



DEAN HONORED

By BETH SHANA GREEN
Dr. Karen Bacon received the National Education Award from the Orthodox Union on

May 1, 1994.

Bacon, the dean of Stern College was presented with a plaque at The Grand Hyatt Hotel at the 96th annual Orthodox Union banquet.

Yeshiva University faculty, administrators, alumni and students were in attendance as Bacon received her award. Present at the black-tie affair were YU Vice-President Dr. William Schwartz, Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian, Assistant Dean of Students Zeldra Braun, Professor Peninnah Schram and Sidney Zen Langer, and Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Tzvi Flaum.

The keynote address was delivered by New York Governor Mario Cuomo. Cuomo articulated several issues that plague society and what is being done to change the situation.

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Assistant Dean of Students Zeldra Braun having dessert with Sylvia Haber, mistress of ceremonies

STUDENT LEADERS HONORED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

By KHAYA NOVICK

The Stern College Annual Awards Ceremony, emceed by SCW senior Sylvia Haber, took place at 8:00 Wednesday evening, May 4.

Dessert was served in Koch Auditorium in honor of the event. The Awards Ceremony is a tradition that began four years ago. The purpose is to acknowledge those who participated in various extracurricular activities, honor outgoing school officers and induct incoming board members.

Senior Danielle "Dee Dee" Macklin opened the program with a sermon calling for challenges to be faced with a mixture of fear and courage.

SCWSC president Chani Pearlman, TAC president Aliza Dworken and SSSBC president Rona Gross were called upon to present awards to student leaders.

Deans Bacon and Orlian, Zeldra Braun, Ilene Himer, and Sam Mandelbaum were all honored at the ceremony. Dworken spoke on behalf of Pearlman and Gross in thanking the honorees for their invaluable assistance throughout the year. Pearlman presented

Mandelbaum with a plant in gratitude for his efforts in helping with various school functions.

During a lighter moment in the ceremony, Haber presented Braun with a package of pens "to replace all those pens I have stolen from the office throughout the years."

Dean Bacon announced the two newest members of the Aishel Honor Society. SCW seniors Aliza Dworken and Ilana Breslau were the recipients of the award, which is reserved for a small number of students each year who maintained both an excellent GPA and exceptional involvement in school activities.

Dworken and Breslau's names will be engraved on a plaque in Koch Auditorium.

The council presidents presented the members of their respective boards with plaques and received presents from them in return.

New student leaders Laura Gross, Dassi Billet and Judith Schluskel were called up to induct their respective boards. Haber closed the ceremony on a note akin to the theme expressed by Macklin, mentioning that without the risks taken by the student leaders nothing will be accomplished.

OVER 300 PARTICIPATE IN FEINBERG MARROW DRIVE

Search continues for a match

By AMIRA RUBIN

A highly publicized bone marrow drive, organized by SCW, TAC, and Friends of Jay Feinberg, was held in SCW Thursday, May 5.

The gym was set up as a National Marrow Donor Program testing center, and opened to the public for blood testing. The drive was conducted primarily in response to the need for a marrow donor for 25-year-old Jay Feinberg, but participants volunteered to make themselves available as donors to a cross-country network of those in need.

Feinberg was diagnosed with leukemia at 21 and is searching for a donor to provide him with a life-saving transplant. As of yet, a suitable match has not been found for Feinberg. Jews of Eastern European descent are his best chance for a donor, and so a drive was conducted at SCW.

TAC president Aliza Dworken and Sophomore Dena Glick worked closely with Arlene Feinberg in coordinating and publicizing the SCW drive, and TAC had promoted the event for three months prior to the marrow drive. Glick helped coordinate publicity throughout the New York City area, and the drive was publicized in 1010 WINS, local Jewish radio stations, NYU, Baruch and Touro colleges, and local restaurants to attract potential donors.

Many SCW juniors and seniors had been tested at the marrow drive at SCW two years ago, and Israel returnees were tested last year at a drive in Jerusalem, so a large number of those tested on May 5 came as a result of the outside publicity.

Naomi Leibowitz coordinated a volunteer support system so that SCW students were present at all times, providing information about the National Marrow Donor Program, assisting potential donors in filling out medical history forms, and providing orange juice and cookies for donors after the test.

I hope [Feinberg] will be able to find a perfect match," said

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Yaffa Cheslow, Stacey Tuckman, and Debbie Friedman-Markinson

FROM YU TO KALAMAZOO

By DANIELLE AMORY-PAIGE MACKLIN

Three SCW contest winners were flown to Kalamazoo, Michigan to represent Stern College at the fifth National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

This was the first time SCW had ever sent students to a conference of this nature. The conference was attended by over 2,000 students nationally, and was designed for students primarily from small undergraduate colleges to present and discuss undergraduate research in all fields of study from arts to science.

The students were selected from 22 that had competed in a

research contest which presented posters at the SCW November Open House. These three were chosen after a final oral presentation given at club hour and judged by science faculty.

Then a final screening of these students was done during club hour in January. Students presented their posters orally to peers and were judged by science faculty.

The winners, Yaffa Cheslow for murine models of exercise conditioning using mice, Debbie Friedman-Markinson for *in vitro* cytotoxicity of dichloride to human

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EDITORIALS

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

Currently the SCW sculpture class is being held in a busy hallway on the way to the spacious science laboratories. In addition to the distractions posed by overly curious bio students on their way to class, the sculptors also work in unhealthy conditions.

Only one fan expels the large amounts of unhealthy dust. A veritable dust cloud fills the hallway and women use masks and goggles to protect themselves from the hazardous cloud. It is uncomfortable for pedestrians who passby unprotected.

The conditions in the "art studio" on the 10th floor are also unsatisfactory. It is a perilous walk in between easels full of wet oil paint juxtaposed to delicate charcoal drawings of the next class.

A larger studio with more ventilation is necessary. Space in the studio is so limited that all artists must leave when a class is in session therefore limiting art time. If additional space was annexed from other classrooms on the floor the productivity would increase.

There are other rooms on the floor currently occupied and should be considered for annexation for the art room. Thus making a 10th floor art floor. Maybe then we can build interest in art as an elective and add more adjunct teachers as needed.

Is this how the arts in a liberal ARTS school should be treated?

THE VAN: You give us 30 minutes, and we might pick you up!

When a student calls for a van, the guards instruct her to proceed immediately downstairs and wait because "it's on its way." We understand that occasionally there are unavoidable delays, but unfortunately, these delays occur far too often.

Why must those students who live in the outside apartments wait for sometimes up to 30 minutes for a van? Many times they are not picked up at all. One board member waited 30 minutes for a van and was not picked up. Another van was dispatched to get her. Upon checking the log book, we discovered a driver had called in and said he'd picked up three passengers, when in fact he never went to the building! In addition, these students frequently miss the vans that are going uptown because the shuttle vans to Brookdale Hall arrive late. Without traffic, three to four minutes should be a sufficient amount of time to travel from Brookdale to the outside apartments. With traffic it should take no more than six to seven minutes.

If a guard is going to give an approximate time frame for when a van should appear, let it be accurate or at least realistic. In addition, the van service should reinstate the old system of picking up those students in the outside apartments going uptown on the way to the FDR. This would save the hassle of possibly missing uptown vans because of late shuttle vans.

The van service is there for student maneuverability and safety. All students, no matter where they live, should be able to have access to such rights as well.

COMPUTER JAM

Finding an available computer and a free printer in the computer room is a major struggle. Next year, we are told, new computers are expected, however, there is much more that is lacking.

Besides up-to-date computers, the computer room needs more attention. Perhaps it should not fall under the Lab department for its decisions. The use for the room has expanded to every major, and not just the computer science majors who pay a user fee. Almost every classes that assigns a paper expects it to be typed, and the room has not kept up with the growing number of people who need it.

In addition, more faculty and/or computer operators need to be made available at all hours of the day for those students who know little about the computers they are working on, and for those who run into trouble.

The system also needs to be upgraded. Often, students lose files and documents because of crashing systems. This should not occur, get it professionally done without saving the short term money by letting students do it.

The computer room is a Flinstone disgrace. As long as technology is advancing, so must Stern.



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 women of Stern College, the faculty, or the administration of YU. Readers may respond to these letters in addition to articles.

DON'T MESS WITH MIDRASH

To the Editor:

I recently attended the Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts Annual Lecture and listened to Professor Howard Schwartz discuss "The Storytelling of the Rabbis." Professor Schwartz was an engaging and entertaining speaker, and he recounted several fascinating *midrashim* in the course of his speech. Superficially, it was a stimulating and enjoyable experience.

I was disturbed, however, by the seeming lack of reverence displayed by the speaker towards the *Aggadic* legends which are an integral part of our heritage and our understanding of Torah. In citing the *midrash* of Serach bat Asher, for instance, Professor Schwartz seemed to mock her recurring appearance in various legends, suggesting that the Rabbis "just couldn't give her up--she was too interesting." The laughter of the audience confirmed my impression that Professor Schwartz espoused an attitude toward *midrash* that was somewhat less than respectful.

Another *midrash* quoted by Professor Schwartz dealt with Joseph's marriage to the daughter of the High Priest of Egypt, and explained that her origins were actually Jewish --that she was Dina's daughter. Professor Schwartz insinuated that this interpretation was fabricated by the Rabbis, who were "pretty upset that Jo-

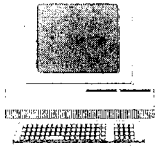
seph wasn't marrying a nice Jewish girl." The idea that *midrashim* are the inventions of self-serving Rabbis in order to rationalize inconsistencies in the Torah is one which, I feel, is entirely antithetical to the purpose of *Aggadah*.

Whether or not *midrashim* are meant to be taken literally is unclear. However, each *midrash* comes to teach us a very important lesson and should be viewed respectfully. While Professor Schwartz may be legitimate in his doubts about the truth of the stories themselves, entertaining a cynical attitude towards *Aggadah* can be dangerous. Should that cynicism spill over to the messages contained therein, fundamental principles of our faith would be shaken.

Professor Schwartz mentioned in the beginning of his speech that he was a literature professor and tended to "search for the secret confession [i.e., insights into the author's hidden personality] in analyzing literature," suggesting that *Aggadah* could be dissected the same way. Some of his remarks about *midrashim* actually reflected an attitude which, in my estimation, is more appropriate to literature than to *midrashim*. *Midrashim* were written by our sages, whom we revere for being more righteous

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From the Editor's Desk



Odds at the End

Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy Onassis passed away last week returning Camelot back into the clouds. She was a woman who defined both an era of hope and American class.

