# TheObserver 

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women * Yeshiva Umiversity


YU delegates to Yale Model Knesset in between sessions.

## Students Debate and <br> Legislate at Yale Model Knesset

By Sharona Cohen
In an effort to sensitize students to Knessel procedure and give them an opportunity to network with other politically inclined students from across the country, 28 YU students; 10 of them from SCW, attended the third annual Yale University Model Israel: Knesset.

The simulated Ktresset altowed students to experience firsttrand the actual trials and tribulations encountered by the real Knesset. Each student was as-
signed a party and committee in which debate took place. In addition, selected students were given Ministry positions. YU held the majority of these with three SCW and four YC positions. SCW held positions in the Ministries of the Advancement of Women, Environment, and Labor and Welfare.

At the opening ceremony YMIK delegates were addressed by Gad Yacobi, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations. Students Continued on page 4

## Theft Strikes SCW

By Miriam BenEara At the beginning of the sethoot year, incoming students attended many oricntation workhops which dealt with various tepics such as time alloment, career opportunites and personal securnty. The security workshop taught stadents the proper way to interact with people outside on the streets of Manhattan and also explaned the importance of security even inside the school buildings. The workshop leaders strongly encouraged students to keep their empty dorm rooms locked at all times.
in a school where the beil midrash door is left unlocked as long as the school buiding is open, the students of SCW found it hard to remember the necessity of lock ing their doors in a building full of Jewish people. Mosi people found it hard to believe that theft could occur at all.

All that may change since a rash of thefts has struck the SCW campus. A brand new leather briefcase was stolen recently from the unlocked office of Betty Gordon. a computer supervisor at SCW while she was teaching a class right next door.
"A new lock was placed on my

## Lecture Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

By Laurie Gewirtz
Alpha Epsilon Delta, SCW's pre-med and pre-dentistry student club, sponsored a recent lecture aimed at increasing students' awareness of breast cancer and the importance of breast self-examination (BSE) on a regular monthly basis. Over 40,000 women die of breast cancer every year in the United States, and it ranks as the most common cancer among women and the most common cause of death among women ages 35 to 55 .

Golda Fried, a registered nurse who regularly conducts seminars on breast cancer awareness, and Joan Schuster, a breast cancer survivor, addressed the approximately 30 students in attendance.

The specific causes of breast cancer are not known, but it appears to be a disease that depends on an interrelationship among a number of factors, such as age, genetics, diet, hormonal balance, drugs and radiation. Until there is a cure for breast cancer, the greatest hope for its containment is awareness, early detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Fried said that what she found in common among all the students was the fear associated with breast
cancer. "The fear of having it, which leads to examination anxiety and often becomes a stumbling block for early detection," she said. Women need to be reassured that if they do have a problem, and it is detected at an early stage, treatment can be life-saving. The vast majority of women who are tested, at least nine out of 10 , will end up with the comforting knowledge that all is fine.

Fried strongly encouraged every woman in the room to perform breast self-examinations once a month, and she handed out pamphlets to give to mothers, sisters and friends. About 90 percent of breast cancer symptoms are discovered by women themselves, and Fried stressed that the college years are the perfect time to start performing self-exams. Through a short video and by slowly and carefully explaining the procedure step by step. she informed the students. on how BSEs should be perfonted. She also explained how to recognize abnomalities or changes which should be followed up by further examination.
"Breast cancer is an important disease for people to be aware of," said AED President Elana Milstein,

SCW '97. "It's a phobia, something that's not spoken about."

The second half of the evening consisted of a presentation by Schuster, a breast cancer survivor who recounted her personal experiences. She discovered the cancer during a monthly BSE. She caught the cancer in its early stages, and was able to begin chemotherapy and radiation treatment aimost immediately afterward. Schuster spoke to the students about her initial feelings of shock, helplessness and pessimism after her diagnosis.

Shuster is living proof that performing BSEs on a regular basis can be life-saving. She has made many public appearances, speaking about her personal ordeal with breast cancer in order to increase the practice of BSEs. Genetically, the odds were against her, because she had close relatives who died from breast cancer at an early age. Even though the turnout wasn't overwhelming. students who attended appreciated the lectures, which ended with a long question and answer session

Toobtait more information or BSE pamphlets, please see Hana Milstein.
dexer and ! wath told to kcep me offee door lacked, burlim back and forth from my office and the clase rooms all day," Gordon seach "In this dav 1 carnt understand boos someone conld just lake my bret. case full of work papers rugh olf my cham " Gordon alse repert disks being constantly volen from the computer rooms.

