

The Observer

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SCW Faculty Outraged Over Chanukah Gifts

By Michele Berman

In the midst of protests over low wage levels, the recent distribution of T-shirts to YU faculty has stirred up outrage among many SCW faculty members for what one professor called a "profoundly insulting" Chanukah gift.

"Aside from arousing indignation because it is a souvenir in lieu of a reasonable salary, the shirt itself is profoundly insulting to both faculty and staff," wrote English Department Professor Judith S. Neaman in a letter to YU Department of Personnel.

The Chanukah gifts were distributed by the YU Department of Personnel last week and were preceded with a notice in last month's faculty and staff member's pay envelopes urging faculty and staff "to look for a gift soon." The gift consisted of a T-shirt with the logo "Yeshiva University faculty and staff 1994-95."

"Apparently these shirts were intended either as symbols of the university's respect and gratitude for services performed and/or as equivalents of or substitutes for reasonable wages and decent working conditions," wrote Neaman. "In either case, this gift expresses both contempt and a serious lack of social awareness."

Though Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting services/administration and personnel, could not be reached for comment, he wrote a December 26 letter to Dean Karen Bacon and various other YU administrators, saying, "Unfortunately the best intentions are at times misunderstood." He called the gift an "inexpensive souvenir" and "memento."

Rosengarten said in the letter that though many of the faculty and staff would not "necessarily make use of the gift," they could pass it on to their children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors.

He wrote, "Regretfully, there are those who have apparently misunderstood our good intentions and have criticized the appropriateness of the memento and its design. We are sorry, for we did not mean to offend anyone. We can only apologize to those who feel we made a mistake and reassure them that we are sensitive to and respect the very special status of the Roshei Yeshiva and faculty."

In regard to the gifts, Neaman stated that faculty and staff do not seek "substitutes for a living wage" but rather fair salary levels and suitable working conditions. She stated that the administration has denied them such things "usually on the grounds of institutional poverty."

The recent outrage over the Chanukah gifts has occurred about two months after an October 15 faculty petition was sent to YU Vice President Dr. William Schwartz. The petition stated, "In the light of the shamefully inadequate wage levels at Yeshiva University and the pledges made ... to the faculty ... we are outraged by the decision to limit the 1994-95 salary increases to 3%. Historically, the university has treated the faculty with contempt and has denied its commitment to education and scholarship, failing to distinguish between an academic and a corporate workplace. The administration is gravely mistaken in the belief that a disaffected, demoralized faculty will attract an expanded student body. Exploitation of a faculty dedicated to the idea of the university and to its students represents a betrayal of academic as well as Jewish tradition and cannot serve as the foundation for the unique education the university promises."

In her letter, Neaman pointed to YU donations and endowments made in the last two years that could have been put to bettering faculty salaries and conditions. She said of the T-shirts, "If, in the giving of gifts, it is the thought that counts, the university needs to rethink its intentions and actions, lest it lose the respect of even those for whom it has displayed such scorn."

English Department Professor Laurel Hatvary echoed Neaman's statements. "[The gift is] an example of the utter contempt the administration has for the faculty." She called the gift giving "not very managerial" and said, "How could [the administration] not know it was offensive?! ... They might as well give nothing." Hatvary said the T-shirts "leave a bad taste in one's mouth."

Statistics Professor Dr. Miriam S. Grossof called the T-shirt

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A Shabbatless Campus

By Jessica Weigus

With only two club-sponsored shabbatons planned in 12 weeks, shabbaton participation at SCW has reached an all-time low this year, causing concerned students to act.

"I think it is ironic that secular colleges have better Shabbat atmospheres than Yeshiva University provides," Emily Shapiro, SCW '97, stated.

Dafna Kalish, SCW '95, said that from 1991 to the present the change in the number of shabbatons has been remarkable. In 1991, there was a shabbaton almost every Shabbat, she said. Now,

as the Fall semester nears an end, there have only been two club-sponsored shabbatons, namely, the Freshman Orientation Shabbaton, held September 30-October 1, and the Stern College Dramatics Society Shabbaton, held December 16-17.

"Not only is [a shabbaton] a viable option," Kalish remarked, "it's a good one, as well!"

Hailed from Cincinnati, Kalish has stayed on campus almost every Shabbat since her freshman year. She said that the friendships she has made over shabbatons can't be replaced. "It's

a time to be in Stern and not go to classes," she said in bewilderment. "And everyone flocks to the suburbs!"

Kalish went to TAC to try and rectify the problem. Since, TAC has begun a public "Shabbat on campus" program. One flyer emphasized that "If 25 people sign up by Wednesday of each and every week, amazing things can happen."

Many students who do not live in the Metropolitan area find the lack of club-sponsored shabbatons very inconvenient. One SCW student, a Canadian citizen, said, "If there were organized shabbatons it would make it a lot easier for out-of-towners, for whom it is frustrating to find a place each Shabbat."

Meechal Rotblatt, SCW '97, remarked, "If more students would stay, I would stay, too."

Schram to Take Sabbatical in Spring '95

By Chana Schiffmiller

After 26 years teaching Speech and Drama at SCW, Professor Peninnah Schram will be taking a leave on sabbatical this coming Spring semester to research a new book she is writing.

The book, which will be a collection of Jewish stories using the genre of circle or frame stories, "are stories within other stories," explained Schram, "that are influenced by Arabic structure, or chassidic stories, like those of the Ba'al Shem Tov."

Schram will be spending the month of March in Israel, doing research at the Israel Folklite Archives at the University of Haifa. In addition, Professor Dov Noy, who is the Dean of Jewish Folklore at Hebrew University, has invited Schram to visit his class as a guest lecturer.

During the spring semester,

Speech 1010 classes will be taught by Professor McGovern and adjunct professors such as Professor Lubin, who now teaches Theater of Law.

In an effort to calm student fears, Schram said, "Students should not worry because SPEECH 1010 will still be taught in my absence, in addition to speech and drama electives."

Schram said she plans on stopping by SCW every so often to "visit, check her mail, and just say hello." In addition, she said she will probably be coming to the SCW library to conduct research for her book.

Schram said she will make herself available for consultation for anyone who needs advice while she is on sabbatical. Schram is sure that she will be returning to SCW for the Fall semester.

School on a Friday?!

By Rina Weinstein

Despite SCW policy that almost all classes are only held Monday through Thursday, SCW will hold classes on a Friday this semester due to Department of Education regulations.

On Friday, January 6, 1995, classes in N, P and Q hours will be in session. Regularly, all classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday with the exception of Clinical Observation, a required class for the Speech Pathology and Audiology majors. However, the Friday day of classes are mandatory due to New York State Department of Education regulations.

According to Dean Karen Bacon, the Friday session has a two-fold function. Firstly, she said, "the New York State Department of Education mandates that the academic semester be at least 15 weeks long." This regulation includes Friday sessions. Although reading and final exam weeks are used to fulfill this requirement, 13 weeks are left unaccountable.

Bacon further added that "since we missed half of the Thursday [schedule] on Tuesday, December 13 [due to the fast of the Tenth of Tevet], we needed to make up the missing Thursday at termoon at some time."

Last year's Student Senate voted that Fridays would be the optimal time to solve this problem while simultaneously satisfying the Department of Education's mandate.



Head of SCW Speech and Drama Department Professor
Peninnah Schram

courtesy of Albert J. Wynn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forced to Fast

Dear Editor,

This letter is regarding the recent closing of the Stern cafeteria on Asarah B'tevent. I feel it is definitely an issue worth mentioning. The cafeteria was closed all day until the conclusion of the fast at approximately 5:15 PM.

There were no advanced warning signs that the cafeteria would be closed for the fast. However, it should have remained open for several reasons. Many students intended to purchase their food for after the fast during the course of the day but could not. Instead, masses of hungry students bombarded two cashiers at the conclusion of the fast.

Also, some students are on medication, are pregnant, or have other medical conditions that forbid them from fasting. These students need to eat during the day, by doctors' orders, and were deprived of nourishment. They should have been able to purchase food during that day in the cafeteria.

