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Students Explore Educational and Career Opportunities at Career Fair '96

By Miriam Cheryl Grossman

Students were able to inquire about career opportunities with over 60 firms, including Goldman Sachs & Co., MetLife, and Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. and for the first time, learn more about graduate schools such as Brooklyn College, Queens College, Bank Street School of Education and Wurzweiler School of Social Work, at Career Fair 1996. Career Fair, which is sponsored by Sy Syms School of Business and the Office of Placement and Career Services, took place on Monday evening, October 21. Between 400 and 450 SSSB, SCW and YC students filed into Belfer Hall, located at the Main Campus, to attend the event.

While the Office of Placement & Career Services does not keep actual statistics on the success rate of students finding positions as a result of Career Fair, they do maintain that the event is beneficial to both employers and students alike. Students have the opportunity to

find out about internships, summer jobs, part time jobs and full time positions, while employers are able to publicize their companies.

Although the Office of Placement & Career Services does not have a final count on the number of students who attended the event, it estimates that approximately 50 more

students attended Career Fair this year than last year. Naomi Kapp, Assistant Director of the Office of Placement & Career Services, believes that the increase in attendance can be attributed to the addition of graduate schools to the fair. The increase in the number of firms attending the event

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SCW students Rachel Goldstein and Sarah Zalesch sought job and Graduate School opportunities at this year's Career Fair.

Special Election Issue

See Pages 8-11 for Coverage of the 1996 Presidential Elections



Mock Election '96*

Clinton 82%

Dole 16%

Other 2%

* Poll Conducted on Thursday, October 24 among SCW students. Sponsored by the SCWSC J. P. Dunner Political Science Society.

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YU Joins the Elite

By Atara Graubard

This year, Yeshiva University joined Yale, Princeton, and Harvard as the most elite national universities in the United States. A recent *U.S. News and World Report* ranking placed Yeshiva University 45th out of 229 universities. This was a significant rise over last year's showing.

The magazine categorizes the nation's higher education institutions based on size and research capabilities. National universities, which include the Ivy League and major state universities, are judged separately from small liberal arts and regional schools. Yeshiva University's resources classify it as a national university. Schools in this category are divided into three "tiers" based on each institution's merits. The top tier, in which YU placed this year, includes the best 50 schools in the nation. Last year, YU ranked in the second tier, which incorporates rankings 51 through 114. This was an improvement over 1994, when it placed in the third tier.

Yeshiva University's rise in the rankings places it above such

institutions as Texas A&M and George Washington University. However, University President Norman Lamm cautioned that "We do not want to overemphasize the significance of this survey because we know that the lower scores we received in previous years did not reflect our true academic quality. It is important to remember that these surveys are not as scientific as they often claim to be."

While the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are considered by many to be prestigious, they are not wholly objective. Although most of their criteria are empirical, the equation determining the relative weights of these factors is not absolute. The magazine analyzes eleven completely fact-based statistics of each school. These include student-teacher ratios, percentage of students who graduate, student SAT scores, alumni donations, faculty resources, per-student expenditure, and financial resources. The data that the magazine uses to compute factors is submitted by each school's academic affairs

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Candidate Representatives Discuss Issues in Mock Debate '96

By Leslie Ginsparg

The Democrat declared that Senator Dole "said a lot of things and then reversed himself."

The Republican declared, "So has Clinton. The problem with Clinton being elected again is if you vote for him, you don't know what in the hell you're going to get."

This heated dialogue did not take place in Hartford on Octo-

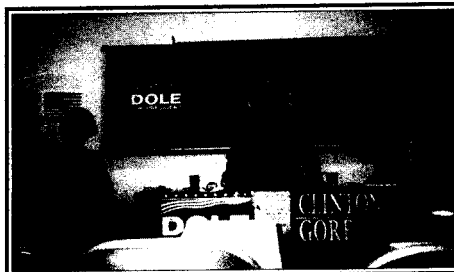
ber 6, or in San Diego on October 16. It took place in Stern College on Tuesday, October 23, as part of the mock presidential debate, sponsored by the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society. Democrat Ari Goodman, Co-Chair of Young Lawyers for Clinton-Gore, and Republican Lynn Rollins, Deputy Director of the New York State Division for Women, were the partici-

pants in Mock Debate '96.

The program started with opening statements, where each representative gave a basic outline of their candidate's platform. After the opening statements, the floor was opened for student questions. Students raised the issues of social-security, affirmative action, policy towards Israel, campaign finance reforms, welfare, abortion and drug control.

The J.P. Dunner Political Science Society arranged the debate in order to better educate Stern students on the issues facing voters in the upcoming election. Educating students is one issue on which Goodman and Rollins agree. It is the reason that they take the time to participate in these debates. "I think it's important that people get educated. While most people are pretty educated here, there's always more to learn," said Goodman. Rollins agreed.

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Republican Lynn Rollins (l) and Democrat Ari Goodman (far right) discussed the issues of the upcoming election in Mock Debate '96, moderated by SCW student Sharona Cohen (center).

Letters to the Editor

Dear fellow students and faculty members,

Many of you may have heard about the tragedy that occurred in Kew Gardens, N.Y., over the summer. A horrific fire changed the lives of the Silbergleit family. As we go to press Mark Silbergleit has just been released from the hospital. His five-year old daughter Chana Bayla, was *niftet* on Tisha B'Av. He and his wife are sitting shiva for their nine-year old daughter Masha Miriam, who passed away on Chol Hamoed Sukkot. Their grandmother of blessed memory, Leona Rosen, perished while trying to save her grandchildren's lives.

The fire has left the Silbergleits both homeless and destitute, without clothing, dishes, furniture, or appliances. Right now, the family is living in an apartment above the *shul* in Kew Gardens. An apartment

was set up for them, and when they are psychologically ready they will move in. I am writing this letter knowing that you will not hesitate to provide the immediate assistance so desperately needed by the Silbergleits during this period of turmoil and grief.

When one of Klal Yisroel hurts, we all feel it.

Checks can either be made out to Tiferes Shmuel/Charity Account and sent to Rabbi Krohan at 117-09 85th Ave. Kew Gardens, N.Y. 11418, or I can be reached at 212-951-4893, WC 27F. Thank you in advance for your chesed and generosity. May we only share B'soros Tovos in the future.

Sincerely,
Danielle Wiessen
SCW '97

To the Editor:

At Stern, we are required to pay for our e-mail service. The price of e-mail used to be \$50 for four years, while now it is \$25 per year. The price has doubled! If that is not bad enough, I would think that for \$25 a year, my e-mail would work better than ever. I thought maybe it would really be worth it. I was surely disappointed! E-mail was malfunctioning for its 75 newest subscribers for a week and even after that, it became frozen frequently. I find this out-

rageous. After paying for e-mail (when most colleges didn't even have to), I expect it to work. Weeks are being taken away from my e-mail use! I can understand if it was only a day of malfunctioning, but a week or more is just too much! Something must be done to alleviate this problem and compensate e-mail subscribers for lost time.

Alyssa Shulman
SCW '99

To the Editor:

Recently, I was at Stern and wanted to use the computer lab. As soon as I walked in, I was told that I had to leave immediately. Later I found out that if you are a male and you attend the undergraduate schools, you are automatically banned from Stern's computer labs without exception. However, the graduate school students are allowed to use them. I think that this rule is absurd, to say the least. As a student of Yeshiva University, I expect to be allowed to use their facilities. Apparently, according to Mrs. Gordon (who is in charge of Stern's computer labs), the reason that YC students are banned from the midtown labs is that we might install viruses onto their computers. Does this imply that women wouldn't or couldn't? This rule seems to be a sweeping and unfair generalization about the YC and

Stern students. First of all, the women at Stern are more than capable of installing viruses if they so desired. Second of all, the vast majority of YC students would never dream of installing viruses onto any computer. But what is most interesting is that all of the computers at Stern have a virus protection program already on them. So it seems that the administration has made yet another pointless, and excuse my bluntness, stupid rule. Last year, when the women weren't allowed in the caf store after 3:00 p.m., they complained and the rule was ultimately done away with. I would very much like to see the same wise decision made in this situation.

Avraham Goldberg,
YC '99

The Observer

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Editorials

With midterms officially underway, the academic year is in full swing and the hustle and bustle of college life is upon us. The time consumed by classes, activities and shmoozes with friends is profound. There are definitely not enough hours in the day. With all that is going on at Stern, it is far too easy to forget that the world extends beyond 34th Street, yet it clearly does. We do not live in a vacuum, and even far away occurrences have implications for us.

It is for this reason that every SCW stu-

dent must make an extra effort to keep up with current events. This may seem like a simple enough task, yet a disconcertingly large number of students have not the faintest idea about world, national, or local events. While conducting a poll for *The Observer*, an SCW reporter was astounded at the number of students whom could not answer a rudimentary question like "Which issues are important to you in the upcoming election?" This ignorance is inexcusable. SCW students are bright and intelligent. If they do not know what is going on, then who will?

On November 5, American citizens have the power to cast a ballot for the man that will lead the United States, and the world, into the 21st century. In addition to the general obligation on every citizen to vote, this election bares special importance for SCW students.

This is the first presidential election in which many of us will take part. No longer is the "will of the people" an abstract term describing others. We are now citizens in the fullest sense of the word. Citizenship may provide rights and privileges, but it also requires commitment and responsibility.

It is easy to complain that politicians are corrupt and that nothing ever changes. It is a great deal more difficult, however, to put in time and effort in order to understand the important issues of the day. Politicians discuss that which the electorate wants to hear. So if we learn and speak out about the issues, the politicians will follow.

