

The Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women * Yeshiva University

May 21, 1996

Volume XXXIX NUMBER 9

3 Sivan, 5756

YU Graduation '96 Highlights U.S. Treasury Secretary

By Susan Jacobs

Wednesday, May 22, marks the day for Yeshiva University's 65th Annual Commencement Exercises. United States Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will deliver the keynote address and will receive an honorary degree along with four other honorees, Aaron Fuerstein, Bernard and Harold Shapiro, and Rabbi Daniel Tropper.

Fuerstein, a 1947 YU alumnus, achieved fame in December 1995 when he kept over 2,000 employees on his payroll after a fire destroyed a factory he owned. Fuerstein is the president of Malden Mills, one of New England's largest textile manufacturing companies.

Drs. Bernard J. Shapiro and Harold T. Shapiro are twin brothers, both with distinguished careers in university administration. Bernard is principal and vice chancel-

lor of McGill University and Harold is president of Princeton University.

Rabbi Daniel Tropper holds multiple degrees from YU. He received his B.A., M.A., and rabbinic



U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin

ordination from YU. He is being honored as founder of the Gesher Foundation in Jerusalem. For two decades Gesher has worked to promote communication between religious and secular Jews. Tropper is also the founder and former director of the Joint Fund for Jewish Education, a project of the Israeli government and the worldwide Jewish Agency.

Over 1,500 students will receive degrees and diplomas at this year's graduation. The schools participating in the main ceremony are YU, SCW, SSSB, James Striar School of General Jewish Studies, and Isaac Breuer College of Judaic Studies, as well as Azrieli School of Jewish Education, Revel School of Jewish Studies, Ferkauf School of Psychology, and Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Senior Awards Announced

By Elisheva Wohlgemuth

A senior awards ceremony and reception was held to honor the class of 1996 with academic and service awards for their achievements at SCW.

A few of the awards were voted upon at an earlier date by the seniors themselves and were announced at the reception. Many students were nominated for senior service, among them SSSBSC President Barbara Pollak, who received the Professor Nathaniel L. Remes Memorial Award for character, personality and service to the school. Rena May received the Mrs. Ghity Stern Award for stellar character and commitment to the Jewish community, and DV Goldring received the Lisa Wachtenheim Memorial Award for character and service.

Numerous academic awards went to students who have excelled in English, Speech Pathology, Communications, the Natural, Physical, and Social Sciences, and

Judaic Studies.

General Studies Valedictorian Rhoda Pagano spoke about creation and its connection to the path that the graduates have just begun, the arduous process of synthesizing the Torah and Mada aspects of their lives. The graduates' goal, Pagano said, should be to work toward the day when the synthesis is complete and they can say of their world *ki tov*, "it is good."

Shifra Greengart Schapiro was named the Valedictorian of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies. Schapiro spent her years at SCW studying Judaic Studies and Biology, focusing on halacha and Tanach.

Also honored were Judaic Studies teachers Rabbi Saul Berman and Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel and Biology teacher Dr. Harvey Babich, all of whom were chosen in a vote by the graduating class for most outstanding professors.



Valedictorians Shifra Greengart Schapiro (left) and Rhoda Pagano.

Endowment To Bring Guest Faculty from Israel

By Ziona Hochbaum

A recent endowment by YU Trustee E. Billi Ivry will be used to annually bring a noted faculty member at an Israeli seminary to SCW for a week as scholar-in-residence. The gift, the amount of which has not been disclosed, will also be used to inaugurate research and teaching enhancement grants for Jewish Studies faculty at SCW. The announcement was made on April 29 at the Senior awards dinner by Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, endowed in memory of her mother by E. Billi Ivry, a member of SCW's Board of Directors and a longtime supporter of SCW.

Scholars will be culled from institutions participating in YU's Joint Israel Program. Kanarfogel said the program will benefit both students and the visiting faculty. "Our students will have a positive experience with them, and these

faculty will see what we are all about," he said. The guest scholar will deliver at least two *shiurim* during their all-expense paid week in New York. The highlight of the week will be an SCW Shabbaton featuring several *shiurim* by the visiting scholar, who will receive an honorarium.

The research grants will be awarded to Jewish Studies faculty members selected by a committee, soon to be established, to review their research proposals. An award for outstanding Jewish Studies teaching will also be funded by this endowment. The administration hopes to see the endowment in action next year.

"This grant will enhance the activities of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies," said Kanarfogel, who developed the program in consultation with Dean Karen Bacon and benefactor Ivry.

Surprising Turnout at SCW Elections

By Elisheva Wohlgemuth

Approximately half the student body recently voted for their 1996-1997 Stern College Student Council Board last month, as well as TAC and Sy Syms Boards. Incumbent SCWSC President Ilana Barber, SCW '96, called the election "a remarkable feat."

"We are unsure as to what the motivation might be to cause the sudden burst in political activism, but we are happy about it and we hope it continues into the future," Barber said. In addition to having a large voting student body, there were also a number of candidates vying for most positions. The new Executive Board consists of: Tami Finkelstein, President; Emily Beth Shapiro, Vice President; Rachel Milner, Corresponding Secretary; Laurie Gewirtz, Recording Secretary; and uncontested Treasurer Chana Katz.

Class Board elections were also held. Most of the Senior Board positions were uncontested except for the seat of Secretary. Those winners are Debbie Bielory, President; Courtney Marks, Vice President; Sylvia Grundweg, Treasurer; and Ilana Bruger, Secretary.

The Junior class is where the majority of the election competition resided. Shana Leibtag won the position of President and Mira Goldis was named Vice President after defeating the current Sophomore President and Vice Presi-

dent, respectively, for the spots. The Secretary position was tied between Lisa Cohen and Aliza Friedman. Friedman won the subsequent run-off election. Penina Savitsky got the most votes for Treasurer.

The election for the Sophomore Board displayed the poorest voter turnout. Jennifer Weiss was

named Sophomore Class President. Elizabeth Renna, Vice President, and a successful write-in campaign elected Esti Miller Treasurer of the class. The Secretary position will be voted on in the fall.

A referendum on the Stern College Student Council Constitution passed, making the document,

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Racheli Felsman Named Editor for Observer '96-'97

By Observer Staff
Racheli Felsman, SCW '98, has been named Editor-in-Chief of The Observer for the coming academic year. An active member of the Student Council, she also works part-time in a law office in her home town of Bridgeport, CT, gathering experience for a future legal career.

Felsman said she wants Observer 1996-1997 to be "a newspaper that YU students and alumni will look forward to reading and enjoying."

Assisting Felsman as Executive Editor will be Andrea Snyder, SCW '97, a Public Relations ma-



nor from Annapolis, MD. Felsman and Snyder, who are roommates, expect to make a good team. "We've worked hard to put together an energetic staff," Felsman said, "and we're hoping to get more students involved in The Observer."

Where Have All the Millions Gone?

Wherever a large sum of money is involved, secrecy fosters suspicion. The Administration would be wise to preempt growing questions about the fate of the \$22 million bequest from Anne Scheiber by releasing an updated report answering some of these questions. Students are wondering where the money is and when and how they will become its beneficiaries. They have a right to know.

Scheiber instructed that her fortune go toward scholarships and financial aid for needy and deserving women. The only way for SCW to assure parents and students that Scheiber's wishes are being honored is to be forthright about their plans for distribution of the funds.

The questions are numerous. When, for example, will the first Anne Scheiber scholarships be awarded? How many students will receive this aid? How will the new source of scholarship funds affect admissions? Will the scholarships and financial aid simply translate into tuition bill reductions, while the money is assimilated directly into YU's cof-

fers? If so, how can students be sure that it is being used exclusively by and for SCW, and not hijacked by other branches of YU? Will other scholarship and financial aid programs be affected or reduced?

