not been made because, Bacon said, the program remains undefined and is still in the drawing board stage. Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian said a proposal would be presented to Yeshiva University's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz, at the end of the month.

Last semester SCW's administration was approached by a faculty committee and student leadership who presented various models for a revised and expanded academic advisement program. The effort was initially started a couple of years ago by a student affairs committee chaired by Dr. Richard Nochimson, who is on sabbatical this semester. Dr. Joseph DeSantis, assistant professor of biology and a member of the student affairs committee, explained that every idea the com-

mittee proposed had to be presented to the faculty and that is why it stalled this long and has finally reached the dean's attention.

Orlian, coordinator of the program, said that before the final proposal is presented to the University the various models must be considered. She is scheduled to meet with Dr. Efraim Kanarfogel, chairman of Judaic Studies Dept., Zeldia Braun, Director of Student Services, and the Dean, who will constitute an initial "brainstorming working group." This committee will assess the proposed models for

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MUSICAL TO BE PERFORMED

By MICHELE BERMAN

The Stern College Dramatics Society has been putting on productions since 1968, but never before has music been an integral part of its performances until now. Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" will be SCDS' first attempt at a musical.

"It will go down in history," exclaimed Acting Director Sarah Altman. "I feel very honored to be able to take such an active role in this historical production."

"The Mikado" is a musical comedy set in Japan about a man in love with a woman. However, the plot's hilarious twists and turns do more than just promise a love story. It was this added dimension that caused Musical Director Margy Berkowitz to bring "The Mikado" to Altman, so that it could become SCDS' first-ever musical production. Altman in turn loved the proposal.

"When Margy brought it to me, I thought it was a great idea," Altman explained. She also cited several other reasons



Mikado participants (L to R): Sarah Altman, Rachel Yunger, Margy Berkowitz, Dafna Kalish, and Sylvia Haber

for choosing this particular musical. "There are many people involved, large chorus numbers, and we wanted to involve as many people as possible."

Altman also felt "The Mikado" would bring a sense of enlightenment into Stern. "It's more of a cultural [experience] to do a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta than a Rodgers and Hammerstein, even though they are also great productions," explained Altman.

"The Mikado" was also chosen for its anonymous na-

ture. "We wanted to do a musical comedy that for the most part people were not yet familiar with, our plans were originally to put on Joseph, but once it came on Broadway we knew even more people would have seen it," Altman explained.

Another unique nature of "The Mikado" project is that it is all student-run. Altman said, "Never before has Stern College had a musical, nor any production, that was completely student run."

Though there is no faculty advisor in the project, Altman said the show still needed the assis-

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TWO YU VANS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT

By DANIELLE A. MACKLIN

Two Yeshiva University security vans were among nine vehicles that crashed into a parked blue sedan on 33th street only a few hours after a major snow storm. The mixture of icy roads and Manhattan streets were the cause of the accident, which occurred approximately 7:55 p.m. on January 26.

Sergeant De Leon, a Burns Security officer on duty that evening, said, "The reason the

accident happened was because of the sheet of ice."

The sedan had a large dent between the two right side doors as well as on the tail end of the right side.

The two YU shuttles involved were enroute to Brookdale. No students were on the vans and none of the drivers were injured. One of the vans had minimal damage under the left head light. The other van spun out of control with no damage at all.

Jeff Socol, associate director

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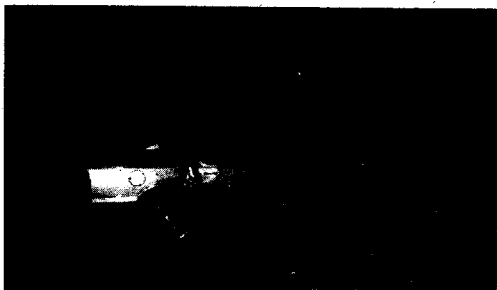


Photo: Danielle Macklin

Van Accident Victim

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EDITORIALS

A PURIM PROPOSAL

SOY has traditionally invited the women of Stern College to participate in the annual Purim *chagigah*. For years, students from YC, SCW, Revel, RIETS, even from Yeshiva High Schools, have flocked to the Beit Midrash and filled it with singing and dancing. Alumni return for this *chagigah* because they remember the excitement, warmth, and spirit.

The YU Purim *chagigah* is unique and memorable. Its strong attraction is the generated sense of unity -- a true community celebration on a holiday that remembers the trials and salvation of a united community and its leaders in face of persecution.

Last year the hazards of an overcrowded *Beit Midrash* led SOY to propose a separated *chagigah*. The result of this division caused the women to be placed in the gym, where they danced to a strained version of the men's live festivities. The piped in music was intolerable.

In anticipation of the problem caused by last year's mismanagement we would like to suggest the following for this year's *chagigah*. We propose a joint *chagigah* in the gym, as the Beit Midrash has seen in years past. This way the music will be excellent for both groups and nobody loses. The *shpiel* could be held in the cafeteria for both men and women.

By having both the *ruach* and *shpiel* in one building we would eliminate the problem of extra cost for security in opening two buildings. Having the *chagigah* in one building would also prove to be more convenient to all students. We hope that this year will be in accordance with tradition.

EQUAL ACCESS

In favor of the security of our students and the right of equal research opportunities, we believe the van service should be reevaluated to realize the needs of Yeshiva University students.

Women should have the opportunity to take advantage of the resources in the uptown library before seven o'clock in the evening. It would only be fair for the University to set aside one van to transport students during the day between campuses. If a van could be made available for a few trips during the day it would remedy other problems as well.

Many students are currently applying for jobs with companies that interview at the YU campuses. Students are exposed to the dangers of New York buses, subways, and Washington Heights streets for an interview program that was created for the students' benefit. Last week a student was mugged taking a bus uptown for her interview. Does this really have to happen?

LETTERS

To the Editor:

The Ten Da'at publication is a major contribution to Jewish educational literature. Whatever one's ideological commitment, to the Right, converging with its viewpoint, or to the Left, it is a compelling journal that stimulates dialogue and intellectual analysis of major current issues. Its pages resonate with challenging thought, empathy, and with perspective insight as to the many surging currents related to Torah pedagogy.

The Editor, Mrs. Faye Safran has surpassed her usual high level of professionalism in the current issue with a rainbow spectrum of educational issues that constantly adrenally involve the engrossed reader. Dr. Lamm's word portrait of the Rav depicting a

larger than life charismatic and revered personality is obviously of classic dimension.

We are confident that Mrs. Safran will advance meichayil lechayil in her future intellectual and creative endeavors, assuring for herself a distinguished leadership role in Torah education.

Mr. Hanoch Dubitsky
 Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, Mashgiach Ruchani
 Rabbi M. Havazelet
 Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel,
 Chair of Rebecca Ivry Judaic Studies
 Rabbi Alter Metzger
 Rabbi Pesach Oratz
 Dr. Charles Raffel
 Rabbi Avi Weiss

Maxal Tov to Sports Editor

Nani Fredman

on her engagement to

Mark Liebowitz, JG 93

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 only represent the views of the signers and not necessarily endorsed by THE OBSERVER, the student body, the faculty, or the administration of Yeshiva University. Readers are invited to respond to these letters as well.