I stood outside her Fifth Avenue apartment, with a friend of mine, on the night of her wake. A large crowd had filled the sidewalks and overflowed onto the streets until they were blocked by blue police barriers and the media.

The solemn group quietly spoke to each other. Some were there to pay their respects; they looked like they had lost a friend. They spoke about how she was a "great tipper," "good mother," "an elegant lady." Others waited with cameras on hand to get "the picture" and still more came simply to gawk and stargaze.

As I walked to the front of the building Daryl Hannah left the building and was placed in a waiting cab. Bulbs flashed and the crowd came alive and yelled, "there's Daryl Hannah!" A buzz of excitement filled the gazers as they got their photo. Satisfied for the night, a few left, but others returned their eyes to the 15th story window with the light on.

The John Lennon-esque vigil ended with the appearance of the red-eyed Caroline Kennedy. She walked with her head down, energy sapped, and visibly drained. The crowd gave her the reverence and stillness once reserved for her parents. Her sorrow was shared by all that saw her.

The older crowd standing vigil remembered the electric energy of the Kennedy era. Our Generation X, as "they" call it, is so removed from the activism of the 60s. We have become so passive that we conduct fax writing campaigns instead of rallies. With some exceptions.

Some of the women around here try to make a difference and it is not just the seven girls who run the school. There are unrecognized women out there who do not hold any positions, but have made it their business to attempt change. They have simply taken advantage of everything around them and maximized their contribution.

After a roller coaster year of serving *The Observer* and the student body, I wonder what sum it totaled. A year has passed. Computer viruses, a printer that runs on a mercurial cycle, one working monitor, editors who quit, a flood in the office, no heat during

layout - to name a few. Somehow though, we always came out. The miracle of production amazes me as much as housekeeping's need to throw the copies away. *The Observer* is made possible by the people who toil in the bowels of Brookdale (buy a building!) to educate you.

Now is the time that the Class of 1994 is asked the question, "So nu? Now that it's over, are you glad you went to Stern?" Hmmm. Do I know any different? Is it worthless to postulate on the road not taken? In focusing on what did occur I see it as a set of pluses with a couple minuses. I missed the multi-cultural exchange granted on the university campus (sigh, a campus). Here ethnicity is Sephardic and Ashkenazic, or Chicago versus New York. There are more cons, but I'm feeling a lot of school pride on the eve of graduation.

My time here is already being glossed over along with the negatives for it is important to remember what we have gained here, and not what we missed out on. The friends we made, the teachers who challenged, the nights we never slept, the bagel runs, the decorated doors, Kinko's, "Ve are goink out of bizness", dancing for Kallah of the week, the packed elevators, "I.D. ladies!", prank Guide calls, registration dilemmas, chatting with the deans, meetings, shabb-a-tons, chagigas in Koch, ordering in, and leaning out the windows to check out the action on the street.

I am looking out my third floor view down to 34th Street. The suits are walking by, the populace clutching Duane Reade plastic bags, and foot traffic is heavy as criss-crossing develops while waiting for a van.

In a few more days this view will belong to another. My pictures, posters, triptychs, and 200 flashing colored lights will come down. My wall will then be repainted another shade of blue. After three years I am leaving this address for a new one and am giving someone mine.

Like the finished run of a roller coaster ride, an excited rider comes aboard to try the run [good luck Michele]. The ride was bumpy and fast, but the only certainty it provides is it will one day stop. Did it accomplish what the rider had intended...What remains is a paper trail of transcripts and photos and some crazy friends.

BETH

YOUR PAPER

A weekly meeting is held at 11:00 on Tuesday nights, in a tiny room on the bottom floor of Brookdale Hall. Here is where the venting of school frustration becomes constructive pieces of work. Here is where the facets of diversity become the pages of a unified collection. It is here where elusive ideas become a tangible reality. I present to you *The Observer*, a publication of Stern College for Women. Maybe you've seen it.

If not -- I'm not sure how this is possible but stranger things have happened -- then allow me to describe to you YOUR college newspaper...

It is on these Tuesday nights where the editors and writers of *The Observer* attempt to fill the pages of the paper with the news of YOUR school. They do this not only so that you can become well-informed about your surroundings, but so that you can begin to consider, contemplate and ponder the institution around you. Bottom line -- we write so that things can be accomplished.

The Observer is a tool to be utilized by YOU (get the theme here? If not check out all of the other underlined capitalized words). It is written



by and for the students of Stern College so that the late-night grievances, the lunchtime opinions and the overall student ideas can become cultivated into an actuality.

As next year's Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*, I want this newspaper to become a vehicle for its students. I want, or I should say, need YOU to be a part of it -- to be a part of YOUR school. Give us a chance. Get involved.

I only hope that I can fulfill the great honor I have been given as I take a step toward erasing the baseless myths surrounding this unique paper. This can only be done with YOUR (last one, I promise) active support.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Beth and the editors, associate editors, writers and anyone who has ever shared a late Tuesday night in a tiny room on the bottom floor of Brookdale Hall for a job well done. Good luck to next year's staff. I only hope we can pick up where you left off and go further.

Thank You,
Michele Berman

POSITIONS

ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
FOR NEXT YEAR'S STAFF.

NEWS...

FEATURES...SPORTS...

CULTURAL ARTS...

PHOTOGRAPHY...

LAYOUT..

ART...COPY

Contact Michele Berman for more information.

Laura Gross Elected President

Sarah Altman Elected Vice-President

SCW PRESIDENT- ELECT LAURA GROSS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING OVERCROWDING AND GUIDANCE

By MARCIE SCHNEIDER

A car parked in front of the Stern building is plastered with flyers encouraging students to vote for Laura Gross. Is that what brought her over the top?

The creativity and ingenuity of this attention-grabbing, crowd-pleasing, show-stopping gimmick is trademark to the candidate it represents. Gross, the president-elect of the Student Council for the 1994-1995 school year is as energetic as the campaign she runs.

Gross is a 1991 graduate of Frisch High School. She is currently double-majoring in biology and psychology and hopes to go to medical school. As yet she is undecided about her specialty.

Throughout her career at SCW Gross has held a few leadership positions. She served as president of the Chemistry Club as well as the Fine Arts Society. She was a part of the YU Model United Nations and member of the Orientation and Food Services Committee. She was also sophomore class treasurer and treasurer of the College Republicans.

Gross is brimming with ideas for the coming year. "In the broad view, I hope to continue improvements and discussions between YC and SCW leadership. I'm working toward improvements in career guidance. Recently Stern has made great strides [in career guidance], but I want to improve it even more."

One of her primary goals involves finding a resolution to the problem of overcrowding. "I won't say that I'm going to make sure that they buy a building- that's not realistic. I will make sure that they're on the right track. I will try to get students placed on the search committee, to let students know we're looking for something."

Gross commented on the accomplishments of this year's Student Council. "I think Chani [Pearlman] did a good job. Just because there are no big issues does not mean that they did not lay a lot of groundwork." And this foundation is precisely what Gross anticipates strengthening.

Ultimately, Gross wants to be "accessible to all students." She will make it her priority to be recognized among the student body and be known as an easy figure to approach.



Seated are Laura Gross and Sarah Altman



Debate speakers Dafna Kalish, Laura Gross, and Beth Posner

DEBATE WELL PLANNED BUT POORLY ATTENDED

By MICHELE BERMAN

The results are in for the Stern College Student Council 1994-95 academic year. Laura Gross will be president; Sarah Altman, vice president; Ilana Gordon, corresponding secretary; Nicole Hamburger, recording secretary; and Nancy Berman, treasurer.

Over 450 votes were counted by a committee made up of three SCWSC executive board members, *The Observer* Editor-in-Chief and one class president. SCWSC President Chani Pearlman said the voter turnout was "excellent." She said, "this election turnout was better than in last years. It shows improvement in student involvement in school."

Pearlman said a \$50 cap was put on candidate's expenses so that it was "not a race of finance."

A presidential debate was held in Koch auditorium prior to the elections. Participants were: Laura Gross, Dafna Kalish and Beth Posner. Vice-presidential candidates Sarah Altman, Chana Holzer and Laura Gottlieb were also given time to introduce themselves and answer questions.

Prepared questions were asked by Pearlman and *Observer* Editor-in-Chief Beth Green. Pearlman said, "Beth and I

sat and thought up a number of questions that would have been of interest to the various factions of Stern College. We picked by lottery as to who would receive which question." Candidates were asked such things as: "Describe the student-administration relationship in one word, what obstacles the candidates expect to face next year if they win and how would the candidates deal with a belligerent YC counterpart."

Though voter participation was very high, approximately less than five percent of the student body came to hear the candidates debate. Pearlman said, "I think the debates were very poorly attended. There's no reason for that turnout. Had they come they would have gotten to know the candidates, gotten to know the issues and been able to have made educated votes. I'm happy [with] the amount of people who turned out to vote but I do not think that they knew as much as they could have had they attended the debate."

Altman said, "Student apathy affected the elections. I think that a lot of things were discussed at the debate which could not have otherwise been known and had more than five percent of the student body attended the debate, students might have been more familiar with can-

SARAH ALTMAN: TAKING THE BALL DOWN THE COURT

By DASSI BILLET

Running, around her room, shooting a basketball into a portable hoop, Sarah Altman, newly elected SCW Student Council Vice President, exercises her right to be active. Altman wants all Stern students to follow her lead.

"My major concern is student apathy," asserted Altman. "Apathy in every aspect of student life at Stern; lack of attendance at speakers, school plays, events. Students go to school for class and that's it."

"It's easy to get involved here at Stern," stressed Altman, emphasizing that in a larger university, it is easy for students to get lost in the crowd. "I wish students would be more interested in SCW and the things it has to offer."

Among the things Altman wants to work on improving is the Shabbat atmosphere at Stern. "I hope that over time students will see staying in not as a weekend with nowhere to go, but as a time to spend with other students, getting to know each other and having a good time. All of the non-Jewish universities have a great Shabbat atmosphere. It's ironic that we don't," she stated.

"I'd like to make school events more appealing, involve a broader range of people, advertise," emphasized Altman. "I want to make people want to be involved, not force them," she said.

Altman summed up her reasons for wanting to be part of student government, "When I see something I don't like, I want to change it. When I see something I do like, I want to make sure it stays good."

didates' stands on the issues."