Don't delay: Pick up a newspaper, turn on the news, voice your opinion and above all, vote. The 21st century is at stake and only through our efforts can we assure that it will be a century to be proud of.

Clinton '96

If done properly, choosing a candidate for the presidency is an agonizingly difficult decision. Even if one has followed the campaign since Iowa, watched the Presidential debates, and read the paper every day, it is hard to know what Clinton and Dole truly represent.

Generally, Presidential campaigns are never what they seem. This year, however, is particularly confusing. Clinton is advocating much of the traditionally Republican agenda, like welfare reform and smaller government, while Dole is imitating many populist campaigning techniques, like Clinton's successful Bus Tours. Both candidates are doing what they can to appear moderate in order to win over the votes of the undecided. This is quite evident in regard to Israel. Clinton and Dole are vying for the votes of American Jews by attempting to out-pro-Israel each other.

It is a sad commentary on the American

electoral system that this year more Americans will be voting against Clinton or Dole than for either one of them. The poor choice of candidates, however, should not be a deterrent from voting. This is because one of the candidates stands out as the lesser of two evils. Though much is lacking in them, the policies of Bill Clinton deserve our support. *The Observer* therefore endorses Bill Clinton for the Presidency. It was Clinton that stood up for Americans as the force of "good" during his battle with the Republican Congress. He ensured that the most radical of the Republican's Contract with America did not make it into law. Thanks to Clinton, our futures are secure; Medicare, Social Security, and College loans remain intact.

Despite his election year conversion, Dole's record on Israel is at best mixed. Even though he has supported aid to Israel while in Congress, he has never been a good friend to Israel. In a 1991 *Jerusalem Post* column,

Dole wrote that America "has no interest in subsidizing the backward socialist economy in Israel." Dole once again made his true feelings toward Israel apparent on the CNN television program *Larry King Live* in 1993. Regarding American aid to Israel, he said, "Some people get hooked on it; they never want to take a penny less. It's like drugs." Dole was a sponsor of the Jerusalem Relocation Act, legislation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It is important to note, however, that for many years Dole opposed such an action.

Clinton's position is by no means perfect, but it does far surpass Dole's. Before the 1996 Israeli election, Clinton had very strong ties with the Israeli government. He was labeled by many as the most pro-Israel President ever. In the wake of Netanyahu's victory relations have cooled, but Clinton has a bond with the Israeli people, which Dole does not possess.

From The Editor's Desk

Every SCW student has her own way of managing time while dealing with the stresses of college life. The constant pressure caused by school work, combined with extracurricular activities, internships, etc., has become especially apparent now that we are in the midst of the fall semester and are surrounded by midterms and papers. The lack of spare time during these busy weeks is what makes the efforts of those women who unselfishly use their time to do acts for others so commendable.

After the shocking death of Ramie Kertzner z"l, TAC organized a *Mishnayot* learning program in Ramie's memory. A sign-up board was posted in the school building, and it quickly filled up as students committed themselves to yet another responsibility. On Wednesday, October 16, the *Beit Midrash* in the School Building filled for the *siyum* of the learning. Students and faculty members gathered to speak of our friend Ramie, and to share what they had learned in her memory.

Death is not an easy issue to deal with, especially that of a fellow SCW student. It is much easier for most of us to push such thoughts aside, rather than confronting them. During the *siyum*, however, it became apparent that SCW students were committed to finding a



way of remembering Ramie through a positive action, the learning of *Mishnayot*. Through the learning we felt that we could do something for her, just as she would have done for us.

I think it is important for every SCW student to stop and think not only of Ramie, but of all the students which took upon themselves a commitment of learning in her memory. It is not only a beautiful way to remember a friend, but is also a reflection upon SCW women, who despite their busy schedules were able through a joint effort to learn the whole *Mishnah* on her behalf.

Rachel Felsman

From the Executive Editor

For the three years in which I have been in Stern, I have become accustomed to the fact that I am living in New York. My entire first year here, I was your typical out of townner (what makes NY a town is another discussion in its own right). I think I may have taken two subways all year, neither of which was by myself, of course. Whenever I left the city, I was relieved, and I marveled at the site of trees and grass. I missed the comforts of suburbia.

Over my second and third year here, I have developed into quite a New Yorker. I have gotten used to the hustle and bustle of city life. Taking subways is definitely not an issue anymore. I recently told my parents that I knew I was really living here when I began buying subway tokens in \$20 increments.

The subway thing is just the beginning of my NY comforts. For some reason, even when I am not in a rush, I find myself hurrying down every street. I don't take a stroll down the block, rather, I power walk! I have become trusting of the others around me on the street, and I have no problem walking around our neighborhood at night. I even tend to drive like a New Yorker when I am home!

What has happened to the naive college student who was scared of subways?

On a positive note, NY is a bastion of culture. How many people can say that they have Broadway and Museum Row in their backyard? These are places that in my quest for being comfortable in NY, I have begun to appreciate.

My comfort in NY is all beginning to change. Last week, I was shown that not all aspects of NY are good. While walking home from school, in broad daylight, I witnessed my first mugging. I would not say that I want this event to go down in history with all the other memorable firsts in my life. I could not believe it. A man



grabbed a woman's necklace right off her neck, she screamed, and he ran. Everyone stopped for about five seconds, and then went back to their daily routine. I stopped, watched in astonishment for about 20 seconds and continued to walk back to the dorm.

What was wrong with me? I saw a person in need, and I did not even bother to help. OK, I did hang around and watch longer than most people, but I still left.

If this incident would have happened in suburbia, I would have helped her. What is wrong with this city? I don't understand how people ignore incidents like this one just because they are commonplace. I am starting to doubt my comfort in NY. (No offense to those of you who really live here.)

I think I now know why in the Frank Sinatra song, he mentions NY twice in the chorus. There are two types of NY. The type that is filled with culture and fun, which I don't mind being around, and the type that is filled with incidents that none of us want to be a part of. We have to take advantage of the first type and stay as far away from the second type as possible.

Living in the city has opened my eyes to what is really out there in the world. I hope that my experiences are only positive from here on out.

Andrea Snyder

Opinion

Divided We Stand

By Leebie Mallin

With all of the publicity regarding the Presidential election, it is easy to forget that other races, ones that may have far greater significance, are taking place this November 5th. Contrary to the portrayal by the media, the most significant candidates are not Clinton, Dole, or even Perot. Rather, they are Gingrich, Gephardt and hundreds of others.

Despite the lack of attention, Congressional elections are extremely significant. Throughout most of the Reagan administration and the entire Bush presidency, America stood divided. Congress was controlled by Democrats, while Republicans ran the White House. The American people were viewed as schizophrenic for perpetuating this situation, election after election. During that period, Congress would often pass bills, only to see them slain at the hands of the President's veto pen.

When Democratic candidate Bill Clinton was elected in 1992 many experts breathed a sigh of relief. The era of divided government appeared to be over. It seemed that America would no longer be paralyzed by the gridlock that prevented the passage of important legislation.

This all changed on election day 1994. In what history may view as one of the most significant elections ever, the American

people elected a Republican majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. This vote was seen as a mandate for change after nearly 40 years of Democratic Congressional domination. As a result of this election, divided government returned, only this time it was the Republicans controlling Congress and a Democrat in the White House.

The repercussions of divided government reached new heights during the first year of the 104th Congress. Budget disagreements between President Clinton and Congressional Republicans culminated in government shut downs.

It did not take long, however, for Clinton, Gingrich, and Dole to realize that such gridlock could not be tolerated by the American people. This realization resulted in a move to the center by Clinton and Congressional Republicans. What followed was a prolific array of legislation, including the Family Leave Act, Crime Bill, and the Welfare Reform Act.

The years 1995 and 1996 are testimony to the fact that divided government can work, and can even be beneficial for the United States. If Democrats had remained in control of Congress, they would have aided Clinton with liberal programs, such as his

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*denotes a 10% discount to YU students and faculty

* Continued on page 13

Aspiring Lawyers and Physicians Achieve Outstanding Placement Record for Professional Schools

By Rachel Rothman

In a recent newsletter, the chairman of the Law School Admissions Council described a crisis in legal education. He detailed a five year downward trend in law school acceptance of applicants approaching 20% nationwide. The national average rate of medical school acceptance is only 30%, which means that 2 out of 3 pre-med students who apply to a particular medical school will be accepted. The future may seem bleak to some aspiring lawyers and physicians.

Sarah Friedman, SCW '98, described the apprehension felt by some students. "As a biology major, I am very worried about getting into graduate school. The whole application process scares me," Friedman and all of those worried students walking throughout the halls of Yeshiva University can now breathe a lot easier. Although acceptance into graduate schools nationwide have been dropping rapidly, students of Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, and Sy Syms School of Business seem to be the exception to the rule.

The acceptance rate of YU students into graduate schools has not only failed to decline, but it has flourished. Over the past two decades, YU has exhibited a superb student graduate school acceptance rate and the graduates of the class of 1996 maintained this extraordinary pattern.

Law School Acceptance

In the process of reviewing applications, law schools place great emphasis on the applicant's LSAT scores. This past year, one

quarter of YU and SSSB students on the Main Campus scored in the top five percent on the LSATs, and four students placed in the 99th percentile. The women's scores were even more impressive. The average score of students at SCW and SSSB at the Midtown Campus was in the 92nd percentile. Half of the applicants scored in the top eight percent, and four in the 98th percentile. All 15 women and 37 out of the 38 men who applied to Law School last year were accepted by at least one American Bar Association accredited school. There were 27 acceptances to Cordozo School of Law, as well as acceptances to NYU, Harvard, and Cornell Schools of Law, among many other prestigious law schools.