This information can be provided in a number of ways. The Administration can issue a press release updating the SCW public about the status of the funds. They can send a special mailing to students and their parents, much the way the Administration publicized the Shabbat Enhancement Program at the beginning of the year. They can publish a pamphlet to be included in the regular financial aid packet all students receive.

Any and all of these options must produce not deceptively worded publicity stunts but forthright and lucid information. Right now, most students are simply curious and are willing to give YU officials the benefit of the doubt. But if questions continue to go unanswered, suspicions will grow. Then the Administration will really have explaining to do.

Sign a Prenuptial Agreement

By Rebecca Rosen and Abigail Shapiro

When Jewish marriages unfortunately end in divorce, the union officially ends only when the husband hands his wife a *get*, or divorce document. In a small, but significant minority of marriages, the husband and wife no longer live together and yet remain married because the husband refuses to grant his wife a *get*.

She is left an *agunah*, a woman chained to a marriage which continues to exist solely in the eyes of *halacha*. These women suffer terribly, unable to remarry, and they often submit to blackmail for money or custody of their children.

In an effort to raise student awareness about this problem which affects the entire Jewish community, TAC sponsored a two-part program, introducing many Stern women to the most viable preventive measure available today: a prenuptial agreement. The prenuptial agreement is a document en-

forceable by American courts which stipulates that the husband will pay a specified amount for every day that he refuses to give a *get* while he and his wife are living apart. In the first session, SCW *Mashgiach Ruchani* Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg explained the *halachic* ramifications of the document to SCW students, and women from SCW and the greater Jewish community gathered a week later to discuss the *halachic*, social and emotional aspects of signing the prenuptial.

The problem of *agunah* is so terrifying that we tend to ignore it, to turn our heads and pretend that it does not exist. The truth of the matter is that we cannot imagine the man of our dreams turning into a monster.

And so, we explain away the reality. We're sure problems existed between the couple before they ever walked down the aisle, because so much could not change over the course of a marriage! We blame the

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I'm Not a Robot

By Rebecca Rosen

College, a place of free thought and ideological struggle. Where Kant is read in classrooms, Freud and Skinner discussed in the halls and Rashi and Tosefot debated over dinner.

Where is this magical place to which I am referring? College? No, it is a far cry from reality in any college.

But perhaps we have allowed our classrooms to become too far of a cry.

Have you ever noticed some of the questions asked during class? "Can you repeat that?" "What number were you up to on that list?"

As members of this bite-size world in which all information is pre-chewed and ready for us to swallow in the form of movies and TV, we have become accustomed to effortless stimulation. And this inactivity has

moved beyond our periods of relaxation; they also permeate our educational hallways. We sit in class, waiting for a light-bulb to click in our brains once the teacher has finally explained it just right. We need to do nothing other than sit back, relax and take in the show. Thus, we stop the teacher with mindless questions - because we're not expected to be active in our education just as we're inactive in other parts of our lives.

Now, this minimal expectation which many of us share did not spring up from nowhere. Throughout our schooling, teachers have asked us to know this, spit back that. Sure, I know a few facts about American History, and I remember a bit of Hamlet, but skills are what I need to survive in this world. In the business world, I won't be asked about

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The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 340-7794. Fax (212) 725-9473. Published tri-weekly during the academic year by Stern College Student Council. The views expressed in signed columns are those of the writers only and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Observer, the student body, the faculty or the administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any products or services advertised on these pages.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

With good intentions it seems, Laurie Gewirtz, "Registered Nursing, an alternative to 'The Therapies,'" (February 5, 1996) has understated the importance of the nursing profession and the functions of nurses. With the ever-increasing demands, doctors are often incapable of monitoring the progress of the disease or recovery of individual patients. Nurses are needed to be their eyes, ears and hands. The physical examinations of nurses are often the place where changes in health, for better or for worse, are first noticed. RNs are also responsible for administering medications as well as monitoring symptoms and side effects. It is also our implicit responsibility to double-check the medications and dosages that doctors prescribe.

In more specialized fields, such as oncology, psychiatry, and midwifery, nurses' roles are far more elaborate than portrayed. Even in primary care settings, nurse practitioners, as the first portal into the health care system for many people, have to

interview and triage patients with the same competence as a doctor. Nurses in research might face a day without ever "taking blood or performing certain laboratory tests."

The salaries of starting nurses is significantly higher than you stated, depending on location and site of practice. Salaries range from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year in major cities and slightly less in more rural areas. Hospitals pay more than clinics, and experience and further education can boost salaries to over \$80,000 per year.

Clearly, the setting will determine the exact responsibilities and salaries of RNs, but it is an understatement to assert that we only take vital signs and "may be present... when examinations are being conducted." The field of nursing is far more autonomous, intricate and satisfying.

Sincerely,
Michal Gerblitch
NYU Nursing class of '96
SCW '94

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From the Executive Editor An Approach to the Future

By Ziona Hochbaum

I am writing this message about ten days before you read it. When I sat down, my mind was as blank as the WordPerfect screen. In the course of my ruminations, I realized that part of the problem was trying to write something timely on a ten-day delay. And there's the rub: These days, the defining events in our world seem to happen so suddenly and unexpectedly. Every entry in our pocket planners is tentative.

The shocks are sometimes joys, but more often crises. Good news, after all, is not the kind you're afraid to tell someone with a bad heart. In a year in which we've lost count of the bombings, we can only wonder whether each everyday moment is just an in-between, or will be remembered forever for the tragedy it witnessed.

Right now, my fingers tapping on the keyboard and a cool breeze coming through the window, I feel calm and unburdened. In a few minutes, though, I will turn on the news. If it's only the usual hullabaloo, I'll probably fall asleep on the couch. But if somewhere bodies are bleeding and sirens are blaring and crowds are shouting or crying or cheering, I will pay attention. And thousands similarly bound to those people or that place will pay attention, and the editors will know what to put on tomorrow's front page.

Some events we can never be prepared for because they are freak accidents (or, as in the case of the recent massacre in Tasmania, the product of a lunatic). But others - the Dizengoffs and the Dunblanes - are skillfully planned and ruthlessly timed by people who want us to live in fear.

To do that would be more than falling into their trap; it would impede our enjoyment of the daily joys of living. We must keep on planning bridal showers, making plane reservations and registering for courses four months in advance. Planning an event is sometimes as much fun - or more - than the event itself. Perhaps that's because everything beyond the present is indeterminate.

In these times of uncertainty, many Jews would probably have trouble answering the question "Is there anti-Semitism in your community?" Because anti-Semitism, like so many other evils, seems to be manifesting itself at times and in places we least expect it.

The proverb goes that a wise person is one who sees the future. Now, how many people actually have psychic insight? Our Rabbis were certainly not directing us to the stars. Their message? I believe they wanted us to recognize that what lies ahead is unknown, beyond our vision until it is in front of our eyes.

The warnings notwithstanding, each of the Hamas bombings this winter took us by surprise, perhaps more than usual because they were carried out in such proximity. As is becoming increasingly clear, the unstable situation in Israel is a reality of which no one can profess to know the outcome. It is a case for surrender - not military surrender, but psychological. We cannot predict; we can only prepare.

I think that is a wise way to approach all aspects of our future. Keep on building up Israel and keep on taking those multi-vitamins.

Prenuptial Agreement

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woman - she was not a good enough wife and mother. If only she had tried just a little bit harder, she would not be in this predicament. Or maybe they were not religious enough - no observant man would do such a thing.

How many apologetic arguments will we attempt before we face the fact that the Agunah problem will not be brushed under the carpet? We, the Orthodox women and men of the Jewish communities of the future must stop the pain and anguish which thousands of women experience for no reason other than that their husbands are withholding their divorce papers.