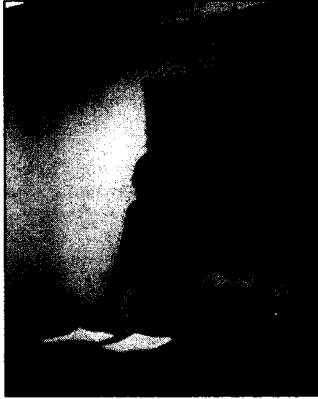
Rinah Cohen, a SCW junior present at the debate, called the debate a "great idea" but a "sad statement about our school because so few people showed up."

Gross said she was disappointed with the debate turnout as well. She said the night before the election she went from room to room campaigning and was asked: "What do you stand for?" Gross said she replied by asking the student: "Why didn't you come to the debate?"

Some students complained to Gross that the debate was not publicized enough but Pearlman said plenty of posters were put up to advertise the debate.

"I thought Chani and Beth thought of

CONGRESSWOMAN HOLDS A TÊTE-À-TÊTE



Congresswoman Maloney discussing issues facing Congress today

By PEARL KAPLAN

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney proclaimed the present Congress as the most productive in recent history. In particular, she highlighted some of the more than 30 different new bills and amendments that it created to help women, children and families.

Stern College falls in Maloney's district and on April 6 she spoke of some her recent local and international activities since her election to Congress in 1992.

"Women have returned to their traditional role of cleaning up the house", quipped Maloney, referring to the doubling of the number of women in congress in recent years. The Family and Medical Leave Act was one of the bills passed that Maloney attributed to the new surge of congressional interest in women's issues. The Bill provides millions of dollars for breast cancer research and helps fund cervical and ovarian cancer research.

Maloney described a bill she authored to improve what she referred to as "the fastest growing social problem" in New York, foster care. She underscored the

high increase of children in need of foster care, a figure which jumped from 14,000 in 1989 to 50,000 in 1992. With the bill she introduced in Congress she hopes to improve the foster care system and decrease the tremendous abuses that presently exist in the program.

"It's been a busy year," remarked Maloney, outlining her determination to pass legislation on abortion rights, sexual harassment, and further funding for the Headstart program. She also cited her dedication to crime prevention, deficit decrease, and education as priorities. Commenting on her work in health care reform, Maloney expressed the need to "take care of all of our citizens."

Of particular interest to Stern College students was the congresswoman's update on her pro-Israel activities. The first bill Maloney authored in her term in Congress was the Arab Arm Sales Prohibition Act which prohibits the sale of arms to Arab countries that boycott Israel. The bill has not yet passed through the Senate.

As an example of her efforts on behalf of world Jewry, Maloney spoke of her protest against the President of Argentina who had refused to open Nazi war files for investigation and reported her success in reversing that decision.

Maloney assured the SCW students that she continuously promotes the aid package to Israel, and tries to ensure that it not be cut. Maloney had only praise for the current Israeli government and its efforts in the peace process. As a great admirer of Prime Minister Yithak Rabin, she claimed that "no other leader could have secured such a peace agreement," and called the progress toward peace "a great achievement."

Students were then allowed to ask questions. Women asked questions on Israel and on the opening up of the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration.

Currently, SCW students Helen Bloch and Ilana Dessau serve as interns in the Congresswoman's office.

LEXINGTON SECURITY

By NAOMI FREDMAN

In the past few years, Stern College's student body has grown so much so that the Stern dormitory, Brookdale Hall can not accommodate everyone. Therefore in the 1990 Fall semester, Yeshiva University leased several two bedroom apartments on Lexington Avenue.

Lexington Plaza is the apartment closest to Stern's needs because it is only two and a half blocks away from Stern College, and because it has a twenty-four hour doorman.

The doorman is necessary because his round the clock presence ensures the protection of all the tenants in the building. Although he is not a security guard, he provides safety for the occupants of 184

Lexington by writing down the time and name of everyone who enters and exits the building's elevators. Three cameras, one in each elevator, and one in the laundry room, are further means of security found in 184 Lexington.

According to Ziggy, the superintendent of the building, Stern College has been extremely cautious and extremely concerned about the safety of her students in "Independent Housing". Comments Ziggy, "This year the Stern College women have been wonderful tenants, the best yet."

Recently, apartment 3A has been leased to provide the students with a lounge and a study hall. 3A also houses a dorm counselor to accommodate any of the students needs.

SENIOR WORKSHOP PREPARES SENIORS FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

By DAPHNA WEISS

A three day senior workshop series was conducted on October 26, November 2 and November 9 on the seventh floor of SCW in response to a request made by senior representative Rachel Levin.

The workshop, sponsored by the class of 1994, the Psychology Club, and the Office of Student Services, consisted of lectures that addressed student concerns and disclosed various options for students following graduation.

Levin said she proposed the workshop to confront the concerns for her future follow graduation. "These were concerns which I felt were no doubt shared by my peers as well."

The workshops provided students with guidance and information on various graduate schools, jobs, and living arrangements. Lecturers included Career Counselor Naomi Kapp, Assistant Director of Student Services Ilene Himber, and Academic Advisor to Sy Syms Adrienne Wolf.

The first workshop addressed the issues of graduate school opportunities and job options. The seminar was designed for seniors, but several juniors attended as well.

"Juniors need to think at this point if they want to go for a Masters or not and

begin planning their future," said Dahlia Niemann, SCW junior who found the program beneficial. Niemann, a psychology major, learned that in order to take the Psychology GREs next fall she needs to complete her psychology requirements by that time, and accordingly adjusted her schedule to accommodate the requirement.

The second lecture focused on living arrangements, from a financial, social and religious perspective, and covered the topics of housing, money management, and interpersonal relationships.

Alumni Suzie Schlusssel and Lisa Edelstein led a question and answer period for the final workshop. Schlusssel relayed her experience in graduate school renting an apartment in the city, and Edelstein discussed moving back home and beginning a full-time job. Naomi Kapp felt the alumni "highlighted the first two seminars by discussing them on a personal level."

"It's nice to see people who ate in the same cafeteria as you, sat in your classes, and are the same as you being able to take what they gained from Stern and move on," commented Rachel Levin on the appearance of Schlusssel and Edelstein.

STUDENTS LOBBY THEIR MEMBER OF CONGRESS AT AIPAC'S 35TH ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

By SHARONA COHEN

Students from the Stern College Israel Public Affairs Committee were up at the crack of dawn on Sunday March 13, 1994 to attend the 35th Annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference in Washington D.C. The students participated to express their support for a firm U.S-Israel relationship. The conference consisted of 2500 delegates from across the country, half of which were students.

The delegates were greeted by opening speeches given by Vice President Al Gore and Minority Whip Newt Gingrich R-(Ga). Gore and Gingrich assured the continuation of a productive and progressive U.S-Israel relationship. Other prominent speakers included Egyptian Ambassador Maher El Sayed and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovitch.

Sessions addressed topics such as the role of the media in Middle East politics, Anti-semitism, and participation in political campaigns.

The focal point of the policy conference was that each delegate was able to lobby her representative in Congress.

"It was a heartwarming experience for me to see the great impact that

AIPAC has on Capitol Hill. This proves that although we are small in numbers we have a large voice," asserted a senior.

Helen Bloch, SCW junior, and Public Affairs Committee Campus Liaison, commented, "It is important for us not only as Jewish students, but as American citizens to be politically active and attend functions like Policy Conference. It is incumbent upon each and every individual whether their interest lies in politics or in some other field, to know how to effect positive change through the American political system. It is not enough to say never again."

Steve Grossman and newly appointed Executive Director Neil Sher personally met with President Bill Clinton and stated that Jerusalem must remain the undivided, eternal capital of Israel.

The conference concluded on Tuesday March 15 with a speech by Prime Minister Yitchak Rabin. He ensured the delegates that Jerusalem will remain the undivided capital of Israel.

"Policy conference was a unique experience for students all across the country to unite in pursuit of one common goal-securing the U.S Israel relationship," said Bloch.

DEPARTMENT OF CAREER SERVICES ATTEMPTS TO HELP STUDENTS

By AMIRA RUBIN

The Career Services department has implemented new tactics to accommodate graduating seniors. Career Counselor Naomi Kapp recently contacted social service agencies in response to student needs. Kapp sent packets to all graduating seniors informing them about possible jobs and encouraged students to send in their resumes to the companies.

Some complaints have been made against the service for its focus on business fields while neglecting to tap into the areas in communications and other non-technical careers.

Seniors have expressed dismay that not one publishing or advertising firm has come to Stern to recruit students or have arranged interviews off campus.

Others feel an additional career counselor is needed, as was stated in September, that an additional counselor would be hired. Kapp's scheduling book is often full and drop in "quick questions" often amount to full appointments.

Jobs in the fields of psychology, sociology and health care are most sought after by this year's graduating class. For this reason, the Department of Career Services assisted students in contacting Albert Einstein Medical Center, the Jew-

ish Child Care Association, and the Memorial Sloan - Kettering Cancer Center for positions as case workers in foster care to research technicians.

Khaya Novick, senior and psychology major, was pleased to find out about these opportunities. "Everybody always tells me it was impractical to major in psychology and it's such a relief to find that I can find a job with just a B.A."

In addition to job search programs, career services also makes available employment opportunities for SCW students through its "job books." Students interested in securing a full-time position after graduation are encouraged to meet with Naomi Kapp, Hal Tannenbaum, or Adrienne Wolff on the ninth floor of the Stern building. "I'm glad these services exist because it can help me in my job search," said senior Chavi Sussman.

Students are encouraged to obtain internships in a field related to their major. Those seeking Fall internships must apply now, because school does not begin until October. Kapp recommends students visit career services before the summer and write up their resume.

The department of Career Services is becoming more involved with health services and plans to expand to other majors as well. As Kapp says, "this is just the beginning."

THE FLOWERING PEACH: A CONTEMPORARY TALE OF NOAH'S ARK

By SARAH ALTMAN

The National Actors Theater's production of Clifford Odet's "The Flowering Peach" puts the biblical story of Noah and the Ark in a completely different light.

In 1954, when Odet wrote "The Flowering Peach," he reflected upon his approach to the story. "I said to myself, wait a minute, Noah had three sons, it was a family life, I know family life...In the play, these people think like us, speak like us, they're a distillation of modern and biblical."

The National Actor's Theater (NAT) put on "The Flowering Peach" as their third production of this year at the Lyceum Theater on W. 45th Street. The cast was very appealing. Eli Wallach was excellent as the patriarchal figure of Noah. His stubbornness and ultimately his loyalty to God, were extremely convincing. His comedic talent also shone through in his portrayal of Noah. But Wallach was not convincing as a rejuvenated Noah. All that was done to make him shed hundreds of years was a clean shave.