SAVE THE DATE

To the Editor:

Once again, obstacles have arisen which have placed the Stern College Dramatics Society in an unfortunate position. However, once again, with the help of the Stern College community, we will overcome.

Last year, controversy arose over the publicity poster for "The Dybbuk," but we succeeded in selling out the production every night of its run. This year, for the first time in many years, SCDS is putting on a second production. For the first time in the history of Stern College, the play is entirely student-run, and is also the first musical ever.

Before setting the dates for "The Mikado," we took the necessary precautions to make sure that no other event was scheduled on those evenings. We chose our dates, March 13, 14 and 15, before the January break, and at the time of intercession, those dates had been approved by the calendar committee of Stern. Two weeks ago, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society realized that they had to alter the dates of their production to the week that overlaps all three of our performances.

YCDS immediately purchased tickets and posters with those new dates, beginning the

production process. A week later, only after speaking with the YU Public Relations Department, did YCDS realize that there was, indeed, a scheduling conflict. Only then was a call to the SCDS President made, and an understanding was reached to cement those dates.

However, once the entire SCDS Governing Board was informed of this decision, it was unanimously felt that ticket sales for "The Mikado" would suffer due to the conflict.

SCDS asked YCDS to consider changing the dates of their play, hoping that they would understand the dilemma we were now faced with. Unfortunately, a compromise could not be reached.

Now we are asking you to support your school and its Dramatics Society. We are putting on this play for women only, specifically targeting the women of Stern College.

As the first production of its kind, and for the future of musicals in Stern, please don't fail us or your school in showing your support.

Sarah Altman "Mikado" director
 Margy Berkowitz "Mikado" director

FROM THE EDITOR'S TERMINAL BUY A BUILDING

The housing situation for the residents of Brookdale Hall has become intolerable. It is abnormal to expect 5 women to live in a room that is comfortable for three. The living quarters are not conducive to studying or performing well in school.

Waking up to five alarm clocks and at least four snooze buttons cannot create the necessary environment needed to perform in an academic environment.

A friend of mine told me about her experience in the waiting room of her interview for medical school. She realized her competition had the benefit of using a full service college.

The students who waited with her had studied for four years in spacious study halls and in quiet libraries that could seat more than a quarter of its students. Lounges were available for group study, to escape to, and relax in. Students did not have to hold the narrow hallways hostage, blocking the passageway from pedestrians. They had been able to choose the number of hours they slept per night. All of those benefits fostered an environment that promoted stronger academic performance - an environment not available at Stern.

As if the overcrowded dorming situation could not get worse, it has. Stern College does not have an enrollment cap, therefore it accepts more students than it has room for. Brookdale is bursting with 561 students. In the beginning of every year students were housed in the infirmary until suitable housing could be arranged. Some women waited weeks until they were placed. This overflow has caused the University to rent 17 expensive apartments for 99 other students at the unnecessary cost of thousands every month.

Money has been set aside for the purchase of a new dormitory. The myths and folklore that surround the search for the dorm are plentiful (Truth: We do not own the piece of land next door to the school building). At first the committee to find suitable housing, began with the idea that they had to find housing on 34th. What is needed now is to expand the search to areas beyond 34th Street.

Any student would admit that she would sacrifice, and walk a couple of minutes in exchange for better quarters.

Beth

LETTERS

SKIRTING THE ISSUE III

To the Editor:

In your response to the letter of Ms. Dworken et al., you claim that the November 23 editorial was "advocating the obedience to a University rule (regarding proper dress), not promoting the religious implications of that rule."

While I can not claim to know the inner workings of your mind, I doubt whether this was truly the case. There are undoubtedly a multitude of little known rules that are ignored daily. The fact that you chose to focus on this particular one would seem to indicate that you consider this a more important issue than, say, the rampant use of toaster ovens, televisions with VCRs, and refrigerators of more than 5 cubic feet.

I would even venture to say that you were motivated by a feeling that such dress is simply improper, regardless of whether it is a University regulation. You may have arrived at this conclusion after reading a particular portion of *Shulchan Aruch* or the T'shuva of a prominent rabbi, but there is no doubt that our opinions of what is proper and what is not are shaped by what halakhic tradition has been telling us for the past two thousand years or so. Thus, while you may not have set out to consciously draft an editorial which was to be halakhic in nature, what ended up in print was very much an opinion grounded in halakhic tradition.

Jonathan Weglein
Yeshiva College '94

STUDENT NEEDS REALIZED

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank someone who is well deserving of praise. The Education Society affects a relatively small number of people here at Stern, but Naomi Fredman, in her role as president, has demonstrated her capabilities in serving them.

Her greatest accomplishment this year has been to acquire compensation for transportation for student teachers. Student teachers must use public transportation Monday through Friday for an entire semester to successfully complete six credits required for their major. The bur-

den of expense posed by this requirement is steep when added to the high tuition at Stern, and Education majors have been requesting compensation or van transportation for some time.

Kudos to Naomi for persevering and finally succeeding in this endeavor, and to the administration for listening to our needs and cooperating. I am sure that all future student teachers will be as thankful as I am when they receive their checks.

Dvora Golowa, Student Teacher
Vice-President, Education Society,
SCW '94

PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL

By Chani Pearlman

Welcome back! It's hard to believe that the Spring '94 semester has arrived and students are already concerned with graduation and summer plans. Before you jump to May, might I remind you that there are still three months until that time arrives and there is still a lot of work to be done!

First semester brought the students orientation, the Chanukah concert, the Chanukah *chagiga*, the Dramatics Society's performance of *Twelve Angry Women*, in addition to the numerous lectures and events coordinated by each club. So, it's safe to say that the school year got off to a good start, but there's always room for improvement!

When Beth asked me to write a column for the start of the new semester, I decided to flip through past *Observer* issues just to see how far the women of Stern College have come over the years. Needless to say I was very impressed, although not surprised. *The Observer* itself has taken great strides in becoming a substantial publication from the original mere two page newsletter.

In the past, there was a plea to include students in academic standards decisions, a request that has since been answered via student participation in the Academic Standards Committee. The request for an inter-campus shuttle has developed into a service which most students use. However, there is one issue that is a running theme for over 20 years - the issue of student involvement in the University.

Many students do not realize that each service available to us is the result of someone's preparation and hard work. Without student involvement in maintaining student life on campus, many activities, which we take for granted, may one day be unavailable. It is not sufficient to preserve the status quo. We must continue to improve the quality of each and every element of Stern College.

The key to solving any problem is to isolate the cause. Students often have legitimate complaints and constructive comments and suggestions, so I know the cause is not the

lack of student opinion, nor is it the students' willingness to express their opinion. The cause of this problem is students' adversity to direct their opinions to the proper sources. There is no reason that I should only hear of issues through the murmurings in crowded elevators or from the back of a van! What's the point in complaining, if you're not going to do anything about it?