Despite the apparent acceptance rate, many students are concerned about life after law school. Throughout the United States, there are numbers of new lawyers searching for jobs. The Law School Admissions Council reports a decline in the number of top paying jobs available in big-city firms. Opportunities, however, are increasing for lawyers in Israel. Associate Dean of Yeshiva College, Michael Hecht, commented that in his 25 years as the pre-law advisor, he has never seen a rosier outlook for law students considering *Aliyah*. "The Israeli privatization movement, the explosion of high-tech firms tapping the American equity market, and the increasing international focus of Israeli corporations have combined to generate opportunities for American Lawyers."

Medical and Dental School Acceptance

Medical School is known to be a tough experience in itself, but the process can be even worse. Two out of three applicants nationwide are turned down. Once again, the students of YU and SCW seem to be the exceptions to the rule. Nearly 85% of all YU students are accepted. This is "a figure that merits attention especially when compared to the 30% national acceptance rate," said Dr. David Weisbrod, pre-health science advisor at YU.

Members of the Class of 1996 were admitted into John Hopkins, Harvard, and Yale, as well as YU's own Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

A total of 41 students, 34 men and seven women, were accepted to Medical School for the present academic year. In addition, two students were accepted into Optometry school, and one student was accepted to a public health program. This brings the total acceptance rate of pre-health science students, other than pre-med, to more than 99%.

All of the students who applied to Dental School last year, seven women and five men, were accepted. "Knowing the statistics of Stern women getting into Dental School were very high last year makes my decision to go into dentistry much easier," said Yael Berger, SCW '96.

By noting the accomplishments of YU students in the past, current students can feel pride in the success of their peers and confidence in themselves that they to can continue in their path of success.

Students Donate Blood to Save Lives

By Kayla Pliskin

On Thursday, October 17, SCW students and faculty members volunteered their time to save lives. Koch Auditorium was transformed into a blood donation center for this school year's first blood drive.

The blood drive had been well publicized throughout the school. Signs, pamphlets and posters had been hanging around both the school building and the dorm prior to the scheduled blood drive date. A table in the lobby of the school building was fully manned to encourage students to sign up to donate.

125 perspective donors came to Koch, although 93 actually donated blood. 32 people were deferred due to low iron, fatigue, or a high temperature.

Deborah Waltuch, SCW '98, one of the blood drive committee heads, said that the turnout for this year's drive "was the highest ever had." Waltuch noted that last year's blood

year's drive.

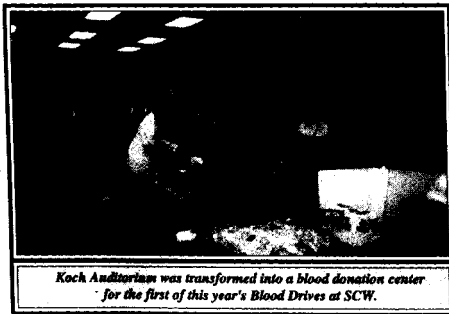
The donation process began when a potential donor filled out a medical questionnaire. The donor was then interviewed by a nurse to make sure she was in healthy physical condition. After about a five minute wait, the donor was called over to mount a gurney. A nurse conversed with

After the blood was taken, the donors were escorted to a resting area and put under the charge of a Blood Drive volunteer, who provided free snacks and care.

Those considering giving blood in the future should be reassured by the comments of veteran giver, Lauren Schiowitz, SCW '99. While recuperating over cookies and juice,

Lauren watched the treatment of other donors. She said that she felt very comfortable under the care that had been provided. She also added that the people "were concerned with your health and gave you lots of attention." Lauren felt that the treatment given to each donor was very personal and that everyone was well cared for.

Donating blood can be done by almost anyone, and every donation is needed. The blood drive committee is hoping to have 3 or 4 drives throughout the school year. The next blood drive at SCW will take place on Thursday, December 19.



Koch Auditorium was transformed into a blood donation center for the first of this year's Blood Drives at SCW.

the patient and prepared her for the donation procedure. The whole process generally took less than ten minutes.

Tay-Sachs disease is a fatal genetic disease which primarily affects young children. The disease is characterized by the absence of a vital enzyme called Hexosaminidase A, which normally works to break down lipids and other fatty substances in body cells. Because Tay-Sachs children are lacking Hex A, these waste products gradually accumulate in their nerve cells until the cells degenerate and die. Once the nerve cells become affected after the first few months of a baby's life, a relentless deterioration of mental and physical abilities occur. Such symptoms include blindness, deafness, the inability to swallow, muscle atrophy and paralysis. There is no cure or treatment available.

While there are Jewish and non-Jewish carriers of the Tay-Sachs gene, approximately one out of every 25 Ashkenazi Jews is a Tay-Sachs carrier. In the Sephardic population, the percentage of carriers is slightly lower.

On October 23, SCW students gathered for an afternoon lecture, sponsored by SCWSC and TAC, given by Mrs. Frances Berkowitz M.S., who serves as a genetic counselor for the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association (NTSADA). Berkowitz explained that while Tay-Sachs disease can now be prevented through wide scale carrier testing, many people remain uninformed and have yet to be tested.

Berkowitz explained that the only way the disease is passed on to a child is if both parents are carriers of the recessive gene. If one member of a couple is a carrier, they cannot have an affected child. There will be, however, a 50% chance of a child being a carrier. She reiterated that being a carrier of a gene does not mean being sick with the disease.

Berkowitz encouraged students to assume their responsibility as Ashkenazi Jews and to protect themselves and their potential families from the spread of this disease.

Testing will be available for students at SCW on November 13. During the testing, blood samples will be taken by licensed technicians and sent to the laboratory at Brooklyn's Kingsbrook Medical Center. Students will receive their results approximately two weeks later.

"I was a little surprised by the severity of the consequences of Tay-Sachs disease. I'm now grateful that testing is available at Stern, otherwise I wouldn't have had it done," said Sarah Friedman, SCW '98.

NTSADA is a very large, five college age children to determine their carrier status and is there for supporting those in the area of the testing. The organization also has a toll-free number, 1-800-551-2834.

Revel Lecture Series Features Dr. Naomi Cohen

By Malka Lawrence

Dr. Naomi Cohen, a professor at Haifa University and the wife of the Chief Rabbi of Haifa, addressed a group of about 50 listeners on Monday, October 21. The lecture, on the topic of "Democracy, Theocracy, and the State of Israel," was part of a series sponsored by the Bernard Revel Graduate School and was conducted by Arthur Heiman, Dean of Revel. In addition to having a doctorate in Hellenistic Judaism from Hebrew University, Cohen is a member of an Israeli government board for the advancement of women.

Cohen opened by saying that ideally, one would wish the Land of Israel to be governed by the Torah of Israel. At a minimum, the Knesset would consult with Rabbinic Authorities before passing legislation that

would have an impact on Torah matters. She compared this to a patient who would seek the expert opinion of a doctor in medical matters.

The main body of the lecture was divided into two sections. The first part dealt with theocracy in Jewish history. The second section addressed the effectiveness of democracy as a system of government in the modern state of Israel.

During the eras of the first and second temples, the Jewish nation was led by a theocracy. Power was divided among three bodies: the king, the priestly class and the prophets. This system had its roots in the Torah, which demarcated the judicial and legal responsibilities of each group. The theo-

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SCWSC Israel Club and TAC organized a day-long commemoration of Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin on the first anniversary of his assassination.

Stern College for Women Student Council Club and Committee Activities

Students Learn About the Information Superhighway

By Ayelet Grun

The SCWSC Computer Science Society held its first event of the year on Tuesday evening, October 15. The focus of the event was introducing students to the various services that PINE, Yeshiva University's Internet System, provides. 24 computer and non-computer majors attended the hour-long seminar in SCW's media room. The featured speaker was Chaim Haas, YC '97, Webmaster of YU and YC Senior Class President.

Adena Saltzman, SCW '98, president of the Computer Science Society, explained,

"There is a lot more to do [on the Internet] than just e-mail...there are more practical uses than just that."

The Internet, Haas explained, is currently one of the best sources for research and communication needs. Students can search assorted Web sites and retrieve information from all over the world about any subject. Currently, both campuses use Lynx, the textual browser of the World Wide Web, and cannot display graphics available on the Net.

In addition to offering students Internet



YU Webmaster Chaim Haas (r) and Computer Science Society President Adena Saltzman demonstrated the use of the internet at the club's first event of the year.

"Our goal this year is two-fold. We want to educate the student population about basic and advanced computer topics. In addition, we are working to update the Stern Web page." The October Internet seminar, she said, will be the first of many Computer Science Society events for students interested in expanding their computer skills.

With the help of a screen projector to display the Internet system, Haas explained the YU Internet System and its Web site. Haas hoped that by showing students the various techniques of "surfing the Net", the students would maximize their use of the World Wide Web's diverse resources. In his introduction to the seminar, Haas remarked,

access, both YC and SCW have established their own sites on the World Wide Web. The sites include information about all YU programs and provide access to the various school offices. The Computer Science Society hopes to update the YU Web pages frequently so that they include current class schedules and information on school activities, as well as utilizing the Web for additional student services.

