

# The Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women \* Yeshiva University

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## Israel Club Meeting an Eye-Opening Experience

By Esther Barry

It was a wake-up call, and more than 50 SCW students heard it. Along with over 50 YC students, they were given a hard-core look into the volatile situation in Israel at the Israel Club's first event. Held in Rubin Shul at the uptown campus on September 20, the program included a speaker and the viewing of two videos. The event was emceed by YC Israel Club President Arie Pelta.

"It really was an incredible turnout for such a last minute event," said Chaya Strasberg, SCW '96, president of Stern's Israel Club.

The first video documented numerous instances of police brutality in Israel, with victims ranging from ages eight to 80. Students saw footage of Israeli policemen beating demonstrators at rallies, as well as testimonies from some of the victims.

"The videos were very powerful and informative," said Shira Zupnik, SCW '97. "It was very eye-opening seeing Israeli police

beating their own people."

One victim, a British woman who made *aliva* a number of years ago, was kicked in the head by a policeman, and two years after the incident, she still cannot move her head. Another victim, an 80-year-old Russian immigrant, compared the situation to that in Russia before the fall of the Iron Curtain. "I am used to police beating demonstrators in Russia, but I never expected it in Israel, in our own country," she said.

A second video showed footage of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat speaking to various Arab audiences, encouraging them to continue the *jihad* against Israel. In several speeches, he promised his listeners that they would soon see the Palestinian flag flying over Jerusalem, and that the "martyrs," (i.e. suicide bombers), did not die in vain.

According to Strasberg, the main purpose of the meeting was "to inform people of what's going on. People have to actually see

Arafat talking about *jihad* to believe it," she said. "He's supposedly in the middle of a peace process, and as recently as this summer, all he's talking about is *jihad*."

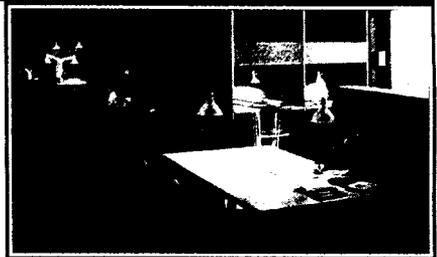
Following the videos, there was a speech by YC professor Rabbi Harold Reichman. He maintained that the problems in Israel are not because of the Arabs, but rather are the result of *sin'at chinam*, baseless hatred between members of *Klal Yisrael*. He urged students to take a look at their own lives and to try to improve the situation around them.

The meeting had a profound effect on many students who were not aware of how serious the situation in Israel really is.

"I enjoyed being informed on the new occurrences in Israel," said Laurie Gewirtz, SCW '98.

For students who had just returned from Israel, the meeting took on a more personal meaning. "I'm really scared for the people that I know in Israel - friends and teachers," said Shira Kinderlehrer, SCW '98. Lisa Cohen, SCW '98, had a similar reaction. "The meeting was very powerful for me, especially since I spent a year [in Israel]. Israel is more a part of me now and it makes it much more scary."

While the meeting appeared to have a powerful effect on everyone, SCW students had one complaint. Many felt that it should have been offered at the midtown campus as well as uptown.



## How Can We Get A's If We Can't Get Seats?

By Amira Rubin

The Registrar's Office has confirmed that there are currently 50 more students enrolled in SCW than there were last year. With a combined total of 125 seats in the two libraries, and even fewer desks, it is no wonder that there are not enough seats for students who need to study. This means that each desk in the library must be shared by 6.4 students. While some students may be underweight, that is a stretch for anyone.

"Even last year without 50 new students, the libraries were a problem," said Michelle Segall, SCW '97. "Especially during midterms and finals - it was nearly impossible to get a seat."

The 11th floor study hall in Brookdale Hall is no longer functional because it is being used as a bedroom. This further aggravates the space problem.

"Even with the 18th and 11th floor study halls in the dorm, study spaces were stuffed to capacity."

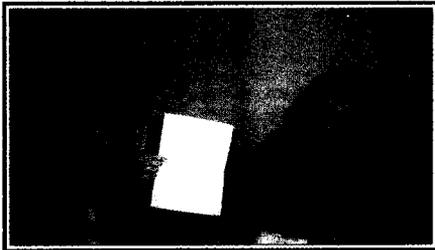
Segall said. "You still saw people studying in the library aisles and going from floor to floor to floor, looking for a classroom in which to study."

"There is ample room for at least everyone to sit in the library, once a day for 15 minutes," joked Reva Goldman, Library Assistant. Goldman is not that far off.

"The library is open from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. every day. That means there are 16 hours in which to study. Assuming that each student needs at least 4 hours during finals and midterms to sit at a desk, and 125 students can be seated at one time, that makes it possible for a maximum of 500 students to study in the library," calculated Ilanit Benjamin, SCW '96. "Where do the 300 others end up studying? In the halls of the dorm."

This is, of course, overlooking the fact that most students prefer to study between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. How are students to know

Continued on pg. 6



## Exercise Your Right!

By Dina Maslow

On Monday, September 18, the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society and College Democrats conducted a voter registration drive. A table was set up in the Stern College lobby, where students were present throughout the day to pass out registration forms and help people register. Approximately 65 students registered to vote in New York State, and 50 in New Jersey.

"Overall, we had a good turnout, considering that many people who were asked had previously registered," said Elisheva Wohlgenuth, SCW '96, president of the Political Science Society. Wohlgenuth expressed dismay about some of the excuses students had for not registering. "It was shocking to see that people don't want to exercise their constitutional

right to vote on the slight chance that they might be selected for jury duty."

Most students who live outside of the New York area preferred to register in their home states. Many out-of-towners expressed a desire for absentee ballots, since they won't be in their polling districts on Election Day. Some students, however, declared residency in New York so that they could vote in Manhattan.

"Even though I live in Canada, my parents are from the U.S. and I have U.S. citizenship. I feel obligated to take advantage of my right to vote," said Montreal resident Dena Glick, SCW '96.

Of course, there was a minority of students who had legitimate excuses not to register, such as foreigners and students under 18, continued on pg. 2

## Is The Van Really to Our AdvANTage?

By Shira Fiedler

Attending SCW means living in New York City, the Big Apple, the city that never sleeps. Getting around this city can be hectic and frustrating. Taxis are widely considered too expensive, buses too slow, and subways too dangerous. So students are often left with the van service provided by SCW. While the van service often moves smoothly and students reach their destinations within a reasonable time frame, some students feel that the operation could be carried out more successfully if minor changes are implemented.

Rosalyn Cratenberger, SCW '98, who is enrolled in the joint program with FIT (Fashion Institute Of Technology), was quite dismayed by a recent incident. Security personnel told her to call the dorm when a van was needed to

pick her and a few other students up after their class at FIT on Tuesday evenings. When she called, she was told that the van would be there in ten minutes. After 20 minutes, she called again, and was told the van would be there shortly. After more waiting and another phone call, the van finally appeared. A full hour had elapsed.

"With three local vans running, there was no reason we had to wait a full hour for one. I understand traffic problems do occur, but I shouldn't have had to call three times in order to get their attention," Cratenberger said.

She suggested that a standard pick-up time be established for Stern students taking courses at FIT, so that this kind of situation does not occur on a regular basis.

In addition to the problems with the local van, the shuttle go-

ing uptown to YC has had a few of its own mishaps as well. Two juniors signed up for the 7:30 p.m. van at about 5:00 p.m., the earliest time that reservations are taken. When the two women arrived on time in order to board the shuttle, there was no room for them because two others - who had not signed up - got on before them. The women who had made reservations suggested that the list be checked for their names. The guard present refused to check the list, and the girls were not able to board.