Three weeks ago on a Monday morning, Laurie Gewirty. SC $W$ 98, a Brookdale Hall resident, retumed froma weekend away and found a space on her desk where her phone used to be. At first she did not believe that a theft had occurred, but eventually she went down to the lobby where a security guard filed a police report.

Her roommates said the theft had probably happened on a Sunday night while they were visiting friends in other rooms. The door was lefl unlocked because they had only expected to be gone for a short while, but the thicf had complete access to the room.

- After my roommates and I


## heard about that theft, we started theft and eliminate it." she sand

## Party Time with Adopt-a-Bubby Chagiga... Zaidies, Too! <br> By Susan Jacebs

It could have been 1936 in a shul on the Lower East Side, or 1896 in a small European shtetl. The sound of "Haveinu Shalom dleichem" reverberating in the laughing, dancing crowd. The mournful tune of a viola, evoking memories from a Jewish past both ancient and modern. If an observer had closed her eyes, ste could easily forget that the music and dancing were taking place in an SCW elassrom in 1996.

During Club Hour on Wednesday, February 28,15 sehor citizens from Project Ezra, an organization on the Lower East Side came to SCW for a Purim
chagiga sponsored by TAC's Adopt-a-Bubby club.

Many elderly Jews on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, which was once the center of Jewish life in New York, today find themselves isolated. Project Ezra is trying to build - or revitalize - a community among these Jews. Project Exra provides its members with housekeeping and personal care services and organizes group get-togethers so the seniors can meet each other.

For years, SCW students have been volunteering for Project Ezra, and a few years ago.

Continued on page 5

## The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue. New York, N.Y. 10016 340-7794. Fax (212) 725-9473. Published ti245 Lexington Avenue. New York, N. Y. weekly durng the academic
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## Wanted: More Payphones

Between classes, during club hour, and all day long, exasperated students are asking: Is there a phone in the house? The phone squeeze in the $S C W$ school building - a daily educational center for over 900 SCW , Azrieli and Wurzweiler students, plus faculty and visitors - has prompted complaints about the insufficient number of payphones. Payphones currently available for use include two in the lobby, and one on each of the fourth, sixth and eighth floors. Yes, folks, you added correctly: That's 5 phones.

There's plenty of room on the third, fifth and ninth floors for additional pay phones. At one time, there were more phones in the school, but the phone company removed them for insufficient usage. The school has grown by leaps and bounds since then, and

clearly there is more than enough potential business for two or three new phones. Students often need privacy when making their calls, and it would be helpful if some new glass-enclosed phone booths would be installed. There is now only one phone booth in the school building, located on the 8th floor. Most of the day, a line of up to five students can be found standing outside, alternating their glances from their watches to the student inside the phone booth.

NYNEX requires approximately 200 phone calls per day to make installation and up-keep of a pay phone worthwhile. With Azrieli and Wurzweiler students abounding in the evening and the abundance of SCW students, faculty and visitors all day long, two new phones will certainly fulfill that requirement

The administration has been generally amenable to the idea. But if there could be any doubts as to the merits of installing additional payphones, the rewards of a calmer student body should be enough to twist their arms. And, as an added incentive, NYNEX would give SCW a commission of their profits from the phones. Plus, the phone com pany would install and maintain the phones free of charge.

The issue is expected to be presented by the Student Life Committee in the near future, and this crazed phone search will hopefully be at least somewhat abated, if not completely solved. Until then, keep bringing your reading material when you go to make that important phone call - you'll need something to do while you wait on line.

## Leis Steal the Show at TAC Purim Chagiga

By Andrea Snyder and Mira Hochberg
The annual TAC Purim chagiga teok place in Koch Auditorium early this year, on the heels of Rosh Chodesh Adur. On Wednesday, February 2I, students sang and danced while enjoying music and refreshments. Many sported hats, ribbons and leis of many colors. lach student was greeted at the door with a plastic lei, courtesy of TAC. Kocls Auditorium was also dressed for the ocasion in lestive /Purm masks and colorful helium ballooms. Guest apparances were made by cowboys, indians, a church lady and clowns of all shapes and sizes.


Daphna Fishman, SCW '97, poses with that familiar-looking clown.