We do not know why. We do not know how their marriage started out, but we are, unfortunately, well aware of its end.

Each one of us must act, not solely out of the fear that one of us may become an *agunah* (G-d forbid), but because each one of us is held accountable by the Jewish community. All Jews are responsible for each other. We have a responsibility to those women who are chained to their recalcitrant husbands today, and to those whom we want to prevent from becoming the *agunot* of tomorrow.

We are obligated not only by these women, but by the entire Jewish community. Because this is not solely a women's issue - this is a problem for us all.

The family unit is one of the most essential structures in Judaism. And when a husband refuses to grant his wife a *get*, when he forces her to pay or to give up raising their children in return for a *get*, when marriage and family become a jail and not a home, that is when the Jewish community must awaken from its silent slumber and take action.

For these men are not members of our communities when they take the *halacha* system and pervert it at will. These men do not share our values, morals and beliefs. They neither recognize nor respect the sanctity of marriage, and, therefore, they have no

place in our society.

Men and women alike, must bear responsibility for a problem we have inherited. Our goal must be to formulate a permanent Rabbinic solution, and until then, to sign prenuptial agreements to prevent future problems while continuing to develop means of unchaining these women whose husbands will not divorce them.

YU students have a unique opportunity because of the role we play in the Orthodox world, because we are the future of American Orthodoxy and its leaders. Every person must be educated about the plight of the *agunah*, the *halachot* involved and the need to sign a prenuptial agreement. Let us bring this knowledge to our communities so that our fellow Jews may prevent the occurrence of the *agunah* in the future and to fight for the *agunot* of today until they are free.

Even though the situation seems bleak, the *agunah* problem is not an insoluble one. We can help *agunot* by shunning their husbands from our homes, shuls and businesses, and by rallying (under the advice of a Rabbinic authority well versed on the issues) until they fulfill their *halachic* obligation to divorce their wives.

Let us educate and instruct our peers, families and future spouses to sign prenuptial agreements. By signing them, we establish a precedent to be followed. When you sign it, then he'll sign it and she'll sign it, and after a time, it will become common practice for every couple to sign a prenuptial. Then, the woman who does need it will have it.

We cannot throw up our hands because the problem seems too vast. We cannot hide under our covers because it hits too close to home. And we cannot blame and abandon these women in order to protect ourselves.

Please. Let this be the last generation in which women will be chained to their recalcitrant husbands. Sign a prenuptial agreement.

Challenge of Learning

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the causes of WWII, but I will be expected to think fast on my feet as my client presents a problem.

Now, don't get me wrong. Facts are important because they are an integral part of the mind-sharpening process. If you don't have information, your mind has nothing to ponder, challenge or explore.

But many of our teachers of the past and present, rather than asking us to take the next logical step of the theory discussed, have asked us to tell them exactly what they themselves told us in class. Seems silly, doesn't it?

Soon, even motivated students learn that the system is not asking them to think - they are being asked to be robots.

We are human beings, blessed with cognitive skills just waiting to be tapped. We are overloaded with facts and figures while many of our intellectual capabilities are left latent.

And here we are in college. Many of us have resigned ourselves to the constant flow of information in and out of our brains which classes require. And many of our teachers reinforce this passive impression of education by solely demanding spit-back from their students. Its no wonder the cycle of educational laziness has continued unabated.

But clearly our teachers can do only so much. Ultimately, our education is our own

responsibility. Do WE want to understand, or just work for the sake of our GPA? Do WE want to challenge ourselves or lay like broccoli at our desks?

We have the power to turn our classrooms into challenging places. Teachers often say that much of the educational process is predicated upon student inquiry and interest. At the Senior Awards ceremony on April 29, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel cited two *Gemaras* which favored students as a source of knowledge more than teachers and professional colleagues. There *Gemaras* only serve to explicate what and students alike already know. Professors teach to the people in front of them; if you ask hard-hitting questions, your professors will respond.

Challenge, question, search. Leave this university knowing not only the fundamentals of Physics or when the Crusades began (1099 - for the trivia buffs) but having pursued knowledge and grasped it.

Treat the information garnered in the classroom as the base from which the true excitement of learning begins.

As we drudge through finals, regurgitating the information recanted in class, let us take a moment between sodas and study groups to figure out what we're doing and what we're trying to accomplish. College is not only the means to the end known as grades, awards and jobs. It is a challenging, exciting and enriching end in itself.

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Husband and Wife Scholars Speak at SCW

By Elisha Wohlgenuth

Dr. Walt Rostow, former Presidential national security advisor and economist, and his wife, political scientist Dr. Elsbeth Rostow, have spent the last semester teaching on the Main Campus as part of the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence. Recently, they traveled downtown to SCW to enlighten the student body on "The U.S. Move into the Next Millennium." Elsbeth Rostow was extremely pleased to find herself among the women of SCW. The policy-making course that she is teaching as a guest lecturer at YU was originally supposed to be broadcast to the Midtown classroom via satellite, but due to technical difficulties, lack of interest, and some lack of planning, the course was discontinued at SCW, making this meeting the first between the scholars and YU's female undergraduates. "It is unfortunate that the Stern women missed such a great opportunity to



Dr. Elsbeth Rostow

learn from such an experienced, intelligent forerunner in political science," said political science major Sharon Cohen, SCW '97, referring to Elsbeth Rostow. Cohen was one of the few SCW students to enroll in the policy-making class. Walt Rostow spoke about the new threats that face America, such as border runs by immigrants that are increasing the numbers in the country's lower economic strata. He believes that government needs to intersperse international and domestic activities to maximize support to everyone.

The speakers also addressed



Dr. Walt Rostow

urban problems, including the decay of America's inner cities. The Rostows have helped establish a prevention system known as the Austin Project, dedicated to prevention as a solution to poverty, crime, disease and illiteracy. They recommend, for example, reducing post-natal costs for women who agree to pre-natal care. Walt Rostow spoke strongly of the need for change. "If America loses its nerve then we are through," he said.

Tikvah Schacter, SCW '97, said, "I was very impressed by the achievements of both the Rostows as individuals, and as a team."

Networking Opportunities Abound at SSSB Dinner

By Shira Stieglitz

Every business student can benefit from an opportunity to mingle with alumni and recruiters from firms and companies with whom they would normally not have contact with in a social setting. Students filed into the Fox Building located on 23rd Street and 5th Avenue for the April 29th SSSB Dinner with this in mind. The first opportunity presented itself during an hour of cocktails during which students matched up their own colored name tags with those of executives who may have job offerings in their fields of interest. "Even though my field of interest is Management Information Systems, I met a woman who works in public relations who gave me the name of someone to call for a summer internship," said Shira Rosen, SSSB '98.

The dinner, catered by Prestige Caterers, was arranged so that students sharing the same major were seated at the same table with people in that field. Table conversation

was feverish in between the various speakers scheduled for the evening, including YU Academic Vice President William Schwartz, the two valedictorians from SSSB's graduating class, Karen Kesselman and Steven Greenfield, and SSSB Dean Dr. Harold Nierenberg.

Awards were presented by Associate Dean Ira L. Jaskoff and Professor Diane Perksy to approximately 30 SSSB students who excelled in accounting or business, or who delivered outstanding service to the school.

After the formal dining was over, the dessert buffet opened, giving students and executives a last chance to exchange business cards. "This evening was a good opportunity to meet people in the accounting world," said accounting major Zahava Kahan, SSSB '98. "I just wish that the dinner helped people get jobs directly as opposed to only establishing connections."