"I don't understand the point of signing up, when anyone who shows up can get on," said one irate student. "If the guards would just take an extra few minutes to make sure that the only people on the van are the ones on the list, this whole problem would be eliminated."

## Op-Eds

## Pollard Faces Computers Off-Parole Hearing Limits

Attention on his case is waning, but Jonathan Pollard remains in prison. Now, however, his fight for release is entering a new stage. In January, Pollard will come before a Federal Parole Board for the first time since he was sentenced to a life term 11 years ago this November. The exact date of the hearing is still undetermined, but if the Board decides to rule in his favor, he could be released after two months.

The most important step one can take at this juncture in the case is writing to the Parole Commission. According to Citizens for Justice, the organization established by Pollard's sister, Carol, to work toward his freedom, Pollard will not be released unless there is extraordinary pressure on the Parole Commission. In March 1994, President Clinton announced his decision not to commute Pollard's sentence to time served. After someone is denied parole, presidential clemency is highly improbable. In the meantime, however, it is still worthwhile to write to the President, urging him to commute Pollard's sentence as of the date he is eligible for parole. Every additional letter written on Pollard's behalf makes his release less of a long shot.

The addresses are:

The Hon. John R. Simpson,  
Regional Commissioner for Eastern  
Region U.S. Parole Commission  
5550 Friendship Blvd., Suite 420  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20515

It's a matter of life, or life in prison.

## Voting

continued from pg. 1

Chaviva Schoffman, SCW '96, president of College Democrats said, "I am glad to see that so many people who have neglected in the past their civic responsibilities have now come to their senses and have registered to vote through our drive."

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Interested in becoming associate news editor of the *Observer*?

Experience preferred.

For more information, contact Marcie Schneider.

Why aren't students allowed to use the new improved computers? Many Stern women were granted their wishes of a suitable computer system when the new Pentiums were set up in room 315 last year, yet the computers are locked away. You can look, but you can't touch. The computer science department appears convinced that Stern students will place viruses in the new computers if they are allowed to use them without a teacher's supervision. What if a student in the computer science class accidentally runs a computer when the professor has turned his/her back?

Because of this unrealistic fear, the Pentium computers, the fastest and most efficient in the school, are untouchable. What happens when the computer science department has left for the night and all the second-fastest computers are taken by the chemistry students, and the slower color computers are taken as well? The guards refuse to open the door of the "other" computer room for students who need to type their papers. Why would students who need to type papers bother to stop and put in viruses and then finish their papers on virused computers?

Stern students were under the impression that now that we have the "virus scan," the computers are protected. If not, then the computers can never truly be safe. Those hackers who know what they're doing can reach the Pentiums even with the doors closed. So why not give serious students a chance to work on quality computers?

## The Observer

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## Letters to the Editor...

## Grin and Bear It

Yeshiva and Stern Colleges contain a virtual "melting pot" of Jews. Students decide for themselves what level of religiosity they are best suited for, and then strive to reach that level. Because some are more stringent on themselves, that doesn't give them the right to confine others to their beliefs. We each have a right to do as we please within certain boundaries, and we cannot impose those boundaries on people we do not know.

In the last issue of *The Observer*, there was a letter to the editor entitled "Look - Don't Touch" which conveyed one "Shomeret"'s belief that in front of her, people have no right to physically express the way they feel about their companion. The society we live in was referred to as a "free-sex society," which is true. However, this statement does not reflect the present Yeshiva University population, which includes record numbers of students both in class and learning in the *beit midrash* until all hours of the night. Over the last decade or so, the "Modern Orthodox" movement has started to lean towards the right. Whereas 15 or 20 years ago *hilchot negiah* were rarely obeyed in the modern Orthodox circles, there is now a healthy percentage of people who follow these laws most stringently. What we must remember is that not everyone is the same and there are a large percentage of YC/Stern students who, for whatever reason (which is none of the public's business), don't abide by these rules.

The letter also spoke about the statement couples are making by waiting for the van together and why their love must be con-

firmed by kissing. These comments portray a faulty logic which is common among some students in YC/Stern. Everything is not a competition to prove that they love each other more than anyone else. When those couples are saying goodbye or kissing they are not doing it for others. Rather, they are expressing to each other how much they care. If one feels so strongly about this situation (which I'm sure there are those who do), don't simply banish them to go to transcend the Torah alone. Try to either take on the responsibility of teaching them *hilchot negiah* or learn to accept the fact that not everyone follows the same religious code. People have the freedom to choose how to express their feelings in the way they deem fit.

Sincerely,  
An MYP Student

## Missing Boxes

To look at the article about the study halls being used for dorm rooms from another perspective, did anyone think about what was done with the boxes that were being stored in those rooms for out-of-town students?

Along with the many out-of-towners attending Stern College, I naturally assumed it was relatively safe to store my junk, or paraphernalia, in the rooms at Brookdale Hall that had been designated for summer storage. I was wrong. Instead, I found that when the time came for me to retrieve my

boxes, only one of them was available to be retrieved. The other, containing a very precious word processor, was missing (and still is).

Even if this appalling circumstance has never happened to you, please take note. To me, this letter is not only a very efficient and cost-effective advertisement for me to find the box that is still at large, but this is also a warning. When one reads the instructions that the RA's hand out before the goods are stored, pay close attention to the line that says, "Store at your own risk."

Shaynie Goren, SCW '96

## Handicapped-Inaccessible

Recently, I was on crutches and I found it very hard to get around Stern. Just getting into the school building was difficult, as there is no ramp, only the staircase. For the same reason, it was very difficult to get to the lower level library. A few days after I got off the crutches I noticed that there is a bathroom for the handicapped between the student lounge and the library. On crutches, that may be fine. However, if *chas v'shalom* someone were to be in a wheelchair, there is no way for them to get down there! The only way to that level of the building is via stairs! If there is going to be a bathroom for the handicapped, let's at least make it accessible to them!

With much concern,  
Aliza N. Fischman  
SCW Class of '97

## Peace Prospects Economics is Key

By Sivan Rabinowitz

Now is the most critical time in Israeli history, at least according to CNN Israel Correspondent Linda Scherzer, who spoke to the American Technion Society's New York City Chapter last month. Scherzer and Professor Danny Wise of the Haifa-based Technion lectured on the "Prospects of Peace in Israel." The lecture was held at the Harmony Club in New York City.

Israel has experienced terrorism unmatched by any other nation: five bus bombings in the last seven years and more than 140 Israelis killed since the historic peace signing at the White House in September 1993. According to Scherzer, the Arabs are not creating the proper business climate needed for peace to exist, but more than a few Palestinians themselves (especially Christian Arabs) do not want to see the Arabs achieve statehood any more than the settlers do.

After all the recent bloodshed, who is in favor of the process continuing? Scherzer's assessment is that most Israelis believe this is their best chance and that there is no alternative. She offered several illustrations of the new climate in Israeli-Arab relations: Israeli soldiers have withdrawn from Gaza; King Hussein of Jordan has signed a separate peace agreement with Israel without Syria; there are business contracts made virtually every day; Israeli diplomatic officials are being sent to Arab countries such as Tunisia and Morocco; Syria seems to understand that the "road to Mecca" runs through Israel.

The question on the minds of Israelis, as well as concerned Jews throughout the world is: Can the Arabs be trusted? Scherzer made the distinction between enemies of peace and partners in peace. It is the responsibility of Yasser Arafat, she said, to arrest and disarm the enemies of peace. "If Arafat aspires to be a dictator, make him be a good dictator," Scherzer said. Partners in peace are motivated by the realization that Israel is an unmovable entity, and that going back to the way things were would result in disaster.