There was even
chown walkugg around who bore an uncanny whomble an uncann resemblathe to Assis
tant Dean of Students Celda Mraun.

Variouscostumes, hats and masks were donated for use at the rhagiga by Profussor Anseph banto

Tova Kaplan. SCW ${ }^{\circ} 97$, who dressed up as a "werd laty," thought that the chagigu came at a great time. "School is sotense, we needed a party," sponsible for making the chagga happen. she said.

The entertainment came afior a bively first dance set. A performance by SCW's inIt takes a lor of people to put together an event like this." Witty said. "It is all about working together. house a cappella group. The Belles, made

This year's chaxigu was held a week carlier than last year's for logistic reasons. this year's chagiga different from chagigas her than last year's for logistic reasons.
past. Other students exhibited their talents "Stem was going to hold their own gala in gymnastics and rope-jumping. The chagiga, and the SCW women were going evening's $d$ 'var Torah was given by TAC. to run the show," said TAC. President Rena Vice President for Publicity, Tami May, SCW '96, "but since Purim falls out Finkelstein, SCW '97. The evening con- near a weekend this year, and many students cluded with another dance set.

TAC Vice President Emily Amie Witty, SCW '96, said that many people were re[were planning to] return home, we decided to save the SCW Purim night chagiga for another year."

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## Siamese Twins

 Separated as SCW Students Look OnBy Courtney Marks
On Monday, February 19. SCW students were given the opportunity to view a video of an operation separating Siamese twins.

Sponsored by lab technician Susan Price, the recording was part of a series of videos concerning medical issues. "In an attempt to prevent the biology students from losing touch with the beauty and the essence of biology due to the many stresses they are undergoing, these videos will hopefully remind them of what it is they are working so hard for," Price said.

In the video, three-year-old rwin giris Dau and Dwen shared a leg, kidney, bladder and pelvis. After over 14 hours of surgery, they were successfully separated.

A mann focus in the movie was the myriad of ethical dilemmas that surface in such surgeries, such as whether the weaker twin should be sacrificed to save the life of the stronger. Dwen, the stronger of the two. was elected to be given the shared leg and the larger portion of the organs which were divided. Dau, having a smaller chance of survival, also came through the surgery, and after several days of intensive care was on the road to recovery.

In addition to showing the surgery itself, the video discussed the aftermath of the separation. The twins displayed an immediate reaction after discovering for the first time in their lives that they were individuals. They initially exthibited hostile feelings toward each other, but after being put in the same bed, they "rejuined" by hugging.
"It was interesting to see both the biological and psychologicat effects of the "separation of Siamese twins." said Michelle Segall, SCW 97.

## Pat Buchanan

## Opinion



## As Some SCW Students Already Know, Kiruv Opportunities Abound

B, Susan Kirshter

Arta, thageng tew shaser to ludasm. s apopular action atmong SCW stidents. Thrmehout the scar. myriad fleoreseent gens can be seen in the elewatos or on butfelm madeds, notifyme sudents about the mams Arw epportuntzes wailable on and flampus

AC spensens the Ke sher C!ub, the RusGan (lub and the Kussan Cambal. Kesher
 sad that the purpose of the chath is "twalion for the socializathen of toregn students and bateran students lofortunately. there a an unnecessary batran between the two roups " Bents are held durne the year to irv w retthed this problem. The ctub is now blamme a Shabbaton w th the Lubaviteh Chasudm in Crown Heights. Recently, the Kesher club and the Russian Club launched a joint publication called $k$ esher L Gesher. which transtates divet forah into Russian The Russian Club was designed to "keep ou Russian roots," sat Anna Levin, SCW ‘97

## VP of Academic

## Affairs Comes

## to SCW

By Racheli Feisman
Students and faculty members were given the opportunity to meet with Dr. Wil ham Schuarty, YU's Vice President of Academat Affairs during Club Hour on Hodnesday, february 28

Schwart? sald the intomal meeng was called to enable him to "hear the concems of students." The gathering tas open to all students, although certain student leaders received spocial invitation by mail

Schwartz discussed some of the current spectal academic programs and discussed Flans for next sear, which melude guest lecsurers in cenomics. environmentalism and hiology as well as the Authors in Residence Program sheduled for next semester

Both students and faculty were given the opportanity to ask yuestions and make suggestions. "I don t know of an institution that is more responsive." Schsartz said of YL: -Students should feel free to articulate concems. We will respond to accommodate the interests of students.