I'm not saying that the cafeteria should have been stocked with tons of food, but at least some sandwiches and drinks. In that way, there only needs to be one cashier on the premises.

There are six fast days on the Hebrew calendar but only two for which fasting for women is absolutely mandatory. The assumption that no one would need the cafeteria, and the lack of advance signs is inexcusable.

Thank You,
Melissa Sherman

Kudos to the Librarians

Many different people are needed to ensure a successful college career. Everybody recognizes the necessity of the deans, the registrars, security officers, cafeteria staff and maintenance crew.

However, there still remains a vital component of Stern, yet to be discussed. I am referring to the marvelous, unbelievably helpful and very patient library staff. Very often, one comes in desperately seeking some book or pamphlet left on reserve by a professor. I know from my own experiences that many times I have not filled out the proper pink/blue forms. However, the material needed was always given to me. During the semester that I took music, I didn't know that there was an audio-visual room, much less how to use it. The librarians were more than willing to help me find the proper symphonies (which were, again, on reserve).

What gave me the impetus to write this was that one day, one of the librarians met me at my classroom to ensure that I was aware that a book that I had requested was written in German. She came to ascertain that I was fluent in German. As it turns out, I am not. She reassured me that every effort would be made to find my book in a language I would understand. She went out of her way to look up my schedule, go to class and find me. It would have been much easier for her to have just ordered my book for me.

Do not think that it is this isolated incident which spurred the writing of this letter. Rather, it is that each and every time that I have had occasion to use the library I have been helped with a smile and a sense of humor.

Especially, now with papers and finals approaching, we must not overlook the tremendous assistance that the library staff provides. It is not only the students who keep late hours and work hard during these wonderful college years.

Emily Amy Witty
SCW '95

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Respect is a value we are taught from the day we are born, if not before. At Sinai we were given Ten Commandments among them "Honor thy mother and father" and "Love thy neighbor as thyself." As a matter of fact as Jews our entire Code of Ethics is linked with respect. Here at SCW we seem to be missing that point in our daily lives.

The disrespect that one woman shows to her colleagues and professors is not only embarrassing to fellow students but is a *chillul Hashem* as well.

Though we lack physical space, one must keep in mind that the limited space we do have should be shared respectfully. Putting your bag or notebook on a library cu-

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Editorials

The Doctor Is Out

What is a student supposed to do if she gets sick on the weekend? This is a very crucial question as of late on the SCW campus. With flu season in full swing and bronchitis, as well as other respiratory infections, running rampant throughout the University, inevitably an out of town student will come down with a weekend ailment. The only option out of town students have, at this point, is to call our EMT support system and wait until Monday when the Dr. Eli Sar arrives. His hours are Mondays 11am-12:30pm, Tuesdays 10:30am-12:00pm, and Thursdays 9:30am-11:00am. That is a total of only four and a half hours a week. Even the *YU Student Services Source Book* states under Medical Services: "Students have available limited infirmary and first aid..." with "limited" being the fundamental word here.

Unfortunately, this is not much of a comfort to students whose family doctors are hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away. We are full-time students at a residential University and we should have medical care from a doctor on a full time basis, not just three times a week. One doctor that we must share with the uptown campus is not significant care. We pay enough tuition to warrant a doctor with hours on a daily basis.

In addition, a student who is so congested she can barely breathe, let alone move, is cheated when she is forced to pay a fortune to seek medical attention from the emergency room when she should be able to walk into her University medical center at any time and receive the proper care for which she has already paid.

Food for Thought

The notorious space problem at SCW extends beyond just classroom space and dorming facilities. There's one area in which rearrangement does not seem all that difficult, but yet seems out of reach -- food.

Milner's Mart in the Orange Lounge in Brookdale Hall is approximately 6' x 12' feet. That leaves just enough room for one cashier and crowded shelves of food. This means students cannot walk around the products to decide what they want to purchase from the limited list of items. Thus, the lines are long and slow because they

need to ask the cashier what is in stock. In addition, cashiers complain of the claustrophobic conditions and sweltering temperatures of their working place.

No one can argue that a larger Milner's is desperately needed. But where? Room 20A is the only three-person room without a resident advisor. If we turn this room into the *Observer* room, the current *Observer* room can then become the caf store. If the walls are knocked down it can be even more spacious.

We should remember to give the same amount of respect that we expect to receive from our fellow students. Every student is of the same importance; one person does not have the right to act as if they deserve more than another.

It is true that Stern students are always in a hurry, however, the one second that it takes too be respectful will get you further faster in the long run.

Financial Aid Workshop
Wednesday, January 11, 1995
Leahman University - Lincoln Center Campus
12th Floor Lounge
1234 West 10th Street
New York, NY 10011
Learn how to maximize your financial aid and understand the application process.

Glamour Magazine's 1996 Top Ten College Women Competition

Win a \$5,000 scholarship by submitting an essay to meet with top professionals, traveling throughout the world, and more!

Deadline: Jan. 31, 1995
Eligibility: Any woman who's a full-time student at an accredited college or university for the 1994-1995 academic year.

Entry must include: completed application; Office of Placement and Career Services; official college transcript; list of your activities; 500-700 word essay describing your most meaningful achievements; how they relate to your field of study and your future goals; a photo; a letter of recommendation.

For more info call 1-800-244-GIAM.

Roth Institute Scholars Honors Program in Biomedical Research at Albert Einstein

The Roth Institute for Biomedical Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine is seeking applications for its Honors Program in Biomedical Research. The program is designed for high-achieving students who are interested in pursuing research in the field of biomedical science. Applications are due by January 15, 1995.

The American Jewish Committee and Hillel Foundations 2nd Undergraduate Essay Contest

Win a \$5,000 scholarship by submitting an essay on the topic "The Jewish People in the Diaspora." The essay should be no more than 1,000 words and should be submitted by January 15, 1995.

For more information, contact the American Jewish Committee, 1735 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 398-1000.

Deadline: Jan. 15, 1995

Send to: The American Jewish Committee, 1735 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 398-1000.

Editor's Corner

A Sick Piece of Mail

In the heaps of mail that *The Observer* gets, there frequently comes a familiar pink envelope with the printing of a grassroots organization that has very little money. I open it up just like the newspaper editors of about 50 other universities such as Brandeis University, Queens College, University of Maryland and Penn State did before me. However I DO NOT under any circumstances plan to do what they did. I refuse to give such people the forum they desperately seek. However, I feel as editor, it is my obligation to inform the readership of this newspaper that it exists, it's out there and Stern College for Women is not isolated from it. It being HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM.

Many of us have learned about the six million since we've been old enough to grasp the meaning of evil. Many of us have gone to the camps to see for our very own eyes the pure wicked Nazi treachery sown in the ground of Poland, Germany and other East European countries where Jews were murdered by the hands of the Nazis. However, very few of us, especially at this institution, have come directly across the sick-minded Holocaust Revisionists who claim that the Holocaust never existed.

Because I have too much dignity for the survivors, my fellow Jews and this piece of paper, I will not divulge any names of those Holocaust Revisionists feeding on the controversy their organizations arouse. It is a given that they are wrong, but my goal is to tell you that they exist.

Even Stern, a Yeshiva University col-

lege, is not secluded enough to block out the treachery of those psychotic individuals who wish to perpetuate such sick myths about the Holocaust, those individuals whom we might as well call Nazis themselves.

With mixed feelings I quote the following Holocaust Revisionist article purely out of an obligation to inform the students and the community that Holocaust Revisionism exists. It is the unbelievable shock, after reading this garbage, that effected this necessary decision to quote the following.

"When I decided last September to take a well-deserved vacation, I thought, what better destination than Europe. After all, as a Revisionist I'd always felt it my duty to see the concentration camps in person. My girl-friend, though, said that she'd like to go to Europe to visit Euro-Disney, the new Disneyland theme park in France. So I thought for a while about where to go: Auschwitz or Euro-Disney. And as I looked around, and saw the miserable state of the world and this country, the political and social malaise and depression, I realized that if I did take a vacation, I wanted to go to a place as far away from reality as possible: a fantasy land of wondrous fairy tales. So, of course, I chose Auschwitz."