Anne Jacson clearly showed motherly love through her portrayal of Noah's wife. She was the most appealing character in the play, and at the point of her death it would have been difficult to find a dry eye in the theater.

Josh Mostel was fun to watch in the comedic role of Shem, but it was difficult to understand his fickle personality as he switched between sheer greediness and pure kindness.

In the role of Japheth, David Aaron Baker wonderfully personified the real leader of the family. Steve Hofuendahl (Ham) and Joanna Going (Rachel) were also superb in their supporting roles.

The NAT first opened its doors in November 1991 after over 10 years of planning by Toby Randall. Randall wanted to repay the community that nurtured him as a young artist.

This year, the first production was a fabulous rendition of Shakespeare's "Timon of Athens." The second was a not-so-pleasing "Inspector General" by Nicolai Gogel starring Randall.

"The Flowering Peach" is an excellent play which adds an aspect of humanity to the biblical narrative of the flood and was a fine closing to a good season at the NAT.

As a first time subscriber to the productions of the NAT, I was very satisfied. The three productions this year were enjoyable and I recommend the season subscription.

For more information contact: NAT: 1560 Broadway, Suite 409, NYC 10036.

PUBLISHED FOLKLORIST SCHWARTZ EXPLORES MIDRASH AT SCW'S FORUM ON THE ARTS

By SARY LANGNER

Professor Howard Schwartz, a published Jewish anthropologist, folklorist, and Professor of English at the University of Missouri, retold several *rabbinitic midrashim* at this year's Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts. His lecture, "The Storytelling of the Rabbis," involved midrashic storytelling. Schwartz also explained the reasons and method for the Rabbis use of *Aggadah*.

Among an audience of over 125 at Stern College on Wednesday evening, April 20 were SCW students, alumni, faculty, Deans Karen Bacon and Ethel Orlian, Mindy Lamm, and Mrs. Morris Epstein.

Schwartz explained that the Rabbinic legends stemmed from seeming contra-

dictions within the biblical text, and "by looking closely at the text, they see a problem, find the right place for the answer, and through induction, insight, intelligence, deep analysis of the text, and creativity, they answer it."

One of the many interesting legends and stories that Schwartz told was an eighth century *midrashic* explanation of the ancestry of Joseph's wife, Asnat. He related that Asnat, found on an altar of the Egyptian sun god Ra, was kept locked in a high tower and is one of the earliest manifestations of the famous fairy tale of Rapunzel.

Schwartz also elaborated on the concept of a "chain midrash," when the midrash is created to link the generations so that Torah becomes a single, uniform story rather than many unconnected ones.

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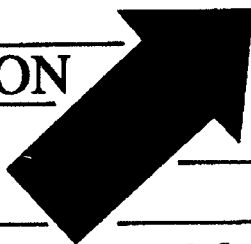
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CLEPS GET CUT

*Say Good-bye to the
easy way out!*

By SHANIE DUBINSKY

Beginning November 30, 1994, Stern College will accept only seven CLEP examinations for credit and exemption. This is a major emendation of their previous policy accepting 17 CLEP exams.

The new regulations are the result of a decision made by the Stern College faculty, and were reviewed by the Academic Standards Committee. Each examination was thoroughly assessed by the appropriate Stern Department for academic content and quality. Consequently, many of the exams were rejected since they did not meet Yeshiva University's academic criteria. Yeshiva College, the YU undergraduate school men's division, made comparable adjustments to their own CLEP policy over the past year for similar reasons.

CLEP exams reflect the desire of many students to lighten their course load or even get their degree early. Dean Karen Bacon comments, "The goal [of college] is to get an education and to make yourself marketable for the next stage in life." She also indicated that with careful program choices "people aren't as strapped for time as they think."

Many students support the new policy, feeling that the exemption examinations were being abused by some of their peers. Naomi Liebowitz, an SCW senior111, states that "you don't have to

learn the material" to pass a CLEP test. Others felt that the sheer number of exams previously accepted promoted a negative image of a Yeshiva University education.

Still other students oppose the new policy, believing that the faculty has not taken a realistic or sympathetic view of the average student course load. With such heavy secular and Jewish Studies requirements, some students feel that they should be allowed to take some "short cuts." Suggestions ranged from limiting the number of CLEP exams a student may take to allowing a limited number of general requirements to be taken on a pass/fail basis.

However, most students agree that the CLEP exams do not describe the level of performance required in a semester course. In addition, they may not accurately reflect the student's knowledge or ability. Consequently, some modification of the original policy seemed necessary.

The CLEP exams offered in early November will not be affected by this policy change, allowing current students a final opportunity to finish their academic plans.

The exams accepted will include: College French, College Spanish, Introductory Macroeconomics, Introductory Microeconomics, Calculus with Elementary Functions, Human Growth and Development and General Chemistry.



New TAC Board elected. Shown here are VP Rayzel Kinderleher, President Dassi Billet, and VP Elizabeth Jarret

BACON HONORED AT OU BANQUET

Continued from page 1

Bacon's address focused upon Stern College. Her speech was met "with great applause from her YU family cheering section," said SCW senior Sylvia Haber.

Pieces of Bazooka bubble gum were placed at the top of each place

setting. The incongruity was then explained in a film on the "kosherization" of a Japanese vegetable oil company. Viewers were told about the laborious kosherization process behind such products. □

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT: A SHAPED MAJOR SUCCESS STORY

By ALI BLEIBERG

When Laura Soskin first came to Stern, she had what could only be called "negative direction"—that is, she knew exactly what she *did not* want to do. "I wasn't remotely interested in any of the math or science fields," Soskin said, "but I loved art and history." Like many current Stern students, Soskin claimed that she "bothered [Career Coordinator] Naomi Kapp constantly."

Soskin eventually approached English Professor Laurel Hatvary, coordinator of shaped majors, for help and direction. Soskin asserted that early on she recognized that her talent did not dwell in fine art. "I can't sit down and draw you one picture, but I do have a certain different creative sense, and an appreciation for artistic things."

When Soskin told Hatvary that she loved working with her hands but preferred artistic concepts to "picture art", Hatvary suggested she try graphic design. "It's like a puzzle—coming up with the big picture and then figuring out how to fit all the pieces together. For example, I'll come up with an idea of what a poster, brochure, or invitation etc. should look like. Then the next step is finding someone to draw the picture that will fit the concept I have in mind," Soskin explained.

Soskin participated in SCW's joint program with FIT and graduated with a double major in Art/Advertising Design. This involved taking basic histories and

studio in Stern and four specialty classes at FIT.

After graduating in January 1987, Soskin returned to FIT for "the beginning of my real, intensive art training." She already held a BA from Stern, so she spent one year getting an Associate's Degree and then two more years in the upper division of FIT doing "no liberals and all studio. It was very intense."

"In what was considered my senior year in FIT I took an internship in the Winter Moss Design Group, and I've been in love ever since! That same semester was when computers exploded in industry and I learned enough about Macintosh and desktop publishing to help get me started because all of a sudden everything was being done on computers!" Her internship involved on-the-job training, and when the Design Group realized that they liked what they saw and could continue training her, they offered her a job.

Soskin especially likes her field because "I can always do freelance work at home.

"I'm probably one of the only girls my year who was in this shaped major, continued my training, and am now working in the field. My advice to all future aspiring graphic designers is, unless you already have a substantial portfolio, definitely continue your training after college."

Just recently Soskin designed her own wedding invitation. She will be married to David Kornblum on June 20.

EARLY MOVE IN DAY

By NAOMI FREDMAN

Although Stern College student housing opens next year on October second, and classes officially begin October fourth, student teachers are required by the university to begin their 300 hour inservice program when the elementary schools in New York City begin setting up their classrooms.

The student teachers are therefore responsible to be at their designated New York City elementary school, five days a week, from approximately 8 am to 3:30 pm, starting the last week in August.

In the fall of 1992, Stern College began in early October and the student teachers were given a choice of either beginning their placement before the official semester began in late August or continuing their placement through the end of the semester, during reading week. The Department of Education at Stern College decided that participating in setting up the classroom and meeting the children on their first day of school are a vital part of the student teaching experience. In 1992, the students who chose to begin their student teaching placement in August lived within practi-

cal commuting distance to their designated schools. Next year however, many student teachers do not live a reasonable distance away from their designated schools.

Naomi Liebowitz, Cecilia Fern, Naomi Fredman, and other concerned education majors approached Stern College student services with the problem of not being able to fulfill the student teaching requirement, and offered student services possible solutions to the dilemma facing some student teachers. Originally, the University suggested that student teachers facing this problem lodge at hospitable relatives or friends for five weeks, and if necessary the university would place them in homes. Upon further consideration, student services decided to open independent housing apartments for any student teacher who does not live in a reasonable distance from her designated school.

Assistant Dean of Students, Zelda Braun, commented "We are doing the best that we can for the students... We are here to help the students." Student teachers who are planning on living in independent housing for this temporary time period, will move to their housing choice when student housing officially begins.

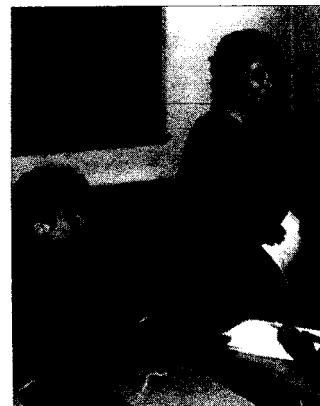
STORYTELLING AT SCW: A LONG TRADITION

By JUDITH SOLOMON

Stern College was once again honored to host the third Jewish Storytelling Celebration. The conference was attended by storytellers and students from as far away as St. Louis, Missouri and Washington, D.C. It ran from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm on April 24 1994, and was free for all SCW students. According to Professor Penninah Schram, co-director of the conference, many students took the time to attend.

The gathering was jointly co-sponsored by SCW, the Wurzwiler School of Social Work, and the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA. It featured both keynote speakers and a storytelling performance. In keeping with the theme of storytelling and healing, the participants ranged from such luminaries as Penina Adelman, a social worker and folklorist from Boston, to Gerald Fierst, a playwright, teacher, storyteller, recording artist, and co-director of the celebration. Several SCW students served as ushers, showing guests to their seats, helping with ticket sales, and directing people to such inaccessible places as the men's room.

Professor Schram speaks proudly of the response to the conference. Approximately 85 people attended the workshops, and 120 were present for the performance. "Exciting, inspirational," Schram says. "A lot of people used a lot of those words." Schram shows a letter she received from Barbara Black, a clinical psychologist and Jungian analyst from New York. Black writes, "The Jew-



Professor Penninah Schram

ish Storytelling Celebration on Sunday was both healing and inspirational, a truly delicious experience."