The Technion fits into this overall picture because, Scherzer said, the key to peace is economics - showing the Arabs what Israel has to offer. The Arabs are beginning to understand that they have lost the war, and some, such as King Hussein, will recognize this. She predicted the end of bus bombings when the Palestinian leadership allows its people to stand on their own feet by bringing in investment, factories, industries and jobs so they will not be so economically dependent on Israel. She did not speculate how long it will take for this to happen. The main concerns of most Palestinians are economic: employment and job training and security. If Arafat can allay these fears, they will realize that the change is positive for them and thus will do everything to protect that change.

Scherzer concluded by stressing that for Israel and the Palestinians, it is "no longer us versus them." Israel's future, its stability as a country, depends on the success of Palestinian prosperity. It is no longer a win-lose situation, and punishing the Palestinians economically will only backfire on the state of Israel as it moves "either limping or walking stable into the 21st century," she said.

Wise, professor of Aerospace Engineering at the Technion, discussed advances for economic growth. Without economic growth, peace will not take hold, he said. If peace prevails, many areas will benefit: earth, water, fire, and air. He explained:

- Our most basic need is food. Israeli agriculture is one of the most advanced systems in the world. Agricultural engineering and biotechnology are the Technion's strongest areas. It also has advanced programs for soil conservation and road transport. Haifa, where the Technion is based, serves as the major port to Europe for Jordan, and to a lesser degree, Iraq and other neighboring countries. The Technion is presently working on an east-west system to complement the present north-south roadways in Israel.
- Water is perhaps the most important factor in the peace negotiations right now.

*continued on pg. 4*

## Introducing... Torah Tutors

By Deborah Jeff

This year, the SCW *beit midrash* program has introduced three new Torah tutors. These women are donating their time to assist others in the *beit midrash*.

The tutors are there to help students find sources and understand *meforshim*.

Tutor Racheli Kraut, SCW '97, attended Brovender's in Israel for two years and is now majoring in Judaic Studies and Psychology. "There is a spot for everybody in the *beit midrash*. You shouldn't feel intimidated, because there is something that everyone can learn. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help, because we are here to help you," Kraut said.

Adeena Braun, a '94 SCW alumna, is also a *beit midrash* assistant. While at Stern, she majored in Judaic Studies and minored in Art History. She spent her freshman year studying at Brovender's. After graduation, she returned to Israel to serve as Bruriah scholar at Brovender's. There Braun added to her Torah knowledge and also assisted students in the Brovender's *beit midrash*. She is currently attending YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Philosophy to receive her Master's degree in *Tanach*. "It is very important to feel comfortable in the *beit midrash* - so please come

over," said Braun. "I am more than happy to help out."

So far, the feedback from the students has been enthusiastic. "The tutors have been very helpful," said Evie Dabah, SCW '98.

"It is nice that the *beit midrash* is always full and people have their *makom kavuah* to learn," commented Nechama Wohl, SCW '96.

"Come learn Torah!" encouraged Kraut. Tutors are available: Tuesday, 2-5 p.m. (Cheryl Levi) and 6-9 p.m. (Adeena Braun); Wednesday, 12-3 p.m. (Racheli Kraut); Thursday, 2-5 p.m. (Braun).



## Equal Opportunity for Sy Syms Marketing Students

By Susan Jacobs

Sy Syms is now a member of the American Marketing Association (AMA). The AMA - not to be confused with the American Medical Association! - is a national organization with 390 collegiate chapters, reaching 16,000 students. By forming its own chapter, Sy Syms now has access to information about marketing opportunities across the country. On the collegiate level, the AMA allows students to practice their marketing skills. Professionally, the association provides access to corporate marketing departments and advertising firms.

"We, the students of Sy Syms, are proud to be new members within the AMA," said Sarit Aranov, Sy Syms executive vice president of the AMA. "It's been a while since Sy Syms had a good marketing club."

In recent years the school's marketing program was overshadowed by the account-

ing program. Marketing majors hope membership in the AMA will change this situation. A large number of students have expressed interest in becoming members. Michelle Stern is the club's president. Plans are now in the works to host speakers throughout the year. A field trip is also being considered and fund-raising activities will be held to finance the club.

Professor Diane Persky, Assistant to the Dean of Sy Syms, expressed her enthusiasm regarding the establishment of a local chapter of the national association. "We're very excited about the formation of the student chapter of the AMA for a couple of reasons: it gives our marketing students exposure to a professional organization, and educationally it represents a break-through in our marketing program."

## An Absence Deeply Felt

By Nechama Goldfinger

Rabbi Avi Weiss is known as a dynamic and charismatic teacher. It is no surprise, then, that it came as a great shock to many students when it was announced that Rabbi Weiss would not be teaching at Stern this semester.

Rumors flew left and right until students learned what had happened: Rabbi Weiss suffered a minor heart attack, his second in nine years, in Israel on August 23. According to his wife, Toby, one artery was found to be clogged, necessitating the performance of an angioplasty. A stent was inserted to keep the artery open, and Rabbi Weiss' condition seems to be improving. For now, he is recuperating. He was very glad to be able to return to the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, the synagogue he has led for 22 years, in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Weiss has long been a part of the YU environment. After graduating from Yeshiva College in 1966, Rabbi Weiss received Semicha from REUTS in 1968. For the past 26 years he has been teaching at SCW.

Many students are wondering when they can expect to see Rabbi Weiss in the classrooms of SCW again. "I really miss [him], and I hope he comes back soon," said Saritte Mitgang, SCW '97.

According to both his wife and Rabbi

Efram Kanarfogel, Dean of Jewish Studies, Rabbi Weiss intends to be back at SCW at the start of the spring semester in January. It was believed until the first week of September that Rabbi Weiss would be able to teach this semester. However, as it turned out, there had not been time for a proper recovery period before the beginning of classes.

As national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha, Rabbi Weiss' schedule is famously hectic. During his leave of absence from SCW, he plans to stay active in organizing demonstrations, but he has said that in the coming months, he will concentrate more on writing and lecturing.

In order to be able to maintain the courses which Rabbi Weiss had been scheduled to teach, new professors were found to take over his classes for this semester. To a Lichtman, who is new to the SCW faculty, was slotted to teach only one class this term, and has now absorbed Rabbi Weiss' "Skills in Tanach" class as well. Rabbi Marc Penner, the assistant Rabbi at Lincoln Square Synagogue, now teaches both "Modern Jewish Problems" and "Intro to Talmud I."

While students and administration are confident that the new teachers will infuse much energy and talent into their work, there

*continued on pg. 5*

## WYUR Making Improvements

By Chana Schiffmiller

WYUR, YU's official radio station, is anticipating an exciting year of progress. Station board members are working hard to make improvements in several areas.

One major concern of SCW students is the perennial problem of poor reception received at the midtown campus, or "absolute lack of reception," as Rachel Frolich, SCW '97, said. According to Chaya Strasberg, SCW '96, WYUR's public relations manager, the board "has been working non-stop to get better reception in Stern." Cheri Ochs, SCW '97, Stern's WYUR coordinator, said the reception will be fixed soon. "One of this year's goals is to get more Stern students involved than in past years," Ochs said.

Another improvement expected to take place during the academic year is in the station's programming. Avital Amini, WYUR's program director, promises that this year there will be "a wider variety of shows and programs including political talk shows and variety shows, which includes a

"call in for advice" segment. The selection of music played will also be diversified. It will include classical, country, 70's, 80's and 90's music, and Jewish music." The station is trying to appeal to the tastes of all students.

Equipment problems have continually plagued WYUR in past years. "This year the station is working on getting new equipment and to get the radio board working properly because it has been used in past years," Ochs said. In addition, the station owns an "away board" which enables WYUR to broadcast on location at various school games and functions.

The station is working hard at advertising this year in an effort to increase its listening audience. "It is a primary necessity this year for DJs to advertise their shows," Amini said.