I only hope that I have the forgiveness of those who survived the camps and those who did not for reprinting such perverted filth, but I felt it absolutely necessary to inform the Jewish community, especially the students, that such a thing is out there, and that it is up to us to combat it. Otherwise, the Nazis have lived on.

Michele Berman
Editor-In-Chief

President's Corner

- Message from Student Council President

As the semester winds down, I would like to congratulate everyone on surviving this far. This semester, Stern women have yet again demonstrated that if we set our minds to it, we can do anything. In addition to juggling our academic schedules with our secular and Judaic schedules, we have managed to accomplish so much more.

Kudos to the entire cast, crew and SCDS board who made *Little Shop of Horrors* possible. The show was an unqualified success. Koch Auditorium was transformed into downtown Skid Row. Our lack of theater, sound and lighting systems only emphasized how hard our students work to accomplish their goals.

The play is but one example of how the students of SCW continue to perform incredible feats. More and more Stern women are opting to join the work force and continue their education for graduate degrees. Stern is earning a reputation for excellent placement in practically all careers and graduate programs. As more students have expressed interest, more joint programs have been established. This attracts more students to Stern who will utilize these programs. Stern has recently entered an agreement with New York University School of Dentistry. This



is an example of how Stern has expanded to meet the needs of our students.

Stern provides a unique environment for the Jewish women to mature and grow intellectually, religiously and personally.

It is unfortunate that in many instances we do not get the credit and recognition we deserve. We have the intellect and the desire to grow but we are restrained. We are forced to make the best of our situation and we do and still come out successful!

Good luck on finals.
Laura Gross
SCWSC President



From The News Room...

Chemistry Club Speaker Discusses Kashrut Technology

By Brenda Wurzburger

Dr. Judith Leff, a senior consultant for JIN Associates, addressed the chemistry club on *Kashrut* and food technology.

As senior consultant, one of Leff's clients is the Orthodox Union, for whom she does research to determine which foods are and are not Kosher.

Leff first gave an overview of food technology. She explained how each of the many ingredients that go into food must be checked for its *Kashrut*. Leff also stated, to the surprise of many, that food companies will do

almost anything to reform their products in order to receive Kosher endorsement. Several companies, Leff said, have told her that without Kosher backing they would have to close down. Many students were amazed at the impact that *Kashrut* has had on the entire world. After her lecture, which took place on Wednesday, December 14 during club hour, Leff opened the floor for questions.

NY Supreme Court Justice Visits Criminology Class

By Rinah Cohen

In a speech given to SCW's Criminology class, Criminal Court Justice of the City of New York and Acting Supreme Court Justice of the State of New York Judge Herbert Altman addressed problems in the criminal justice system.

Altman was contacted after a chance remark by Sarah Altman, SCW '95, in her Introduction to Sociology class that her father was a judge. Dr. Sydney Langer, head of the sociology department at SCW, followed up on the comment and contacted Altman to speak about issues related to the Criminology class.

Altman first gave an overview of the justice system from arrest to indictment and then addressed questions from the class. He also discussed technical problems that

often occur within the court system. One example is what happens to people picked up for minor misdemeanors because of the desire to rush people through the system. Often the fingerprints come through after they are let go and it is found they are wanted for graver crimes.

After one student asked what Altman would change if he could, a discussion was sparked about the way judges are appointed and the problems with it. Altman expressed concern about the appointment of unqualified judges and the elections in which people elect judges they have never heard of.

The significant December 27 speech, gave Criminology students a deeper understanding of the judicial system.

Substitute Teacher Appointed as Blau Leaves on Sabbatical

By Chani Fraube

While students are upset with the announcement that Dr. Lea Blau, professor of organic and bio chemistry, is taking a leave of absence for the Spring 1995 semester, a substitute teacher has been appointed to take her place.

"I am disappointed that we were only given one semester with Dr. Blau. I can only hope that the new teacher will be as good," remarked Gita Schachter, SCW '96.

Dr. Martin Sassiver, of Spring Valley, was hired after Blau and Dean Karen Bacon sought an organic chemist with sufficient teaching experience to replace Blau for the Spring semester.

Blau explained that Sassiver has taught the course in the past with the same book that is currently being used. Sassiver said he intends to follow Blau's teaching style and will keep her testing format. He also promised to be available for office hours, and to "provide extra help to individuals who seek it."

After receiving his PhD in organic chemistry from Yale University in 1959, Sassiver spent 34 years at Lederle Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company that was, until recently, part of the American Cyanamide Corporation. (The corporation has since been taken over by American Home Products.) Sassiver worked in the medical research division, mainly with antibiotics, synthesizing and preparing new derivatives for clinical use. He rose to the position of Senior Research Chemist in 1993, and then took an early retirement. Since then, he has been teaching off and on at Ramapo College.

In a phone interview, Sassiver commented, "From what I've heard, Stern [students] are pretty motivated; they are known to be high achievers and I am looking forward to teaching them."

The coming semester will be Blau's second sabbatical since she began teaching at SCW in 1979. Blau intends to use the time as a "working vacation," to become more knowledgeable in a series of computer programs that have recently been developed for organic chemistry, especially software relating to molecular modeling. She also hopes to read up on the history of chemistry.

Looking forward to the change of pace, Blau commented, "Teaching is a very demanding profession, and all teachers need a break."



Dr. Lea Blau Prepares for her Sabbatical

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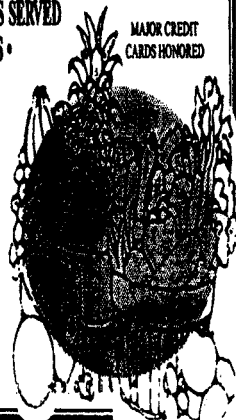
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TWENTY-THREE

Sy Syms

Message from the SSSB President

Dear Fellow Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to an event-packed semester. Seniors have all begun, and some have completed the interview process. For those of us whose search has just started, I wish you all the best of luck, and I hope finals don't hinder the entire process.

This semester included events such as the SSSB reception and a student organized "Night of Creative Marketing." Placement and Career Services organized a trip to D'arcy Masius, Benton & Bowles, which was an absolute success, and proved to be quite informative to all Marketing majors.

For next semester, more social and academic programming is being planned. This coming week SSSBSC is hosting a night of Business and *Halucho*, starring Rav Schachter. This event will be held in the



Rubin Shul on December 28, 1994.

Best of luck to all of you on your finals.
Judith Schlussek
President of SSSBSC

TriStar Pictures Come to SCW

By Judith Schlussek

At a recent SSSB-student organized "Night of Creative Marketing," insightful marketers from the Polo Company, WPLJ and TriStar pictures came to speak to students about their careers and job opportunities in the marketing area.

TriStar was represented by Hope Ziff.

a graduate of New York University and a past Yeshiva of Flatbush high school student. Ziff represented TriStar's publicity and promotions department. She informed students about all the aspects of her job, including those facets of working for a movie company that are not so "glamorous."

The event proved useful to all those students interested in the marketing field.

SSSB Go to See DMB&B

By Judith Schlussek

Because many Marketing students are experiencing the pains of job shortages, there has been an increased need for the SCW Placement and Career Services to create programming in their area, such as the field trip recently planned to D'arcy Masius Benton & Bowles.

Increased attention has been shifted to provide counseling to students interested in careers in the marketing field. Difficulties stem from the fact that marketing firms recruit on a need basis only, and don't mass recruit like many financial institutions and accounting firms.

The YU Placement and Career Services and SSSB arranged a field trip to the midtown office of D'arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, better known in the advertising circles, as DMB&B.

An account executive, creative director and media planner spoke to about 40 YC and SCW students on the different aspects of the advertising firm.