One of the benefits of attending a small college, like Stern, is the accessibility of the Student Council as well as the administration. Your resources are numerous, please take advantage of them! The Student Councils are here to facilitate the student body, by maintaining and improving student life on campus. While we can do many things, we have of yet not mastered the art of mind reading, until that has been accomplished you simply need to GET INVOLVED!

Even if you may not like to seek out a solution, the three Student Councils, in conjunction with the University Retreat Steering Committee, have sponsored a forum where the deans are coming to you! In March, Koch Auditorium will house a TOWN HALL MEETING. This forum, open to all students and faculty, is a unique opportunity to both discuss and hear any and all pertinent questions and comments on all academic issues.

The success of this program hinges on your attendance and input. As students, only you know the changes you want instituted, so let your voice be heard! The town hall meeting is only one of many outlets to accomplish this goal. If there are concerns with other issues, simply open *The Guide*, look up the names of the Student Council board members, class board members, club presidents or administration - call them! The only way to improve a situation is by becoming a key player. Keep this in mind for April 13th, when elections for the 1994-1995 Student council election will be held. All nominations must be submitted to Pam Schlanger by April 6, 1994. I look forward to seeing you and speaking with you in the future.

My COMPLIMENTS

To the Editor:

Just by chance I happened on your newspaper of November 23 and I was very impressed with several items.

Skirting the Issue editorial- Dress code rules should be strictly enforced. When my daughters attended Central High School in Brooklyn, if the skirt was inappropriate (too short, too tight etc...) the student was asked to leave school and return only when dressed according to the YUHS dress code.

Lavish Weddings- Terrific article and hopefully your readers will pay attention.

Your Reflection- On the snobbery at Stern, its good you are addressing this problem. That is probably why both my daughters did not go to Stern College. They live in Israel with their respective families in a Torah environment.

I hope you accept my comments in the spirit they are offered. Your newspaper is more interesting than *The Commentator*.

Bette W. Cohen

YU SENDS GROSS AND PEARLMAN TO ISRAEL FOR RECRUITING

By RACHEL ROSENBLUM

Over winter intersession, Yeshiva University paid for SCW Student Council President Chani Pearlman, and Sy Syms School of Business President Roni Gross to go to Israel and assist with recruitment.

It was the first year that students were flown out. Every year YU sends administrators and rabbis to address students in Israel on the Joint Israel Program and others interested in attending YU in the future.

This year YU sent SCW Dean Karen Bacon, SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg, Yeshiva College Associate Dean and Pre-Law Advisor Michael Hecht, YU Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, and Rabbi Mordechai Willig. Yeshiva College Student Council President Danny Gurell joined Pearlman

and Gross to enhance the prospective students' understanding of student life at YU.

Pearlman and Gross described their trip, explaining that they accompanied administrators and rabbis to several yeshivot and seminars a day to give a student's insight of life at SCW and SSSB. Pearlman commented, "it was a good idea to make us available because it gave incoming students a more concrete idea of what's available to them from a student's perspective."

A career fair was held their first Saturday night in Israel. Tables were set up by alumni to distribute fact sheets and answer questions about career fields in Israel.

Gross said she found it fascinating that the ratio of women to men interested in SSSB was about equal. Gross found the trip to Israel successful and she and Pearlman were glad that they could be of service.

WHEN VANDALISM HITS HOME

By STACI FRIEDMAN

"A shul was set on fire?!" exclaimed SCW sophomore Devra Rosenfeld in disbelief. In the early hours of the morning of Friday, January 28, the Chicago Community Kollel located in West Rogers Park, Chicago, was set ablaze. The building's interior was completely destroyed.

The vandalism did not stop there. Three other synagogues were hit that morning. A fire at B'nai Reuven was stopped by congregants before any serious damage was done. Damage at K.I.N.S. Congregation of West Rogers Park was also minimal. At Temple Menorah, a stained glass window was shattered. The four synagogues are within a six block radius of each other.

This is not just an isolated incident. Two days after the arson spree, another synagogue was targeted. Scorch marks were discovered on the front doors of Ezras Israel Synagogue.

Rivki Rosenzweig, SCW sophomore from Chicago, said, "This is very frightening. You don't think that these types

of events would happen in Chicago [in] 1994. It sounds more like something you would read in a Jewish history book."

Students at Yeshiva University are apprehensive about the situation. Rob Williger, YC junior from Des Plaines, Illinois, commented, "The concept is scary. Who knows what this could spread to? What if they throw one [a firebomb] on Saturday morning when there is a large amount of people there?"

This also makes students very wary. SCW sophomore Sheila Gertz, whose family belongs to Congregation B'nai Israel and lives within a few blocks of the incidents said, "I was so shocked. My ideals were always to make aliya, and this strengthens it."

In response to the vandalism, the Chicago Chapter of the Guardian Angels has been called in to patrol the targeted area. Yet, many people still feel safe. Rosenzweig said, "If something is not done, in a couple of months it will happen again."

DID THE CROWN HEIGHTS INCIDENT AFFECT THE MAYORAL ELECTION?

By REBECCA EHRENPREIS

The events that led up to the nightmare of August 19, 1991, in Crown Heights, went too fast. At approximately 8:20 p.m. a Lubavitch Hassidic man drove his car, jumped a curb, and accidentally struck two children. One child, a black seven-year old, was killed.

When the man tried to see what happened to the two children, a crowd of black youths circled the Lubavitch man, robbed him, and beat him. Three hours later, a mob seemingly out of nowhere, swarmed Crown Heights.

The mob attacked Hassidic Jews, burned their cars, and smashed their stores. Subsequently, a rabbinical student visiting New York from Australia was knifed to death as he walked to his friend's house.

Did this incident affect New York City's Mayor David Dinkins in the 1993 election? Well, it certainly did not help him. However, according to the *New York Times'* Demographics, the numbers for the Jewish vote between this year and last year's election were almost identical. In 1989, Giuliani received 63 percent of the Jewish vote while Dinkins received 35 percent. In 1993, Giuliani received 68 percent and Dinkins received 32 percent. Other sources say Jews who voted for Dinkins in 1989, voted against Dinkins in 1993. Overall, from 1989-1993 Dinkins lost three percent of the Jewish vote.

Many people in the Jewish Community believed that they could not vote for David Dinkins after the tragedy of Crown Heights. One student at Stern College, Renee Glickman, stated her reason. "Dinkins' failure to respond was reprehensible. All the more so, his lies to cover up the truth are beyond shameful. Indirectly, he is responsible for the death of Yankel Rosenbaum and directly he is responsible for not putting an end to the anti-Jewish violence in Crown Heights. I cannot perceive how any self-respecting Jew regardless of their political affiliation could cast a ballot for Dinkins."

History definitely repeats itself. Less than a century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt stated in his complaint against the Russian government that the mayor of the city of Kishinev in the Ukraine led at the time when its Jewish inhabitants suffered from a pogrom. The pogrom was the result of Kishinev's mayor, who was elected for the President of the United States at the time to punish the pogrom victims of actions with violence.