If all goes according to plan, SCW students will get more than static when they tune in to 640 AM. "It's going to be a great year for WYUR," Ochs said.

## Internships: Secret To Success

By Alison Liebman

A bright student still unclear as to what professional field interests her can be aided by applying for an internship. An internship is designed to prepare a student for the career that she is interested in, and to provide her with the experience needed to succeed in the working world. Naomi Kapp is the woman to whom many SCW students are indebted for their placements as interns. "Internships are a vital portion of the college years," said Rochelle Teitelbaum, SCW '96. Many other SCW students expressed similar sentiments.

Hana Strauss, SCW '96, is a psychology major who recently began to participate in a research project pertaining to the psychological assessment of low-functioning children. The research is currently being conducted at New York University Medical Center's Rusk Institute. The hospital houses a pre-school which facilitates direct observation of the target population. The goal of the program is to create a new skills assessment test for low-functioning children between the ages of three and five. This test hopes to offer classroom teachers, as well as therapists, a better understanding of each individual child.

The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of communication among the children and family.

Janet Weider, SCW '96, is another student whose interests are in the field of psychology. Weider interned at the Brookwood Child Care Center, where she worked with foster children and their biological and foster parents. This program attempted to keep biological parents who have harmful or illegal addictions involved in their children's lives. Simultaneously, the program aimed to heighten the parents' sense of responsibility. As Weider explained, "these biological parents must learn to assume full responsibility for their children." Her work very often encompassed emotional and physical rehabilitation. Dr. Fagi Bandman, a former psychology professor at SCW, is one of the psychologists involved in this ongoing project. Weider was supervised and guided by Dr. Bandman throughout her internship.

Internship experiences go beyond the field of psychology. Leah Tversky, SCW '96, experienced the thrill of being an active participant in the preparation of a final product for showroom sales. Tversky in-

terned on the production floor of Emmanuelle Ungaro, a well known and highly respected fashion design company. Though her responsibilities were limited to choosing a lining to match a suit or taking inventory of all the pattern materials, she described the excitement of watching the full design process as "incredible." Tracing the progression of raw materials and plans to finished products is one of the insights she gained from the internship.

"Naomi Kapp guided me throughout my internship searches," said Amira Rubin, SCW '96. Rubin interned this past summer at Price, Stern, Sloan Inc., the publishers of *Mad Libs*, among other popular children's series. Rubin is currently working at her fifth internship position in the field of communications. "At all of my interviews, my resume made a strong impression on my potential employers," Rubin said.

Esther Barry, SCW '96, had the opportunity to intern for Putnam Publishing, a company whose most famous children's titles include: *The Little Engine that Could*, *Nancy Drew Mysteries*, and *The Hardy Boys*. Barry said, "There is a great amount of knowledge to be gained from any type of internship. It helps one to learn what is in the industry, and the importance of being able to work with others in competitive fields. Generally an internship helps because it gives a person the work experience necessary for the future. In addition, it gives one a taste of a profession to determine if they truly want to work in that specific field for the rest of their lives."

Kapp is available to assist students in obtaining internship information and writing resumes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in room 920.

## Economic Goals for Israel

*continued from pg. 3*

Problems include deciding the water rights to rainfall over the mountains of Nablus. This water now goes to Netanya within Israeli borders, but the land is part of Palestinian-controlled territory. Another debate is water purity. What if Ranaana, a Jewish town on the West Bank, decides not to improve its water purification system? Under whose jurisdiction will that problem fall?

- For the peace agreement to work, Palestinians need to have a vibrant economy. This means having big industries which will bring a lot of smokestacks and pollution. Wise said the problem of air pollution should be dealt with in advance because it will be much harder to deal with later.

- Energy is the fire of industry. The Neema Institute is presently making use of coal ash, building artificial islands by mixing the ash with cement to make a "Miami Beach off Tel-Aviv" filled with hotels.

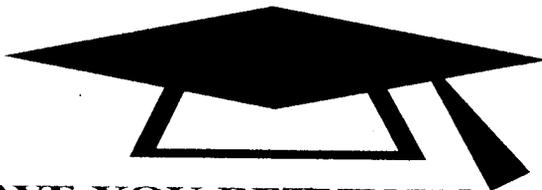
The Technion is also working on communications, which Wise says are of utmost importance. Watching television programs portraying the family life of Israelis or Arabs will make each seem less terrible to the other, he said. An example of the success of this technique is what happened with the collapse of the Soviet Union: With the help of television, Soviet citizens saw that the Western Europeans and Americans had a better standard of living than the average Communist Russian, and this realization helped open the borders to the West. The Technion hopes this will happen with Israel and the Arabs as well.



# COMMENCEMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 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?**

## Sukkot in Manhattan A Communal Experience

By Shulamit Juni

Living in the heart of the Big Apple can be exciting. There is plenty to do, and there are plenty of places to eat. But when it comes to Sukkot, the choices are narrowed down.

Lea Alter, SCW '98, a resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side, explained this phenomenon. "There are only two choices: the shul and the roof." One *sukkah* involves a five-block walk, and the other, 18 flights of stairs! The Alter family chooses the lesser of the two evils, and reserves a table in the Lincoln Square Synagogue for \$2.50 per person per meal. Instead of relying on the caterers, the Alters transport their food to the shul in a makeshift shopping cart which Alter said is a scene impossible to describe.

According to Alter, the communal *sukkah* has its pros and cons. Women usually decide to leave shul early to transport the food. Before an *eruv* was put up, food for Shabbat had to be brought over on *Erev Shabbat* for the next day and a half, refrigerated, and then reheated in the shul kitchen. The *sukkah* is crowded, and occasionally people who do not belong are politely asked to relocate themselves. On the other hand, the communal *sukkah* provides unique opportunities. Tone-deaf voices attempting to sing the songs of Sukkot are drowned out by the *chazan* at the next table. Countless friends insist on your sampling their desserts. In some places, a daily *kiddush* is provided for those people whose mothers take too long to bring over the food. Although sharing a *sukkah* can be a hassle, Alter commented, "The truth is, why do we need privacy? No

one in my family eats with their hands anymore!"

Not everyone forced to use a communal *sukkah* is in the same predicament. Residents of Manhattan's Lower East Side have a *sukkah* built in the park between every two buildings, for a total of six *sukkot* in the Co-op housing development. Volunteers from the buildings, usually young girls, gather to decorate them. Twelve to 15 long tables can fit inside, and two families can fit at each table. People load their pots into boxes and haul them to the *sukkah* whenever they are ready to eat. Tables are not formally assigned, so occasionally there is a wait to get in.

Ziona Hochbaum, SCW '97, said her housing complex's *sukkot* create a "nice community feeling." The *sukkot* are funded by dues paid by every family that uses the *sukkah*, and "everyone contributes - we pay even though my family has been going away for Sukkot for many years."

SCW student Dvora Chayat's memories of Sukkot on the Lower East Side are not as fond. She recalls fights over seats, and women being kicked out when space was tight. "It was so annoying," she said, "that my family switched from their local *sukkah* to the one in the old age home."

For those Manhattan residents who are insistent upon privacy, two options exist. Families can relocate themselves for the holiday, or borrow a cardboard box from a park visitor, punch a few holes on top and cover it with *s'chach* and presto - instant *sukkah*!

## A Major Issue

By Chedva Aurfichtig

Psychology: 135 students; Biology: 83 students; Business: 58 students; Accounting: 51 students... When deciding on a major, most SCW students choose a well-worn path. However, in every graduating class there are a number of women whose majors foretell an unusual, up-and-coming career.