## Model Knesset

Continued from page I
then began debate at the first plenary session folloued by six other sessions of committec and plenary meetings held throughout the weckend. The delegates played the fole appropriale for their parties. which included hor fust situng with oher MKs of smblar ideology but at imes sereaming at wher delegates, banging on tables and attempting to stage a no-confidence vote.

Once in committee, delegates began detanled debale over each bill that pertaned io their committee. The delegates had to decide if they should table the bill at that point or send it back to plenary session to be discussed further.

The fecal point of YMIK Ye took place on Shabbat when YU enhanced the atmosphere by singingz miror and sitting together with Jewish students from all different back grounds. The conference concluded with the singing of $H$ utikwh and an award ceremony

The YL delegation did not win any

She explained trow the no ciubs comple ment each oher. "The club helps us keep a comection with other Russian siudents. The Kesher iluh helps us integrate into American mentality ma culture." For example, the Russian Clab sponsored a hus tom around New York City to help studens leam the cty streets and sce its historical and cultural sughts.

Another popular program which lates Hace twice a year is Torah Tours. Studenis trace all around the lmited States hoping to hrow het to shuts that are no longer thrising with conmegents Meredith Ciasin SCM $\because 9^{-}$. deserathed ber Torah Tours Simechat forab in Whie Plains as "an amazing experience." she sad. "The commanisy we went to was hospitable. upen and glad to host us. I think just having six cothusiastic college sudents among them for the chag made a difference. 1 think 1 can speak for my whole group when I say that our Simehat Torah this year was a very meaningful experience." Torah Tours runs programs on Simchat Torah and Shavuot

Kiruv work does not stop when the school year ends. YUSSR. a popular outreach mogran among YU sudents, runs two camps - one in Minsk and one in Simferople. Dina Maslow, SCW 96 , participated in this progran last summer. "i spent the summer of 45 in the Minsk camp." she said. "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life." Follow-ip work for Maslow included the Russian Chubs Chanukah and Purim carn-vats.

Pcople become involved in kirus for

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satisfaction achieved from helping ofhers to feel that they belong Explicating topics and custons in hadaige is one way to acemplish this goal "I ve never before felt as fulfilled as I was when ! was teaching these kids, and showing them the beanty of Judaism," Mastow said

The National Conference of Synagogne Youth, more commonly known as NCSY. is perhaps the most active kirne group on the Fast Cowst. There are numerous regions in the New York New Jersey area "I like instilling a fecling of Judaism in the participants." said Zahava Kahan. SCW "98. "It is very mportant in todays society that children are aware and prond of their retigion." These Shabhatomim typically start on Friday, and an activity-packed weekend continues through Sunday.

Bnei Akiva has become a worldwide name among Jews of all ages. To die-hard Bnei Akiva followers, membership starts in elementary school as a chanich, and continues on through a madrich. The motto of the organization is Torah. Avodah, yliya. In addition to educating others about Judaism, an equal emphasis is placed on Israel and the importance of having a Jewish state. Activities for younger members include Shabbatonim, ice skating and pizza parties. Summer is when Bnet Akiva activity is at its peak. Members have their choice of which Machane Moshava to attend. Campgrounds are located in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, California, and Canada, and campers are treated to a summer of sports, learning and friendship


## Adopt-a-Bubby (and Zaidy) Purim Chagiga

Continued from page 1

SCW graduate Tammy Steinmetr realized that her "Bubby," Fanny Shreiber, and other bubbies and raidies might like to visit SCW. According to Jayne Skoif, co-director of Project Ezra, that is how the current Adopt-a-Bubby club formed. Currently, several SCW students frequent the L.ower East Side every ${ }^{\text {wo }}$ weeks. and the seniors make the trip to SCW twice a year for chagigot at Chanukah and Purim. According to Skoff. "There is a natural connection here. We're only about 30 blocks away.

For this year's chagiga, Tova Kaplan, SCW '96, played viola and Kari Rybak. SCW ${ }^{`} 96$, accompanied her on the piano, playing a medley of songs. SCW students led circle dances with the bubbies, and a few fun-loving zaidies managed to make their way into the center of the circle. Students were surprised by the vitality of the elderly women as they took turns dancing with students and vying for attention.