Racheli Yunger, SCW junior, one of the ushers, and Vice President of the Speech Arts Forum, echoes Black's sentiments. "I didn't like every single one of the storytellers, but it was exciting," says Yunger. While she claims that she went because of her interest in speech, Yunger adds, "It's just something nice that anybody could have enjoyed if they had the time to go."

SCW has always sponsored the Jewish Storytelling Celebration, which was started in 1984 by Professor Schram. This is only the third time the program has run. Each time the theme has been different. Professor Schram claims that her work at the Jewish Storytelling Center, which she founded, has been keeping her too busy to run such conferences. However, she says she is delighted by the response to this one, and hopes that Stern's tradition of sponsoring such celebrations will continue.

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TO RUSSIA WITH HOPE

By SHIFRA GREENGART

Like most observant Jews in the hectic week before Passover, the six YC and SCW students who ran YUSSR's Passover camp were busy cleaning and kashering.

Unlike most observant Jews, however, SCW junior Dassi Billet, SCW senior Adeena Braun, SCW graduate Rochel Dinewitz, YC senior Uri Gutfreund, YC sophomore Scott Chudnoff and RIETS student Jonathan Kaplan transformed a completely non-kosher kitchen, and indeed an entire campsite in the mountains of Bishkek and Kurdistan, into a special Pesach experience for local children and adults.

YUSSR (Yeshiva and University Students for Spiritual Revival of Soviet Jews), an independent, student run organization, has been running summer, winter and Passover camps in various locations in the former Soviet Union for years.

The six YU students who led the Passover 1994 camp had full responsibility for the programming and presentation of a first-time Passover experience for the Kirgizian Jews who attended. They spent many hours preparing classes, skits and songs for the three distinct audiences in Bishkek.

As Billet put it, "The children were lively and fun, the adults were unabash-



edly thirsting to learn, and the teenagers, always the hardest to reach, had to be taught in especially exciting and dynamic ways." Although the leaders "are always" slightly apprehensive that their diligent planning will not be perfectly geared toward the level of the "campers," they were relieved to discover that they had prepared ideally.

Religious Jews are almost non-existent in the eastern part of the former Soviet Union. The extent of the adults' religious background is half-formed memories of

tales of pre-Communist *Shabbatot* and *sedarim*, and children, unless in a Jewish school, are even less versed in the aspects of their rich heritage. The six leaders focused on the positive, experiential aspects of the holiday to ensure that the campers' memories of Passover 1994 would remain strong. The *sedarim*, separate for children and adults, were lively, visual affairs. The leaders explained the special symbols, told stories, led songs and performed educational skits.

Braun contrasted the leaders' experi-

ence with past summer experiences with YUSSR. "In camp, we teach a lot of varied material in classes; this time we held very few formal classes. Instead, the campers learned through the experience of Pesach that they had. Since it was hands-on, they learn more than they do in a more formal setting." The result, added Braun, is that the campers can strongly "feel that they're Jews."

On *Chol HaMoed*, everyone took advantage of the temperate climate and beautiful scenery of the Bishkek countryside, near the border of Kirgistan and China. The counselors and campers' hikes through the mountains were a welcome break from the large doses of religious instruction, and were filled with songs and Jewish spirit.

The leaders found themselves understanding a lot of the Russian spoken in the camp. It was most gratifying for Braun to overhear, on two separate occasions, young men attest that they were deeply affected by their introduction to a religious experience. Billet also pointed out that YUSSR camps permit Jews from scattered regions to make friends with each other. "Outside of camp, they don't have the opportunity to make Jewish friends. Hopefully, they will keep in touch with each other, and with us."

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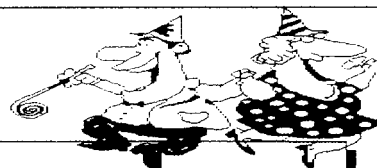
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ASK THE DEANS

By ELISHEVA WOHLGEMUTH

A town hall meeting was hosted by Deans Bacon, Orlian, Nierenberg and Dr. Kanarfogel to entertain all academic questions presented by the students on Wednesday, April 27 in Koch Auditorium at 8 p.m. The meeting was held because Stern College Students are often puzzled by numerous academic questions and the deans often too busy to sit with each student. Approximately 30 students attended the open forum to voice their academic complaints.

Pamela Schlanger, SCW senior, said of the meeting, "a great number of important issues were raised and the Deans were very open to students suggestions and patient with their questions. It is a shame that more of the student body did not participate."

Dafna Kalish, SCW junior, raised the issue of the computer class, whose lecture format makes it difficult for students

to grasp the material. Dean Bacon acknowledged that "there exists a problem with the current system" and explained that steps are being taken to conduct the classes in a different manner. One of the proposed formats for the class, said Bacon, was the use of an "interactive computer hookup so that one monitor could be displayed and students could participate in the class on screen."

Danielle Amory- Paige Macklin, SCW senior, raised the issue of successful placement of SCW graduates in graduate and professional schools. Bacon replied that most students have been placed in their desired programs, except for the allied health careers, where competition was very high.

Beth Posner, SCWSC treasurer, commented, "I think it was nice of the deans to take the time from their busy schedules to meet with the students. I was sorry that more students didn't take advantage of this opportunity."

TOURING THE TENEMENTS OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE

By RINAH COHEN

It is a rainy afternoon and you are standing outside a six-story walkup. You hear the bustle of the crowd around you but you just stare straight up at the door of the building, waiting for the landlord to nod and say it is all right for you and your family to enter. He finally gives a grunt and leads you up the front steps and into a dimly lit and extremely narrow hallway and then up the rickety steps to a tiny three-room apartment which is to be your family home.

Although this scene probably took place sometime in the early 1900s, it is being recreated through tours given by the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Located at 97 Orchard Street in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, the museum sends tours out daily to view one of the only remaining tenement buildings in the area. It has been relatively untouched since it was closed in 1935 and it really gives you a feel for what many of our ancestors may have experienced.

Built in 1863, this building has served as a residence for over 10,000 people

between 1863 and 1935. Families rarely stayed for more than a year or two, later moving on to a better residence. Each apartment passed through many different families of varying ethnic groups. The apartments themselves consist of three tiny rooms. One served as a main room, the second as a sleeping room, and the third often served as a sweatshop during the day. You can still see lists of dresses, shirts and coats made in the sweatshop on the walls and doorposts of this room. are still visible. Other authentic touches include the layers upon layers of wallpaper still stuck to the walls, the tiny room with one toilet which the entire floor shared, and true stories about families that actually lived there.

The tenement is a small but important piece of living history and an important landmark in Jewish history as well. But to be viewed in its current state, you must make your way down to the museum before July because as of then the building will be entering a year-long project to fully restore it to its original state. The museum offers tours for \$5 at 1 pm and 2 pm daily, the phone number is 431-0233.

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF "BEARING WITNESS"



selfish death was, that death meant that 30 other people would die, I took the wish back."

Markovitz said Heller's message fit in very well with the theme of the night's program: survival and the future. A candle lighting ceremony, where six students who are relatives of survivors each lit a candle, enforced the survival theme. Markovitz said, "It was in honor and not in memory of them."

Stern student Tamar Parness was impressed with the candle lighting ceremony because she said, "It was moving to hear about the generations who have come out of those who have survived."

In her speech, Heller, whose shtetl of 1500 Jews came out with only 45 survivors, also discussed those who deny the Holocaust. She said, "Anyone can say that the Shoah never happened and he can demand the debate of the subject. Standing in the witness box seemed to have inspired a new appeal of Holocaust denial. A key threat of Holocaust denial is the sharpness of documentary evidence for the Holocaust."

In answering questions about denial, Heller said, "We went to Auschwitz, we saw what happened there. I mean, how can you deny Majdanek?!"

Markovitz, who went on March of the Living with Heller, said that it is important not even to give Holocaust deniers a forum. She said, "They're trying to discredit the gas chambers and if you let them argue each point it's not even worth it to argue with them. The fact of the matter is that six million Jews were killed and that's it ... No one discredits World War I or Vietnam."

YC student Shmulie Pineles, who also chanted "Kel Maleh Rachamim" and also recited a Kinah in memory of the destruction of European Jewry, said, "I think that it is very important, a moral imperative, that every member of the Jewish youth become educated as much as possible about the Holocaust or else the entire event will be forgotten and this would be a major tragedy for the Jewish people as a whole." He said about the deniers, "Even though we should not stoop to the level of having to defend whether the Holocaust happened or not, we should arm ourselves with enough information in order to both prove its existence and educate the ignorance."

Stern student Yael Dank said about Heller, "Her speech inspired me to read her book and learn about a true personal account of a Holocaust survivor."

Belfer Hall, where the program was held, had exhibits displayed around the room depicting moments during the Nazi occupation.

At the end, Heller, who is here also a benefactor and YU board member, offered all interested students free copies of her memoirs. When asked what our responsibility is, Heller said, "Your responsibility is to listen to us and our experiences and to perpetuate and continue to teach it to your children."

By MICHELE BERMAN

On April 7, Zachor, Yeshiva University's Holocaust organization, sponsored a Yom Hashoah program.

Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, Holocaust survivor and author, spoke to about 200 YC and Stern students about her experiences before the war, during the war and after the war, as a Holocaust survivor.

She said, "... time is running out. We are the last generation that has given first testimony about the Shoah. When we are gone the world will have nothing more than the written record we have behind and some oral histories captured by video tapes."

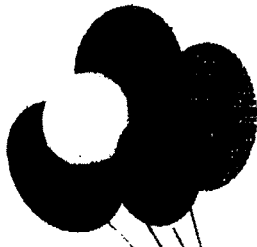
Heller gave the analogy of a courtroom to emphasize the importance of "bearing witness." She said, "We who saw the crime must give testimony that may help future generations to recognize it, to prevent it, to avoid it, or at least to improve the chance for escape ... Only the study of detailed testimony can help to provide the guidance that will be needed in the future as it was needed and lacking in the past."

Shoshana Markovitz, president of Zachor, said about Heller, "She feels very strongly about bearing witness and sharing her experience with everybody ... She just wants to tell her story and she wants us to hear it. Her view is heartfelt."

Heller lived in a shtetl on the Ukrainian border and was hidden by two Christians, Jan and Sidor. Jan was a Ukrainian shoemaker turned militia man, and yet he still risked his life to be a "Jewish uncle," one who hid Jews. Heller's new book, *Strange and Unexpected Love*, explains how these men saved her life.