Reasons for choosing a major vary. The most obvious factor is simply the desire to have a major that bodes well for future career opportunities. Michal Bloom, SCW '98, chose Graphic Art, making her one of 39 SCW students who are Shaped Art majors. "Computers run the world now. I figured if I was going to major in art I might as well do something that I could apply to a career." Other students are guided toward their majors to satisfy an inner need to help others. They include a Speech Pathology major, who stutters herself, and now wants to use her firsthand knowledge to help others overcome this problem. Others are motivated by self-promotion, such as a History major who wants to "be a Jeopardy champion."

Obviously, the existence of Sy Syms, a built-in business school, tends to attract many students to one of the five Bachelor of Science degrees offered. Its set program removes the pressure of having to make difficult class decisions, as well as making the registration process much easier. Students are especially impressed by the numerous career guidance events, and the helpfulness and dedication of Sy Syms professors. Aviva Roseman, SCW '98, chose Accounting. "Accounting is a set course. Besides, it appears to be a relaxing job - except at tax time!"

SCW also boasts well-developed Judaic Studies and Education departments. Tamar Eisenberger, SCW '97, decided she was meant to teach after coming back from a year of studies in Israel. "After 12 years I could

count on my two hands the teachers that had made a difference. In Israel everyone made an impact. I decided to become one of those."

Some of Stern's most fascinating and unusual majors are found within the Shaped Major program. This program was created in order to provide greater opportunities for women to study in varied areas, at a time when Stern offered fewer established majors. Originally, the only joint program was with FIT. This provided schooling in Design, and in the "pre-Sy Syms" Stern, Accounting, Marketing and Management. Eventually, the shaped majors became so numerous that some were established as official majors. Professor Laurel Hatvary is the advisor to the Shaped Major program. She is proud of her role in creating a program which makes more "in-house" opportunities available. In response to a proposal for an even wider range of majors, Hatvary said, "If there were the demand, believe me there would be the major."

Rachel Frolich, SCW '97, definitely used the Shaped Major program to her advantage. Her major is Art Therapy in Education. She worked with special children in camp HASC and in NCSY's Yachad, which targets the developmentally disabled. These experiences are what triggered her to focus on special education. "I spoke to an art therapist who dropped a few graduate school names. At first I was toying with the idea of attending a different college because Stern did not have an Art Therapy major. Not wanting to give up the Jewish environment, I decided on Stern." Ultimately it was Dean Karen Bacon who pieced together the shaped major and provided Frolich with a viable option.

Another student whose major diverges from the norm is Chani Koenigsberg, SCW '97. Koenigsberg hopes to draw medical il-

## The Dorming Dilemma

By Laurie Stender

"To dorm or not to dorm?" For some SCW students, that is the question. Once school gets underway, students often rethink their original decisions. But most first-time-on-campus students soon become accustomed to their somewhat crowded rooms, and many upperclassmen immediately feel right at home in their suites or Windsor Court or Lexington apartments.

Still, there exists another group of Stern students who, every day, make the trek into Manhattan to attend classes.

Shira Shulman, SCW '98, is a commuter from Hewlett, Long Island. So as not to be late for her morning classes, Shulman takes a 7 a.m. train. She sleeps in the dorm twice a week to ensure her making it on time to her 9 a.m. classes. Shulman is not commuting by choice, though, she was closed out of the dorm.

"This has limited my ability to get involved in extra-curriculars, and if I'm unable to get into the dorm for next semester, I can't register for any 9 a.m. classes," Shulman said.

Some commuters do so because they are married, or because of the high cost of on-campus housing.

"With the high cost of tuition, my parents basically said I had to live at home or find another school," said one student who spent a year in the dorm and is living at home this year.

As a freshman, Aviva Kraus lived in Brookdale Hall. This year Kraus commutes from her home in Queens. She considers commuting to be a tremendous waste of time. Kraus often sleeps over in friends' rooms in order to use the library facilities located on campus and to escape the many distractions that come with attempting to study at home.

Commuting time is not the only consideration. Even many Manhattan residents opt

for on-campus housing. Lea Landowne, SCW '98, has chosen to live in the dorm rather than to take a subway or bus from the Upper West Side every day. Landowne is content with her decision. She feels commuting would take away a lot from her college experience. "Living in the dorm gives me the opportunity to get involved in extracurriculars and it makes me feel like I'm really a part of everything that goes on around here," Landowne said.

Several seniors who have commuted throughout their four years at Stern think that many school activities, including night-time lectures, are geared toward students who live in the dorm.

Another problem facing commuters is inclement weather. "It's hard to convince yourself to travel an hour and a half on a freezing cold train when there's a blizzard going on and it's five degrees below zero outside," said a student who has commuted for a year.

Ziona Hochbaum, SCW '97, who lives at home in Manhattan, said, "It is true that I am hesitant to sign up for activities that require a long-term commitment. But when there is a one-time lecture or activity that interests me, I stay late and take a taxi home afterwards."

Hochbaum said that there is sometimes a lack of consideration for commuters. She believes that everything that is made available in the dorm should be available in the school building as well. For example, the pre-Guide phone lists were given out to dormers but not to commuters. One senior suggests that every commuter be given a mailbox in school enabling them to receive all information that is distributed in the dorm.

According to the Office of Student Services, there are 707 students living on campus, that leaves 96 commuters.

"There are more of us than people realize," Hochbaum said.

While teaching Judaic Studies on the side, Her double major, Bio-Medical Art and Judaic Studies, will allow her to go to medical school for a Master's in Art as Applied to Science. Koenigsberg is pleased with her choice of major. "I'm less bored with my courses, and they complement each other," she said. The Shaped Major program includes other tracks as well, including Optometry and Journalism. Not surprisingly, in a school where the largest groups of students are Psychology and Biology majors, these unusual majors evoke occasional raised eyebrows.

Making this big decision does not come easily to everyone. Apparently it is not unusual for students to change their majors numerous times. One sophomore admitted to taking the easiest decision route. Another student said she should have been an Education major in order to best prepare for becoming a high school Judaic Studies teacher. Instead she decided to major in Psychology, and thus reduce the number of years she'd have to spend in college.

No matter what the chosen major, the general consensus is that the SCW faculty are very generous with their class and career guidance. A Computer major confided that in several directed studies classes the instructor "put in almost as many hours as a regular class." This made what is normally just a job of assigning work and answering questions a more personal experience.

Clearly, there a lot more options for SCW students in choosing their majors than many realize. With the proper guidance, a student can build a major around her individual needs and interests. And that's a major advantage.

## Rabbi Weiss

continued from pg. 3

is no doubt that Rabbi Weiss' presence is deeply missed. Rachel Frolich, SCW '97, recalls that Rabbi Weiss' "Intro to Talmud" class was particularly enjoyable because of his "clear and lucid" style. "He was approachable, caring and concerned about the students," she said. "In his *Gemara* class, we'd sit around in a circle in the *beit midrash*. Rabbi Weiss would make you think of your own questions and comments."

True to their reputation, Rabbi Weiss' classes are far from ordinary. One student remembers that "whenever anything happened in Israel, he became very emotional. It tore him apart." While many students agree that Rabbi Weiss often brings politics into the classroom, they are quick to point out that the subject matter of the course always takes precedence.

Student reaction to Rabbi Weiss' unexpected absence has included both concern and disappointment. Some students, like Na'ama Ben David, SCW '97, who had planned to take "Intro to Talmud I" specifically because of Weiss' style of teaching, decided to drop the course. "I'm very disappointed," she said. Most of the students have remained in the class, however, and Rabbi Kanarfogel expresses confidence in the new teachers.

The Observer wishes Rabbi Weiss a speedy and complete recovery.

## Music Review

# Dana Mase's Musical Journey

By Kim Ohayon

Imagine the sound of a pack of hungry, growling wolves unleashed into a room filled with a thousand tin cans. It might sound similar to one of a few popular songs of today—pounding, obnoxious and seemingly pointless.