Account Executive Katherine McKenna and Copywriter Bill Ryan walked students through the steps of the new seasonal Norelco advertising strategy which featured their new products, Silhouette, and the Maverick beard trimmer. Ryan showed students how the ad idea becomes

developed from something illustrated on a storyboard to an end product of a television commercial, for instance. Target, consumer insight, benefit, support, tonality and mandatory strategies were explained. McKenna said, "You can really see how it's an evolving process."

McKenna, who's job entails working closely with many different departments such as media, clients, billing and copywriting, said she enjoyed her job because she was "challenged to think in a lot of different ways."

Ryan explained that he ended up in the creative department at DMB&B while he was doing secretarial temp work there.

DMB&B Media Planner Mark Zomick, a YU graduate, who is involved in researching methods for "the best way medially" to advertise, addressed important issues, such as being a *shomerai mitzvah* Jew in the business world.

The question and answer session gave students the opportunity to inquire about day to day practices in corporate America that they might hesitate to ask during a formal interview. The DMB&B staff also gave students hints on "how to get one's foot in the door" in the advertising field at the Friday, December 16 field trip.



Yeshiva University

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

MAN 4931 SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS

FRIDAYS 10:00-12:00 NOON (3 credits)

Senior Executives, CEO's and entrepreneurs will present issues and challenges that confront their specific industry and share their views on how to maintain a competitive advantage. Dr. Fred Palumbo will coordinate the class. Among the corporate executives are:

Michael Goldstein, CEO - Toys "R" Us
Ronald Perelman, Chairman - Revlon Industries
Sumner Redstone, Chairman - Viacom
Ira Leon Rennet, Chairman - Renco
Sy Syms, CEO - Syms Corporation

No prerequisites: Open to all business and liberal arts students with upper class standing who are interested in learning about business from key business leaders of today. Others may obtain permission from office of the Dean Sy Syms School of Business.

To accommodate all students, the class will be offered at the Midtown Campus. Van Transportation both ways will be available from the Main Campus.

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Featuring...

Third Annual Besamim Exhibit a Success

By Daphna Frankel

The 3rd Annual Besamim Student Works Exhibit proved a success as many SCW students participated.

"Besamim wants to show Stern College and the outside world the growing number of literary and art students as well as the range of talents we have in this school. To this effect, Besamim has promoted a student work exhibit that we hope to continue from year to year," said Leah Frenkel, SCW '95, coordinator of the exhibit.

The Besamim Student Works Exhibit, a forum of literary and art works created exclusively by students of SCW, was displayed for the third year. An entirely student-run event, the exhibit was organized by Besamim, the literary club for SCW writers and artists.

The works, which were on display for one week, included essays, poetry, drawings, paintings, sculpture and short stories by SCW students. The presentation enables students to have hands-on exposure to creativity in school. The entire SCW community and outsiders from the literary and art world

were invited to join.

The reestablishment of the exhibit started three years ago through the vision of Frenkel and Judy Goodman, SCW '93. They felt the Besamim journal needed to be more exposed to publicize the literary and art department and to appraise students of the talent available in the student body.

Sary Langner, editor-in-chief of Besamim, SCW '95, said, "Besamim doesn't only expose students to the creativity at Stern, but it's also a framework from which artists and writers can work from. It's a support system."

Sara Rosman, art editor, said, "It was very difficult to pick from such an abundance of talent. Students, teachers and faculty can appreciate their hard work."

Professor Peninnah Schram told a story at the opening of the gallery. Deborah Rosenthal, associate professor of Art at Rider University, addressed her audience on the topic of "Inside Out: A Contemporary Jewish Artist Looks at Sources and Solutions in her paintings."



SCW students gather in Beit Midrash to memorialize Nachshon Wachsman

SCW Unites: Remembering Nachshon Wachsman

By Dvora Cohen

As a direct result of student action, TAC held a siyum on all of Tanach in remembrance of the tragic November death of Israeli soldier Nachshon Wachsman.

The siyum was first introduced when Rebecca Rosen, SCW '96, approached TAC President Dassi Billet about initiating a learning program whereby SCW students could actively remember the young soldier. Together, they instituted a plan through which SCW women would collectively complete the learning of Tanach. They put this in effect by placing a large poster board in the cafeteria stating their purpose. The students were expected to sign their names next to a given *parsha* or *sefer*, as they committed themselves to learn their portion in the memory of Nachshon Wachsman. Within a few hours the names of many students filled the lines of the poster board. There were even those who did not have the opportunity to make it on to the list because of the speedy responses of their fellow students. Nonetheless, they too joined in the concerted effort to achieve this goal.

Days before the siyum, TAC made sure to remind the student body of its occurrence. Flyers were hung in the school building and in the dormitory. Rosen placed letters of reminder in the mailboxes of all the participants. The tremendous effort that was placed in publicizing the event contributed to the great turn-out of both students and faculty at the actual siyum.

In a fully packed Beit Midrash, Billet

opened with a *Dvar Torah* on *Sefer Kohélet*, the *sefer* from which she learned for the December 21 siyum. She made specific reference to a *pasuk* in *Kohélet* which speaks of having a "good name." In essence, by actively remembering those individuals who have passed on from this world, we are creating for them a "good name." "Through our learning," Billet stated, "we brought in to Stern a 'yad veshem tov.'"

Another integral part of the siyum was the introduction of 19 new *sefarim* to the Beit Midrash. This was all made possible due to the efforts of Emily Amy Witty, SCW '96. Like Rosen, she too wanted to actively remember Nachshon Wachsman, and others who were tragically killed in acts of terror. Witty stood in the entrance way of the school building, and in two days raised \$400. This money allowed her to purchase various *sefarim* which were sorely needed by the SCW Beit Midrash. At the siyum, 19 of those *sefarim* were presented in the memory of the victims of terror in Israel. Sources say that eight more *sefarim* are on the way.

The siyum left a lasting impression on all those who were present. It closed with students and faculty joining together in reciting a *perak* of *Tehillim*. TAC Secretary Tami Buckman, SCW '96, who participated in the learning, stated, "The large turn-out of students and faculty indicated the concern that Stern College has for Eretz Yisrael. I hope that in the future all of *klal yisrael* will be united by happier occasions."



Leah Frenkel looks over art and literary work at the Besamim Exhibit
Teacher Spotlight: Professor Cheryl Lubin

By Ali Bleiberg

"I love this class!" said Professor Cheryl Lubin to the guest lecturer who had come to her Theater of Law class. This outburst of enthusiasm is not unusual for Lubin. She is one faculty member who truly enjoys her classes. In fact, she has been preparing to teach Theater of Law for many years.

Lubin graduated from Vassar College where she majored in History and Theater. She wrote her thesis on The Nuremberg Trials, and has actually started a book on the trials as well. "This thesis," said Lubin "sparked my excitement about the fusion of Theater and Law. While doing research, I spent considerable time comparing film scripts and the actual transcripts. I became fascinated by the ways film both reflects and distorts reality."

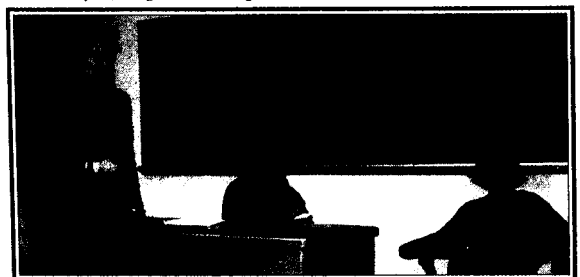
Eventually, Lubin's fascination led to the conception of her Theater of Law class, which was offered at SCW for the first time this Fall semester.

This is Lubin's second year teaching at SCW. "Last year, I taught Broadcasting and

Debate at Stern, and I also enjoyed those classes," she said. However, SCW isn't her only faculty position. She also teaches Debate and Courtroom Communication at John Jay College.