After dancing with the bubbies, Yehilla Wohlgelemter, SCW ' 99 , said the event was "very special. One lady told me that this is
the best time she's had in 50 years."
Dozens of SCW students dropped hy during the event to shmorece with the Bubbies and Zaidies, enjoy the music and dancing and sample the hamentashen. This year's Charukahe chagiga was canceled because of a snowstorm, so the Purim event was the first opportunity in a year for the seniors to visit SCW.

Kari Rybak, Tova Kaplan and Ilana Bruger are the Adopt-a-Bubby coordinators. Kari Rybak, SCW' 96, had the pleasure of celebrating the chagigu with her own grandmother. "I thank Stern College and my granddaughter for doing this," Rose Rybak said. "We're all very happy." Her granddaughter agreed. "I think it's beautiful. Every year it's more beautiful. It's nice to see new faces and also to see the same faces again over the years," she said.

After the music and dancing, Goldy Kaplan, SCW '98, delivered a $d$ 'var Torah about Purim. Milton Greif, one of the zaidies, then stole the spotlight with a medley of nursery rhymes translated into Yiddish.

## Shatnez Testing a Rare Mitzvah in Brookdale Hall



A volunteer checking for shatnet.

By Elisheva Wohlgemuth
The Blue Lounge of Brookdale Hall recently served yet another function for the students of SCW. Shatnez testing of all garments was done on the spot by two yeshiva students from Brooklyn. The testing was done as the result of complaints voiced to one of the students' family members. SCW students did not want to have to make the trip to Brooklyn to get their clothes tested. "Since it is a very simple procedure and we conduct tests anyway, we thought we would help out," one of the volunteers said.

Some students were disapponted that the testing was conducted on only one day for a short three-hour period, but most appreciated the service. "I know in Chicago, where I live, you have to leave your items ovemight." said Leslic Ginsparg. SCW W ) 8 . "and this was both fast and convenient. They should do it more often."

The yeshiva students found only one garment that contained shatmez, a mixture of wool and linen forbidden by the Torah.

A minimal fee was collected for the procedure, but all proceeds went to tzedakah.


## Sharon Kaminetsky, SCW '96, introduces herself to bubby Evelyn Siegal.

Starting with The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe and including an excerpt from the Gettysburg Address, he had the crowd roaring with laughter. SCW students are "out of this world," Greif said.

While the chagiga was just a pleasant event for some, for others it evoked memuries and deep emotions. Lillian Greenbaum remembered her youth on the Lower East Side. One Purim, when she was six or seven years old, she remembers being chosen by the rebbelzin of her shul to be Queen Esther in a Purim shpiel. "I felt important." she said. "All the parents came." Greenbaum also re-


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## F.Y.I. A Jewish Storytelling Celebration: Journey to Jerusalem

On Sundan Max S Stem College will hose the fourth Jewish Storytelling Celebration. The plans for the festival, which will focus on Jerusalem, include keynote speakers, a program of Jerusalem experience stories told by SCW students. as well as workshops and performances presented by professional storytellers. Co-Director Professor Peninnah Schram is looking for interesting Jerusalempersonal experience stories for this day-long event. If you would like to share such a story, of something that happened to you or that you observed on one of your journeys to Jerusalem. please send a writentived eopy of the stary-to Professor Schramy through the Dean`s Office.

In April, the co-Directors will hold auditions for those students who submit a story so that some of these stories can be toid at a special program at the festival on May 5 . In addition. they plan to publish these stories in a pamphlet to be disfributed at the festival.

So start thinking "Jerusalem" and stant elling stones. Tape them and transcribe or just write them down. Then send copies to Professor Schram no later than Wednesday, March 29.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Professor Schram at (914) 962-9387

## Menorahs in April

Rite Lite Ltd./ Rosenthal Judaica Collection is sponsoring a Menorah Design Contest. Winning entries will be produced by Rite Lite Ltd., a leading Judaica manufacturer, and a prize of $\$ 250$ will be awarded. More than one prize may be awarded.

The design style can be modern, traditional or playful. The medium of the menorah must be specified, i.e., metal, glass, ceramic or wood. All drawings (two-dimensional), must be submitted on a standard $812 \times 11$ paper Limit three entries per person.

For more details, call ( 718 ) 439 $6(x)$, and ask for Sarah. Applications may be picked up at Professor Gardner's office (toom 1023).