Now picture a serene mountaintop, a soft breeze lingering in the clean air, the river bubbling under a waterfall close by, exotic bird-calls echoing in the distance—relaxing, smooth, airy. This is the sound of Dana Mase.

Though she may not yet be a household name, Dana Mase is not entirely new on the music scene. *Sitting With an Angel*, her second album, was released this summer, about a year after her debut album, *Diary*. Now a soul-searching folk singer, she once had a rock band called *Pass In Boats*, which performed in major New York City nightclubs.

Mase grew up knowing that she was Jewish, but the most ethnic memory is of her family trying to read through the *Hagaddah* one Passover, and not knowing what to eat. A spiritual person by nature, she spent her adolescence searching for G-d. When she was older, a friend led her into the Christian world, and soon Mase became a born-again Christian. As her questions resurfaced, she realized that was not the road for her. With the guidance of her sister, who was herself discovering Orthodoxy at the time, Mase began the journey back to her roots. She is now married and lives in Monsey, New York, with her husband and four children.

Most of Mase's music is filled with soulful songs that have an uplifting message. "Orthodox women also need to create," Mase said. She sings of Jewish spirituality, G-d and faith with a ringing sincerity. Seven of her songs are love poems to G-d. A verse from "I Love I Never Knew" is typical of most of her Divine praises: "Today You came to me



Open my eyes to see/Through lies and live in truth/And live in love with You".

The token remake on the album is (surprise) "Turn Turn Turn." Mase sings it pleasantly enough, but uses the traditional harmony that is already familiar, leaving no personal trademark.

But perhaps another personal song is unnecessary, since the rest of the album sounds like it came straight from her past. Of the 12 songs on the album, Mase wrote the music and lyrics to nine, and they are all autobiographical. One song is dedicated to her sister, one to her children. "Sitting with an Angel" is based on her emotional transition from born-again Christian to observant Jew. "The Autumn Seems to Know" is an ode to the father she lost as a teenager. Of all the album's tunes, its haunting melody makes "Autumn" her most moving piece.

Too much of Mase's relentlessly melodic ballads could give anyone the urge to start wishing for something that sounds more like furious, clanging tin cans. But the uncomplicated songs about belief and redemption are a refreshing change from some of her contemporaries' pessimistic music. Mase's faith in G-d shines through the unpretentious lyrics, and she does know how to inspire.

## Broadway Bound: Theater Tips for Students

By Dina Bogner

The dimming of the lights, the swelling rise of the orchestra music, the hush of the audience waiting to be entertained by the purest genre of dramatic arts—the theater. Settling in to the plush seats and reading the Playbill in excitement cannot, for obvious reasons, be compared to rushing into a movie theater in the hopes that the previews will be good. Going to the theater is an experience that involves so much more than desire to see a story played out. When you sit there in the dark, in the same room as the actors playing the roles, you become part of the story, and very often it feels as if they are performing solely for you. Seeing a Broadway show, whether it be a lavish musical replete with bright costumes, unforgettable music and extravagant sets, or a small serious drama that can move you to tears, is in my opinion one of the most thrilling and wonderful experiences one can have.

Stern College has many positive points as a school, not the least of them being its proximity to what is known as the "Theater District." A student who spends her career in Stern without taking advantage of all that Broadway has to offer is missing out on what many people look forward to for years.

It's true that prices of a theater ticket are slightly higher than those of a movie ticket, but there are many bargains to be had if you know where to go. Many of the long-running popular musicals, such as *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* and *Cats* offer \$15

seats in the rear mezzanines, and they also almost always have orchestra seats available at half price at the TKTS booths in Times Square and the World Trade Center. The TKTS booth opens at 10 a.m. for matinees, and at 3 p.m. for evening shows.

Some shows offer student tickets at a discounted price. *Sunset Boulevard*, last year's Tony Award winner for best new musical, offers student tickets on the day of the show, available at the box office for \$25. Even on days of sold-out performances, the student seats, located in the rear mezzanine, are almost always available, sometimes as late as half an hour before the show. Anyone unsure of what to see should go to *Sunset Boulevard* as soon as possible, and take advantage of their current student offers.

Some student-oriented theater companies, like the Roundabout Theater, offer student seats when available, a half-hour before show time. These seats, often first or second row at half the regular price, are an incredible bargain.

Seasons are also a factor when trying to obtain discounted tickets. January is Broadway's slowest month, and many shows will offer discounts for a period of time in the winter. I highly recommend seeing shows in the winter, especially on weeknights when theaters are less crowded and better seats are available. Christmas Eve is the best night of the year for theater—not only will you get great seats, but there will probably be a

## Space a Problem at Stern

continued from pg. 1

when there is an empty desk? Must SCW require students to sign up for desks?

Almost unanimously, students are voicing frustration and discontent.

"I had to learn how to make maximum use out of any space," said Rachel Hellman, SCW '96. "And during finals I end up studying at the New York Public Library." Another student agreed that test time creates the biggest problem.

"During finals, by 9 a.m. there's a line waiting to get into the library. It's like the stampede at a department store sale. The librarian unlocks the door and has to duck out of the way as people run to get seats. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it," said Caren Gottlieb, SCW '96. Gottlieb would be willing to study in the library as early as 7 a.m. in order to beat the rush and actually find a seat.

"Librarians don't approve of students sitting on the steps in the second floor library, blocking the way. Though we understand that they need to study, it's a fire hazard and we can't allow it," said Goldman.

The Office of Facilities Management contends that there are enough places to study. Members of the staff have suggested that students study in the sixth-floor *beit midrash*.

"As long as you're satisfied, Facilities Management is doing a good job," said Sam Mandelbaum, Director of Facilities Management. Yet many students are not satisfied.

"Students use the *beit midrash* study room for interactive *chavrutta* study and the fact that the administration has given students less than adequate quiet places to study does not mean that other students should give up their Torah learning," responded an irate senior.

SCW students and staff suggested possible solutions to create more study space. "They should have designated floors for study in the school building that won't be used for graduate schools at night. They

should post signs so we know which ones are available instead of having to go up, find an empty classroom, go down and get a guard to open it," said Chana Schiffmiller, SCW '96.

"Students can study on the window sills—though don't lean on the glass because it will break, and they can sit between the stacks, and some students study under the stairs on the way to the media room in the North Wing library. But if you study there, remember to keep your voice down because the sound is amplified," said Goldman. She also suggested that Stern acquire a carrel tower to accommodate students, as featured in a recent issue of *College & Research Libraries News*. The tower allows for maximum utilization of space. There are eight desks on the bottom, seven perched on the top (accessible via a staircase) and two desks inside. The concept is similar to a bunk-bed unit. In the Grinnell College Library in Iowa, where these carrels were instituted, the number of study stations was doubled.

The Office of Student Services is currently working on a plan to designate classrooms for studying.

"Even when they open the classrooms it doesn't help because people like to use classrooms to study aloud," said Gottlieb. Indeed, many students need a library-quiet environment to successfully study.

"The bottom line is that we've outgrown 245 Lexington Avenue," said Segall.

## Beyond the Front Page

### News You May Have Missed

By Racheli Felsman and Andrea Snyder

#### Payback

34 million dollars owned by European Jews during World War II, have been found in Swiss bank accounts. Independent banking offices have been set up to enable relatives of Holocaust victims to retrieve their relatives' assets. Despite an outcry by Jewish organizations, the Association of Swiss Bankers will charge a fee for such searches.

#### Benetton in Bosnia

Amidst the fire and bloodshed in war-torn Bosnia, some new colors have appeared - The United Colors of Benetton. The Benetton Group recently opened a store in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. The suffering that is commonly depicted in the company's advertisements has now become a reality right outside the window of one of its stores.