After Vassar, Lubin attended Tulane Law School, where she took her degree to New York to begin practicing Contract Law. "In 1989," explained Lubin, "I got involved in an organization called 'Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.' This got me into minor litigation. I represented performing artists in court who were either suing for profits or arguing over ambiguous contracts." Lubin now has a few paying clients that resulted from her earlier volunteer days.

Lubin, herself, was a community actor as a child. While representing artists, she claims to have realized that as an adult she still possessed a passion for performing. This passion has led to her current vocation -- teaching. Next semester Lubin will be teaching Debate and Speech.



Malkie Kraus, Prof. Lubin, Sarah Altman during a mock trial in Theater of Law

Attention Alumnae: If you have not as yet paid your alumnae dues (\$25) for this academic year 1994-95, this will be your last issue. Send dues to:

**The Office of Alumni Affairs
500 W. 185 St. (BH 317)
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The Professor Outside of 245 Lexington

A Churchill: Prof. Weidhorn



Prof. Weidhorn

By Rinah Cohen

Although many students may believe that their professor's life begins and ends in the classroom, for many SCW professors, this is hardly the case. English Professor Manfred Weidhorn is one of those multi-faceted teachers engaged in a number of activities outside the confines of his classroom.

After publishing two books and a number of articles on seventeenth century literature, Weidhorn's focus shifted to the writings of Winston Churchill. He completed four scholarly works on Churchill, the last being *A Harmony of Interests: Explorations in the Mind of Winston Churchill*, which describe the attitude, outlook and philosophy of Churchill. Although Weidhorn is through with his major research on Churchill, he is still involved with the International Churchill Society, and delivered a paper at a conference last month.

Weidhorn's other research projects include writing essays on different themes in literature for *A Dictionary of Literary Themes and Motifs*, and the publishing of approximately two dozen essays on different aspects of literature. Although still somewhat involved in each of these undertakings, Weidhorn remarked that teaching four courses at SCW "puts a limit on the amount of research and writing you can do."

However, Weidhorn's overlapping projects are often spurred by ideas developed while preparing for a class, or from an interesting class discussion. Simple concepts in class are often broadened to larger undertakings. During his Masterpieces of Literature class, Weidhorn discovered new thoughts on democracy in literature from *The Iliad*, writings of Plato and *Don Quixote*.

"The act of teaching makes me see things in a text that I haven't seen while I was preparing it and students' comments are enlightening and helpful," Weidhorn explained.

By Dawn Schatz

While some of us hate to admit it, we have all at one time or another played a video game. For those of you who are embarrassed, have no fear, you have not displayed any lack of intelligence.

If in Professor Joshua Bacon's laboratory you may be asked to do just that, while high tech infrared cameras record your eye movements. You have not played a menial game, you have participated in a complex series of reactions in which the body connects visual perception, hand-eye coordination and memory. When Mario from Nintendo's Mario Brothers II runs across the screen he is really not going anywhere. Rather, the background on the screen is moving while Mario remains stationary. It only looks as though he is moving.

What is it about the mind that makes a person perceive things as moving when they are not? What is the connection between the way that the nervous system and the mind put things together? This is one of the stud-

Many professors at SCW and SSSB are making huge academic strides that the majority of the SCW student body never hear about. This profile is but a small sampling of work done by our faculty in the areas of English Literature, Psychology, Business

Ethics and Cancer research beyond the classroom.

The following is a glimpse of the work your professors are doing beyond the confines of the SCW classrooms. It is an important recognition of faculty achievements outside of 245 Lexington Avenue.

Secrets of the Science Building: Profs. Babich, Blau, Burdowski

By Ilana Barber

If you have ever wandered into the old SCW building you may immediately be hit by a terrible odor. No, it's not from the caf. That malodorous scent may be coming from one of the many laboratories located in the building where much scientific research is conducted.

Right here, in the hallowed halls of this institution of higher learning, research that is important and relevant not only to SCW, but to the scientific and medical world, as well, take place. Currently, there are a number of projects going on in the school, being conducted by our very own science faculty.

Dr. Harvey Babich and Dr. Lea Blau are currently doing a study at the moment on the effects of benzoyl peroxide on human cells to determine whether it is a carcinogen (cancer causing). Benzoyl peroxide, as many of you know, is an ingredient found in most major acne medications. As much as we all hate to admit it, at one time or another we've all used such products, so this research is quite relevant to us all.

Babich's lab is responsible for growing the cells, while Blau's lab uses analytical methods to examine the effects of the benzoyl peroxide on the human cells. SCW students work for both researchers, which allow the students to gain experience in research methods and techniques.

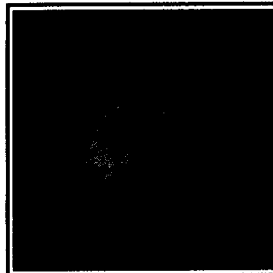
Many students have been able to gain invaluable lab experience from their jobs as assistants. Gita Schachter, SCW '96, who works with Babich, said, "Every other university gives students research opportunities; it's nice to see that we have the same thing here."

Dr. Alan Burdowski is conducting research in the field of breast cancer. Burdowski uses a strain of mice in which the females develop breast cancer and die within 56 days. In this way, he can observe the tumors at different stages of their devel-

opment. The focus of the research was due to the discovery that certain mice destroy their own tumors. It was found that this occurred because of a certain protein. The isolation of the protein took Burdowski two years of research and it was further found that when this protein was injected into other mice, it induced tumor destruction as well. Now the trick will be, he said, to figure out how the protein works so that the principles can be applied to human cancer treatment.

All three professors have been published in respected scientific journals that screen the articles that they receive to choose those that merit publication. What is even more exciting is that in many cases the papers are published with the names of the students who have worked with the professors. The professors also deliver papers and attend lectures with other scientific peers.

So the next time you use your Oxy or Clearasil, think that maybe, just maybe, in that maze known as the old building, where the fifth floor is really the fourth floor, important scientific research is being conducted that may affect your life in ways that you aren't even aware of yet.



Dr. Burdowski

A Business of Ethics: Dr. Pava



Dr. Pava

By Rayzel Kinderlehrer

In keeping with the general dynamism and activity of SSSB, Associate Professor of Accounting Dr. Moses Pava, has been forging new frontiers in the business world with some research of his own.

Pava, who holds the Alvin H. Einbender Chair in Business Ethics, is the co-author of a book entitled *The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Financial Performance: The Paradox of Social Cost*. Co-authors and fellow YU professors, Dr. Joshua Krausz and Pava explored the relationship between two variables, the idea of corporate social responsibility and traditional financial performance. They discovered an interesting and surprising paradox. Contrary to popular opinion and expectation, those companies which had received high ratings on a scale of social responsibility, ie. companies with excellent employee benefits and working environments, proved to do better in traditional financial performance!

This discovery is expressed in the title of the book, which is the result of a seven-year study. Pava notes that "this empirical study is the only one of its kind. It looks at long term effects, not just short term." The book proves, according to Pava, that companies often viewed as "wasting resources on non-profit ventures," ultimately demonstrate evidence that "high levels of social responsibility very likely cause increases in financial performance." The book is due out in 4-5 months.

Pava finds that he chooses topics for research "linked with both Jewish studies and course interests." Among the results of this research are articles soon to be published in the *Journal of Business Ethics*. One is a shortened form of the book topic, while the other links social responsibility and business ethics with *Halacha*. He discusses the issue of "lifnim m'ishurat hadin," the Jewish concept of going beyond the letter of the law, in relation to corporate responsibility.

Behind a Video Game: Dr. Bacon

ies that Bacon is researching with SCW students.

What relevance does this pose for us? Why should we care if Mario is really moving or it just looks like he is? This is not as simple a study as it seems. This is only one of many tests that Bacon is conducting to find the connection between motion perception, perceptual motor development and all of our senses. Once this is established it can lead to understanding of the mind works.

In an experiment similar to the video games, a subject is asked to sit on a stool with a curtain surrounding her on all sides. The curtain starts to spin around the subject slowly and although she is not moving, she begins to feel dizzy, as if she, herself, is moving. The background has a similar relationship to perception as the video game.