Volunteers to help update the SCW Web site are needed. Students who would like more information about the SCW Web site or upcoming computer lectures should contact Adena Saltzman by phone or via e-mail.

SAGA Raises Awareness of Environmental Issues

By Joy Basewicz

Nature lovers gathered in a SCW classroom on Tuesday, October 22, to watch *Fern Gully*, an animated film on about the dangers posed by deforestation. The movie, the first event sponsored by the Student Alliance for Global Awareness (SAGA) this year, raised awareness for the preservation of the Earth's natural resources.

Nechama Maler, SCW '99, co-president of SAGA, said, "This is a night where students can take a break from the hectic pace of school and mid-terms and can sit back, relax, and enjoy the movie's breathtaking representation of nature. I'm really happy with the turnout."

"Even though we were only watching a cartoon, it was a creative way in introducing people to the idea of global awareness and encouraging people to get involved in the many projects which SAGA has planned for this year," said Aviva Katz, SCW '99.

After the movie co-president of SAGA Ora Shinnar, SCW '98, gave the group information about upcoming events and activities which the club has planned. Around *Chanukah* time SAGA will be selling T-shirts made of organically grown cotton fibers. SAGA will also be initiating an adopt-a-pet program, where the club will adopt a pet and hold a raffle choosing the pet's name. The winner will also receive a prize from the Body Shop.

SAGA has been instrumental in initiating recycling programs at SCW. "I'm glad that recycling bins will finally be made available in Stern, and that we will be able to interest everyone in doing their part in saving the planet," said Maler.

In addition to attending SAGA activities, students are encouraged to participate in the volunteer aspect of the club, particularly the dorm recycling project.

Save the Date
November 8-10th

**AIPAC's Northeast Regional Political
Leadership Training Seminar**
Brandeis University-Nov. 8th & 9th
Join students from all over the country in an
RPLTS Shabbaton!

Then...

Tufts University-Nov. 10th
Find out how to become a political activist.
If interested in attending, please contact:
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Leslie Ginsparg-16E @686-6820
Shelly Lati-15H @447-3788

SCWSC Freshman Class Elections

Presidential Candidates

Rebecca Leicht and Mindy Mallin, Co-candidates

At first glance, Mindy and Rebecca might just look like a couple of regular Stern women, going about their days in the regular way, doing the things that regular Stern women do. But, if you take a closer look, you'll find that there's hardly anything "regular" about the pair at all. Mindy and Rebecca each come from pretty diverse backgrounds. Mindy is from Merion, Pennsylvania and Rebecca is from the upper west side of Manhattan and, more recently, from Los Angeles. They each have somewhat different philosophies, which is normal, considering Rebecca went to Moshava and was, and still is, a Bnei Akivnik for the most part of her adolescent life, and Mindy is a *ruach*-obsessed Morashanik, through and through. Al-



though their personalities differ in many aspects, they seem to find common ground in just about every area. In this way, Mindy and Rebecca balance each other out to produce a perfect match, and excellent candidates for the position of Co-Freshman Class Presidents. They have each held positions on student councils in the past. Rebecca at

Continued on page 15

Miriam Cheryl Grossman

I am no stranger to involvement in extracurricular activities. As a student at HAFTR High School, I was a member of the debating team, the Torah Bowl Team, and the newspaper staff. In addition, I was an editor of the school's literary magazine, and the Spanish-English paper, as well as taking part in various Chesed activities.

Already, I have carved out a niche for myself at Stern. You might have seen me selling Snapples on Monday nights at Milners Mart, or maybe you've read my article in the Observer. My activities at SCW also include participation in the

Bikur Cholim program.

Whether the matter concerns the cost of food in the cafeteria or a freshman sponsored activity, Miriam Grossman doesn't sit idly; she gets right to work. On Freshman Class Election Day, remember that Miriam stands for values, leadership, and service.



Allison Witty

Do you remember Orientation '96? Remember how it felt to have nothing but three long days of fun activities and constant entertainment? Well, Orientation has long since ended, and unfortunately so has all the attention. We've been here for almost three (seemingly endless) months, and there are still many issues that haven't been addressed and questions that haven't been answered. For example, who is this random person that keeps talking to you? Perhaps you remember me from last month's edition of *The Observer* when I brought to your attention the scarcity of left-handed desks at Stern College.

My name is Allison Witty, and I'm running for Freshman Class President. I'm not going to bore you with endless details about myself, (eight pounds, zero ounces at birth) or make empty promises I can't keep. Rather, for brevity sake, I'll give you the "Cliff's Notes" version of what I'm all about:

Main Character: Allison C. Witty, resident of Fairlawn, New Jersey.

Plot Summary: Allison C. Witty, a dynamic, motivated, and funny individual, runs for Freshman Class President in an effort to bring the Class of 2000 into the main stream of college life. She hopes to achieve this through various, enjoyable, yet meaningful, activities planned together

Continued on page 15

SCWSC Sophomore Class Election Results:
Congratulations to Marina Klochman, who has been elected Class Secretary.

April Simon Vice President

Why is it that I have never met half of the members of our Freshman Class? There are so few of us, yet we hardly know each other. If elected, I will plan special activities to unify our class, such as Shabbatonim, so that we can all meet and not remain strangers for the next four years. To begin this meeting process I will take the first step and introduce myself to all of you. My name is April Simon and I am from Monsey, N.Y. I graduated from Westchester Hebrew High School where I was an active participant of Model Congress and was the co-captain of the volleyball team. In my spare time, I enjoy writing, drawing, playing sports, and taking care of Snowball (my dog). Now that you know who I am, I would like to know a little bit about all of you. This can occur if you elect April Simon to be Freshman Class Vice President.

Sara Katz Secretary

I was born and raised in the farms of Ohio, where I had to walk ten miles to school every day without shoes in the snow, and that was in the summer. Coming to New York to go to Stern was a big step for me. I was shocked by the number of people waiting for the light



to change. Back in Minnesota, there was only one traffic light where the buffalos waited to cross. So, naturally the city was quite a shock, especially when I saw people who lived on the streets, because they wanted fresh air. In Nebraska, where I come from, the air is so fresh that people bottle it and send it to Manhattan.

Actually, I am from Brooklyn. I don't even know where Ohio, Nebraska and Minnesota are. I wanted to make my life sound a little more interesting but the story did not work. I went to Yeshiva of Flatbush High School and I would like to run for Secretary of the Freshman Class.

Heather Goldstein Treasurer

Hi! My name is Heather Goldstein and I am running for the position of Treasurer for the Freshman Class. My repertoire includes three



years as treasurer in my high school where I amassed thousands of dollars. With my loyal school spirit I am not afraid to stand up in defense of the students' needs. I feel that the funds collected should be spent first and foremost on the interests of the students. I have many ideas for class fund-raisers and extracurricular activities. As a mature and responsible student, please confide in me to deal with your money discretely and with YOUR interest as the top priority.

Amanda Sussman Treasurer

Amanda Sussman, a native New Yorker, is not new to the position of Secretary. In fact, she has held this position before.



Amanda was the treasurer of the student government at Central High School, where she was well known for her talent of raising money for the school. Amanda, a last-minute type of person, can always be counted on to fill a void. Be it with *divrei Torah* or treasurer hunts, Amanda will be there. Amanda has many ideas for the Freshman Class and hopes to put them to good use.

Amy Gelb Secretary

Hi! My name is Amy Gelb and I'm from West Hartford, Connecticut. As a freshman in high school, I served as secretary of my NCSY Chapter, and in my sophomore year I was elected as a student representative at my Hebrew high school, Midrasa. When I'm not busy taking notes in a board room, I enjoy skiing, tennis, and mountain biking. I'm currently a freshman at Stern and I'm definitely enjoying it. Around school I intend to become an active member of the fencing team and to join the environmental and philosophy clubs. Vote for me - I will print out the funkiest flyers you've ever seen!



Attention All Freshmen:
Elections for your Class Representatives will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 9:00-5:30 in the School Building lobby.

Your vote will make a difference!

The Current Israeli-Palestinian Relationship

By Atara Graubard

Two of the most significant handshakes in recent Israeli history involved Yasser Arafat and an Israeli Prime Minister. The first, with Yitzhak Rabin in September 1993, opened up a new era in Mideast politics. September 4, 1996 saw the second clasping of hands, with Benjamin Netanyahu. These momentous actions serve as a framework to a new era in modern Israeli history - uneasy mutual recognition between Jewish and Palestinian nationalistic entities.

The agreements between the Israeli government and the Palestinian representatives have not succeeded in easing tensions within the respective communities nor between the two groups.

In the spring of 1996, the European Union Electoral Unit, an election watchdog group, responded to complaints of civil rights abuses perpetrated against Palestinians during the Palestinian elections. The Unit censured the Palestinian Authority for "certain measures which have inhibited the rights and freedoms normally associated with elections [and] campaigning." Sharp disagreements also exist in Israeli society. Many Labor leaders blamed Rabin's assassination on the prevailing attitude of virulent right-wing opposition to the governments' concessions to the PA. On the other hand, settlers felt that the left-wing politicians have jeopardized the safety of the Jewish state.

Jewish-Palestinian relations are troubled as well. The frequency of terrorist attacks carried out within Israel have escalated since the Oslo accords were signed. The Palestinians bitterly protest the ensuing border closures which cost the Palestinian economy \$6 million a day in lost wages and trade. The closures, which prevent Arabs from working within pre-1967 Israel for weeks at a time, are measures to protect Israelis from the bombers who take the lives of innocent civilians.