Students Attend 37th Annual AIPAC Conference

By Sharona Cohen

Students woke up at the crack of dawn on Sunday, April 28, to attend AIPAC'S 37th Annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. at the Hilton Hotel. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is the official, registered organization that aggressively lobbies members of Congress as well as other government officials to support pro-Israel legislation, especially to secure the \$3 billion in foreign aid that Congress appropriates on an annual basis.

The Conference is an opportunity for all members of AIPAC to gather and collectively discuss ways to enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship. Delegates participate in informative workshops that deal with the pressing issues facing Israel today. More im-

portantly, they are informed about ways in which they can secure the ever important U.S.-Israel relationship.

In addition to workshops, students participated in a lobbying training session in which a professional lobbyist explained the most effective way to lobby members of Congress. They were able to implement what was taught by meeting with Congressional representatives and lobbying them to support pro-Israel legislation.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from such distinguished speakers as President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. With over 5,000 AIPAC supporters present, the President and the Prime Minister stressed the importance of achieving peace in the Middle East and explained that a progressive and productive U.S.-Israel relationship is essential to achieve that goal. Peres asserted that Jerusalem will remain the undivided capital of Israel.

"It was very reassuring to me to see the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel come together in support of Israel," said Leebie Mallin, SCW '98.

What to Do After Graduation? A Look Inside the Law School Experience

By Racheli Felsman

At a recent Pre-Law Society meeting, SCW students got some help contemplating the graduate and professional school dilemma from some current law students from area schools.

"The evening was intended to give students an idea of what they are getting into and what they will face in the future," said Dodiya Grant, SCW '96, vice president of the Pre-Law Society.

The first speaker, Nate Weisel, a second year student at New York Law School, attended Columbia for his undergraduate degree and spent a year in Israel. Weisel outlined the basic curriculum of first and second year students, and described the pressures that law school students feel in their first year due to the "weeding-out process."

Weisel's description of "first year paranoia" surrounding law school finals was proved accurate by the absence of one of the speakers, a first year student who had intended to speak at the SCW event but canceled at the last minute because of the intense pressure of upcoming exams.

The second speaker at the meeting was Tzipora Hornstein, a second year student at Cardozo and an SCW alumna. Hornstein focused on the application process, the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and the classroom setting in law school.

Hornstein became engaged during her first year at law school and is now married. She reassured students that despite the academic pressure and competition, "you can have a life and be in law school."

Students took advantage of the opportunity to ask the speakers questions about careers in law, the strengths and weaknesses of each law school's curriculum and the differences in workload. Weisel passed around a copy of a 28-page syllabus from a Security Regulations course he is currently taking to give the pre-law students a tangible idea of a law school class.

Anne Littwin, SCW '96, president of the Pre-Law Society, will be attending Cardozo Law School next fall. "As I am preparing to go to law school next year, I found it very beneficial to hear about the law schools firsthand," she said.

Beyond The Final Page

New York City News Observer

Answers to Crossword

SAB	ROMP	BAPPE
DOE	BAAL	ITEM
LOCATE	BAR	MI
DAE	ACT	APT
LONE	ICE	APT
ME	ATE	OCENT
ME	POST	AT
TRISE	AT	PIE
ME	YTC	DEBT
NAT	TIME	DUN
SO	ONE	SIGNAL
SLOW	CLIM	THE
YERN	TINK	HAD

At Yom Hashoah Commemoration, YU Explores Shang-hai Connection

By Laurie Gewirtz

Approximately 150 YC and SCW students gathered in Weissberg Commons on April 16 to commemorate the horrors of the years 1933-1945.

The program began with greetings delivered by Jason Buskin who described various massacres in Jewish history and discussed how Jews maintained their faith during the years of the Holocaust.

Buskin then initiated a candle lighting ceremony in which six students from SCW and YC lit six candles, representing the 6 million Jews who perished. The theme music from *Schindler's List* played in the background.

"It is important that Yeshiva University contributed to the remembrance and recognition of the Holocaust," said one of the candle lighters, Debbie Bielory, SCW '97.

The guest speaker for the evening was YU alumnus Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, who served as the Chief Rabbi of Japan during the War and is one of the world's leading authorities on Japanese-Jewish relations.

He has written 21 books in Japanese on Judaism, including one on the Talmud which became a best seller in Japan. He has also authored a book entitled *The Fugu Plan*. (Fugu, a type of Japanese blowfish which, when under attack, blows itself up in a disguise for protection, is a metaphor for the Japanese government.) The book chronicles the successful effort by Japanese citizens who offered European Jews a safe haven in Japan without visas or ransom. *The New York Times* called this operation, with approximately 18,000 Jewish refugees smuggled safely into Shang-hai, "the last

secret of the war."

In addition to reviewing the rescue process in detail, Tokayer explained that the only known yeshiva to survive the Holocaust, the Mir Yeshiva, survived in Shang-hai. These Jewish families produced books, learned Torah daily and managed to keep the entire yeshiva intact, all in a hot, uncomfortable and unfamiliar city. Mir's survival enabled the transmission of Torah from Europe to an entire generation of Jewish students in America. Two people who survived by escaping to Shang-hai, Rabbi Gershon Yankelwitz and Rabbi Baum, are presently on the faculty at YU and were present at the lecture.

Tokayer speculated that Japan's motives behind the rescue were simply the nation's probable acquisition of admiration, wealth and power after the world's discovery of their unselfish acts.

Rabbi Tokayer also explained America's role in this effort, namely how President Franklin Roosevelt turned away the Japanese diplomat who suggested this rescue plan to the United States. He also added that Jews in America had the chance to pay \$1200 to buy a forged visa for someone caught in Europe, but that this practice was very rare.

Many students were surprised at how much they learned from this program. "I always thought that hardly anyone helped the Jews," said Sivan Rabinowitz, SCW '98. "I didn't know that the Japanese and Jewish people shared this bond."

Bone Marrow Drive at SCW

By Ilana Cohen

SCW students rolled up their sleeves for a bone marrow testing drive held in the 11th floor gym last month. The testing, organized by Deborah Waltuch, SCW '98, and Micol Rubin, SCW '98, was part of the search of a donor for a two-and-a-half year-old Jewish boy. Everyone tested was automatically placed on the HLA national registry for bone marrow donation. Many students, in fact, did not appear at the drive because they are already in the national registry, having been tested at some time for another patient.

The procedure is quick and simple,

drawing about a teaspoon of blood to be tested.

Officials say that through past YU bone marrow testing drives, donors have been found, but they cannot reveal any details because of confidentiality laws governing transplants.

A total of 115 people were tested, including a student from Touro College, a student from Azrieli and others from outside SCW who learned of the testing through the media. It is not yet known whether a donor has been found.

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Graduates were recognized at an Award Assembly
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We thank the faculty for their participation in this event and we acknowledge with
gratitude the assistance of Mrs. Turkel in coordinating the program.

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Chaya Gavriella Strasberg
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Leah Toubian
Emily Witty
Nechama Natalie Wohl
Elizabeth Wohlgemuth
Sara M. Wohnsky
Esther Adina Yuter

Valedictorian General Studies: Rhoda Pagano

Valedictorian Rebecca Ivory Department of Jewish Studies: Shifra Greengart

Congratulations to the Class of '96

from the *Observer* staff

Another Reason to Save the Environment

By Sarah Friedman

As part of a recent Student Alliance for Global Awareness event, Rabbi Saul Berman, professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, delivered a lecture exploring the *halachic* perspective on environmental protection.

By quoting various texts in the Torah, Berman showed that human beings have the double role of both ruling the earth and protecting it. He stressed that we, as Jews, have both the moral and *halachic* responsibility to protect the earth. To support his argument, he cited the *halacha* of *Ba'al Tashchit* (the prohibition against unnecessary waste), and correlated it to pollution and needless environmental waste. Berman also linked the destruction of the environment to the commandment of loving our fellow human beings.