In Crown Heights many Jewish leaders believed that Dinkins looked the other way. "The bitter memory of Crown Heights prevails as does Dinkins' shocking excuse for letting things go out of hand", wrote Mark Benson in the November issue of *The Jewish Sentinel*.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, National President of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, wrote that, "On more than one occasion, the mayor has distinguished between anti-Jewish and anti-black racist violence. After Yusef Hawkins was murdered, Dinkins appropriately labeled it a racial act. In contrast, it took the mayor three weeks to call Yankel Rosenbaum's murder a lynching. He did not post a reward for information leading to the arrest of the murderers and opposed a federal investigation of the crime."

Not all Jews in New York City voted against David Dinkins in the election. A small percentage were willing to forgive the mayor. Letty Cottin Pogrebin, a writer, political activist, and founding editor of *Ms. Magazine*. In her editorial in the November issue of *The Jewish Sentinel* she wrote, "To me, David Dinkins is a loyal friend to the Jewish people. I see a beleaguered mayor who was informed about the situation in the streets, motivated by excessive caution, and guilty of human error."

Perhaps if Ricard H. Girgenti, New York State Director of Criminal Justice, had not submitted his report to New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, the Crown Heights situation would have died down like every other chaotic historical incident. Dinkins' actions may have thus been put to rest. However, this was not the case.

According to the Girgenti Report, "The four days of disorder in Crown Heights represented the most extensive racial unrest occurring in New York City in over twenty years. This riot was more frightening than any other I remember. The underlying target was the Jewish Community." Another important statement that the Girgenti Report stated about was that, "The Mayor and members of his cabinet were repeatedly informed that the Jews of Crown Heights were being subjected to violence because they were Jews. They were also told that the police were not protecting the Jews from federal investigation of the crime of murder committed by a black against a Jew. Yet no attempt was made to stop the violence against the Jews was made until after members of the Police Department were shot and the police union threatened a strike."

When the State Glickman won the election, she was asked her opinion on the incident. She stated, "I would have liked to see the Mayor take a more active role in protecting the Jewish community. I think that he will make sure that these events won't be taken advantage of and that these actions he will have fulfilled his obligation to the constituents who have supported him throughout his mayoral campaign."

A WEIGHT LOSS

By DAFNA KALISH

At the conclusion of winter vacation students returned to the dorm to find that two sets of three and five pound weights were missing from Brookdale Hall's fourth floor exercise room.

The recently refurbished exercise room was equipped with a stationary bicycle, rowing machine, ski machine, stair machine, aerobic steps, a VCR, and a complete set of dumbbells and barbells. Several women reported the missing weights to Zeldia Braun, assistant dean of students, who introduced the matter to Student Council.

SCW junior, Suzanne Felsenthal, disturbed by the loss of the weights commented, "women who work out on interval training or body sculpting programs will agree that the weights are a vital part of their workout. I count on them being in the exercise room when I go to work out."

Student Council met on January 30, to discuss the missing equipment. Some members felt that the weights had been stolen from the exercise room, while others thought that the weights might be in the dorm rooms of students who intended to borrow the weights, but neglected to return them.

Student Council considered the idea of having weights and videos placed in the Resident Assistant's room where the equipment could be signed out. The suggestion, however, was rejected because students would only be able to use the equipment in the evening while the exercise room is open all day. In addition, they felt that the college should follow an honor code and assume that borrowed weights would be returned.

Student Council also intends to invest in new equipment for the exercise room to enable more people to exercise at one time. "The hope is that the weights will be returned and that the new equipment will remain in place for the students' use," said Chani Pearlman, SCW president.

VICE-PRESIDENT TO LEAD FORUMS FOCUSED ON ACADEMIC CONCERNS

By SHANIE DUBINSKY

Dr. William Schwartz, academic vice-president of Yeshiva University, will be presiding over a series of open house discussions at Stern College this spring. These informal sessions will offer students the chance to meet the vice-president and discuss various academic concerns and issues.

Schwartz anticipates the event's success, seeing it as a unique opportunity for students to relate to the administration directly. Schwartz stressed the necessity for more student-administration encounters to improve internal university relations.

Novel to the forum will be its division into three parts, to address the specific needs of each class at SCW. Each of the forums will be held club hour: February 30 for freshman and sophomores, March 2 for juniors, and March 9 for seniors.

KESHER CLUB CONNECTION

By NICOLE HAMBURGER

The Keshet Club for International students, part of the Torah Activities Council, hosted a movie night on Wednesday February 1. Students from the former Soviet Union, Iran and, India joined together for the event.

Club coordinator, Leah Operman, felt this event was important in order to create unity within the club. "The laughter heard when watching the movie was a clear sign that the students enjoyed this break," Operman stated.


The club hopes to run more events during the semester, including a shabbaton.

כ"ט

Fort Lee - Cliffside Park's Newest Orthodox Community

Synagogue on the Palisades

כנסת במרום ציון




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27 STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR WHO'S WHO LISTING

By RACHEL ROSENBLUM

SCW congratulates the following inductees:

Cheryl Berman, Rebecca Bienenstock, Helen Bloch, Amy Bodoff, Adeena Braun, Ilana Breslau, Aliza Dworcen, Tamara Edelstein, Jordana Engel, Elana Flaumenhaft, Dina Glucksman, Beth Green, Rona Gross, Sylvia Haber, Debbie Heit, Judith Kalish, Layalza Klein, Danielle A. Macklin, Miriam Marwick, Chana Meier, Sara Mosak, Chani Pearlman, Elizabeth Rothstein, Tara Rybak, Pamela Schlanger, Stacey Tuckman, and Rebecca Wolf.

Twenty-seven Stern College students have been admitted into the 1994 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. These students were nominated by a committee led by Efreim Nulman, dean of students.

The 27 students, along with 38 Yeshiva College students, were then confirmed by the *Who's Who* editors based upon a combination of scholastic achievement and leadership skills.

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NO ONE IS IMMUNE

A Look at Cults

By MARCIE SCHNEIDER

A student walks across her plush college campus, and stops to listen to a charismatic speaker along the side of the walkway. He seems to be describing a charitable cause, so why not get involved? Who knows, maybe it will solve the hunger problems in Africa? What could it hurt to give it a try?

This may seem like a reasonable argument, but not in the face of cults and missionary groups bombarding college campuses. It is estimated that there are 5,000-7,000 cult and missionary groups operating in the U.S., made up of approximately 5-7.5 million members. Although Jews constitute less than three percent of the U.S. population, 10 to 20 percent of all cult members are Jewish.

"People are lured [into cults] because they think they're getting involved in a charitable endeavor. In college they think it's a humanitarian organization," said Dr. Philip Abramowitz, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council Task Force on Missionaries and Cults. "For the Jews, it's their *pintele yid* (deeply rooted spark of Jewish belief) that causes them to be the first to help out."