The tension in the Mideast is so palpable because of the high stakes involved in the peace process. The PLO has issued a statement this year declaring that, based on UN General Assembly Resolution 181, their objective is the "creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel" based on the Palestinian's inalienable rights to the "land of Palestine, to self-determination, and to an independent state." However, many Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza protest Arafat's negotiations with the Jewish state of Israel. Militant Palestinian groups point to the fact that Arafat has been the leader of the Pales-

tinian Authority for two years without proving the peace process effective by producing an independent state.

However, Arafat has secured many elements of autonomy for the Arabs living in Israel past the Green line. August 1996 saw the opening of the Palestinian Securities Exchange. One of the main objectives of this forum is financial security. The Palestinian community heavily recruits foreign investment to help bolster the internal economy and limit financial dependence on Israel.

The Oslo II agreements, signed in Washington on September 28, 1995, granted the Palestinian Authority the power to keep populations records, issue licenses and establish courts to settle internal matters. Some consider these administrative powers the first steps to an independent state. Others consider them small tokens intended to delay any action on nationhood.

Some of the most significant steps taken by the Palestinians have been in the international arena. Political and diplomatic gains have begun to establish the Palestinian entity as a de facto national unit in the international community. Support from the United Nations and the United States for the peace process has pushed Israel to make the concession contained in the Oslo Accords. Yasser Arafat has addressed the United Nations as the Palestinian leader. Over Israel: objections, the Palestinian flag was flown in the Atlanta Olympics, where three athletes from the West Bank and Gaza competed in the Summer Games. The International Olympic Committee granted the Palestinian Olympic Committee "provisional recognition" in September 1993, but 1996 was the first Olympics in which the Palestinians were officially represented.

The international community has also thrown its financial support behind the PA. As of July 1995, it had received in total 1.7 billion dollars in grants and 1.847 billion dollars in loans.

Israel contributed 75 million dollars of that aid, while the United States gave 1.288 million dollars in grants and 212 million dollars in loans.

Two of the most significant powers that the Palestinians have received are the right to vote for their own leaders and the right to train a police force. Although these powers are limited by the Israeli government, they are fundamental powers generally held only by independent states. The

original Oslo agreement of September 1993 gave the PA the right to establish a "strong police force." The exact size was set at 12,000 by Oslo II. However, in June 1995, PA officials called for a force of 40,000. Israel has generally agreed to the increased Palestinian police presence.

The Palestinians held their first elections on January 20, as established by the Oslo II agreements. They chose 25 member for the PLO Executive Committee, five of whom belong to Arafat's Fatah party. In spite of the theoretical democratic nature of the new political structure of the PA, Fatah sympathizers filled the media with propaganda and intimidated political enemies in the weeks leading up to the election. Arafat expanded the PA Executive Authority to create extra, non-elected posts he could fill with Fatah members. Less than two thirds of the Palestinian Council are elected officials, even though the Oslo II accords mandated that eighty percent of its members must be elected representatives. In a Mideast filled with dictatorships and theocracies, Arafat's government is in danger of mimicking the prevailing demagogic political climate in the region.

Despite the gains the Palestinians have made in the past few years, their goal is still a state which includes Israel. Although the PLO promised to change the statements in

its charter which threatened the security and the existence of Israel, the National Charter still retains its aggressive stance. However, in 1988, the 88 members of the Palestinian Council recognized the 1947 partition plan, which divides pre-1948 Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The statement directly contradicted the provision in the PLO charter which refuses to recognize any Jewish state in the land of Israel.

The original refusal to accept the partition plan significantly contributed to the Palestinian refugee problem today. When the Arab nations and Palestinians refused to accept the UN's plan and attacked the Jews when Menachem Begin announced statehood, the Arabs refused the Jewish offer to let them live alongside the Jews in peace. This caused them to be displaced from their homes and relocated to huge compounds, mostly in Jordan. The Arab states refused to accept their brethren displaced by the 1948 and 1967 wars, leaving them stateless.

In July 1996, sources leaked reports that Israeli and Palestinian officials met secretly in 1995 and reached an "understanding" of the establishment of a PLO state with a capital in a suburb of Jerusalem. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman an-

Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 1

office. However, one completely subjective factor is the school's reputation. The magazine polls presidents and deans of various universities to determine the academic conventional wisdom on the quality of each school. This factor accounts for about a quarter of the school's score. The magazine's rankings are therefore not absolutely accurate estimations of a school's academic program.

David Rosen, director of public relations at Yeshiva University, attributes YU's rise in the rankings to statistics, Anne Schreiber, and overall achievement. He pointed out that over last year, the percentage of students who graduate from YU — one of the factors in-

cluded in the ranking equation — rose 11 points. Additionally, YU's score in the important "national reputation" category rose due to the publicity generated by Anne Schreiber's \$22 million gift to the university. The academic officials who are polled by the magazine were probably influenced in their perceptions of YU by the attention focused on it after the large, unusual bequest. Rosen feels that the education at YU has improved from 1994 to 1996, as evidenced by enrichment programs such as the visiting Nobel Laureate program, which brings world-renowned figures to lecture at YU.



From the College Democrats

By Sharon Cohen
President, College Democrats

At present we are less than a week away from deciding who is going to be the next President of the United States. The decision and privilege of voting for President of the United States is one that should not be taken lightly. It is a race that will determine the way the Federal Government will operate in the next millennium. I hope you will look beyond the negative ads and really investigate the issues at hand. I have taken the liberty of outlining some of the important issues that are currently at the crux of the debate between President Clinton and Senator Dole. I will be outlining President Clinton's position on these issues as I believe he is the best person to lead us to a better and brighter future for our nation. I urge you to look at both sides objectively and vote your conscience.

President Clinton's Accomplishments:
Education. With regard to education, President Clinton has instituted many reforms and has really fought to maintain and increase our nation's educational system. Specifically, with programs such as Head Start, a program which Republicans tried to deny to nearly 50,000 children last year. This year, Clinton has won an increase in Head Start, providing 50,000 more children with the program, and moving towards his goal of serving 1 million children in 2002.

President Clinton has also spearheaded such educational reform as the AmeriCorps National Service Program, which currently allows 24,000 young people to serve their communities while earning some money to pay off their college tuition. Last year, the Republicans tried to eliminate the AmeriCorps program. The President has also instituted the Goals 2000 Program, which supports State and Local education reforms aimed at raising academic standards and achievement. As usual, the Republicans tried to eliminate it.

The President tried to crack down on drug abuse in our school system by institut-

ing the Safe and Drug Free School Program which helped keep 23 million children from being introduced to a world of crime, drugs and violence while, once again, the Republicans tried to cut the Safe and Drug Free School Program, not once, but TWICE!!! (At the same time, the Republicans say President Clinton is soft on drugs and crime).

In addition to instituting new and innovative programs to raise the standards of our education system, President Clinton has fought to increase funding for invaluable programs such as the Pell Grant Program. It was Clinton who requested to increase the amount of funding students received to \$2,700, the largest increase since 1975, which will help 3.8 million students go to college who would otherwise not be able to afford to continue their education, despite their academic qualifications. As usual, the Republicans tried to completely eliminate the program. The President also was able to win full funding of Direct College Loans which will enable students to repay their loans as a share of their income. Republicans were being constant by trying to defeat this initiative as well. The President also quadrupled funding for Educational Technology from the 1996 level and funded the President's new technology Literacy Challenge to leverage state, local and private sector efforts to ensure that all children are technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st Century. The goal is to ensure that every classroom in America is connected to the internet and has access to modern computers, engaging software and trained teachers.

Finally, this year funding for Charter Schools tripled. Charter schools will help more parents, teachers, and communities establish charter schools and accelerate progress towards the President's goal of establishing 3,000 new charter schools.

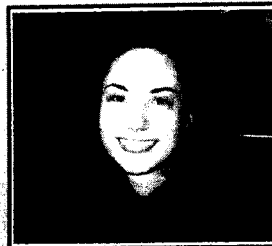
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Election '96

PHOTO POLL

While the media debates the issues which the American people deem most important in their decision for President of the United States, *The Observer* staff took an informal poll of SCW students to determine which issues are most significant to them in this election year. The following question was posed to a handful of SCW students:

What issues will affect your choice for President when you vote in this year's election?



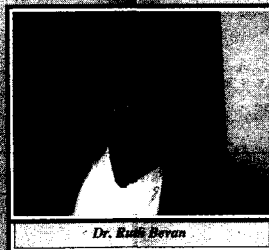
Alisa Friedman
SCW '98

"Foreign and domestic policy. I am concerned with how the President relates to other world leaders. I am also a future healthcare worker, and I want to make sure that I have job opportunities when I graduate from nursing school in 1999."



Rita Epstein
SCW '98

"I am concerned about Israel, drug and tobacco use by teens and health care. I think nursing homes need to have continued government funding. My grandmother is in a nursing home, so I realize how crucial this funding is. I also think that cigarette ads should not be geared towards teens."



Dr. Ruth Bevan

Dr. Ruth Bevan, Professor and Chairman of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Department, was asked what issues would influence her vote for President.