Bacon is also studying how stress can affect perception and how it can make people misperceive cues. For instance, firefighters misperceive distances in emergencies that

under normal circumstances they would not. Firefighters and policemen have to make split-second decisions that require immediate use of all of their senses combined. They are forced to use information that they usually don't use. Bacon is studying if it is at all possible with training and learning to learn how to use certain cues not usually used in every day experiences to help advance our visual perception, and therefore, our memory.

In one experiment, a subject sits at a computer screen where a dot moves vertically in a straight line. At the same time lines move back and forth horizontally on the screen. Subjects perceive the dot as moving horizontally rather than up and down because of the moving background. Yet, under certain circumstances when the computer is turned off and the subjects are asked to trace from memory where the black dot traveled, they have traced it vertically even though they thought it was going in a differ-

ent direction. This suggests that the brain has two levels of perception. One level of the brain cannot discern more complex signals, and a second level can. If we can train ourselves to use this deeper level of perception then our senses and our use of cues would be far more accurate.

While these and many of his other studies are vastly different, they each contribute greatly to SCW's psychology department and to psychological research on a whole. Bacon is not only helping students learn how to conduct their own studies, but he is also trying to teach them how to help others through research. His studies span 10 years of hard work and his students have been assisting by his side. He instills in his students persistence, dedication and a desire to advance in their field of study. So, next time your friend makes fun of you for playing Nintendo, tell her that you aren't just playing a game. Pull out this article and tell her you're doing a little research of your own.



The Shoo-ops do a number next to Audrey II in *Little Shop*

More Than Just a Who Dunit

By Rinah Cohen

Who dunit? The famous question asked in every mystery novel ever written. But in her latest mystery novel, *Angel of Death*, Rochelle Majer Krich challenges her readers with questions and issues that go beyond the ever present who dunit.

Angel of Death opens with a horrifying description of a case of vandalism. A bloody Jewish star is painted on the door of Jewish lawyer Barry Levin, a son of Holocaust survivors, who defends a group of Neo-Nazis planning to march through the Jewish neighborhoods of Los Angeles on Hitler's birthday. This opens a series of questions on the rights of free speech, even for hated groups like the book's White Alliance, and on the legitimacy of Holocaust revisionists who present themselves as genuine historians.

The case is handed to detective Jessie Drake, first featured in Krich's *Fair Game*. Drake normally covers Homicide, but because of her experience with the media she is assigned the emotionally-charged vandalism case. But Drake's homicide experience is put to the test when the vandalism turns violent, and a series of gruesome murders evolve.

Krich, an SCW alumni and mother of SCW student, Sabina Krich, SCW '97,

wanted to bring up issues in the book which she felt needed more attention in the general public. She said Holocaust revisionism needs to be exposed to the public as the fraudulent material it is. Krich described Holocaust revisionists as a "new form of anti-Semitism dressed up in suits." When discussing their views, she explained, "these are not ideas and it's not up to debate."

Krich felt she would gain "exposure to a larger segment of the population in fiction than in non-fiction." Segments of society that might not pick up a book such as Deborah Listadt's *Denying the Holocaust*, Krich explained, might pick up a mystery novel and learn something along the way. This certainly is the case in *Angel of Death*, for while the actual mystery is central to the book, the true themes are the important issues that are clearly stressed.

Krich, who began writing seven years ago, is now working on a book called *Speak No Evil*, about lawyer, Deborah Laslow, who is struggling with the morality of criminal defense.

Angel of Death is published by Mysterious Press and is available in bookstores for \$18.95.

Little Shop of Horrors is a Scream

By Gila Reinitz

Apparently four running nights for SCW's latest production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was not nearly sufficient to accommodate the clamoring fans waiting outside the door every night. *Little Shop of Horrors*, the second student-run musical at SCW, was an even bigger hit than last year's *Mikado*.

Director Sarah Altman, SCW '95, did a superb job not only in instructing each character to use the perfect stage voice, but in casting the most phenomenal actresses! Avital Amini, SCW '96, was nothing less than lovable as the nerdy shop clerk/experimental botanist Seymour and Dafna Kalish, SCW '95, did a 180 degree turnaround, going from last year's wandering Japanese minstrel prince in the *Mikado* to *Little Shop*'s Audrey, a feather-brained, shrill-voiced, peroxide blond suffering constant injuries from her sadistic boyfriend. Kalish had already established herself as talented, but she may now be called "versatile" as well.

In addition, Rinah Cohen, SCW '95, played such a convincingly crabby Mr. Mushnik that by the time she was swallowed up by the fast-talking, obnoxious plant, Audrey II, the audience cheered and laughed. Of all the quick-witted lines and hilarious scenes, perhaps the most side splitting one was when we were first introduced to the

rebel-dentist, Oren Scriverello, played perfectly by Rachel Yunger, SCW '95. Yunger, also SCW's president, played a perfect chauvinist, male pig down to the very last detail, even altering her voice to sound like a small-town Elvis as she dropped to her knees yelling "Oh Momma!" in tribute to the woman who'd seen greatness in her son even when he was a little puppy-torturing boy.

The mouth behind the plant is the seemingly shy Sabina Krich, SCW '97. Her first semester at SCW has probably secured her a place in any future production as Krich has shown that she can produce practically any voice and personality with her vocal chords. (Ask her to imitate Ace Ventura next time you see her in the hall.)

Nancy Berman's, SSSB '95, choreography was outstanding. The moves silently spoke for every character from the fabulous Shoo-op Girls to the backup dancers who evoked the motions of the slum called Skid Row. And can those Shoo-op Girls move! Tamar Parness, SCW '95, Naomi Shapiro, SCW '96, Vered Dror, SSSB '96, Atara Simpson, SCW '95, Rita Berkovitz, SCW '96, Shira Rubenstein, SCW '96 and the seven chorus members exploded in song on stage with powerful sound in conjunction with sensuous and slinky gyrations. With

continued on page 9

Mrs. Parker Comes to the Theater

By Yoni Malina

A new film depicting the lives of early 20th century female authors has recently been released. The main focus of the film is the life of the anomalous Dorothy Parker.

The film, entitled "Mrs. Parker," is named after Dorothy Parker, who played a very influential role in the lifestyle of female writers in the early 20th century. Parker tries to escape the hollowness of her everyday life by resorting to drugs, alcohol and the companionship of various men. Her poetry served as the only outlet for the expression of her problems.

Despite the adoring admiration of her many fans, Parker eventually attempted sui-

cide. Her life story served as a foreshadowing for later modern poets, such as Sylvia Plath, who ostracized herself from society and resorted to writing as her only form of expression.

Parker's short story "But the One on the Right" is an interior monologue about a woman at dinner who has a stream of consciousness. She has sarcastic conversations in her head while dining with a less than desirable man.

Professor Richard Nochimson, whose Art of Fiction class read Parker's story, said, "[Parker's] attitude toward men and women is one of profound cynicism."

A Decade of Sting...

By Gila Reinitz

While many song lyrics nowadays deal only with love and related themes, the works of the artist Sting reflect knowledge of literature, politics and world issues.

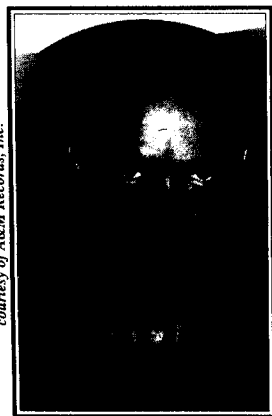
Fields of Gold, a new release from A&M records, is a compilation of Sting's most powerful songs from 1984-1994. The collection includes *All This Time* and *Englishman in New York*, as well as two new releases *When We Dance* and *This Cowboy's Song*.

Sting is a modern poet with a sense of humor. His references to everything from Shakespeare to mythology, and even to the Bible itself, make strong statements about conformity, politics worldwide and the power of true love. The brilliant lyrics, along with the sweeping sounds of the saxophone, oboe, electric guitar and various synthesized sounds, make for arguably the best greatest-hits CD on the market.