All contest drawings must be submitted to Professor Gardner. The contest deadine is April 18.1996

## Review

## Steel Magnolias, Stellar Performances


#### Abstract

By Suzanac Barau Shed Magnthes was the tirst SCDS production I had ever atended, and I was sheptical. I had seen the movie not too long ago, and I did not beliew that SCW students. could personify upper and dower class Southero women of varied personalitios and occupations. But on the stage of Koch Auditonum, Truvy, Ms. Clairee, MLym, Shelby. Amelle and Ouiser were played as if by Dolly Parton. Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field. Julia Roberts. Darryl Hamah and Shirley Moclaine themselves.

Steel Masmolias, witten by Robert Harling. is about six Southem women who frequent a local beauty salon and develon great friendships over the years. Each of the women changes in small but profound ways, as an impenetrable bond forms between them. These female characters themselves constitute the humor, suspense, drama and tragedy of the play. Their roles are diverse. yet they mesh together beautifully and flawlessly on stage.

All of the actresses in the SCDS pro duction worked long, hard hours and made their acting seem unconstrained and effort-


 less. Avital Amini was Dolly Parton in every way but her brown hair: Sabina Krich flawlessly captured the character of M'Lynn through Sally Field's genteel gestures and poise: Ilana Adler's performance made me feel as though she were going through the very turmoil that M' Lymn's daughter Shelby, played by Julia Roberts, had suffered; Dina Bogner was a dynamic and vivacious Ouiser - no one could have played the part better; Annelle, played by Rachel Galitzer, was the character who undergoes the most change
## Joseph Cancelled Due to Lack of Time

By Elisheva Wohlgemuth

The Stem College Dramatic Sociery's scheduled spring play of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" was cancelled said Aliza Rabin SCW'96. President of SCDS, "due to lack of preparation time." Some members of the cast are disappointed, especially the seniors who will not have another opportunity like this again. Dina Maslow, SCW '96, vice president of SCDS said, "Not only was this my final responsibility as vice president, but it was my last chance to perform, which is something 1 love to do. I will realiy miss the camaraderie and fun we have when putting a show together.

Last semester's scheduled performance of "Steel Magnolias" was pushed to the beginning of this semester, said Aliza Rabin, SCW '96. "due to circumstances that arose like cast changes. It was the calliest time we could do it." Rumors surfaced that the delayed performance was due to copyright laws regarding the play's rights, however Rabin said, "The rights didn't play a role, otber factors did." According to Maslow who said, "although 'Steel Magnolias' was a success, we are sorry that the musical suffered be cause of the delay."


The cast of Steel Magnolias
Top row (L to $R$ ): Rachel Galiter, Avital Amini
Bottom row ( $L$ to R): Dina Bogner, Emily Wity, Sabina Krich, Ilana Adler
over the course of the story, and Rache adapted to the metamorphosis of her character with ease; finally, Emily Witty lived up to her last name in her droll and impeccable incanation as Ms. Clairee.

The audience's laughter was continuous, and I even saw some tears falling. But
lights worth mentioning about the play, Each character's costumes were suited to her personality, and the set was impressively constructed - it really felt like a 70 s beauty salon. The props enhanced the retro atmosphere of the play. I especially enjoyed hearing the voice of the disk jockey from the local

Continued on page?


## ACROSS



DOWN


## SCW Senior Gets an Inside Look at the White House

By Bracha Rutner
Internships are a popular way for college students to gain experience and establish connections in their fields of interest. Sharona Cohen, SCW ${ }^{\circ} 96$, benefitted from a unique internship opportunity. Cohen spent the fall semestor working for Lorrie McHugh, director of Media Affairs at the White House Cohen's responsibilities were numerous and varied, ranging from compiling weekly budget outreach reports to transeribing radio actualities (sound bites) from the Presidential Radio Address on Tobacco. Through these duties Cohen had the occasion to meet different staff members with diverse backgrounds. "It was an excellent networking opportunity," she said

Cohen worked full, twelve-hour days while in Washington. She was part of a structured internship program which included a weekly lecture series featuring various White House staff members. The interns did not feel that the experience consisted only of work. Organized tours around Washington to the FBI and other sites of interest were included in the program. In addition, there was an intern hotline to let the students know about upcoming social events and discourses.

Cohen plans to pursue a career in politics, and eventually run for office. Considering these aspirations, she felt her time in Washington really helped her gain appropriate experience. "It provided me with practical political knowledge," Cohen said. She

learned how to function in a political environment and deal with political figures.