According to stereotype, only weird, disturbed or rebellious youth join cults. Cults prey on people "usually on an emotional low," explained Barry Bender of the Department of Communal Services at Yeshiva University. "When someone is on an emotional low he's more susceptible to people that want to be his friend. No one is immune. It is irrelevant how religious or not [the person is]." Studies by Drs. Mark Sirkin and Bruce Grellong in 1988 examining the social and economic elements of cult indoctrination found cult members come from educated, whole families of upper-middle income.

It is important to remember, though, that for the most part people do not join cults; cults recruit people. Recruiters may lie, flirt, imply a romantic interest, or promise great benefits to their targets to convince them to attend a meeting. Recruits are then invited to retreats in isolated locations away from outside influences. Cults may then employ



One of the thousands of homeless roaming NY's streets

such mind-control techniques as "love bombing" --isolating and showering recruits with interest, attention, flattery and approbation-- , sleep deprivation, confusion, and trance induction. It is advantageous for cults to cut their victims off from friends and family.

After having attended meetings and retreats, recruits generally grow dependent on the group for approval and become indoctrinated with the group's beliefs. Exit counseling programs, which help cult members break away, involve sitting down with them and discussing issues. Psychologists, counselors and rabbis are often consulted for individual, family, and group counseling. Sometimes speaking with an ex-cult member helps the current member overcome the emotional turmoil and unique symptoms of the experience, readjust to life outside the cult, and reconcile with families.

Unfortunately, the Jewish community is doing little to combat this threat to its youth "The community is woefully uninformed," Abramowitz said.

"It is not easy to deal with. It's difficult to figure out how big the problem is. Except for certain task forces not much in the community is being done about it," Bender said. Special outreach efforts have been made to college and high school youth, Soviet immigrants and organizations in the Jewish community.

The key to solving the problem is "just education," Bender said. "The more educated people are as to how easy it is to be taken in, the more it won't be easy to be taken in."

ANONYMOUS FACES

A Look at Poverty

By DASSI BILLET

A pile of rags sits near a building on 34th street, blending in with the tall, gray Manhattan scenery. Suddenly, the pile moves, and a skeleton thin, frozen person emerges from beneath. "Can you spare a dime?" he asks, "I haven't eaten in two days."

On a Park Avenue corner, an anonymous young woman clutches a scrawny, squalling infant to her chest. "It's freezing out here," she whispers in a hoarse, sickly voice, "One more night on these streets and this baby will turn to ice."

Between the five boroughs of New York City, no less than 40,000 homeless people live on the streets. Thousands of low income families live in cramped, dirty tenement buildings with limited heating in this exceptionally cold winter. Many do not know from where their next meal will come.

According to William E. Rapfogel, Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, the number of homeless

Jews in New York City is "much greater than most people are willing to estimate."

During the 1991 Democratic Convention, NYC ran a program aimed at clearing the streets of the homeless. The City enlisted Met Council's assistance, providing the Council with a city funded permanent shelter, which the Council was responsible for filling. Of the 70 homeless mentally ill people the Council gathered, more than 33% are Jewish. According to Rapfogel, the residents may stay in the shelter for as long as they please. "The percentage of Jewish occupants in constantly rising, because we provide our residents with kosher food and we are located near several synagogues."

Met Council has aided many Jewish Community Councils in the metropolitan area set up services for the many poor and near poor Jewish families. Met Council aids not only those who live below the poverty line, but also the people who just miss qualifying for federal assistance. "Federal programs often do not take the high cost of living in NYC into account when they set poverty levels. They certainly don't weigh in the extra cost of Jewish living," said Rapfogel.

Since Met Council was set up in 1971, it has tried to help poor Jews "have a better quality of life with dignity," said Rapfogel. The people who benefit range from young to old, large families to single individuals. The Council started as an advocacy group for poor, elderly Jews living in declining neighborhoods. "These people had no assistance, no services. Sometimes they didn't even have a means of bringing substantial food into their homes."

After a while it became clear to the council that advocacy and lobbying were not enough. "Local groups were not sensitive to the needs of the poor Jewish elderly." Met Council began to provide services for the poverty stricken. There are currently more than 25 local Jewish poverty aid councils under Met Council's umbrella.

"We continue to grow and to provide more services, Rapfogel noted that "unfortunately, more and more help is needed." Met Council recently conducted a demographic study of the Jewish population of New York City. While the overall Jewish population in the city has declined, said Rapfogel, the number of poor people in the Jewish community has remained constant.

"The face of the Jewish poor has changed radically, changing the nature of our programs. It used to be that a large percentage of the Jewish poor were elderly. They needed home care and meals on wheels.

"Now, with the influx of Russian immigrants, we've been forced to restructure," commented Rapfogel. "They need different things: job and language training, job hunting, summer camp scholarships-- their needs are becoming clearer."

"It is impossible to know how many homeless Jews are in the city," said Rapfogel, but it is clear that the number is a significant one.

STERN STUDENTS STUDIED

By RAYZEL KINDERLEHRER

For the past several years, women at Stern College have been the subjects of a survey touching on issues of religion, marriage, family, and career.

The survey has been the pet project of Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Susan Prager, who joined the SCW faculty in 1990. Prager's work on the survey is done in conjunction with Statistics and Education instructor Dr. Miriam Grosfof.

According to Prager, the idea of a survey exploring and utilizing the unique characteristics of the SCW student body was conceived in the spring of 1991. It then took about a year to draw up the survey. Now, as a requirement for their sociology class, Prager's students are responsible for administration of the survey and writing up the results.

The survey explores the "beliefs Stern women hold regarding marriage, family, religion, work, and how they plan on balancing these elements," explained Prager. Additionally, the survey probes SCW women's feelings about "division of labor in the home and includes questions about religious beliefs in the parental home."

Prager noted that "the survey is rather large and fairly detailed. It contains an incredible number of questions, ranging from whether one would push a baby carriage on Shabbat to more obvious questions about keeping kosher in the home."

The questions the survey addresses were chosen by Prager based on her own analysis as well as on input from Dean Karen Bacon and Rabbi Efraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies.

The survey is ongoing; Prager intends to continue its circulation as long as a "fresh crop" of answers can be assured. The survey requests student comments, and it is regularly updated and clarified based on student input.

According to Prager, she and Grosfof plan on beginning their own analysis "fairly soon". Eventually, they would like to see the survey published. The professors are not yet certain exactly how or where the findings will be best displayed, because "so far, the technical aspects of the survey have been all consuming."

Additionally, Prager asserted, "women don't run a family by themselves," and in order to balance the results, she plans to implement a similar survey aimed at the men of Yeshiva College. She is curious about how "the men would feel" about the issues of family and religion, and how their views differ from the women's.

MOST STUDENTS UNAWARE OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

By AMIRA RUBIN

The Student Life Committee, established three years ago, is a joint collaboration of five administrators and ten SCW students. Nechama Goldstein, SCW senior and committee chairperson, explains that the committee's goal is to make college life "as comfortable as possible for students."

Efforts to reach that goal date back to the establishment of the Beit Midrash in 1992. Two sixth floor classrooms at SCW were reconstructed, refurbished, and outfitted with English and Hebrew Judaic texts.