"People usually feel no obligation to issues that they perceive to have no direct affect on them, like the environment," said Nancy Moritz, SCW '97, vice president of SAGA. "However, the world that we live in does affect each one of us. Especially as Jews, we are required by Torah not to waste, not to harm G-d's creatures, not to over work the land."

Rabbi Berman said that it was always

his conviction that the Torah sensitizes us to environmental needs. But Orin Arfa, SCW '98, said she had never considered the relationship between Judaism and ecology. "I always knew recycling was a nice thing to do, but I didn't know that it might even constitute a *Mitzvah*," Arfa said.

Berman ended his speech by focusing on the issue of public awareness. He said that "people need to learn to become more humble and less materialistic in their desires and needs in order to solve today's environmental problems."

After the speech, the small group of students in attendance held a discussion with Rabbi Berman about specific environmental problems within SCW, and many suggestions were made. The night ended on a high note with hopes of increased environmental awareness in SCW. "Rabbi Berman's lecture was very applicable to our student body. It is a shame that not so many attended," said Elisheva Wohlgenuth, SCW '96, SAGA's President. "Slowly but surely SAGA will not only be a more established club, but its message of protecting G-d's creatures and contributing positively to the environment around us will begin to come to fruition."

Remembrance and Celebration

By Bracha Rutner

YC's *Yom Hazikaron-Yom Ha'atzmaut* program began with a *tekes*, as students marched in bearing the Israeli flag. The Day of Remembrance precedes the Day of Independence by a calendar day, and YU accordingly began the evening with a somber commemoration for Israel's war heroes. A siren filled Weissberg Commons for one long minute at the start of the *Yom Hazikaron* program, much like the one that would be stopping traffic in streets across Israel that day.

The students were quiet and it was a time to reflect on the many soldiers who gave their lives for Israel over the years, and those who guard the land today. Eighteen thousand three hundred soldiers have died since the first battle of the War of Independence, as well as hundreds of civilians. Arie Pelta, President of YC's Israel Club reminded students that "Eretz Yisroel is not a distant place. All the problems of Israel are our problems also. We have to realize from all this loss that we have to have some form of *achdut* among all of Jews, regardless of their religious or political affiliation."

A candle lighting ceremony commemorated all of these deaths. Rabbi Israel Miller, Vice President Emeritus of Yeshiva University, addressed the crowd. "*Yom Hazikaron* is significant in our lives because it shows an active participation in Jewish renewal," he said. "*Yom Hazikaron* through silence

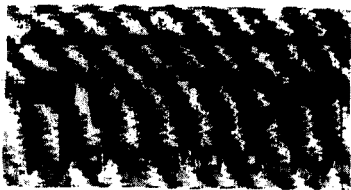
shows our grief while *Yom Ha'atzmaut* through singing and dancing shows our Jewish pride."

Following Miller's lecture, some YC and SCW students read aloud their original poetry on Israel themes. Then Danny Najman, a chazan, sang "*Hachovesh*," a mournful song about a medical assistant who attempts to rescue a soldier and in turn loses his life. *Kol Mivnei Rav Hamim* and *Kaddish* were recited to mark the end of the *Yom Hazikaron* ceremony.

Then the mood slowly shifted to the triumph and jubilation evoked by *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. Rabbi Meir Goldwicht gave a *shur* to begin the *Yom Ha'atzmaut* celebration. He spoke about the *omer*, the first commandment given to the Jews after entering the land of Israel. He discussed the importance of remembering Jericho, that it was the first place that the Jews conquered and that in our time it was the first place relinquished to the PLO.

After the singing of *Hatikvah*, the music and dancing began. "It was a wonderful way to celebrate one of the most important days in history," said Shulamit Braun, SCW '98.

SCW also had its own commemoration for *Yom Hazikaron*, but drew only a modest crowd. The ceremony was marked with candle lighting and poetry readings.



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And the Winners Are...

Tami Finkelstein New SCW President

By Chedva Aufrichtig

When Tami Finkelstein came to SCW four years ago, her goal was to gain as much as possible, while giving something back as well. Her most recent accomplishment,

being elected student council president, brings her closer to her goal, not that she is far behind.

Finkelstein's involvement in the student council is a new venture for her, but her involvement in school activities already makes for a long list. She is presently a dorm counselor, TAC board member, writing center tutor and computer lab assistant. She works in Milner's Mart, teaches Sunday school and is a member of the Shabbat Enhancement Committee. In past years, she has worked in the library and as a YU representative in Israel.

Next year, however, she may have to cut down. "I'm really taking the position seriously," said Finkelstein. "I'm limiting myself in terms of other extra-curricular activities that I would be doing because I want to focus as much time, effort and attention as possible in this position."

She came to SCW through the early admissions program and then spent her sophomore year at Brovender's in Israel. Due to the sequence of courses necessary to major in Speech Pathology and Audiology, her additional Judaic Studies major, and her two minors in psychology and English Literature, Finkelstein must remain in Stern College next year - her fifth year in attendance. In addition, she is presently on a joint program with Azrieli to receive a Master's in Jewish Education next year. While only one semester would be necessary to complete the required courses, Finkelstein decided that should she be elected student council president, she would distribute her courses in order to remain the full year.

After graduation, Finkelstein hopes to go to graduate school for Speech Pathology at night, and to teach during the day. Eventually, she hopes to go into *chinuch* and practice Speech Pathology on the side.

"Since my past and present involvements run the gamut, I feel I can justly say that I will be able to fairly represent most, if not all, of the student population," said Finkelstein. "I want students to feel that they can come to me, that I am available, and to realize that the student council is here for them."

The role of student council president is not an autocratic position, however, and Finkelstein acknowledges this. She hopes to work together with the students and to establish a good working relationship with

the other members of the student council, as well as with the presidents of TAC and Sy Syms.

"I will make no promises except that SCWSC '96-'97 will do its best to make positive contributions to Stern College and to enhance student life. Stern College has many great things to offer. We want students

into business, and she could tell us how she manages with both."

That is not to say that SSSB needs much improvement. "Barbara Pollak did an excellent job this year. She'll be hard to follow," said Stein. "I'll try my best to get the job done."

Emily J. Shapiro New TAC President

By Ahava Aaron

When Emily J. Shapiro came to SCW last year, she knew that she wanted to be involved in the many Jewish activities at SCW.

"I feel that TAC programs and publications are what make Stern a unique institution," said Shapiro. "Without it the whole purpose of attending a school like this would be lost."

Shapiro, known to many students for her dedication to TAC and her eye-catching red hair, got involved with TAC during her first year at SCW, and was a member of the board this year. Her familiarity with and knowledge of how TAC is run were among her motivations for running for president.

"I've seen the way it's run, what it involves and how much it contributes to SCW," said Shapiro, who was in charge of two *chavrutot* programs, Young Israel and Kehillat Jeshurun, and was a member of the Shabbos Enhancement Committee this year. "I think that TAC is crucial to Stern in four aspects: *kiruv, chesed, talmud torah* and *ruach*, and it is part of what makes Stern a unique college."

Shapiro, who graduated from the Frisch School in Paramus and came to SCW after spending a year in Midreshet Moriah in Israel, is a Judaic Studies major with a minor in Art. She looks forward to spending her summer studying at the Drisha Institute and working at the Jewish Museum. As TAC President, she hopes to sustain and improve existing programs and to add additional learning and *chesed* programs.

"Some aspects have to be enhanced and some committees have to be more active," said Shapiro. "In addition to re-establishing old committees, we are also adding a few new ones." Among some of the new committees are a *Shabbat* committee, which will coordinate all TAC Shabbatons, as well as set people up with families in the *Shabbat*, and a *Tefilla* committee, for those students who are interested in a daily communal *davening*.