Living in the nation's capital during the government shutdown brought on by the budget deadlock strongly impacted Cohen's understanding of government. Cohen described the day when "a White House staff member came in and told everyone to erase their messages, shut off the computers and go home because the government was closing down." It struck her profoundly that the U.S. government, such a strong entity, could simply shut down. But Cohen said mostly what she saw was government at work. "I was honored to assist in the preservation of the White House tradition in various capacities," said Cohen.

Interested in joining the staff of
OBSERVER '96-97


Editorial positions are available.

Contact: Marcie Schneider 213-4281, Br 9E

## SCW Student Honored in Science Competition


#### Abstract

By Alison Farbman and Susan Jacobs This year, an SC W student had the distinguished honor of being a winger in the Congress of the American Assomation for the Advancement of Science Annual Student Poster Award Competition. Lauren Insel. SCW 96 , entered the competition by presenting research she conducted last summer. Competing against other undergraduate and graduate students, she tied for third place in the competition.

Insel saw an announcement about the competition in the Association's Joumal, Science, and decided to present information she had collected over the summer as a Roth Scholar at Adbert Einstein Medical School Insel, whose research at AECOM focused on breast cancer, was uncertain about her prospects. "l thought they d reject my abstract but Dr. [Harvey] Babich [SCW Biology professor] helped me a lot," she said "He encouraged me to apply, and was fantastic support. He took the time out of his busy schedule to review my data.

Insel is a pre-health major with a minor in biology. She hopes to attend medical school and concentrate on research. "Since I was ten years old I always wanted to go to medical school. I would walk into hospitals and want to be there serving as a doctor. she said.

As a Roth scholar, Insel studied the growth of breast cancer cells to try to determine why breast cancer spreads so rapidly She found out about the competition last October, and in December she began compiling her information with the help of Babich and her uncle. She then submitted her abstract for entry in the competition, and succeeded through a very selective screening process to be officially admitted

Over a period of several weeks, includ-


 ing many late nights, she completed theSteel

## Magnolias

## Continued from page 6

radio station. However, the radio in the salon was the nicest touch of all. It was this radio which Shelby frequently turned on to listen to music. The radio came to symbolize the profound effect Shelby's death had had on the characters by the conclusion of the play, when M'Lynn repeatedly tried to hit the radio so it would play music again.

Sabina Krich's monologue about Shelby's death was the most touching moment of the play. The audience was absolutely riveted because she did not overact.

Rachel Milner, SCW '98, spoke from experience, saying, "My mother is Southem and it takes a lot for accents to convince me; some of them were pretty authentic

In Krich's monologue as M'Lynn, she remarked, "Men are supposed to be made of steet or something," Judging from their performances, the cast members of Steel Magnolias are, like the characters they porrayed. made of steel.
tahles and diagrams for her display. wheh measured eight feet by four feet " 1 and count the hours of work I put inte the project or the hours of the poople whe hiclped sne. Insel said.

After her weeks of preparation. Insel headed to the competition which ran from February 9 to 11 . There were 23 participants. only nine of whom were undergraduates Insel's opponents were from schools around the United States, and there was one participant from London. "My competition intimidated me very much." she said "I was up against men and women from Yale, Johns Hopkins and Virginia Tech." Despite being opponents, the contestants were friendly "One student from Teikyo University made me feel so comfortable. After each judge would come by, we d compare questions to prepare each other for the judges."

The competition gave Insel the rare opportunity to share ideas with renowned doctors. "Alt these doctors were discussing this research with me as a colleague. It was an incredible experience to have an opportuniry to present research at a national conference where there were Ph.D s discussing my research," she said.

Insel is proud of her third-place honor (which really placed her first among the undergraduates), but she is most grateful for the experience of the conference. "The entire conference was exhilarating. [It] was where all the major players from the research world were presenting their work. It was an incredible honor to be there.

Insel believes the experience has helped further her research skills and her ability to compete and present on a professional level. "That is nothing you can leam in a classroom," she said.

## Lady Macs

Continued from page 8
steals were converted into layups and two others resulted in foul shots.

The play that epitomized Wainberg's personality was the steal she made with 15 seconds left. The Lady Macs were up by 12. They didn't need to score any more points. Nonetheless, Wainberg still went after the ball as if the game were on the line. To her, the game isn't over until she hears the final hom.