Markovitz said Heller originally refused to speak because of family obligations, but she called up the next day and changed her mind. "She said I have to speak. I have a very important message to give and that's what got us excited," said Markovitz.

Heller said during the war that 18 members of her extended family had to hide in a tiny space. She said, "We were all gasping for air. I wished that they would come and get us and drive me out and get it over with but then seeing how



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TASTY TIDBITS

By ALIZA KATZ

According to a recent study, many students have often felt that there is simply nothing they care to eat in the cafeteria. In fact, a considerable number of Stern women have turned to nearby eating establishments in search of satisfaction. The proprietors of several local eateries were glad to provide some enlightening statistics.

According to Edward, the manager at the Vegetable Garden, it seems that the most popular dishes among the Stern clientele include eggplant parmesan, Caesar's salad, and of course, Vegetable Garden's famous dietetic muffins. Students were eating at the Vegetable Garden while Edward was interviewed. Edward mentioned that there are approximately 10-15 deliveries to Stern per night. He said that Stern girls tip well and that in general they are "good customers."

At the Great American Health Bar, which serves a similar cuisine, it was dis-

covered that many women often order steamed vegetables, tuna melts or fat-free muffins. They, too, have about 15 deliveries to Stern per night, in addition to approximately 15 deliveries during the day. But according to a source there, it seems that only some Stern women tip well.

At Mendy's, the staff asserted that turkey sandwiches, fries and potato knish are the most popular dishes among Stern women. Judy, the manager, admitted that although there are Stern girls who request deliveries to Brookdale Hall, Mendy's only delivers to the girls in the Lexington dorms. When asked about the tipping, she said that most Stern women tip generously "under the circumstances."

Shockingly, all three restaurant managers agreed that Thursday night was their most popular Stern night. As Judy said, "We call it 'date night'."

But it is clear that no matter what day of the week it is, Stern patronage in these establishments will always be welcomed.

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OPINIONS

SCHINDLER'S LIST

By SYLVIA HABER

A tree was planted in honor of Oscar Schindler in 1962, entitling him to be counted among the list of righteous gentiles. The distinction is merited by those who risked their lives in order to save Jews during World War II.

Today he has been exalted to the level of Saint for saving the lives of 1,100 Jews during the darkest period in Jewish history. Basically the question is, was he a Saint or a "womanizing drunkard"? Did he exploit Jews for his personal business advancement?

In Steven Spielberg's current film, Schindler's List, Schindler is portrayed as a clever businessman who comes to the realization that the true worth of life is far greater than accumulation of wealth at any cost. Is Spielberg playing with our emotions or trying to educate us about an important lesson in history? More importantly, what does one focus on when viewing the movie?

Is the essence of the film about heroism amidst great evil or is there something far deeper that goes beyond the cameras? There are those who have questioned Schindler's List and its credibility to stand out as testimony to the Holocaust. Most have acclaimed it to be a monumental piece of work that should not be missed. Anyone who has seen the movie can not deny that it had an effect on them in some way. The shortage of dry eyes throughout the movie, the absolute silence and lack of movement even after the credits were over, can attest to its having left an impression. One did not leave the movie saying, "it was good," rather, "it was an experience."

We are living in an age of technological advancement, where the once seemingly impossible has in most instances, become a reality. We are living in the age of virtual reality, where the need for immediate gratification is high priority on people's list, primarily in the areas of entertainment and education.

Fact: the generation that was eye witness to the atrocities that took place is

getting smaller and the need to compile documentation, tapes, videos is now! How will we educate the next generation that will be one more removed from Nazi Germany? Many have attempted to depict the Holocaust through writings, films, private diaries. All are faced with the same difficulty of portraying that period of darkened history in its true light. Spielberg entered this list as a piece of history, together with the medium known as cinema and united the two. This resulted in the creation of the educational masterpiece of the 90s.

Still the question remains, at what cost was this achieved? Is this accuracy or Hollywood? The lack of Kodachrome does give the movie authenticity of a documentary. It is not a documentary, there is no real footage and various scenes were employed with theatrical techniques, in order to invoke a reaction. The camera were inside the gas chambers. We are sitting on the edge of our seats, with our fingers clenched awaiting the death of women and children who as the pressure on the taps are released, are showered with water and not the expected Zyklon B. We breathe a sigh of relief and sink back into our seats. Yes, this miracle did happen on occasion but most people did not walk out of the showers they were carried out and put into the ovens. Schindler did not touch the front of his car and pick up the ashes that fell from the sky that came from the nearby death camp.

The 1,100 become a representative of six million who did not survive, perhaps causing one to lose sight of the whole picture. For those who have prior knowledge of the Holocaust, the presence of Hollywood can be overlooked. For those who have no prior knowledge, Schindler's List serves as a milestone in the attempt to portray the period known as the Holocaust. It is an event that should not be missed. If it does not inspire one to question further, then at least it has entered the lives of millions of people who would never have known what the Holocaust was.

UNION OF TAC

By ALIZA DWORKEN

When reflecting on this past year, it is difficult to believe that is has come to an end. We, the Torah Activities Council Board, has tried to ensure that T.A.C. has played a significant and essential role in Stern College, felt by everyone and touching every area of the school. New programs have been instituted with your help and enthusiasm. First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every one of you for pitching in and for exhibiting overwhelming support for our projects.

The number of women attending our weekly and monthly shiurim has skyrocketed. New Bikur Cholim visitation programs, and our Adopt-A-Bubbie parties at Stern have added innovations to our weekly Beth Israel and Adopt-A-Bubbie visits. Our schoolwide *Chevrat* program has more members than ever, bringing

students together in learning. Our *Rosh Chodesh* committee has enhanced each month with the new *chodesh* facts sheets, *tefilla*, *rosh chodesh* breakfast and decorations ushering in the coming chag. Our Tzedakah Committee has raised thousands of dollars for tzedakah. We have acquired a new Torah and a myriad of new additions to our Beit Midrash and tape library. Learning, *chesed*, Israel...I could go on and on. T.A.C. made a difference this year! I am proud of all that we have accomplished together.

If this were a State of the Union Address, I would say that the "union" is in great shape. I know that next year's board will perpetuate T.A.C.'s accomplishments. I wish the best of luck to them.

And, to you all, be involved, make time in your busy schedule for T.A.C. Believe me, it is well worth it!

SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE

By SARY LANGER

All students who are planning to take upcoming summer school courses at outside schools have to deal with restrictions placed on classes. The music and English departments both limited options to exclude any elementary music course as a substitute for the music requirement, and excluded English courses that run for less than six weeks.

Professor Hatvary, head of the English department explained the actions came about because "students were hurrying to take courses that demanded less than [Stern] expected." Dr. Levy, head of the music department qualified summer music classes as "junk," and deemed it a "valueless experience." Both Professor Hatvary and Dr. Levy expressed concern that standards of education were lessened as a result of summer courses that were not up to par to Stern classes.

Attending summer school is an opportunity for students to fulfill requirements and to brave classes that pose difficulties. Yoni Blumberg, a junior, who took Biology and Chemistry last summer said "I hate sciences and I just wanted to get it over with, I didn't do well but I didn't care because the grade wasn't recorded." Grades are not transferred from summer courses, only credit is given. Professor Hatvary is well aware that students choose courses that require little work

because the grade isn't relevant. Keren Deutsch, a sophomore, took a six week course at Queens last summer. "The course wasn't especially tough, a midterm and final were given but the teacher gave them out prior to the test. I would take a similar class again," she said.

Dr. Levy stated that in previous years he approved music classes only at Queens College because it had an excellent music department. Recently students have brought to his attention that the quality of classes has declined. "You cannot cram the knowledge that is offered in these short classes" said Dr. Levy, "only Stern offers excellent courses."

Summer physics and Chemistry classes are both offered at Yeshiva College uptown. Students have reservations about the classes because they are costly and a grade is transferred. Mrs. Wolf, in the registrar, said that "prices are competitive with other schools, Columbia and NYU included." Some students were given approval to take outside science courses, Jennifer Rosner, a sophomore, plans on taking chemistry at Staten Island College this summer.

Some students feel that there are too many requirements as well as electives to fulfill, they are pressured to go to summer school in order to graduate on time. Bracha Klein, a sophomore, commented "If I take a full courseload during the summer, I can graduate a semester early."

LAYALIZA KLEIN SELECTED AS VALEDICTORIAN

By ALIZA FREUD

For the first time in the history of Stern College one woman has received the honor of valedictorian of both general and Judaic studies.

Klein is a double major of history and Judaic studies. Over the course of her college career she has served as president of Bikur Cholim, the pre-law society, secretary of TAC and contributed writing to *Besamin* and *The Observer*. She participated in model U.N. and starred in

two Stern theatrical productions. This year, she serves as the Editor-In-Chief of *Kochavia*, the Stern yearbook.

The method in which valedictorian is chosen is based upon grade point average, extra curricular activities and overall school contribution.

Klein will pursue a J.D. from Yale Law School. Additionally, she received a Block Fellowship from Azreli School where she also plans to strive for a Masters degree over the next few semesters.

AWARDS

Continued from page 1

ers honored that evening, the events which made the year so exciting would not have taken place.

Reactions to the awards ceremony were mixed. One SCW senior, herself a recipient of one of the TAC awards, felt that "it was overdone. The event was nice, and I think it's needed, but awards are meaningless

when so many are given out." However, SCW senior Adina Dershowitz, who was honored by both TAC and SSSBSC, expressed a positive outlook. "I thought it was really nice that the student body got together to express appreciation for those who'd served the school throughout the year."

Sheldon Silver to speak at YU graduation.

LADY MACS HAVE WINNING SEASON: BUT COACHES GET CANNED

By NAOMI FREDMAN

University athletic teams are often symbols of school spirit and pride. This holds true for The Lady Macs. Yeshiva University women's basketball team.

During the '93-'94 basketball season, Yeshiva University recognized the Lady Macs' needs by awarding them with new uniforms, practice jerseys, high top sneakers, water bottles, and gym bags. The credit for this various paraphernalia is partially due the efforts of new YU athletics director Stephen Young, and Lady Macs coaches David Kupfeld and Mike Cohen.

Many athletes and fans are puzzled however, that while the Lady Macs have had their best season yet, winning 12 out of 16 games, the coaches of the team will not be returning next season.

Young explains that a change had to be made based on discussions with the team. "While Mike and Dave did a wonderful job with publicity...I don't feel enough is being taught [on the court]." Lady Macs captain Sharyn Berezin explained, "He [Cohen] went all over the place to make us known, as far as that he did an amazing job."