#### Museum West

The Museum of Television and Radio recently announced that a second museum will be opened in Los Angeles next March. The success of the New York museum has prompted museum officials to build an exact replica of the museum located on 52nd Street in Manhattan. The opening of the L.A. replica is part of the museum's 20th anniversary celebration.

Continued on pg.7

## Restaurant Review

### Fine Dining at Fellini

By Dina Bogner

With an overwhelming amount of new, upscale kosher restaurants opening in Manhattan lately, the city dweller has many options to choose from when selecting where to dine. Fellini, the *fleisheig* sister restaurant to the ever-popular dairy Medici, has emerged, since its opening in the spring, as the winning choice for those looking for a truly superior dining experience.

Located conveniently in midtown, on 49th Street between 5th and Madison Avenues, Fellini is a calm refuge from the hustle and bustle of its surroundings. Its spacious, airy room is dimly lit and complete with ceiling murals and lovely decor. The clientele consists largely of businessmen and couples wanting to enjoy the wonderful food.

The menu offers artistically presented foods, with appetizers such as grilled portobello mushrooms in a light red wine

sauce and the delicious lamb and rosemary ravigottes with a tomato concasse sauce. Main course options include the perfect seared breast of duck with a cranberry compote and potato pancakes, and the minty grilled rack of lamb with whipped candied sweet potatoes. Dessert options vary, and they include tempting choices like a warm chocolate cake with cinnamon ice-cream that is not to be missed.

Fellini's wonderful ambience, impressive service and its menu of dishes that are extremely difficult to choose from make it the perfect choice for that special night out. Visit them soon, and you will be very happy you did.

Fellini is open Monday through Thursday, lunch 12-3 p.m. and dinner 5-10 p.m.; Fridays lunch only; Sundays dinner only; and Saturdays one hour after Shabbat.

### It's No Mystery Rochelle Majer Krich Finds Success as a Writer

By Rosa Hollander

In the grand tradition of Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and Carolyn Keene, Rochelle Majer Krich is the author of numerous mystery novels and short stories, many with a Jewish twist. In 1969, Krich graduated with a B.A. in English Literature from Stern College, where she was editor of *Ashes and Sparks*, the SCW literary journal now known as *Besamin*. She warmly recalls that the professors in the SCW English department, particularly Professor Laurel Hatvary, were always encouraging her to pursue a professional writing career.

Krich went on to receive a Master's in English Literature from the University of California at Los Angeles. After marriage and while raising a family, Krich taught at Yeshiva University High School in Los Angeles for 18 years, where she chaired the English department. Writing was always on the back-burner throughout her teaching career, but Krich didn't begin to write professionally until prodded by members of her writing group. About nine years ago she wrote her first manuscript and sent it to a publisher, without the assistance of an agent. Her first plot, centering around a serial killer and a male detective, was rejected. At the suggestion of a friend, she made the detective a woman - and promptly sold the manuscript.

Krich said that once she changed the gender of the protagonist, "I was able to get into her mind [because she was a female] and flesh out her character more fully."

Her first book, entitled *Where's Mommy Now?*, was published by Zebra Press with the aid of an agent. An editor at Avon Books read the book and inquired whether there were any other manuscripts in the works. The plot of her second book, *Till Death Do Us Part*, published by Avon, deals with the *agunah* problem. According to Krich, this subject matter posed an unusual problem because she was worried about possibly alienating both the Jewish and Gentile audience. Krich felt that Gentiles could not relate to the problem, while Jews, especially women, were aggrieved by a law that gave men ultimate power in divorce settlements. The topic proved to be unsettling, and as a result, Krich did something rare in publishing circles. She consulted a rabbinic authority about the va-

lidity of exploring the *agunah* difficulty in a published work, and received approbation for the book. Another book, *Angel of Death*, features characters who are Holocaust revisionists.

It is easier to write non-Jewish plots because I am not nervous about misinterpretation or offending a Jewish reader," Krich asserted. She is very careful when writing about Jewish themes and is very sensitive about the portrayal of Jewish characters, but is also excited to present Jews in non-traditional roles. She finds that stereotypes are held by both Gentiles and non-affiliated Jews who have antiquated views of Jewish characters.

Though being an observant Jew shapes who she is and what she writes, Krich does not limit her subject matter to Jewish topics. She reads mostly mysteries but tries not to be influenced by other writers' storylines and ideas. It is everyday life that serves as her inspiration, she said.

Krich recognizes that many students do not consider English literature to be a practical major and in college even she was undecided about future career plans. Being a writer was a fantasy that has only recently become a reality for Rochelle Majer Krich. She loves what she does and relishes meeting people who have read her books. She divulged her cure for writer's block: "Write frequently, even if the material is not perfect. It is easier to edit and perfect what you already have than to be staring at a blank page." She urges aspiring writers not to underestimate the value of "obsession" and "compulsion" when it comes to writing. "Don't wait for your manuscript to be sold. As soon as you finish one work, begin another project. Waiting can be extremely demoralizing and your second work can be much better than the first," she said.

One of Krich's novels has successfully made the transition to television and movies. *Where's Mommy Now?* was turned into a movie, *Perfect Alibi*, slated for broadcast on HBO in December. *Nowhere to Run* has also been optioned for a TV movie. A third book featuring her trademark - a female detective - is scheduled for publication in December.

## Books in a Box

Reviewed By Rosa Hollander

### Politically Correct Bedtime Stories Modern Tales for Our Life and Times

By James Finn Garner  
(Macmillan Publishers)

If you don't recall "Little Red Riding Hood" being particularly funny, you probably haven't read the politically correct version of the classic fairy tale. The authors of *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* are the latest dead white European males coming under attack for writing what "fairy tale revisionist" James Finn Garner believes is elitist and sexist literature for the crib generation. In an age when lawsuits abound, witches, goblins, step-parents and giants have ample cause to file a suit for defamation and slander.

Fairy tales are among the first stories read to impressionable young children, so the stories should be free of demeaning, discriminatory and culturally-biased ideas. As a genre, fairy tales followed the values of the time, which explains why the fairy tales we all treasure contain total disregard for woman's issues, cruelty to animals and minorities, and a perverted sense of morality.

Garner, an admitted descendant of dead white males, felt guilty for perpetuating a culture which has no place in today's society, and the fruit of his efforts is *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*. At times, it reads like a *Mad Maga-*

zine parody, but it is much more sophisticated and witty. Cakes and cookies lose their flavor and become healthful, fat-free, sodium-free fruits, one is never poor but economically disadvantaged; and heaven forbid you call Grandma old - she was merely chronologically advanced. Garner goes as far as distancing woman from the oppressive man, by changing the spelling of woman which becomes "womyn." We are a generation which strongly believes that the imprints of childhood affect a child's thinking and development into adulthood. Little girls dream of becoming princesses and little boys want to be princes, but maybe everyone should aim to be the wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*, a creature who, in Garner's version, "freed himself from Western-style thought," and as a result knew a quicker way to Grandma's house.

*Politically Correct Bedtime Stories* makes for excellent reading for both adults and children. It is full of hilarious retellings of the stories we all know and love. It is a wonderful gift for the man in your life if he operates according to antediluvian notions of gender roles (that's p.c. for male chauvinist pig).

### The Liberty Campaign

by Jonathan Dee  
(Washington Square Press)

*The Liberty Campaign* explores a passage of life often overlooked in society - the retirement stage. Set in a fictional town called Belmont, a typical suburb on Long Island, the novel follows the life of Gene Trowbridge shortly before he retires from his position as vice-president of a Manhattan advertising firm. Gene is bored and unfulfilled. He feels that he is on the verge of losing his creativity, so he seeks excitement and adventure before retirement sets in. Excitement appears in the form of Albert Ferdinand, a long-time neighbor who's accused of committing wartime crimes in his native Brazil. Gene becomes obsessed with getting the truth from Ferdinand, and as a result, finds himself a virtual outcast, shunned by his wife and neighbors for associating with a believed criminal.