The Student Life Committee was also concerned with SCW students' study environment which resulted in the furnishing of individual desks for the eleventh and eighteenth floor study halls in Brookdale Hall. The new desks, installed for the Fall 1993 semester, were a welcome improvement over the crowded long tables.

The Committee has been instrumental in the recent remodeling of the seventh floor at SCW, which is now equipped with a high-tech media room and a newly furnished lecture hall. Most recently, the Student Life Committee has expanded the hours and accessibility of career counseling, to accommodate those students with especially demanding schedules.

The changes that the Student Life Committee has instituted at SCW prove the committee's concern for and action on behalf of all SCW students. Active student leaders are members of the committee, including SCW President Chani Pearlman and TAC President Aliza Dworken. They work with administrators such as Stern College Dean Karen Bacon and Dean of Students Efreim Nulman. Currently, the committee is pursuing additional campus life reforms.

However, standing in the way of change is the student body's lack of knowledge of the Student Life Committee and its accomplishments. "What purpose does it serve?" asked Khaya Novick, SCW senior, in regard to the committee. According to Dean Nulman, the committee is "a way of students having input."

The committee's largest problem may be its lack of publicity. "I never heard of the Student Life Committee," Emily Baroukh, SCW freshman expressed. To increase student awareness about the committee, "perhaps they could set up a suggestion box," she proposed.

Besides limited publicity, solutions suggested by students take time to process. According to committee member Aliza Novogroder, SCW sophomore, one of the obstacles in processing student requests is "that we haven't had a meeting since December."

TAC MAKES IMPROVEMENTS TO BATEI MIDRASH

By RACHEL POSSNER

The Torah Activities Council has recently improved the learning atmosphere in both *Batei Midrash* at Stern College for Women. At the *Beit Midrash* at Brookdale Hall, bookcases have been moved around and the tables have been rearranged to create more space. The school building *Beit Midrash* has also been enhanced.

According to Nechama Goldstein, SCW senior and *Beit Midrash* committee co-chairwoman, these changes are necessary to give the *Beit Midrash* a more inviting atmosphere. The Brookdale Hall *beit midrash* is a popular place for learning in pairs, especially late at night. Goldstein and Dara Aronson, SCW junior and also co-chairwoman of the committee, hope to make it possible for the maximum amount of people to use the room comfortably.

In the SCW building, a new tape library has been added, featuring lectures by Rabbi Aron Soloveitchik, Rabbi Berel Wein, Rabbi Hanech Teller, and many other scholars. In addition, the Editors of *Bina Yeteira*, a publication on the weekly Bible portion, have begun compiling a *Bina Yeteira* library in the *Beit Midrash*, which they hope will be a helpful resource for student research.

TAC is now beginning a campaign to buy new books for the *beit midrash* to acquire the many books requested by students and deemed necessary by faculty. The committee heads stress that suggestions for new books are always welcome.

Aliza Dworken, TAC president, points the importance of these improvements. "Our *batei midrash* represent what we at Stern College are all about. For this reason, it is essential that every single woman will find them places of quality for high quality learning."

"YU OFFICIALS HELPFUL"

continued from page 1

New York Association for New Americans.

Participating students may offer their services from one hour a week to a few days a week, for the remaining part of the semester. Volunteers can work with the elderly, help immigrants improve their language skills, or assist in the production of books and tapes for the blind.

Administrative organizer and SCW graduate Adeeva Laya Graubard developed the idea of the volunteer fair, under the auspices of Zelda Braun, assistant dean of students. Graubard explains, "I wanted to find a way for students to utilize their extra time by helping others while benefiting themselves."

The program, the first of its kind, is being organized together with the SCW, TAC and Sy Syms School of Business student councils. Students on the organization committee include seniors Shani David, Melissa Gabel, Chani Garb, Dina Taller and junior Sara Fax.

of facilities management, was on the scene surveying the damage when a delivery man on a bicycle almost hit him. At the same time, another car swerved, coming dangerously close to him. The only reaction Socol, dressed in a red ski jacket and baseball cap, had was to shout "stop you ----- stop" at the car.

YU security guards quickly took control of the situation. "We moved the vans onto the sidewalk to make sure no other cars got hit," reported Maria Ortega, YU Supervisor at SCW. Further aid was rendered "by notifying NYPD," said Commander Ernie McManee.

Aireborne Express attendants, who work across the street from the scene of the accident, commented that YU officials were very helpful. Joe Fratasi, Supervisor, said, "Yeshiva was nice enough to use their van warning lights to alert other automobiles."

VOLUNTEER FAIR COMING TO SCW

By REBECCA GOLDMAN

Approximately ten social service organizations from the midtown Manhattan area will be featured in Stern College's first Volunteer Fair. The fair is scheduled for February 16 in Koch Auditorium, during club hour.

Students are being informed of the Volunteer Fair through flyers claiming that it only takes "one hour, one deed, one day" to become a volunteer. The purpose of the fair is to allow students to merge their individual skills with community service.

The volunteer fair is not exclusively for those wanting a career in social work. It also facilitates contact-making and networking. Graubard hopes many students will take advantage of this opportunity.

The fair will enable students to volunteer for groups such as: Dorot, The Jewish Association for the Aged, The Jewish Braille Institute, Emanuel Y. Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged, and The



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THE EARTH WAS SHAKIN'

By ALIZA LEISER

Growing up on the East Coast or in the Midwest, earthquakes are not exactly a big part of life unless you are in an annoying eighth grade geology class.

Even then it does not seem real, always relegated to Chapter 28 next to the environmental stuff. As this Midwestern girl and many of her East Coast friends learned during this winter break—take your eighth grade science teacher seriously; those things are for real.

As I am sure you have gathered by now, I was in Los Angeles for the fateful earthquake. Along with thousands of others I was rudely thrown out of bed at four o'clock in the early morning of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. "Was it scary?" is the question everyone asked me afterwards, but thinking back, it was just so unreal that I was completely calm. We knew to get under a door jamb, a secure part of the house, and stay there until the shaking was over. Everyone began to shout at the same time, reassuring the others that they were okay. Every car alarm and dog in Los Angeles felt the need to make enough noise to sound like a war zone, which of course did not add to anyone's sense of serenity. Some people were really scared, while others that I know of were positively annoyed by the whole thing, and went back to bed till morning.

It is funny how humor comes out at times like that -- I remember my first thought was that if this could get me out of bed then it must be the real thing. Immediately after, we were joking what a Bevis and Butthead experience this was

with broken glass and fires everywhere, with all the alarms going off, heh heh heh heh...

We found batteries and turned on the local radio stations. The damage to the roads and houses was unbelievable, but it was not until later that we would see the full extent of the damage. We had a small battery powered TV and it was almost like watching a bad King Kong film with a lot of static.

As morning dawned and light filtered into the house we began discovering more and more broken things. I took an early walking tour around the neighborhood taking in the fallen chimneys, shattered windows and stores in complete disarray.