Cohen however, is proud of his "laissez faire" coaching style. "I just put them [the Lady Macs] in the right places according to who worked best together, but as a coach I'm not the one shooting, stealing, or rebounding the ball. I wanted the play-

ers to communicate to each other...they didn't just take orders from me, they decided how to implement the plays themselves."

Kupfeld and Cohen were in the second season of a four season coaching plan. Their long range goal was to "get to a point where the team could run itself," said Cohen. Next season the coaches had hoped to implement morning practices three times a week in the Midtown Campus mini-gym. According to Cohen, morning practices could be held midtown and therefore eliminate the one hour commute to Wang gymnasium in Queens. Morning practices, he explained, would also provide the athletes with a morning workout so that they would feel energized all day, and practices at this time would not conflict with any college course. Cohen's reaction to his dismissal was confusion. "I don't know why...No one I spoke to has an explanation for me."

About next season's coaching, Young comments that it is "up in the air." Young explained that there will be a new salary structure, and that the athletics administration will have more control because this past season "things got out of hand." About Kupfeld and Cohen's dismissals, Young claims, "It was a tough decision, taking into account the best interests of the program, athletes and coaches...It was nothing personal."

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

Continued from page 4

very good questions. Every one [of the candidates] brought her support systems. I think most people who were [at the debates] knew who they were voting for before they sat down. Although, I said that and one girl said, 'I honestly did not know who to vote for and it cleared things up in my mind.'" commented Gross.

Gross said she was satisfied with the way elections went and praised her opponents. She said, "I had very worthy adversaries. Among the three of us, I think any one of us could have done a good job and would have done a good job."

Asked if she thought next year's student council board will have their work cut out for them, Pearlman said, "Every year it's a big job. Aside from establishing new ideas and new reforms... the job of every student council is to enhance student life on campus. They have to continue a lot of the good things that have preceded them by my council and by the councils before me. Each up and coming year has an even harder burden to shoulder, but it's fun. They'll enjoy it. They'll work very hard. One thing I learned is that things can be established."

Posner said about the attendance at the debates, "I was sad that more people couldn't have come."

Gordon said she was very impressed by the candidates at the debate. She said, "I feel that the people in student council are very capable and excited about improving Stern and putting some more life into Stern." Gordon said that taking away apathy at Stern would be the biggest challenge to next year's student council board.

Gordon added, "The students have to be more involved and care more and take a bigger role because if no one speaks up change is not going to happen."

Berman said that she felt that the biggest thing that the new student council would have to accomplish would be to help those students who complain amongst themselves informally. "It would be important for them to relate those things to the board," she explained. Berman said she wanted to make "connections" between the students and the administration. "There are things that can be changed."

Berman also felt that more people should have attended the debates because she said, "Mostly [the elections are] a popularity contest but the debates were a really good idea. The people who went to the debate could find out what the candidates felt about issues. Posters only tell the cute, creative side of the candidates and the debates said what they stood for."

Dafna Kalish said the elections were fair, but she said, "I do think that the public could have been more informed about their candidates by coming to the debate. The only way to know the candidate is to go to the debate." She said the questions were good because "they really asked about every aspect of the school without concentrating on one specific club."

Hamburger said, "The lack of support by the student body and the general apathetic feeling of the student body is very disappointing to me. One would think that the students would be interested in what their liaisons and future leaders had to say for themselves and the future of their school."

THE NEW GAME IN TOWN

By NAOMI FREDMAN

For the first time in Stern College athletics, an intramural league has been established by the Stern College Athletics Committee.

The Intramural basketball includes eight teams each consisting of four or five women. Each team has a Lady Mac player as a captain to guide the players of her team under her expertise.

Interested students signed up for the teams, captains were chosen, and a draft for various players was held. Currently the eight teams are participating in seven games each. A game consists of two eight minute periods. It is a "three-on-three" competition as opposed to the standard "five-on-five", due to the small size of the Stern College gymnasium.

The intramural team finishing with the most victories will receive an award at the athletic awards banquet which was held on May 10.

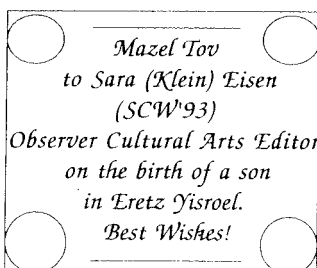
The search for a marrow donor continues at SCW...

Continued from page 1

Emma Mallin, SCW junior. "Maybe we can also help find a match for the nine thousand other patients for a donor." It will take about four weeks to get results for the tests conducted on May 5.

The Tzedakah committee will have a drive to help raise money for the blood tests, which cost \$52.00 each, until the end of May.

Friends of Jay Feinberg is looking for volunteers. The telephone number is (800) 9-MARROW.



Kalamazoo Trip...

Stern sends scientists

Continued from page 1

endothelial cells, and Stacey Tuckman for the immunity to dustmites in patients with chronic rhinitis and asthma, were then qualified to give their presentations.

The students flew to Kalamazoo on school funding, Wednesday morning, April 13, before the actual conference began and returned Thursday night, April 14. The conference held the 14-16 but since they are sabbath observing students, they were unable to remain for the entire time. The funds paid for air fare, hotel and transportation.

On Wednesday, the women toured Kalamazoo but said there wasn't much there to see. Kosher food was difficult to locate. Conference organizers at the host school, Western Michigan University, were unaware of the kosher dietary laws.

On Thursday presentations were given. At each scheduled interval over 30 students in different fields explained

their research. Students floated from one exhibit to another.

All were concerned with biomedical research in Yeshiva University institutions. Tuckman and Cheslow worked at Einstein Medical College as Roth Scholars, and worked at Stern College under Dr. Harvey Babich, biology department and Dr. Lea Blau, chemistry department.

Dean Bacon and Blau are planning on attending another research conference during the summer geared at promoting undergraduate research in small colleges.

Blau feels the importance of the conference in that, "for any professional or graduate school research becomes increasingly important. Especially for Stern students who have a smaller number of science requirements so that they are exposed to a variety of topics and techniques."

SPOTLIGHT

BACKSTAGE AT THE DEANS' OFFICE

By RENA MASLANSKY

It is a run-of-the-mill day in the Deans' Office; phones are ringing off their hooks, faculty members are storming through doorways in a flutter of activity, and students are loitering about in trance-like states. The office seems to be a tornado of chaos, commotion and congestion.

"Oh, this isn't that bad," said Elaine Taub, one of the secretaries who works in this veritable Grand Central Station. "This is a manageable day."

For the four secretaries who work there, Livia Turkel, Josephine Isaac, Elaine Taub, and Leah Strauss-Modek, the office of the deans is "home" for nine hours every day, four days every week and a little less on Fridays. The days these four women spend here are days of sorrow and gladness, comfort and distress, tragedy and triumph. This is their story.

Tucked away in an alcove at the back of the office is the workplace of Turkel, Office Manager and faculty liaison.

Turkel resides in Forest Hills, Queens with her husband and her cat. Both of her two children received YU educations: her daughter attended Stern and her son attended MTA, YC, RIETS and Ferkaut.

As Turkel raced like a marathon runner from the Deans' office, to the registrar's office, to the copy room and back again, she told her tale in snips and snatches.

Twenty-eight years ago, Turkel came to Stern to fill a clerking position. The year was 1966. Dr. Dan Vogel was the Dean and [Dean] Karen Bacon was a senior.

After Dean Vogel resigned, Rabbi David Mersky filled the position. Mersky was followed by the current dean, Dean Bacon. Approximately seven years later, Assistant Dean Ethel Orlan joined the academic administration team.

Throughout these turnovers in leadership, Turkel remained a "staple" in the office. "Each Dean that I worked with has made working here very worthwhile," says Turkel. "They were very dedicated people and easy to work with. Each contributed in manifold ways to the growth of the school and I feel myself very privileged to have observed them."

Turkel spent her first years in Stern in an office that was occupied both by the Deans and the registrar. Since then, both departments have expanded and spilled over into two adjoining rooms.

Although the Deans now work within their own private offices, Turkel asserted that their "open door" policy remains intact. "The administrators were always easily available for the needs of the women, even to provide guidance - this has made Stern College a unique institution," she commented.



Pictured here are Elaine Taub, Josephine Isaacs, and Leah Strauss-Modek

Turkel puts in a full day of work, arriving most days at 7:00 am and often barely making a 6:00 pm bus home. "And when I get home," says Turkel, "I'm still thinking about what I have to do."

Despite the long hours, it seems that Turkel would not relinquish her position for the world. "One of the reasons I've stayed is because an institution like this breeds a fine caliber of students," comments Turkel. "It used to be that the most popular profession was teaching...then a bold move was made to the health professions: Doctors, lawyers and engineers. I wouldn't be surprised to see a Stern woman in outer space one day!" Turkel concedes, "The quality of the students has been this way consistently over the years and has made it rewarding."

Additionally, says Turkel, "every Dean I worked with has made [the job] a labor of love."

Directly across from the offices of both Dean Bacon and Dean Ethel Orlan is Ms. Josephine Isaac's desk.

Isaac was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens together with five brothers and three sisters. She now resides on Roosevelt Island, NY.

In August of 1988 Isaac began temporary work in the accounting department of Yeshiva College. From there she went to Wurzwiler School of Social Work where she worked for two weeks, after which she transferred to P.R. Development where she remained for two years.

By August of 1990, Isaac had worked her way up to the Deans' office of Stern College. "I never thought I'd end up in a CEO's office," confesses Isaac, "I only had dreams."

As Secretary Three of the Deans' office - the highest level secretary below Executive Secretary (Turkel) - Isaac's responsibilities are numerous.

For one, she must constantly upgrade her repertoire of computer programs. Sometimes, a tutor is hired by the school to teach Isaac a new program. "I know five different programs," reports Isaac, "Condor, Wordstar, Wordperfect 5 and 5.1 and desktop publishing... and I'm getting ready to learn Wordperfect 6."

Once Isaac has completed learning a program, her next responsibility is to teach that program to the other secretaries in the office.

Isaac feels that an important aspect of her responsibility is to the students. "Some of the women come in here with their problems and ask me for my opinion," Isaac disclosed, "A lot come in here for guidance, asking me if they should take a certain teacher." Isaac even taught two students "double dutch" jump rope in the gym one day during her lunch break.

Isaac hopes to remain in the Deans' office until she retires. This is for one simple reason, "The people are wonderful to work with," says Isaac, "I love working for the Dean and the Assistant Dean. The Dean always says to me, 'Josephine, do not be scared of success'...that's what's kept me going."