"TAC is an overall council, for the entire SCW population," said Shapiro.

SCW Student Wins Essay Contest

By Julie Stampnitzky

There are certain unique events that define an era. Over 30 years after it occurred, people will still speak of "where they were when Kennedy was shot." For the current generation of Jews, the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may prove to

be a comparable milestone in our collective memory.

Following the assassination on November

4, the American Jewish Committee chose "The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and its Meaning for the Jewish People" as the topic for their annual collegiate essay contest. About 100 college students submitted entries, which were either essays or other forms of expression such as videotapes. The winner of this nationwide contest, with a prize of \$2,500, was Susan Jacobs, an SCW freshman.

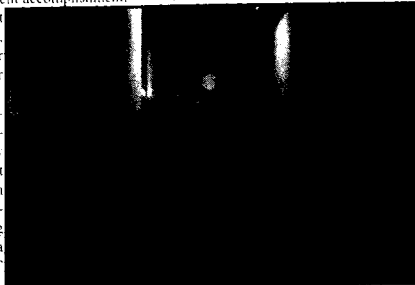
An English major who frequently writes for *The Observer*, Jacobs saw the essay as an opportunity to write down her conflicting feelings following the murder of Rabin. She was "shocked, both by the fact that the assassin was a religious Jew, and that there were Jews, especially in the religious community, who felt such hatred towards another Jew."

When the assassination occurred, Jacobs, who became religious on her own, was spending *Shabbat* with a religious family in Brooklyn who expressed the belief that the murder was justified. Jacobs wrote, "This family represents, in many ways, the type of life that I am striving for. It hurt my religious identity to think that, despite their religious commitment and observance, these people could be so blind to the situation at hand... this is not what religious Judaism is to me."

Rather, as she wrote in her essay, "I believe that the Torah is the ultimate light in a world filled with consuming darkness... Through the strength and eternity of the Torah we are supposed to be a model of human behavior, an example [for] others to follow, a light unto the nations."

Rabbi Aryeh Meir, program specialist for the American Jewish Committee, said of Jacob's essay, "It reflected a genuine struggle with the issue of the Rabin assassination from a Jewish perspective, and it presented a thoughtful and creative response to the topic." Although her roommate predicted that she would win, Jacobs herself didn't think that her entry was better than what she usually writes; if anything, her emotions got in the way, making her essay more difficult to write.

Jacobs believes that people must learn from this tragedy. If this happens, she said, "even out of something horrible there may be something to hope for."



Tami Finkelstein

to be aware of them, so that they can take advantage of them and get involved," Finkelstein said. "I'm being idealistic because I hope that if I fall even a little bit short of my goals, I'll still be able to make great strides."

Michelle Stein New SSSB President

By Esther Barry

Michelle Stein is excited about her new position as SSSB president. Stein, a senior majoring in marketing, spent a year at Machon Gold before coming to Stern from Ramaz High School. Some of the many student activities she's involved in include president of the American Marketing Association in SCW, managing editor for the *Sy Syms Business Journal* and blood drive captain. Stein will be interning at Young and Rubicam this summer in their new business department and hopes to get a job in marketing after graduation.

Stein feels that students should get more involved in student life and would like to help make that happen. "I feel that there should be a more active role in the midtown



Emily J. Shapiro

campus," said Stein.

In addition to some of the old events, Stein looks forward to planning some new ones. "I would love to have an Orthodox woman in the business world come and speak at Stern," she said. "There are so many girls in Stern who want a family and to go

U • R • E • S

More Than Just a Summer Job

By Shani Katz

Here we are again. On the threshold of another summer vacation. While most of us are running off to summer school, spending another summer in camp, or desperately seeking any minimum-wage job that can be found, a few of our fellow students are planning something slightly different.

Michelle Segall, SCW '97, will be spending this summer working in a research lab at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel. She will be researching plant genetics and the imaging of plant pathogens. Segall first heard about this opportunity in biology class and quickly applied for the position. The position appealed to her for several reasons. First, although Segall is a Biology major, she is not interested in the usual health professions that most Biology majors plan to pursue. She wanted to have some experience in research to see if she might like to pursue it as a career. "I always thought I would enjoy research," Segall said. The ten-week program at Weizmann attracts students from all over the world. The students receive a living stipend and on-campus housing. The second aspect of the summer program which attracted Segall is, of course, its location. "It's a way of getting my feet wet and waking up in Israel at the same time," Segall added. "It's a very exciting opportunity." Mira Hellman, SCW '96, has also received a summer fellowship at Weizmann.

Alyssa Turoff, SCW '97, also a Biology major, will be spending the summer as a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow at Rockefeller University. Turoff heard about this opportunity from SCW Biology Professor Dr. Harvey Babich. Throughout the ten-week program she will be studying pancreas receptors. Turoff looks forward to the opportunity to have hands-on research experience. She will be joined by SCW student Rachel Kahn, SCW '97.

Lab research is not the only unique job that SCW students are opting for this summer. Naama Ben-David, SCW '96, will be serving as a scorekeeper for the fencing team at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, she will be assisting the producer. "The producer," said Ben-David, "makes the Olympics more of a show and an event than just a game." The producer is involved in the announcing of events, the music and anything else that adds to the atmosphere to make it a fun event.

Ben-David, a Jewish Studies major who is also interested in communications, started the fencing team at Stern College and is currently its captain. She got her summer position by simply calling the Atlanta Fencing Committee for the Olympic Games. They sent her a volunteer application and she applied.

As a volunteer, Ben-David will enjoy the privilege of free transportation around Atlanta for the entire month of July just by showing her volunteer badge. She will also be staying in the Olympic Village with the athletes. The Jewish community in Atlanta will be assisting her with kosher food and Shabbat plans.

Karen Miller, SCW '96, will be spending her summer in Israel leading a Lights in Action leadership training seminar for North American Jewish college students. Lights in Action is a student run organization which

promotes proactive Judaism and Zionism among Jewish college students nationwide. The organization is a non-denominational and apolitical group which aims at fostering feelings of respect and sensitivity between Jews of all backgrounds. Miller has been involved with Lights in Action for the past three and a half years and is currently its national coordinator.

Throughout the month-long program, the group will travel around Israel tracing the steps of their forebearers through their studies. "We will study Talmud in the village of Katzrin which thrived during Talmudic times, and we will discuss Zionist history in the pioneer settlements by Lake Kinneret," said Miller. The first two weeks of the program are dedicated toward Jewish education and training, while during the last two weeks the students begin creating their own Lights in Action materials to take back to their university campuses and communities. The entire program, including airfare from New York, costs only \$1000 per student.

Miller said that it has been difficult recruiting people for the program due to recent events in Israel. "Who wants to go to Israel when you wake up every morning to read about bombings in Kiryat Shmona?" she said.

Miller specifically encourages students from YU to attend "to act as role models for those students who are skeptical about Israel, and to show that there is tolerance within the Orthodox community for those Jews who choose to express their Jewish identity differently." Anyone interested in joining the program can contact Miller.

Credit Where Credit is Due Mrs. Miller Retiring After 35 Years as YU Registrar

By Mira Hochberg

After 35 years of service to YU, Mrs. Florence Miller has just survived her last SCW registration. Miller has been an SCW registrar since 1985. She had previously worked at the Uptown campus.

While at YC, Miller "wore two hats." She worked simultaneously as a secretary for both the Head of Security and the Head of the Athletic Department in YC. Miller came to work at the SCW campus after the separation of the then joint security and the athletic departments for the two campuses. Miller chose to switch to SCW so as not to lose the monetary benefits of working full time, and, as she said with a smile, "I haven't regretted it!"