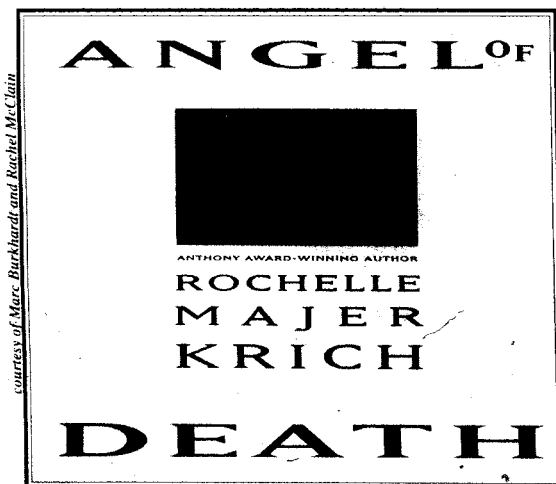
Sting first became famous during his years with The Police, when songs such as *Roxanne*, *Message in a Bottle* and *Every Breath You Take* were popular hits.

His latest collection of timeless classics is available at music stores everywhere in-

cluding Sam Goody and the Wiz.



The CD cover of Sting's new album



The jacket of Krich's new book *Angel of Death*

Beyond 34th Street Hidden Treasures

By Gila Reinitz

Far, far off Broadway there is a place you can go to experience real theater without the glitz and glamour of Broadway.

One of the city's best kept secrets, the 42nd Street Theatre Row Theatre was founded in 1992 to provide an arena in which artists, famous and undiscovered, could entertain a tiny audience in a commercial-free environment. Great imagination on the part of the audience is required as the props are minimal and the scenery, very sparse and never-changing.

The Malaparte company rents out the Theatre Row Theatre for two seasons a year. Each season sees three full-length plays run for two weeks each. The playwrights are generally young people just starting out in their careers.

The most recent play, Nicole Burdette's *The Great Unwashed*, depicted stories of people who pursue seemingly

unrealistic dreams. Performances by Ethan Hawke, Martha Plimpton (currently starring in the film *The Beans of Egypt, Maine*), Robert Sean Leonard (*Dead Poet's Society* and *Much Ado About Nothing*) and Frank Whaley (*Swing Kids*) were awe-inspiring.

The theater attracts an audience that can appreciate the value of drama. After the play, the actors mill about the audience without the crowd going wild, snapping pictures and fainting for autographs. There is a true sense of respect and appreciation for the talent of the actors.

Although this season has come to an end, the next will begin in early spring. Tickets must be ordered in advance, by phone and cost only \$10 each. For more information about the theater or how to purchase tickets for the coming season, call Gila at (212) 532-1533.

A Little Shop Hit!

continued from page 8

their larger-than-life hair and those really flattering, metallic dresses, the Shoo-ops created an amazing effect on stage.

Musical direction under the very talented Randi Sorscher, SCW '97, and Amy Cohn, SCW '95, brought life and rhythm to the production. The costuming and lighting were right on target, especially the green spotlight on Audrey as she sang her last lines in "Somewhere That's Green."

Yunger said, "I couldn't be happier with the play's immense success. One of its best facets was that it enabled over 50 SCW stu-

dents with so many varied interests and activities to partake in this marvelous production and experience."

Over all, the show was magnificent and the audience agreed. Shari Teigman, SCW '96, who served as an usher on the most crowded night, said she "loved it!" Judy Gang, SCW '95, was "very impressed with the fact that it was entirely student run and so professional." This can only leave showgoers with a sense of great anticipation for next semester's SCDS's dramatic production.

ALUMNI CORNER

By Malkah Karas
SCW '71

The other day I was at work and received a phone call from my daughter, Dafna Kalish, SCW '95. She said, "Mommy, guess what I was at. An *Obscurer* meeting. And we decided we would like to add a new feature in the paper written by former Stern College students. I volunteered you to be the first one and I need it next week." Of course since I do nothing else with my time, that request shouldn't have been too bad. Maybe she forgot she called me at work.

Those who attended Stern while I was there may remember me as Margie Strick from the class of 1971. Now I am known as Malkah Karas. I work with persons challenged by severe emotional disabilities in the area of vocational rehabilitation.

It frequently amazes me how quickly time goes by. How is it possible that my daughter, of whom I am very proud, is now a senior at Stern and engaged to be married.

Much has changed over the years at Stern. I remember fighting for a new building and now there is one. Today the fight is for a new dorm which is badly needed. We had room in the dorm in my day. Today you're lucky if you don't have to wait half an hour for an elevator because there are such crowds.

During my sophomore year, there was a rule in the dorm that one must return with an escort. Women such as myself who were out alone at times, would pick up people on the streets to walk us to the door. Thankfully, that rule no longer exists.

The food, when I was there, was tastefully prepared and there was a wide selection. The cost was reasonable, too. Today the food is neither prepared tastefully nor is



Dafna Kalish and her mother Malkah Karas

there much of a variety. The worst part, however, is that for just a simple salad one has to go into debt because it is so expensive.

There have been some important positive changes, too. The variety of classes available is much greater than in my day. As a matter of fact, today, if you get enough students who are interested in a class that is not offered, it can be established.

There is also an exercise room available to the women. If one chooses to, they have the opportunity to nourish both mind and body.

I was very pleased that my daughter, Dafna, decided to attend Stern. As I was, Dafna is involved with the Student Council, her class, *The Obscurer* and numerous other extra-curricular activities. Dafna has taken advantage of a wide variety of classes, as well.

I believe now, as I did then, that being involved in your school in as many ways as you can will make your college experience a fulfilling one.

COMMENCEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 11:00 AM

THE PARAMOUNT
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR
COMPLETED GRADUATION KIT
TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR?

IF NOT, CONTACT THE REGISTRAR

IF SO, DID YOU RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION
OF YOUR APPLICATION?

WYUR is on the AIR!!
Tune in Sunday through
Thursday on 640 AM.



The Obscurer

Are people talking to themselves or is it just me? I keep noticing as people walk out of the bathroom they're moving their lips and mumbling to themselves. They try to look inconspicuous but I notice! And then that horrible day came when I exited the bathroom and realized that I too was practicing this strange ritual and then I began to wonder what other people were thinking?

"What is that woman doing? Is she asking if she did O.K., if anyone heard her?" So now I have been more self-conscious. When I leave the bathroom and say the theatre and there's a line for the rest room and 15 people are watching me mumble, I try smiling at them, or pretend to fix my hair but to no avail. We, of this cult, are doomed to an unimaginable existence. In the future, throughout our lives, we will be stared at and alienated as we leave the bathroom: oh, well.

I had another weird dream last night. SCW was co-ed and I tried to get into an elevator going up from the caf at 10:25am and the men and women couldn't touch each other, but there was a mad rush anyway, so men and women alike stormed into the crowded elevator without any physical contact and couldn't even touch each other when they were getting out. One male

MYP Stern student was in the back corner and had to get out on the 3rd floor. Talk about nightmares.

Letter #3 to The Obscurer:

Dear Obscurer,

Kudos to you for the muffin info. I don't eat anymore. I lost all the weight I had gained plus another 25 pounds. I now stand (when I have the strength) at 81 pounds. Do you have anymore suggestions for my diet?

Signed,

Eternally Grateful in Brookdale

Dear EGB,

Here are your recommended daily food allowances:

Breakfast -- 3 cups of kosher lard

34 Snickers Bars (from Australia of course)

Repeat this meal 14 times between the hours of 9:00am and midnight.

Always here to help,

The Obscurer

Comments, Questions... you can send me letter at The Obscurer, Brookdale Hall, Observer Room, or you can e-mail me at Obscurer.obs a SDF#*&!n0drh or you can morse me at ... or you can smoke signal me on top of Brookdale or just scream really loud. But, whatever, all next time.