Seated at a desk to the right of the entrance of the office is Mrs. Elaine Taub, secretary in charge of admissions.

Taub resides in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn with her husband, two grown children and her 17 year-old cat named Alex.

Taub joined the Stern College family in 1988, back when student enrollment was only between 500 and 600 and the meal plan was not mandatory. Prior to that time she had been employed as a secretary at a Ford Motor Company office.

Her niche however, seems to be at Stern College. "I'm happy here," confesses Taub, "I really lucked out...I like student contact."

For the most part, says Taub, the students she comes in contact with are, "very polite and interested in learning, [they are] very serious... but they're also fun-loving."

Students are not the only people with whom Taub comes into contact on the job. Each day she encounters a motley assortment of characters who may or may not have any affiliation with Stern College. On one occasion Taub received a call from, "a man who asked if we had any [women] for his son. I passed that along to Mrs. [Zelda] Braun," recounts Taub.

Of course, Taub's primary obligation is

to the Deans, both of whom she feels, "do a wonderful job...[they] try to update things and keep up with the times."

Situated in front of Turkel's desk is a desk that is occupied in the mornings and vacant in the afternoons. The occupant of that desk is Mrs. Leah Strauss-Modek.

Strauss-Modek, a resident of Israel for most of her life, has lived in the United States for the past eight years.

For 15 years, Strauss-Modek worked with the Director and the Deputy Director at Haifa Medical Center. Upon moving to the states, Strauss-Modek obtained a position for two years as a fundraiser for the Friends of Haifa Medical Center at Bnei Zion.

Six years ago, Strauss-Modek began her tenure at 245 Lexington Avenue with work at the Azrieli Graduate School for Jewish Studies.

In a little office on the 8th floor is where Strauss-Modek performs her myriad duties. "I do all the Hebrew typing for the school," imparts Strauss-Modek, "it's a lot, especially during exams."

She is also currently helping to organize Azrieli's summer Block program for Master's degrees.

In the six years that Strauss-Modek has been working at Azrieli, she has seen the school almost double in size from approximately 80 students in 1988 to 150 students today. "And we're growing," adds Strauss-Modek, "this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Two years ago Strauss-Modek was asked to spend her mornings working in the Deans' office on the first floor. At noon every day, she transfers herself, her belongings and a cup of coffee from the desk in front of Turkel's to the Azrieli office on the 8th floor. She takes no break for lunch.

"Downstairs I have very little student contact," says Modek, "I can't get involved...I have to refer students elsewhere, I can't even tell them when the Deans will be in."

Upstairs however, says Strauss-Modek, "I have contact with the graduate students, even with Stern students who join the program."

Still she professes, "I have the highest regard for the Deans...I know they appreciate me." But in Strauss-Modek's book, "Rabbi Handel [Dean of Azrieli] is number one."

The common denominator these four diverse women share is that they each take pride in their work and do their jobs well. We would like to make them aware that the women of Stern College take pride in them and hope they will remain an integral part of the school for many years to come.

LETTERS

ELECTIONS

MAY THE FUNNIEST WOMAN WIN

To the Editor:

I would like to address the subject of the 1994 Stern College Presidential Debate. I was very disappointed by the turnout. I am extremely happy and honored that the Stern women chose me to be their next vice president, but I keep thinking that I won because the students felt that I had the funniest posters.

Important issues were discussed at the debate and kudos to Beth Green and Chani Pearlman for a job well done. I cannot help but wonder why the student body voted for Laura and me.

It is estimated that 5 percent of the student body was present at the debate. The audience of the debate basically consisted of student leaders who were obligated to come and a few friends of the candidates who already knew who they were voting for.

Well, now the students have chosen their leaders for the 1994-95 year. We will be here to help you, but please don't let this kind of apathy continue.

The debate was an open forum. Women were free to ask any questions they wished to the presidential and vice-presidential candidates. Had students been present, they would have had ample opportunity to hear and discuss the issues facing our school.

Please help stop the indifference and let the involvement begin.

Sarah Altman SCW '95
SCWSC Vice-President Elect

UPTOWN DEBATE

To the Editor:

On April 27, 1994 I had the opportunity to attend the Yeshiva College Student Council electoral debates. As the candidates entered the room I asked them some questions. Most of the men were taking the elections very seriously and felt that they could make a difference.

As I sat in the Morg Lounge and watched the debate my thoughts returned back to the SCWSC Presidential debate a few weeks before. At that debate the candidates were also serious and each one explained why they wanted to make a difference at Stern College.

When I looked around Koch that evening I was very disappointed by the lack of students who attended. At the YCSC debates there were more students, but the main difference was that most of the men in Morg that night were candidates, as opposed to at Stern where there were more students and fewer candidates.

Yes, the students of SCW are apathetic, and for all of you who complain about school policies, if you don't want to change them, you have no right to gripe. We can no longer let ourselves believe that YU starts uptown, because if it's possible, they are more disinterested in their students government than we are.

Susan Goldstein
SCW '95
President, College Democrats

Midrash cont.

Continued from page 3

than anyone in this generation could claim to be. Hunting for a "secret confession" rather than attempting to apply their lessons in the way that they were intended is absurd. I feel that it is also absurd to mock an apparent coincidence, or a seeming attempt to stretch the truth in a *midrash*. These two problems may detract from the quality of an author's creative literary endeavor, but must serve a purpose if written in the *midrash*.

I believe that the view I am expressing is that of mainstream Orthodoxy, and I understand that other branches of Judaism would disagree with it. In fact, I found out that Professor Schwartz identifies with Reform Judaism and shares its views of Torah. It is always enlightening to be exposed to views other than your own, but it can be confusing when you mistakenly assume someone is coming from your perspective. Stern, as part of

Yeshiva University, is an Orthodox college and I naturally assumed that they would inform us of the fact if a speaker invited by them to discuss a topic like *midrash* was coming from a standpoint other than Orthodox.

The forum may have been officially secular, but the topic was a religious one. When I listen to a speaker on a religious topic, I prefer to be made aware of where he is coming from so that I can incorporate his views with my own as I choose to. Listening to Professor Schwartz, I was unsure of how to incorporate his opinions with my own when the two were so contradictory. The knowledge that he was from another branch of Judaism helped me to evaluate his views as different than mine, instead of feeling frustrated because I couldn't reconcile his attitude with my own.

Khaya Novick
SCW '94

THANKSGIVING TIME

To the Editor:

This past issue of *The Observer* contained an article about the extremely successful Stern College pre-Purim chagiga. Enjoyed immensely by the hundreds of students present, the chagigot are always highlights of the school year.

The article, however, left out the names of three important people, without whom the chagiga would not have been as incredible as it was -the coordinators-Lisa Blitz, Batya Markowitz and Rena Maslansky.

On behalf of the student body, I would like to thank them for all their hard work, from the food to the shpiel.

Thanks!

Aliza Dworken SCW '94
President, Torah Activities Council

SYKE OUT!

To the Editor:

As a sophomore here at SCW, and a second time student of Dr. Sykes, I would like to express my outrage at the fact that Dr. Sykes is being "forced to leave."

Dr. Sykes is warm, friendly, and above all an excellent teacher. When I say excellent, I refer to his tremendous ability to relate whatever he is teaching, to his class, on a personal level. He makes the words of the Navi come to life.

I personally have had a difficult time finding a Bible teacher here at Stern that can combine the intellectual excitement of Torah, and still convey to students the emotional depth of the words of the Tanach.

I was so happy that I was able to take Dr. Sykes in a Bible capacity, in the form of a Navi course. The first time I had him, it was for Midrash, a "Jud" course.

He is that combination of intellect with soul and fervor. He is inspiring to listen to and learn from.

I am not aware of all the politics which may or may not have led to his being "forced to leave." I am aware however, that it is the student body that is the true victim here. A man of his fine character, superior intelligence, humility, and totally unwavering *yirat shamayim* should not be taken from us. We need more teachers like him to serve as role models.

This is a great loss which SCW can hardly afford.

Emily Amie Witty
Class of 1996

MARCIA, LUCY AND ROMPER ROOM LADY

By YONI MALINA

As I entered the Museum of Television and Radio, I was a bit overwhelmed. I felt like the storybook hero Charlie, who only wishes for a couple of candies, and is instead granted an entire chocolate factory. This museum does not hang its "art" on the walls. Instead, its libraries store thousands upon thousands of T.V. shows, radio shows and movies.

I stood alone at the ticket counter with a mixture of awe and excitement, until I spotted two women heatedly debating some issues that that day's "Oprah" had posed. This clued me into their wide television knowledge so I asked them what they'd recommend.

"Well, honey, you certainly are asking the right people," they answered enthusiastically. "We have a full time membership and come here every afternoon." After I told them my name, they informed me that the museum had six floors equipped with viewing rooms and libraries. Because I hadn't really watched T.V. since I was a kid, I decided to spend most of my day revisiting my childhood by enjoying old programs.

The women told me that a special screening of "The Brady Bunch" would be taking place down the hall, so I decided to go. The show began and I quickly found myself immersed in the plot, laughing at Alice like a giddy six year old.

"Oh, NO," I thought, "Marcia's getting braces." Suddenly, the power of technology struck me. It's truly unbelievable that humankind can capture a time period and its social norms in one piece of television art!

"The Brady Bunch's" screams of the 1970's set off alarms in my politically correct-trained head. I thought, "Woe," for the feminists when I saw Lucy doing dishes. I had to keep reminding myself that Mike died from an overdose. The uniformity of a middle-class cast is a sharp contrast from today's sitcoms such as "Married with Children" and "The Fresh Prince of Bell Air."

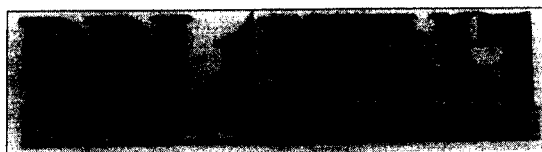
I continued watching "He-Man," "I Love Lucy," "The Magic Garden" and "Magnum PI." I remembered back to when I truly worried whether Batman and Robin would escape catastrophe and recalled how upset I used to get when the woman on "Romper Room" said "hello" to Rosemary, Luke and Mary but never to Yoni. (Although I considered myself a faithful watcher.) I remembered trying to prove to my sister that "The Love Boat" was unarguably a better-quality show than "The People's Court."

Knowing that I can see such shows at any time gives me a comfortable, secure feeling that parts of my childhood are still accessible.

The Museum of Television and Radio is located at 25 West 52nd Street and is \$4 if you bring your student I.D. Best to go on weekdays when it's least crowded.



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