Although "it's nice working with the boys, atmosphere wise, I love working with the girls," said Miller. "I enjoy being with young people." Born and raised in the New York City, Miller attended Walton's High School in the Bronx, where she got her first taste of life in an all-girls school. Upon graduation, she worked for a Midtown architect, earning a weekly salary of \$11.

During the World War II years, she found work in a hardware store. The owner of the store, Miller remembers, had contracts with Russia and all over Europe. She recalled one experience that SCW students might appreciate. Talking with a co-worker at the store, she discovered that both she and her friend were dating first cousins.

Miller later married her date, and they will celebrate their Golden anniversary in September. She has three children, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild on the way.

Not surprisingly, Miller has mixed emotions about retiring. "I want to and I don't," she said. It is due to family concerns that she will be retiring after this school year.

She will be leaving behind a hectic job. During this interview, Miller was not only filing papers, but answering questions from students and staff. "Now," she said

when we concluded, "let me go help them find that folder they're looking for..."



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Among the staff of 400 are a group of highly trained social workers who work in Ohel's various programs. One program targets children in dysfunctional homes. Ohel provides outpatient counseling and family therapy. Some of the families under Ohel's care simply require extra help around the home or a babysitter for the children. Many parents lack essential parental skills and must be taught management and coping techniques. This is all part of Ohel's Prevention Care program designed to prevent children from being placed in foster care.



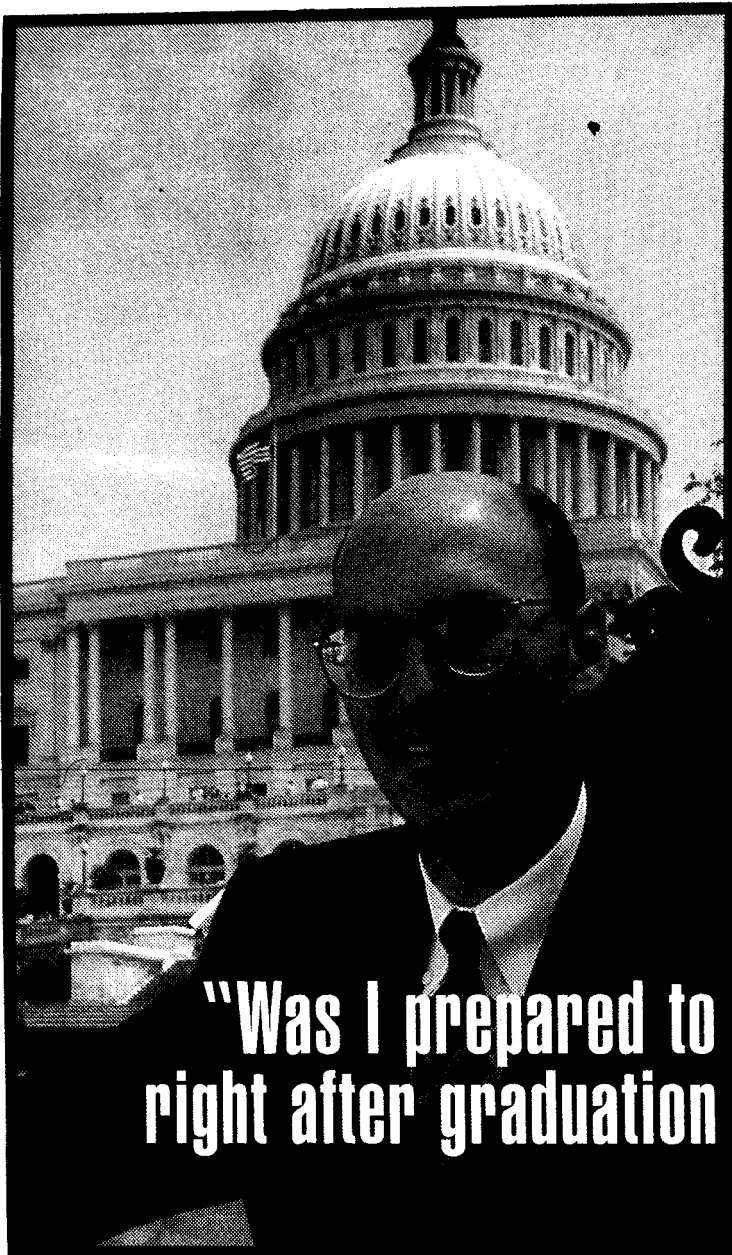
Two of the many people who benefit from Ohel's services.

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For children and adults with mental or physical disabilities, Ohel provides intensive care facilities and community residences. For those eligible for independent housing, Ohel's social workers create a stable home environment and teach residents independent living skills. This program involves counseling as well as vocational training programs for those who are ready to enter the workplace.

Ohel welcomes volunteers. The volunteers are trained by Ohel staff members under the guidance of Esther Lerner, director of volunteer services. There are countless ways one can get involved. Ohel has a great need for "big sisters" and "big brothers" for children in foster care and in group homes. Volunteers are also needed to tutor these children, escort them to and from counseling, and lead exercise or learning programs.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Ohel, please contact Esther Lerner, director of volunteer services at (718) 651-6300. En-



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Picasso at the Lapin Agile

By Dina Bogner

Most people nowadays are used to seeing comedy in neat, 30-minute packages. (Or shall I say 22, without commercials?) Unfortunately this format does not give the majority of the so-called sitcoms enough time to develop into something that is actually funny. Theater allows for more time to develop interesting, intelligent humor. *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a play written by actor and classic-in-his-time comedian Steve Martin, is now a smash hit at the Promenade Theater on the Upper West Side. It is a wildly original, smart and laugh-out-loud funny play.

The curtain opens on the play's single setting, The Lapin Agile, a Parisian pub. The year is 1904, and young Picasso is a frequent patron of the pub, three years before he was to paint his famous *Les Femmes d'Alger*. A young Albert Einstein, just a year prior to his publishing the *Special Theory of Relativity*, happens upon the bar and meets up with the already famous Picasso. Hilarity ensues, but not the Jim Carrey, falling down type of hilarity. Einstein does not make any parts of his body sing, yodel or even holler. Still, every moment reaches a new level of preposterousness, while at the same time we are driven to con-

template the serious question of who and what shaped our modern world. Yet the philosophy is introduced so seamlessly that the audience does not realize how much they have absorbed from the play until they step outside and reflect on the fast paced, under two hour show.

All of the characters in *Picasso* are played deftly by talented, charismatic actors. Mark Nelson's Einstein is a man who knows his own genius and yet seems slightly befuddled by the world he is probably too smart to live in comfortably. Nelson has appeared on TV's *Law & Order*. Paul Provenza, who you may recognize from TV's *Empty Nest*, is a Picasso full of cockiness and charm, and he makes it easy for us to understand why the women flock to the bar hoping to catch his eye. Peter Jacobson and Susan Floyd give hilarious supporting performances (Ms. Floyd handles all three of her roles wonderfully), and Gabriel Macht's performance as the surprise visitor ends the show on an appropriately perplexing note.

In *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Steve Martin has written a complex, entertaining theater experience that satisfies one's brain as well as funny bone. He certainly has much to offer as a playwright. But let's not encourage him to give up his day job.

Comedy Review

Taking It to the Limits

By Suzanne Baran

I had never been to an improvisational comedy show, and when the offer came to review one of the leading troupes in the city, I did not know what to expect. I went to Chicago City Limits on 1105 First Avenue, between 61st and 62nd Streets, and I was thoroughly entertained and pleasantly surprised. The show lasted for over two and a half hours and I did not stop laughing for a moment.