People were more or less in good spirits, as is the tradition in laid back L.A., but the fun was not yet over. Then came the aftershocks. Imagine just lying in bed, and all of a sudden everything begins to rock and roll like a subway ride with a drunk conductor. As most of the aftershocks were relatively mild there is nothing to do but sit there and enjoy the experience.

Many "out-of-towners" such as myself came to Los Angeles originally for a wedding which was scheduled for the night following the 4:31 am earthquake. It was the most unique wedding I have ever attended. The ceremony actually took place on time with 400 of the most dedicated friends in the world cheering on the bride and groom. A beautiful dinner was rescheduled for two nights later.

Over the next few days the death toll would rise, the cleanup would begin in earnest and we would return home with a story to top all others.

So where are you going for Passover?

YU SAYS GOOD-BYE TO RABBI MILLER

continued from page 1

"constitutes a historic record, one which will be long remembered in the annals of our university."

In recognition of his dedicated service, Miller was granted the title of Senior Vice President Emeritus. According to Lamm, this reflects "the appreciation and the love of the thousands whose lives you have touched and whom you have influenced."

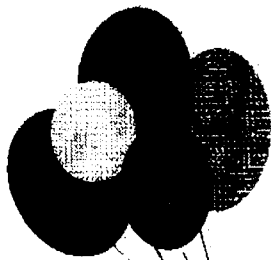
Miller has earned love and esteem by members of Jewish organizations all over the world. He serves as president of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; president of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria; secretary of the International Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; chairman of the Strategy Committee of the Israel Task Force; executive committee member of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; vice chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; and a board member of the Jerusalem Foundation.

In addition, he has previously been the chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry; and founding vice president of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Many organizations have bestowed Miller with honors: the Union of Orthodox Rabbis; the National Jewish Welfare Board; the Bnai Zion; the Boy Scouts of America; the National Council of Young Israel; Yeshiva College Alumni Association; the United Jewish Appeal; Israel Bonds; Jewish Agency; Religious Zionists of America; P'tach and Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

On March 6, 1994, Miller will receive the Yeshiva University Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual RIETS dinner.

Miller says he looks forward to continuing with his "concern, interest and support" for Yeshiva University. President Lamm stated that he "personally expects to take advantage of [Miller's] advice and wisdom."



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"MIKADO" TO FEATURE CHORUS AND DANCE TROOP

continued from page 1

tance of some very important figures. "This could never be done without the help of Dean Bacon, Zelda Braun, Mike Vasquez and the rest of the maintenance staff and Maria Ortega."

The idea for a musical was first introduced last year, Altman said, but "it didn't go forward. You have to push extra hard for something that's never been done before. That's scary to be the first." Due to lack of funds, SCDS felt a musical would bring in that extra revenue, but the idea did not become a reality until this semester.

This is SCDS's first attempt because "the administration and SCDS] were nervous about a women's-only audience," said Berkowitz.

Because of the singing and the prohibition of *kol isha* (hearing a woman's voice) men are will not be admitted. But Berkowitz and Altman do not feel this will be a hindrance.

"Just because we're not having guys, doesn't mean we won't enjoy it. It's the same production aspect but with singing. We're cutting out days because of this but I think girls will come because it's in their own backyard, right here. So it can be done," Berkowitz said.

Altman wholeheartedly agreed. "Since very few men, besides YCDS and fathers, make an effort to come to SCDS performances, I think it will not put a very big dent in our audience. In fact signs will be going up all over Brooklyn and other areas where women may be attracted to going to a for-women-by-women-only production. So it might even help."

Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun, referred to as one of the driving administrative forces in making sure "The Mikado" will be performed, is very excited about the upcoming production. "I think a first only women's musical on campus is wonderful," Braun said.

According to both directors, the administration's support on behalf of "The Mikado" project has also been very positive. "Dean Bacon has offered a piano free of cost and has been very supportive," said Altman. "Everyone we spoke to in the administration was excited and supportive. Because we got everyone behind us it just worked and hopefully it will continue to work," asserted

Berkowitz.

But after administrative support comes the work of the students. Much of the performance lies heavily on Berkowitz. Her fingers stuck to the piano keys. Altman describes her co-director as nothing less than a "musical genius."

Also, rehearsals were in somewhat of a time crunch since the performance has to take place before Passover and *Sephirat Ha'omer* (a time period when people do not attend live performances), allowing only five weeks to rehearse. But Berkowitz says the 20-member cast is working hard. "It's a lot of responsibility on my shoulders and Sarah's shoulders," she said, "and to get everyone to know their lines and come to rehearsals, but it's a great musical, a great experience, and everyone's being terrific ... Everyone's giving 100 percent to this."

One of the students responsible for getting "The Mikado" off the ground is production manager Rachel Yunger. She is involved in everything from scenery to ticketing to stage construction. "[Yunger is] working tirelessly...to make sure everything works," said Altman.

Working on several past productions as the production manager scenes person, Yunger described the preparation for a production as "very time consuming. Everything depends on everything else."

Besides the main nine roles and the eleven-member chorus, "The Mikado" will also have dancers. Choreographer Shoshana Naider is working hard on teaching the steps to the musical's three main dances. She said, "I'm very excited to have the opportunity to choreograph for a Stern production...This is a great step for Stern where many girls can get involved...and show their talent."

Berkowitz said she and Altman were pleasantly surprised to see so many students interested in partaking of the forthcoming event. She said, "For some reason we didn't think there would be a major turnout [at auditions]. I guess more people in this school are interested in doing a musical like this but never got the opportunity."

Performances of "The Mikado" will take place beginning Sunday March 13 through Tuesday March 15. All women are invited to attend.

A WORD FROM ISRAEL

AN AMERICAN IN JERUSALEM

By SARA (KLEIN) EISEN

"Well, well, well," snickered my word processor, "sure is nice to see you again." And, scanning the menu, I was indeed embarrassed to note that the last entry was an English paper from last Spring. No wonder my machine had turned sarcastic.

Apologizing heartily, I scrolled to a fresh screen. The green face peered at me suspiciously. I believe it yawned before I finally realized that I did not have anything to write.

This is similar to the familiar "friend-you-haven't-spoken-to-you-in-ages" syndrome. This occurs when, after three months of loss (inevitably long distance) communication, one of the parties finally decides to make contact neither individual has the faintest notion of what to say. "Where should I start?," they both fumble weakly, until the call has invariably cost at least \$54, at which point one of them suggests, slightly humiliated, that they hang up. Place this in contradistinction to the people with whom you converse with daily for hours about absolutely nothing.

I have long since given up trying to figure out this enigmatic rule of long distance relationships, on which subject I happen to be the world's expert.

To the matter at hand, my attempt at "A Word From Israel" piece for *The Observer*, the board meetings of which I will always treasure as some of my fondest memories of Stern College. I shall never forget the last one, where I promised to write a column. My husband and I now reside in a beautiful North Jerusalem apartment. It is for this reason that I am presently sitting, perplexed, in front of my ever maddening Brother EM-350, trying to write an appropriate message with which to make my maiden voyage into foreign correspondentdom.