The reader sympathizes with Gene, a man who has led a tranquil, unexplored life. Advertising is the only outlet for his visions. Inner journeys always make for interesting reading because the struggle is a universal one. Gene's conflict stems from his reluctance to accept tranquility

as the main ingredient of the remaining years of his life. Small towns have a way of making a man feel insignificant and Belmont is the quintessential suburb where conformity is idealized. Gene views his friendship with a wanted criminal as a way to escape the dullness that is about to set in upon him. When Gene discovers that Ferdinand is a hunted criminal, he feels betrayed, both by the nature of the crime and by his own sense of failure in detecting that his friend is a man capable of committing vicious brutalities.

Jonathan Dee portrays a man's grasp for greatness in a disturbing light. It is a powerful story of a man's confrontation with evil and utter cruelty, literally right in his own backyard. Dee confronts the reader with atrocities that do not fail to shatter the reader's perception of self and acceptance of evil. *The Liberty Campaign* is an engaging and stirring work that draws comparisons to *The Great Gatsby*. I recommend it to readers who seek challenging and provoking novels that do not attempt to preach one-sided morality.

continued from pg.6  
open for new and exciting plays that are opening nearly every week.

So please do take my advice and take advantage of the best theater this country has to offer. I am sure many of you will only be living in New York for a small fraction of your lives, and it would be a terrible waste not to see and experience as much as you can in that short amount of time. Go - watch, feel, learn - and enjoy.

Answers to Crossword

AIR	STALE	WIN
RCR	PETAL	ROE
MENACE	GALORE	
GRATE	MUN	
WILEE	HAS	GIRE
MOON	ATP	CAM
ON	SOP	TAP
NET	CAL	RIVET
GARB	DU	GALE
TRAP	ENTIRE	
WILEE	THOSE	SON
WITE	TREBS	EYE

# SCW SPORTS

## Swords on Campus Fencing Team Begins Its First Season

By Cheryl Younger

This year, fencing has joined Basketball and Tennis as an official team sport at Stern College. With the help of Senior Na'ama Ben David, this out-of-the-ordinary sport has gained much popularity. It requires intelligence as well as skill and coordination. "How will I force my opponent to let down her guard or become distracted, so that my attack will be successful?" "What will my opponent's next move be, so that I may attack with a counter move?" These are the questions a fencer must consider during a bout, which is the official name for a fencing match.

As Ben David was sitting on the bus in New York City holding her epee, one of three kinds of swords used in fencing, a passenger asked her why she was holding antennae. Unfortunately, this comment is reflective of the familiarity of most Americans with fencing. Our culture has produced football, basketball, and baseball icons, but how many Michael Jordans are popularized in fencing?

Perhaps understanding the sport will help change its image in our minds from medieval swordplay to modern recreation. Throughout a fencing match, the fencer is standing in a forward, retreat or lunging

position. The basic object of the sport is to touch one's opponent with the sword five times in a bout. However, depending on which type of sword one is using, the goal changes slightly.

Fencing consists of three swords—the epee (pronounced epay), the foil, and the sabre (pronounced saaber). Each sword is used in a different situation. For example, one uses the three-sided sabre to attack an opponent aggressively with a slashing motion. The epee and foil require hitting the opponent with the tip of the sword in a more precise fashion. Another difference is that with the epee and the foil, one tries to touch the "strike zone." This is the area between the neck and the hips, excluding the arms. With the sabre, one does not have the limitations of hitting a specific area.

Ben David and nine other SCW students are now active participants in the newly-formed fencing team. Jose Fusco serves as coach of the team as well as the instructor for the physical education class in fencing.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the sport, or in joining the team, please contact Na'ama Ben David.

## For Fifth Straight Year, Lady Macs Get New Coach

By Rachel Hellman

This season the Lady Macs have a new coach, Steve Young. In addition to his new position, Young also serves as athletic director at Yeshiva University.

Young has both high school and college coaching experience. He was an assistant coach for two years at Tufts University and head coach at North Shore Community College. He also coached high school basketball for 11 seasons.

Judith Kelson, SCW '96, who will be starting her fourth season as a Lady Mac, is excited about the new coach. "His ability to teach the players helps him excel at coaching," Kelson said. Likewise, Sharon Kaminetzky, SCW '96, another four-year veteran, explains that Young "gives constructive criticism and helps you rectify your mistakes."

This season will mark the fifth new coach for the team in the past five years. One of Young's goals is to create "some stabil-

ity" in the coaching position at Stern. Nancy Kaplan, last year's coach, was unable to return because of family obligations. Beth Shapiro, last year's assistant, was also unable to return as a result of a conflicting schedule.

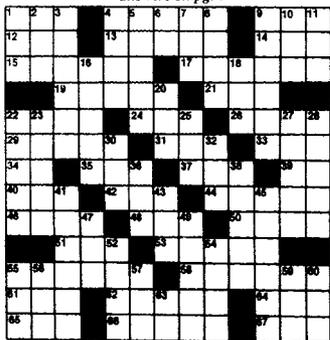
Tryouts were held on Monday, September 18. Over 20 students attended, but only 14 made the team. Young was impressed with the quality of the players who tried out. The team is made up of a large number of rookies, because only three players are returning from last season.

The roster for the team is: Gila Balzer, Prina Birman, Chana Holzer, Sharon Kaminetzky, Judith Kelson, Michelle Lefkowitz, Shana May, Rachel Neugroschl, Blima Sasson, Rachel Schwartz, Tali Spierer, Stephanie Turetsky, Sheila Wainberg and Cheryl Younger.

The Lady Macs will open their season on November 8 against the College of New Rochelle.

### Clued In

answers on pg. 7



**ACROSS**

- 1. Sky
- 4. Hot dish
- 9. Traveler's resting place
- 12. Record company
- 13. Flower part
- 14. Fish egg
- 15. Throat
- 17. In great numbers
- 19. Cradling
- 21. Water
- 22. Laxative side
- 34. Crown
- 36. To make backing remarks
- 39. Established code
- 41. Tear
- 43. Wheel on rotating shaft
- 44. Location of
- 45. Animate
- 47. Perspective; Day
- 49. Move!
- 49. Cuts
- 49. Fish with long nose
- 49. Head belt or pin
- 49. noun
- 49. Completed
- 49. High wheel
- 51. Marbles
- 53. Inland
- 55. Senses
- 56. Drive forward
- 61. Human plane
- 62. Inlet
- 64. Plant
- 65. (Clued)
- 65. Lock of woman's hair
- 67. Organ of vision

**DOWN**

- 1. Upper appendage
- 2. Fresh water
- 3. Forest pathmaker
- 4. Animal protective agency (abbr.)
- 5. Intense
- 6. New
- 7. Fall lobbed
- 8. Dash
- 9. Opposite meaning
- 10. Weather
- 11. Horn
- 14. Person
- 18. Tag
- 20. Slender organ
- 22. Milder
- 23. Person by himself
- 25. Table's end
- 27. Dispersed roll
- 28. Express emotion
- 30. Truncated number
- 32. Equal!
- 34. Canines
- 36. Protective garment
- 41. Tall on someone
- 43. Fire
- 45. Gaiters
- 47. Stashed
- 49. Date clothing
- 52. Unit of power
- 54. Units
- 58. 7th Cr. letter
- 58. Insect egg
- 57. Rank
- 59. Sky
- 65. People sleep
- 67. In reference to

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