The show included four actors/comedians, and a man playing the piano who began the show by blending the theme songs from different TV shows. The performers then asked if someone from the audience could provide them with one word with which to formulate a song, and someone supplied "I." In the next sequence an audience member was asked to name the title of a song in order for the performers to improvise a song using the suggested song as their theme. The song which was chosen, "Wild Goose," was performed in Shakespearean, country and hip-hop styles. Among other songs performed were a parody of the *Friends* theme song, superbly done, and a song entitled "Newt" about Newt Gingrich.

In the next sequence, the actors set up a Presidential debate with candidates Bob Dole and Pat Buchanan. "Buchanan" was clad in a mock Nazi uniform, and this was a bit exaggerated, in my opinion. After the debate, the actors held a mock Jeopardy game, in which the audience had to choose the professions of the contestants. The contestants were cosmetologist, a buyer and a monk. The audience also chose the categories on Jeopardy. The Final Jeopardy category was "Kosher Food."

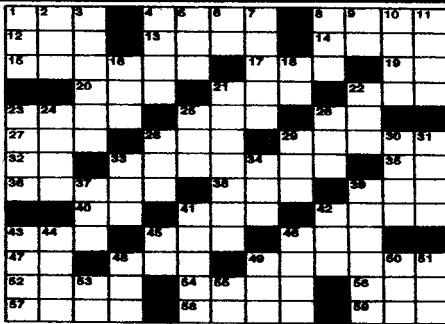
The next segment was a dialogue between two actors playing roommates. The audience was asked to call out lines which the actors used to create the dialogue. Another similar sequence included audience

members calling out the first and last lines of the play. Yet another skit required the audience to provide a title and different movie styles in which the skit was to be performed. The styles included gangster, science fiction, drama and "drunken bum." The actors each had to spontaneously act out their lines on cue.

The next skit featured "Kramer v Kramer," a takeoff on the '70's movie about a couple suing each other for custody of their only child. One of the actors personified the character of Kramer from the hit show *Seinfeld*. After "Kramer v Kramer," one performer asked for an audience member to tell her about some event that had happened to her in the last week. The woman from the audience said that she had slipped in the theater because she was rushing to get a good seat. The skit was based around this premise.

The closing segment of the evening was called "Mock the Actor," in which a member of the audience was selected to use a nonsense phrase, unbeknownst to one of the actors. The actor chosen had to guess the phrase word for word through his fellow performers' actions. The phrase was "Can a room full of celestial machinery heal a soul?" After finally guessing the phrase, the comedian was so exasperated that he attempted to jump from the stage and injure the woman who had suggested the phrase.

I was thoroughly impressed by the actors' hysterical performances. The theater was filled with laughter, and the audience was all smiles at the conclusion of the show. I had an opportunity to witness real talent first hand, and I recommend Chicago City Limits to anyone who would like to do the same. The admission price is \$17.50 on every night but Monday, when it is \$10 per person. Reservations are required a day in advance. For more information and reservations, call (212) 888-5233.



ACROSS

1. Unhappy
4. Frolic
8. Measure
12. Poem
13. Spirit
14. Newspaper piece
15. Flair
17. Upper appendage
19. Third scale note
20. Mineral
21. Purifier
22. Appropriate
23. Mineral vein
25. Frozen water
26. Propagation
27. Head!
28. Dish
29. Eight singers
32. Myself
33. Springs up suddenly
35. Second scale note
36. Rub out
38. Craft
39. It is (poetic)
40. Direction (abbr.)
41. Aid to us (abbr.)
42. Two singers
43. Assistant (abbr.)
46. Auger
48. Small a hill
47. Thin
49. Single seat
50. Sign
52. Low speed
54. Screen (verbosen)
56. Fit out
57. Sea bird
60. Fleck group
62. Young boy

DOWN

1. The sun
2. Aisle
3. Convert from code
4. Word for word
5. NW state (abbr.)
6. NE state (abbr.)
7. Past
8. Edge
9. Near
10. Temperature (abbr.)
11. Read fourth
16. Flural verb
18. Slight (abbr.)
21. Seat of acetic acid
22. Heat oven
23. Leap
24. Above
25. Indefinite process
26. Fall month (abbr.)
28. Monday
29. Food scrap
30. Canal lake
31. Exam
33. Emphas
34. Curve
37. Plume part
39. Underground passage
41. Handling up
42. DNS (g.L.)
43. Assistant (abbr.)
44. Shattering animal
46. Not out
48. Eat
49. Idea
49. Male offspring
50. Also known as (abbr.)
51. Lead (g.L.)
53. Blame
55. Two (Roman)

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SCW SPORTS

Kaminetzky and Kelsen Win MVP Awards at Annual Dinner

By Rachel Hellman

On Monday, May 1, the Athletic Department held its annual awards dinner. Each coach selected an MVP and a Coach's Award recipient.

Also, four-year team members received watches in appreciation of all the time they have given to their sport.

For the Lady Maes basketball team Sharon Kaminetzky, SCW '96, and Judith Kelsen, SCW '96, both received the four-year award and MVP honors. Coach Steve Young described their commitment and

efforts" over the past years. Michele Lefkowitz, SCW '96, a rookie, received the Coach's Award. Young said that it was "a pleasure watching her love of basketball grow."

For the first time in SCW history, the Athletic Department presented an award to the athlete who had achieved the greatest scholarship in her studies. The competition was close, Young said, but Kelsen received this award as well.

Kelsen said she was honored to be the

first recipient of such an award. "[It] represents the growing sense of seriousness given to women's athletic events," she said.

Another set of first time awards were given out to the SCW fencing team. Coach Jose Fusco was not present but Young read a message she had sent. Fusco thanked Na'ama Ben-David, SCW '96, for initiating the drive to start the team. In recognition of this, Ben-David received the Coach's Award in her sport. Abbi Shapiro, SCW '96, received the MVP award. Yael Malik, SCW '97, received the MVP award in tennis.

There was also a group of special awards presented to various students. The conference awards for scholarship were given to Kaminetzky, Kelsen, Lefkowitz, Chana Holzer, SCW '96, and Becky Schmelzer, SCW '96. Stephanie Turetsky, SCW '99, was voted to the IACT all-conference team.

Men's basketball coach Jonathan Halpert recognized "the tireless efforts of Steve Young" on behalf of the athletes.

One comment by Dean Karen Bacon got the swimming team's attention. When called upon to present the awards to the SCW's intramural team, she said, "The team accomplished this without the benefit of an on-campus pool. Imagine what they could do if the pool was more feasible."

The Year in Sports

By Rachel Hellman

The Athletic Department made significant strides this year. The year started off a little slow with the tennis team. Rain prevented most of the matches from taking place. However, the team was victorious in their lone match.

The basketball team also got off to a slow start. The team came together in a late season surge which included a victory in tournament play. The team was young and the players took time to get used to each other's style of play. By the end of the season they were familiar with each other and this familiarity should serve as a solid base for next year. The rookies benefitted from the seasoned leadership of Judith Kelsen and Sharon Kaminetzky. Their guidance will be missed next year. Coach Steve Young is "very proud of the way the team played throughout the season."

This was the inaugural season for the fencing team at Stern. The team, led by Jose Fusco, was impressive. The epee team won a match and the foil team did not go down without a fight. SCW stemmed the tide in college athletics by starting a fencing team this year. Many colleges are now cutting less popular sports such as fencing from their athletics programs due to budget concerns.

Next year promises to be even better. The basketball team will have several key players returning, including Sheila Wainberg and Shana May. And after winning its first match in its first year, the fencing team has excellent prospects for next season.



Coach Steve Young with departing captains Kelsen (left) and Kaminetzky at the Sports Awards Dinner.

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