I suppose that I have a very long list of subject options. I could explain the technical aspect of making *aliya*, of which there are millions. My choices fly around my head like hapless cartoon animals who always seem to fall off 20-story buildings. I wish to make a heartfelt appeal to those of you who plan to visit, attend school, or to live here, or to those who are already here as we speak.

Here is my request: please do not try out for the following role in Israel's longest running play, "The American."

ACT ONE

Enter American young woman/man, wrinkle nose in disgust as they taught you in Hebrew Academy/Yeshiva High. Speak in a shrill tone so everyone will understand that you are an American. Then begin your monologue in a slow ascending whine:

"I can't find any decent soda, cheese, TV

reception, courtesy, service, envelopes, Norwegian men (I've never heard this one), toilet paper, tissues, clothes, department stores, supermarkets, lowfat yogurt, transportation, elevators, carpets, floors, closets, hairdressers...In this country!"

(Be sure to spit out the last three words with undeniable contempt so that no one may doubt that you have spent some time in New York.)

END OF ACT I.

Now, I am not denying that I would rather sleep on an American made mattress than an Israeli one. However, I would chose not to denigrate an entire country, to which so many of my people have devoted or given their lives, on the basis of inferior box springs. Admittedly America makes many products and at lower cost. Americans like to bring these products here to make their lives easier. Americans are often more efficient. O.K. But let's not kid ourselves. When people complain about "this country" don't they really mean, "their country"? The country of "those Israelis who can't even come up with their own word for telephone (I really did hear this one)."

There is a large difference between valuing the products and services of America (which are, incidentally, becoming less and less superior to those of Israel), and constructing a general schemata (based purely on narrow minded materialism) wherein Israel and Israelis are somehow inferior.

Bring tuna and stainstick and Super Sugar Crisp. These products and other conveniences have seeped into our consciousness as actual values as a result of growing up in the most hedonistic society since ancient Rome. Forgive us, for we know not what we do. But please, leave your products in your dorm room or apartment and let your heart and mind explore beyond the confines of a stuffed duffel bag. Realize these words, however innocently intended, harm the fabric of self-esteem which new and old Israelis have tried so valiantly to protect in the face of many enemies.

Know that there are many reasons to come here, none of which include anything you can buy (except maybe the fruits and vegetables). Help us stay.

Silently, try to enjoy the view from your mirpeset (porch). I guarantee that for the moment you will forget about the absence of nothing but your All-American breath.

Sara (Klein) Eisen is a 1993 graduate of Stern College.

She and her husband reside in Pisgat Zeev.

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Yeshiva University Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

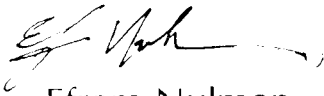
On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our returning and new students for the Spring, 1994 semester.

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Department of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of academic life and registration; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools; or development of job search techniques, **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE.** If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our professional, caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns.

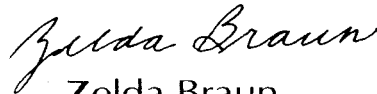
DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new semester begins, we wish you continued success in your endeavors.

Hatzlachah Rabbah.



Efrem Nulman
Dean of Students, F416



Zelda Braun
Assistant Dean of Students, MID 114

Rabbi Tzvi Flaum
(General Guidance)
MID 1004

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-Law Advisement)
MID 1020

Mrs. Ilene Himber
(Academic Skills/Personal)
Guidance/Student Activities)
MID 110

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
Assistant Dean, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
MID 905

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Counselor)
MID 923

Mrs. Deborah Kenny
(Housing Concerns/
Dormitory Living Issues)
BR1G

Mrs. Marga Marx
(International Student Advisement)
MID 104

Mrs. Lillian Newton, RN
(Medical Services)
BRH 2B

Mrs. Ethel Orlian
Assistant Dean, SCW
(Academic Advisement)
MID 102

Dr. Eli Sar, M.D.
(Medical Services)
BRH 2B

Mr. Hal Tannenbaum
(Career Placement)
MID 923

Dr. David Weisbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
MID 110

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
MID 923

LADY MACS DEFEAT NEW ROCHELLE

By RACHEL HELLMAN

The Lady Macs played against New Rochelle on February 2. The Macs were led to victory by Rebecca Bienenstock with 17 points.

"We practice once a week for an hour. We come back from vacation and have little time to get ready for our game," explained Coach David Cohen. "Despite this, we were able to win. This shows the team's talent.

The Lady Macs were cheered to victory by a van load of Yeshiva University students and numerous parents.

The Lady Macs' season record is 5-1. This represents the best start in team history.

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ADVISORS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR ACADEMIC COUNSELING

continued from page 1

assisting students throughout their career at SCW.

While Bacon envisions an optional program that serves a purely academic purpose, where the student can decide whether she wants to seek assistance, the Student Council, at last year's retreat, devised a detailed plan for a student guidance center, where all incoming students would be obligated to visit the center "regardless of career interest." An even more extensive program was envisioned by Dr. Joseph DeSantis, assistant professor of biology, who was on the original committee, which would include "developmental guidance." He explained that "the philosophy behind this is to take a student from the first day and guide her through college life, and help her make intelligent, mature choices."

Bacon said she doesn't know if she believes in the SCWSC model where a student can only register for the semester once they have obtained an advisor's signature. She says she has "confidence in the student's decision making process," and thinks that such a system could be an imposition on the students and result in logistical complications. "This model can create a bottleneck, though, it might be wise to follow up on the student."

Orlian is exploring the various models. "I am being vague because we have not decided." She emphasized that it is a false perception that there is a lack of academic guidance at Stern, and said that upon arrival at SCW a student is assigned a faculty member according to her interests on her application. She did add, however, that this assignment is not long term because many incoming freshman do not know or may change their area of interest.

"Once a student has defined an area of interest she should go to that depart-

ment—they can give her the best advice. Seeing students is a large part of faculty." Yet, Orlian said she would be hesitant to have the faculty become the advisors in the expanded program and stated that faculty should remain faculty.

To a large extent Orlian feels that she answers questions that don't need the attention of an advisor and reflect the student body's lack of attentiveness. She said, for example, students could answer many questions for themselves if they read posted signs, and, most essentially, referred to YU's undergraduate catalog. A catalog is given to each student at orientation. Additionally, this fall a source book, published by student services, was distributed to each student.

Both Bacon and Orlian said that the existing career and personal guidance available to students would continue, although Orlian did mention that one model suggests all advisement--academic, career and psychological--should be combined. Ideally, Bacon said, all the services would be housed in one center. Financial constraints or an estimated budget were not disclosed.

The current YU catalog describes academic advisement as: "counselors, deans, and faculty members help students develop an academic program that will realize their full human potential while preparing them to achieve vocational goals." Aside from being more specific in its focus, the new program would have advisors involved on a daily, individual level, and free the administration to deal with larger issues.

While Orlian, who spends hours in her office with students, would be alleviated of some advisement, Bacon said that Orlian's position would not change. Orlian echoed this saying, "I want to continue being involved in the students' welfare and be a liaison."

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