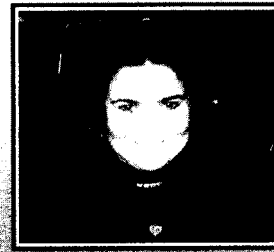
"I will vote for Clinton, but my vote is really a vote for Gore. I am in favor of Ross Perot getting a public hearing. The first presidential debate was miserable; it was really a question and answer session. What are we afraid of? Perot's chance of winning is irrelevant; he has a legitimate message. He is raising [the American] consciousness and pushing the need for a third party system. We need to open up the party system. The existing parties have become stale. No one is excited for this election. It's pathetic. This should not be the characteristic of a democratic state. Historically, in the United States third parties have been absorbed by the existing parties. We would need to change the way we vote to accommodate more parties. In Israel parties are represented [in Knesset] by the percentage of votes they win. Here we have a winner-takes-all system. Perot is challenging the electoral structure."

Dole and Clinton are both out of touch with what Americans need to hear and what they want to hear to be able to cope. They are more concerned with personal ambition, and the American people have picked up on this. There is nothing to fire the imagination. The real contest is between the vice presidential candidates, and we will see the outcome of this in four years."

Why do I like Clinton? Because I like Gore. But I think that Kemp also adds a lot to the public mind. We should not forget the economic issues. Clinton rings true. He keeps his words, fulfills his duty, in certain instances."

Modern Age. There will be greater uniformity. But we need to have national standards on substantive issues to insure constitutional rights. International affairs are no longer major concerns to Americans. Domestic policy has become the focus. We get inspired about international affairs when the leadership takes an approach. Bill Clinton is not an expert in foreign policy, whereas Richard Nixon focused heavily on foreign policy. This is not Clinton's way. Right now we have very pressing social issues which were neglected during the Cold War. We have been forced to make a lot of changes in the last five to ten years. We realize that we won't be able to maintain growing power status with a soft interior."

We have an exciting challenge. There is a whole new world to be carved out, and we want the U.S. to be an architect. We have to take care of ourselves. The United States, provided it gets properly authorized (for instance, education, as an example, I feel very strongly about this), can be a leadership for the future. We have tremendous natural and human resources, we have common sense and will, as well as ability, but we must put ourselves together."



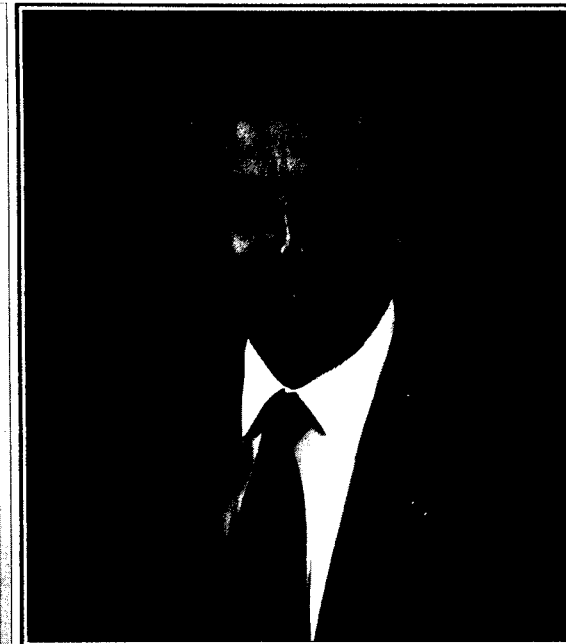
Gina Elkon
SCW '98

"Policy towards Israel. Clinton is always blaming Israel and Netanyahu. Dole said that Israel has done all that it can do. And Jack Kemp is and ex-quarterback for the Buffalo Bills."



Deborah Roth
SCW '98

"I believe very strongly in the importance of educational and social programs. I believe that without significant funding in either of these areas this country will not be able to produce a safe and productive society. In this election I am looking for the candidate who seems to be most aware of and who understands these issues."



From the College Republicans

By Miriam Ben Ezra
President, College Republicans

In general, the Republican Platform is more friendly and open to Jewish ideals. The usual Democratic stand is that money belongs to the government, which benevolently gives it out to people in need. The Republicans believe that the money belongs to the people who earn it, assuming that they can take care of themselves, making intelligent decisions in life that the government has no business making. People who need help should receive it from local and private organizations, like synagogues and churches, the American Red Cross and other such private entities, as well as state agencies, which keep closer tabs on who needs what.

In a Talmudic Torah society, the national coffers did not collect the monies that would be distributed to those who needed help funding for themselves. The Court-houses of the local communities had a firm grasp of what was going on and had a direct relationship with individuals. The community would work out how to distribute funds.

The United States Government is in no way a Torah society, but the logic still remains. The Federal Government should collect taxes to keep the National Defenses strong and well armed, keep national parks and sights protected, and maintain foreign aid to allies, near and abroad, according to the best interests of the United States. After these things are taken care of, the U.S. government should not intrude into peoples' lives. The Federal Government should not receive more tax dollars for more social programs that do nothing but inhibit personal freedoms. The tax money that goes to things like education, welfare, most cases of crime prevention and other such programs should only be collected an used on a more local level, by the State, or not at all.

This is only part of the general Republican platform on which Bob Dole stands. Only a few personal issues, such as abortion, drugs and affirmative action remain to be discussed. On abortion, Bob Dole holds

a true pro-life stance which, for the most part, is in keeping with the Torah view. The only point which remains unclear is whether the illegality of abortions would include cases of rape and incest. In the event that the mother's life would be endangered by the pregnancy, the life of the mother is of the highest importance.

Affirmative action makes employers choose a person who might be less qualified for a job over another who might indeed be qualified because the employer has to fill a quota of women, specific minority groups, and people who were singled out because "they might not be able to get accepted on their own." Why should the people singled out by affirmative action suffer the indignity of being subtly told that they aren't good enough, smart enough, or motivated enough to succeed without the "help" the government uses as standard regulations? Why should employers, admissions officers, and other people bound by the use of affirmative action be made to select people because of the color of their skin, ethnicity or gender? No one should have to deal with forced inferiority because the government says so. Bob Dole agrees. Bill Clinton originally said that he wanted to get rid of it, but when liberal activists complained and protested, he flip-flopped and said, "Mend it, don't end it." According to Clinton, some form of this abhorrent degradation should remain.

These are concepts that we, as Americans, should hold of value as we go to the polls. But more than the American issues, we must consider if Dole is good for the Jews. The National Jewish Coalition put out a report on the records of Dole and Clinton on how they responded to issues concerning Israel and the Middle East. The report highlighted topics like the U.S. policy towards Jerusalem, missile defense policy, and the United States' role in the Peace Process.

Continued on page 13

Who is Ross Perot?

By Bracha Rutner

The Perdue man and the man with big ears are some of the nicknames for the third candidate in this year's presidential election, Ross Perot. Many people know very little about this fascinating man. They only hear about how wealthy he is and his fight to be considered a "real" candidate, but there is so much to learn about this man and all of his achievements.

Ross Perot was born on June 27, 1930, in Texarkana, Texas and attended public school and junior college there. He began working at age seven and at some point saved up money. He says his richness as a child did not come from those jobs, but rather from his parents who provided him with a stable loving home. In 1949 he joined the Naval Academy and served as a high ranking official for different departments. In 1956 he married Margot Birmingham, whom he has remained married to, and they have five children.

In 1962, Perot's wife lent him \$1,000 with which he started his billion dollar company FDS Electronic System, which he later sold to General Motors. 1984 was the year he started his multi-million dollar company, Perot Co., which is still in existence today.

The United States government in 1969 asked Perot to help out with the POW situation in Southeast Asia to help improve their brutal treatment. This began a period of time where Perot was very involved in the POW

situation. He risked his family's safety and his own for this cause and in 1972 received the Medal for Distinguished Public Service. But his dedication did not end there. In 1979, two men from his then computer company FDS were taken hostage in Iran. Perot personally went into Iran and helped free these two men. This event later became an NBC TV miniseries called "On Wings of Eagles."

Helping his state has always been important to Ross Perot. In the past twenty years he helped to improve illegal drug trafficking by legislating and passing five laws that made Texas the least desirable state for illegal drug sales. He also helped to improve the public school system in Texas.

Many issues are important to Ross Perot in his bid for president - he wants to create a balanced budget amendment, restructure the government in order "(to) give the people a voice in their government," and fix the public school system by making them conducive places for learning. In addition, he wants to return morals to this country because he says, "History teaches us that for a free society to thrive it must rest squarely on a strong moral, ethical base."

Even though Ross Perot may not be our next president, maybe we can all learn a little from him about being a truly decent human being.

So You Think One Vote Doesn't Count?

1645	One vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
1649	One vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
1867	One vote in the U.S. Senate ratified the purchase of Alaska.
1869	One vote acquitted President Andrew Johnson after his impeachment.
1876	One vote elected Rutherford B. Hayes President.
1920	One vote ratified the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.
1923	One vote elected Adolf Hitler head of the Nazi Party in Germany.
1993	One vote in the Knesset approved the Oslo Accords.

Democrats

Continued from page 8

Environment. The President issued new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent and dangerous incinerator emissions by 98 percent. He also signed the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean drinking water. The act required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants. The President also signed the Food Quality Protection Act to strengthen standards for pesticides in food, including special safeguards for children. President Clinton changes EPA rules to reduce the paperwork requirements for businesses by 15 million hours. He issued new standards to prevent E-Coli Bacteria contamination in meat, and expanded the public's Right to Know Laws to give more people information about toxic releases. In addition to fighting attempts to close the national parks and lift the ban on offshore oil drilling, Clinton launched a Brownsfield Initiative to return land to productive use by providing tax incentives to clean up old in-

dustrial waste sites. He cleaned up more waste sites under the Superfund Program in the last three years than was accomplished in the last twelve.