P

## Lady Macs Win in Opening Round Of IACT

## B) Rachel Hellman

On thurstay. February $\because$, the 1 ady Vave beat Maritme in the openang wound of the bla woment be the swore of 4.35 Thes whe tirst fire in school haston that the 1 ady Vacs hate wor agme in toumat memplay The team was led by high scorors shella Wanterg. SCO - 8 S. and Stephame Turctshy, sc (1) 49, hoth with 1: pounts.

The game stared off with location protkems I ponartival at Wang High School, the team learned of a leak in the ceiling. The refs and coaches of both teams believed it was unsafe to play there, so the game was moned to Martime

For the opening s:00 of the game no one soored. Howewer, when the first basket of the game was made. Maritime broke the swretess aftar. Untonunately for the Lady Maes, their shos just weren't falling. With :1:34 lea. Shana May. Sc' ${ }^{\circ}$ Os, scored on a rebound from a teamniate's missed shot.

Lltimately. it was the play of one person in particular who ignited the team of-fensitely-Halfway through the first half, guard Sheila Wainterg entered the game She used her speed to go coast-to-coast and score easy layups. After an early lead by Maritime, the half ended with the score tied at 15.

A large group of Marizime fans were impressed with Wainberg's play. They began cheering for Number Ten (Wainberg's number) whenever she was on the court. Exentually, they asked the Lady Macs' fans what vumber Ten's name was, and then began shouting "Sheila" whenever she toucted the ball.

At the start of the second half, Maritime took what looked to be a commanding lead. With 10 minutes left, the Lady Macs were down by nine.

At this point, Coach Steve Young imple-
mented a full owut press which he later desurted as "one of the kers" bo uming around the monentum. The press confused Maritime und lad to ertant passes and tumovers. the Lady Macs were beginnitg to shut down Maritime's offense.

With 5:25 left in cegulation, Sharon kaminevky, SCW on, hit a three-pointer. This was followed by a basket from Judith kelsen. SCW '46, and another three by Kaminetzky. The Lady Macs wore now only down by three.

The Lady Macs began to take control of the game. They aggressively drove to the basket and drew some fouls. Both Turesky and Wainberg each made one of two foul shots to narrow the gap to one with a little wer two minutes left.

At 1.48 to go in the game, Wainberg scored a layup to give the team a one-point advantage. However, Maritime would not go down without a tight. Twenty seconds later. Maritime scored a basket and was fouled. After they successfully completed the threepoint play, the Lady Macs were down by one basket.

With 30 seconds left, Wainberg stole the ball and went the distance. She tied the score with a layup. The Lady Macs had a chance to win the game in regulation. Once again, Wainberg was driving down the court. She released her shot just a fraction of a second too late. The refs blew off the basket and the game was sent into overtime.

The Lady Macs dominated in the five minute overtime. They outscored their opponent 14-2. Turetsky started things off for the Lady Macs by making a three-pointer Kaminetzky scored her third three-pointer of the game.

Once again, Wainberg's plays stood out during OT. She had five steals. Two of her

Continued on page 7

## How Bout That! <br> SCW Foils Bard College


#### Abstract

In their first official season as a team, the Stern College fencing team has given "touching" performances, showing true grace and dexterity as they bouted against Baruch. Steven's Tech, Columbia and Bard.

The team is divided into two groups. based upon their weapons. The epee squad consists of Abbi Shapiro, SCW 97; Laura Genet,


 SCW '99: Susie Shepper, SCW '96; and Cheryl Younger, SCW '98. The foil squad consists of Captain Na ama BenDavid, SCW '96; Dina Azulay, SCW '97: Rose Eljas, SCW'98; and Itia Shmidman, SCW 98.Both squads were praised by directors (fencing umpires), coaches and fencers of the opposing team. "These girls are unbelievable," said Coach Volkheimer of Steven's Tech. "We expected to beat them with ease, but they really surprised us. They did an incredible job, especially for a first year team."

The epee team, in their first and only
official match, beat Bard College by a score


At the other end of the gym, the foil squad bravely battled Bard's best. Though not as dramatic as the epee team, the foilists managed to impress their opponents with their spirited fighting. Director Tim Kane was excited at the prospect of having "another force to reckon with in women's competitive foil." He went on to praise the skills of the foilists, noting that the team improved tremendously throughout the day as they became more comfortable com-
peting.

## The Observer 245 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10016