TAC

Message from the TAC President

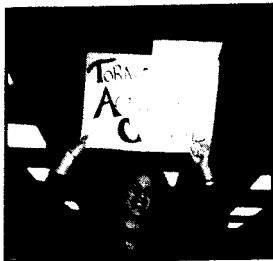
Torah activities have been overtaking SCW this semester. Many SCW women are actively working to help the Jewish community at large, as well as the more concentrated SCW community, move towards spiritual growth. Through service as well as Torah learning, women have been making TAC happen.

Over Chanukah, SCW was an especially exciting place to be. For over a week before the holiday, the TAC *Tzedakah* Committee sold oil, candles, Chanukah menorahs and all the other implements for fulfilling the mitzvah of *ner Chanukah*. All proceeds went to *Tzedakah*.

Beginning with the first night of Chanukah, the Brookdale Hall lounge facing 34th Street lit up as a public remembrance of the miracles of antiquity. TAC hung signs on the windows of the lounge explaining the significance of the candles to the many passers-by who stopped to watch.

Tuesday evening, December 29, official Chanukah events took off with a lively, musical Chanukah Chagigah. About a hundred of women dropped by to dance and eat jelly donuts. Wednesday, during club hour, two TAC-sponsored Chanukah activities went on simultaneously. Adopt-a-Bubby hosted elderly men and women for a Chanukah party with singing, dancing, ritual Chanukah food and a lively presentation of the Chanukah story. Keshet Club, in cooperation with Student Council's Russian Club, had a Chanukah celebration for foreign students and others. A carnival in the Russian community of Washington Heights was also co-sponsored by TAC and was a huge success.

Beyond Chanukah, TAC has been visible weekly in ongoing projects. Early in the semester, Bikur Cholim had an orientation



with Rabbi Goldsmith, the chaplain of Beth Israel hospital. The new weekly BUDS learning program has been drawing women who desire to spend extra time growing in Torah to the Beit Midrash in the school building. The Dorm Beit Midrash committee is doing a beautiful job renovating the Beit Midrash in Brookdale. Plans have been made for a bookbinding workshop; through participation in this session, interested women can help preserve the older books in the dorm Beit Midrash.

A major effort is underway to enhance the feeling of community on shabbatons spent on campus. Through attention-grabbing signs, students staying in the University housing over Shabbat are being encouraged to eat Shabbat meals together in the cafeteria. Joining together will make Shabbat more meaningful and enjoyable.

On behalf of the student body, the TAC board thanks all of the women who have worked hard to make Fall semester '94 a success. Let's keep growing together!

Dassi Billet
TAC President

This BUD'S For You

By Rayzel Kinderlehrer

What happens in the SCW school building after classes have ended? True, there is the crowd in the caf, throngs in the library and a multitude of women e-mailing in the computer room, but does the rest of the school stand empty?

Well, if you happen to find yourself on the sixth floor of SCW on a Wednesday night between the hours of 7:30 and 9:00pm, poke your nose into room 619. Behind the door you will find a group of women sitting and intensely learning Torah.

Room 619 is the home of the Stern Beit Midrash. Already in its third year of existence, the beit midrash is the scene of much learning, davening and other Torah action throughout the day. Recently, this action has been furthered and strengthened on Wednesday nights.

Loosely modeled on highly successful learning programs at Columbia University and University of Pennsylvania, the BUDS program began at SCW soon after the start of the school year. The program was designed based upon a feeling that every SCW student deserves the right to experience the excitement of Torah learning outside of the classroom setting.

In the past, TAC had sponsored a club that tried to set students up as *chaverusas*, or learning partners, but students found that they ended up in a tutoring type of situations. While a separate Judaic studies tutoring service still operates on campus, the BUDS program is designed to provide learning part-

ners for learning "just because."

The coordinators of the BUDS program, Batsheva Gantz, SCW '95, Leah Safran, SCW '95 and Yael Werblowsky, SCW '96, are a remarkably energetic threesome. Quickly, BUDS has become recognized on campus as one of the most highly publicized activities around. Shira Markowitz, SCW '98, noted that "the signs for BUDS are everywhere. I especially admire the appealing graphics and the consistency of design from week to week."

BUDS (an abbreviation of buddies) aims to attract all kinds of women to its Wednesday drop-in hour and a half long sessions. The three coordinators constantly hang flyers, recruit students and hand out applications. In addition, they have informed Judaic studies faculty of the program. Each week they photocopy a mix of intriguing Hebrew and English articles on specific topics which have included the *yetzer hara* and *Asarah B'Tevet* among others.

The program has thrived to date. About 40 women are involved, many of whom do not ordinarily utilize the Beit Midrash otherwise. Recently, there has been a slight decrease in attendance. This drop may be attributed to the steadily increasing amount of papers and tests which develops near the end of each semester.

However, the coordinators of the program have high hopes for its future. Let's wish this budding program continued success.

What is TAC?

By Sima Singer

Planning activities ranging from chess to *shiurim*, the Torah Activities Council at SCW is constantly working to keep the ideals of Torah thriving and in action at all times. TAC believes that Torah is what makes SCW unique. It does everything possible to ensure that its presence is felt in all areas.

TAC President Dassi Billet defined TAC as a growth force whose goal is to help SCW women mold themselves into more committed and active Jews - on a personal and on a communal level. She stressed that the focus of TAC this year is to make sure that it reaches out to every single Stern student.

"TAC is for everyone," said Billet, "and there are so many areas in which one can choose to get involved." There are dozens of committees to choose from, and each person has much to give, and even more to gain from getting involved. The goal of TAC is

to be accessible at all times, and to welcome the participation of all.

Billet pointed out that "it is understood that university years are a time for students to focus on molding themselves into the multi-faceted people they will become. In a Torah institution the molding process takes on a whole new dimension."

TAC provides an outlet for the individual's inherent need to grow by giving to others. This may be through visiting the sick, adopting a Bubby or spending free time learning Torah with people who don't have Torah as a focus in their day.

"There are so many different aspects to living an active Jewish lifestyle, in fact the possibilities are endless," stated Billet. "TAC makes it easy by presenting all sorts of opportunities. All any student has to do is reach out her hand and her heartstrings will pull her in."

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Sports Editorial: What Fans?!

By The Observer Sports staff

The fan turnout at the Lady Macs games has been quite minimal. At the time of this printing, the Lady Macs just came back from placing first in a Boston tournament which followed a two-game winning streak.

Transportation is available for every Lady Macs game. The fact that Home Games are not played at Stern is more of a reason for students to take the time out one or two evenings a semester to attend a few games.

It is not fair to your team. They represent your school and need you to help imbue a special college spirit.

The Lady Macs need your support. Come cheer them on towards victory!

LADY MACS HAVE YET TO WIN AT HOME

By Rachel Hellman

The Lady Macs lost a close game on December 7 to Saint Joseph's by 61-58. This game marks their fifth consecutive home loss this season. They are perfect on the road this season with a 5-0 record. Overall, the team is 5-5 with a 5-5 record.

Rebecca Bienenstock was the high scorer with 25 points despite the fact she did not play most of the second half due to an ankle injury. Without their starting point guard, Saint Joseph's was too much for the Lady Macs to overcome. Bienenstock was able to return to the lineup for the subsequent game.

The Lady Macs are anxiously awaiting a rematch which will take place January 4 at Saint Joseph's. They close out the semester with a home game against Hunter on January 9.



The Lady Macs strive to win a home game.

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FOUR DAY OUTLOOK



MONDAY: icy winds from the west, with chance of hail in late afternoon. High 35. Low 21.

TUESDAY: snow, snow and snow! Heavy dark clouds will loom overhead like plague of darkness. High 39. Low 31.

WEDNESDAY: much cooler with chance of snow mixed with hail. storm expected to last thru weekend.

THURSDAY: storm warnings in effect all day. Do not leave your house! If work or classes are not cancelled, don't go!

*IT'S NOT TOO EARLY
TO START THINKING
ABOUT THE SUMMER*

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with

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For more information please
contact Debby Aharon
evenings until 11pm at 212-662-1766

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