Clinton also signed an executive order to increase recycling and to cut waste in Federal buildings. It developed a Northwest Forest Plan to put people back to work and to protect old-growth forests. Reformed Wetlands and Endangered Species Program to protect the environment better while lessening any adverse impact on homeowners.

The Economy. Under President Clinton, over ten million new jobs have been created, including nearly 4 million in high-wage industries. Unemployment has been cut from over percent in every month of 1992 to an average of 5.5 percent this year. The deficit was slashed from \$290 billion under President Bush to an estimated \$117 billion this year. President Clinton increased minimum wage for 10 million hardworking Americans, and cut taxes for 15 million working families and 90 percent of small

20 Years Ago in SCW Political History

By Susan Jacobs

In 1976 Clinton and Dole face off in the Presidential race; in 1976 Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford were political opponents in the same race. In both election years *The Observer* covered the reactions of SCW students to the political frenzy around them. To gain some historical perspective, it is interesting to note the differences and similarities of the political leanings of SCW students in both election years.

In the November 1, 1976 issue of *The Observer*, Gail Zaret, SCW Student Council President at the time, wrote a column titled "Get up and VOTE!!!" In her column are some very telling comments. She opens by saying, "With all four of the election debates behind us..." While the 1976 Presidential debates figured prominently in voters' perceptions of the candidates, Ms. Zaret probably did not realize that the fact that there were four of them might be significant to young voters in a year where the only two scheduled presidential debates were barely a footnote to history, let alone major events.

Zaret also noted that "election officials are expecting only a 50% turnout at the polls... I find this greatly disappointing." While current SCW students would also find this statistic disappointing, they would probably be less surprised about the apparent apathy of American voters. It would be of interest to note whether Zaret was quoting a statistic pertaining to eligible voters or to registered voters. While the statistics of active registered voters have likely remained somewhat constant, it is not unlikely that fewer eligible voters even choose to register. Zaret reminds students of the importance of Israel as a key political issue and concludes, "VOTE. It is your duty as a Jew and as an American."

In addition to Zaret's address to the student body, *The Observer* contained an article written by Ellen Cherrick titled "Carter for President." The article begins with an account of Cherrick purchasing an issue of *Playboy* magazine to read an article about Jimmy Carter. Cherrick explains, "I was hoping to find something that would shed new light on the Democratic Presidential candidate - something more than his widely publicized comments on lust and adultery."

Before delving further into Carter's character, Cherrick states her objections to voting for Gerald Ford, then the President in office. First she cites his pardon of resigned President Richard Nixon, "President Ford sought an end to Mr. Nixon's personal nightmare but he did not seek an end to the Nation's nightmare or Vietnam." She also disagrees with Ford's foreign policy, especially regarding his actions in failing to strongly oppose the Arab Boycott of Israel.

Of Carter, Cherrick writes, "From the start he had intrigued me because once

again, a candidate had come out of nowhere to capture his party's nomination to the amazement of both pollsters and political analysts alike." Cherrick then quotes extensively from the *Playboy* article, revealing Carter's concerns that he be labeled with certain stereotypes because of his rural Southern heritage. One quote from the article states, "Our Government should justify the character and moral principles of the American people, and our foreign policy should not short-circuit that for temporary advantage." Cherrick uses this statement as a contrast to Ford's positions and concludes her article, "It is time to get this country moving again, and I think we should give Mr. Carter that opportunity to do just that."

One of the most interesting features of the November 12, 1976 issue of *The Observer* is a poll taken of SCW students and their plans to vote. Although no poll of this sort was taken of SCW students in this election year, many of the results of the 1976 poll seem to ring true in the current atmosphere of SCW. What follows is the poll as it appeared in 1976:

Spot Poll on Voting	
An <i>Observer</i> spot poll* on the voting plans of Stern College students revealed the following results:	
81% are planning to vote.	
17% are not planning to vote.	
2% are undecided.	
Of those students planning to vote—	
51% support Jimmy Carter.	
12% support Gerald Ford.	
2% support another candidate.	
35% are undecided.	
* The spot poll was conducted on Wednesday, October 27 in the Stern College school building.	

While 20 years of history have revealed what was mere speculation in 1976, the elapsed time has not really changed SCW students extremely or fundamentally. Many of the strengths and weaknesses of SCW are the same as they were when most current students were just making their way into the world. It is sad that some of the same problems persist, but there is hope that reflecting on the past will help us see the present more clearly.

businesses. Welfare to Work legislation was signed to help move people from welfare to work while protecting children's healthcare.

Israel. There is no better, stronger, more capable ally for Israel than President Clinton. Under his leadership, Israel was able to achieve peace with Jordan and initi-

ated the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the Oslo II Accords.

If you want to maintain and continue funding for important programs, then support and fight for the re-election of Bill Clinton and the rest of the Democratic Party on November 5.

New Chairman Elected by SCW Board of Directors

By Elanit Lipstein

The SCW Board of Directors has elected a new chairman. Long Beach resident Lea Eisenberg will succeed David Yagoda who has served as Board chairman since 1990.

Dr. Norman Lamm, Yeshiva University's President, indicated that he is looking forward to the great accomplishments Eisenberg will achieve in her new position. He stated, "From the very first, Mrs. Eisenberg's enthusiasm and dedication have helped generate a true esprit de corps among the Board in its effort to enrich Stern College. I am confident that she will bring the same vitality to her new leadership position and continue to serve as a role model for colleagues and students."

Eisenberg was the Board's founding secretary from 1987 until her election as vice chairman six years ago. Always an active participant in community affairs, Eisenberg was a member of the Daroma Chapter of AMIT Women and the Nash Kestenbaum Bikur Cholim. She has held leadership positions in the Women's Divisions of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Young



Israel of Long Beach.

Eisenberg has been living in America since World War II. Her family escaped the Nazis when she was a young child. Eisenberg, a Queens College graduate, was awarded the Yeshiva University's Heritage award in 1991. She and her husband, Leon, a Yeshiva University alumnus, are University Guardians. Their three children and their spouses are all Yeshiva University alumni.



On Thursday, October 24, students gathered in the School Beit Midrash for a musical tribute to Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, co-sponsored by SCWSC and TAC.

Breast Cancer Awareness

By Courtney Marks

The month of October is breast cancer awareness month, designed to better inform women of the widespread disease and promote early detection of the cancer. Breast cancer is a group of related diseases in which cells within the breast become abnormal and divide without control or order, invading and damaging nearby tissues and organs.

An average woman's chance of developing breast cancer by age 40, is 1 in 200; by age 50, 1 in 50; by age 60, 1 in 24; and by age 70, 1 in 14.

There are many factors that contribute to the increased risk of breast cancer in certain women. As shown by the statistics above, the older a woman becomes the higher her risk is. Another factor which puts women at risk is the inheritance of certain genes that are passed down for generations. These genes are commonly found in women who have relatives, such as a mother, sister, or daughter with breast cancer.

Genes contain all of the hereditary information that is passed down from generation to generation. They are a blueprint for the many physical and biological features in our bodies. Each gene has a specific role in the overall functioning of the human body. If certain genes have defects, or mutations, these genes can cause a rippling effect of the surfacing of many diverse diseases.

Every person has two copies of a gene called BRCA1 in the cells of their body, one inherited from the mother and the other from the father. In the majority of people, both BRCA1 genes function normally. However, if there is a mutation a person could be more at risk for developing breast or ovarian cancer.

When the gene BRCA1 is altered, a susceptibility to breast cancer is increased up

to 90 percent. However, this statistic also depends on the location of the alteration on the gene. One can inherit the BRCA1 gene in its altered state and never get the disease.

In a recent study, a specific alteration in the BRCA1 gene was researched. The alteration, known as 185delAG, was found in families who had multiple occurrences of breast cancer. This alteration was also found to occur more frequently in Ashkenazic Jews than among any other ethnic groups studied. Approximately one percent of the Ashkenazic Jews were found to carry the alteration. This is at least three times higher than all the BRCA1 alterations combined in the general population. After attaining these results, however, scientists are still uncertain of whether and to what degree the alterations of this gene are directly linked to breast cancer. These mutations are only a contributing factor to breast cancer. There are other factors involved as well, yet they are unknown to scientists at this time. Follow-up studies are being done by the National Institutes of Health to a population of Ashkenazic Jews in the Washington D.C. area. Once more information is known about the effects of the alteration of the BRCA1 gene, genetic counseling and testing can be performed.

This year approximately 184,300 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer is now the most common form of cancer in women in the United States. General information about breast cancer can be obtained by calling the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service (CIS) at 1-800-4-CANCER. In addition, the Y-ME Hotline, which is completely confidential, can be reached at 1-800-221-2141.

Career Fair

Continued from page 1

could also be a factor.

Students responded enthusiastically to Career Fair. "I found the fair to be stimulating and educational as I'm looking for a job in computer and information technology," said Ilanit Benjamin, SCW '97.

Representatives of the companies in attendance also touted the benefits of attending Career Fair. A representative of Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. said, "We're a New York firm who believes in reaching out to the community."

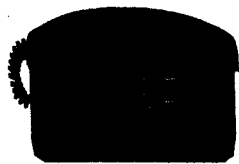
Although the Career Fair offered the students the chance to explore opportunities

in a variety of areas including MIS, marketing, accounting, communications, psychology, social work and education, the fair seemed more beneficial to business students than students of other majors. While those students who are non-business majors were pleased with the addition of graduate schools to the program, they were disappointed by the lack career opportunities in their fields of interest. "I especially was looking for career opportunities that I could do while in graduate school," said Meira Schneider, SCW '98.

Attention SCW/SSSB Students:

Need Extra Cash?

Want to earn \$9-\$10/Hour working at a phonathon?



Call the YU Office of Alumni Affairs at 960-5373

Mock Debate

Continued from page 1

"You all are the future voters of America, and there are things that you need to learn and need to pay attention to." Both representatives also agreed on the importance of getting involved in politics.

Student reaction to the debate was positive. "I'm glad I went. A lot of issues were discussed. I think that the debate helped me

to clarify who I am voting for in this election," said Ahuva Genauer, SCW '99.

"This was the first time we've held a mock debate," said Sharon Cohen, SCW '97, President of the J. P. Dunner Political Science Society. "It truly showed an ability to agree to disagree, and I fully encourage events such as these in the future."

Rosh Chodesh Program Debuts at SCW

By Joy Basewicz

On *Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan*, which fell out this year on October 14, a new monthly *Rosh Chodesh* program was instituted by TAC in order to help increase awareness of the day.

SCW students gathered in Koch Auditorium and davened together with a *minyan*, which consisted of students from YU.

TAC Vice President Denira Grant, SCW '97 said, "We have always had a monthly breakfast but the *minyan* adds to the uniqueness of the day". The *Rosh Chodesh* and *Tefillah* clubs invited YU *rebbeim* and administrators to partake in the program. This month, Rabbi Dr. Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, delivered an inspiring *D'var Torah* and was featured as the guest of honor.

"We all would like to give our thanks to Rabbi Kanarfogel and the rest of the administrators who attended for being there so early in the morning," said Grant.

Approximately 70 women participated in the 7:40 a.m. davening on *Rosh Chodesh*. After davening, the group moved to the back section of Koch for music and refreshments of orange juice and Dunkin Donuts compliments of the *Tefillah* club.

Shoshana Mondener, SCW '98, co-head of the *Rosh Chodesh* committee, said, "We were very excited about the number of students who came even though it was short notice and so early on a Monday morning. Every one came together as a real *tzibur* to create a *Rosh Chodesh* atmosphere."

Divided

Continued from page 3

failed Health Care Reform bill. On the other hand, if Clinton would not have been in a position to check the Republicans, reactionary ideas like the abolishment of Medicare may have been implemented. Divided government thus kept the leaders in line with the majority of Americans, in the moderate center of the political spectrum.

It is well known that the writers of the constitution sought to limit the power of the federal government. They did so by creating an intricate system of checks and balances and by dividing government into the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. What many Americans are not aware of is that divided government, whether or not the writers of the constitution intended it, is another mechanism which prevents the emergence of tyranny.

Divided government is often combative, slow to act and unable to create sweeping change, but what is the alternative? Would a government in which the leaders did not debate and challenge each other on the issues, which passed legislation based on whims, and instituted laws that violated American political culture, be more appealing?

Perhaps the American people are not schizophrenic after all, maybe they just realized that there is strength in diversity and that the true maxim is "divided we stand, united we fall."

Republicans

Continued from page 9

All of these records point to reasons to vote for Bob Dole.

As a Senator, Dole brought into legislation what has since become law - the U.S. Embassy in Israel should move to an undivided Jerusalem, Israel's capital, by the year 1999. Clinton promised to move the embassy, but as on domestic issues, he waffled and refused to sign the Dole-sponsored Jerusalem bill that both parties in the House and Senate approved. Congressional support was so strong, Clinton could not veto the Jerusalem legislation successfully. Instead, he let it come into law without his signature.

The Clinton Administration has been decidedly cold to Jerusalem. Among all of Israel's allies, only the United States Ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, did not attend Jerusalem 3000. Further, Clinton chose to have his official welcoming ceremony in Lod Airport, near Tel Aviv, rather than in Jerusalem.

The Republican Platform supports Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and it states its commitment to "ensuring that the U.S. Embassy is moved to Jerusalem by May 1999." We should remember that Dole had introduced the policy of the United States recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. As President, he would keep his word about moving the embassy as he has kept his word in the past.

During his years in the Senate, Dole voted for many increases in military aid and assistance to Israel. In general, Dole acknowledged that Israel, the true ally of the United States in the Middle East, is threatened on all sides by hostile neighbors. Syria, Iran and Iraq are developing missiles that are

capable of starting chemical and biological warfare. Dole initiated and defended efforts to give Israel access to technology, equipment, and intelligence to protect Israel from attacks - especially missile attacks - from her enemies. The NJC's report says, "Most recently, Senator Dole introduced legislation which calls for the deployment by 2003 of an anti-missile system capable from non-missile attack. President Clinton opposed this legislation."

Dole clearly supports efforts to help Israel protect itself in the situation of war, and he similarly supports Israel's security in making peace. Bob Dole believes that any peace agreements must be drawn carefully, so as not to compromise Israel's security. He says the NJC's report. Clinton jumps at the chance to pressure Israel into conceding land for peace regardless of the immediate security problems to all Israeli residents. Dole recognizes that the best way to help make peace is to let Israel negotiate on its own terms.

During the presidential debates, Dole chose to stick to the issues, showing where he truly stands. On themes of education, welfare and affirmative action, Dole stands for letting the country be of the people, by the people, and for the people. When people need help, he is for delegating power into capable hands that could use the means more efficiently and accurately than anyone in Washington could. Regarding Israel, Dole wants to allow the Middle Eastern ally of the United States to be as secure as possible. Bob Dole is good for America and Bob Dole is good for the Jews.

COMMENCEMENT 1997

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 11:00 AM

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MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



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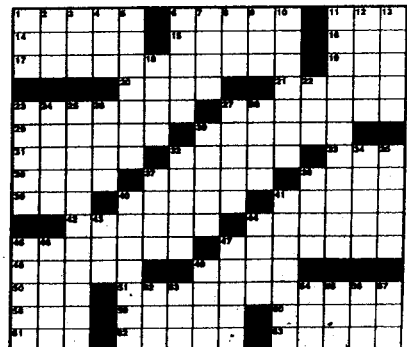
Clued In

ACROSS

- 1 Hotelier
- 6 Church platform
- 11 Egyptian snake
- 14 Band leader
- 15 Baby grand, e.g.
- 16 Gambler's cube
- 17 Considerable amount of money
- 19 "How was ___ know?"
- 20 Slippery swimmers
- 21 Capital of Jordan
- 23 Handcuff
- 27 Assistants
- 29 Beast
- 30 Lifestyle writer
- 31 Military survey, for short
- 32 Brief incursion
- 33 Topper
- 36 Printer's needs
- 37 Assigns a value to
- 38 Got up
- 39 Keats creation
- 40 Jaguar and Cougar
- 41 Hair cutter
- 42 Moon vehicle
- 44 Flatters out
- 45 Scrubbed a mission
- 47 Award hopeful
- 48 Wheel spokes
- 49 Frat party garb
- 50 Wrath
- 51 Football VIP
- 58 In the past
- 59 Word before birth or class

DOWN

- 1 Drink like a cat
- 2 Make mistakes
- 3 Singleton
- 4 ___ King Cole
- 5 Pertaining to Montezuma's people
- 6 Pie fruit
- 7 "My Bonnie ___ over..."
- 8 Catch some rays
- 9 Landers or Miller
- 10 Privileged class
- 11 Very common
- 12 Instrument for 38 Down
- 13 Menial workers
- 18 Hoiler
- 22 Speedometer
- 23 Cuomo or Puzo
- 24 Put ___ to (stop)
- 25 Kids' cable-TV network
- 26 Andy's radio pal
- 27 Rabbits' kin
- 28 Historical periods
- 30 Engine
- 32 Destined
- 34 "___ Mio"
- 35 Short in speech
- 37 None too polite
- 38 Musician
- 39 Shankar
- 40 Old item
- 41 Comments
- 43 Exodus hero
- 44 Theater box
- 45 Operatic solos
- 46 Harbor craft
- 47 The Hunchback of ___ Dame
- 49 Spruce or maple
- 52 FedEx rival
- 53 Likely
- 54 "See ya!"
- 55 "___ we there yet?"
- 56 El ___ (Spanish hero)
- 57 Door opener



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©1996 STANLEY NEWMAN

Cultural Arts

The Museum Rundown

By Dina Rogner

Manhattan is the museum capital of the United States. There is a museum for nearly every culture, every type of art and various times in history. Museums are wonderful places. They are interesting, quiet, often beautiful and relatively inexpensive ways to spend the day. Unfortunately, most college students, try as they may, to be cultured, only visit museums when they have a mandatory art assignment to do. This is really a shame. Now, I know free Sundays are hard to come by (and museums are horribly crowded on Sundays anyway) but why not go to a museum on a free morning with a friend or your mom? No one is saying that you have to spend five hours there and see every exhibit. Go see one exhibit that interests you and then go for lunch or walk back to school. It really feels good to get a little culture in your week. So here is a list of some of the great exhibits to see around NYC. My personal picks are the Johns retrospective at MoMA and the Goldin exhibit at the Whitney. Please go and please enjoy!

Metropolitan Museum of Art Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street

*Jean Baptiste Camille Corot - 150 canvases by the 19th Century landscape artist. Opens October 29th.

*Queen Nefertiti and the Royal Women - reliefs and sculpture from the Amarna period (1353-1336 BCE).

Tuesday through Sunday 9:30-5:15, Friday and Saturday 9:30-8:45.

Museum of Modern Art 11 W 53rd

*Jasper Johns - a retrospective including 225 works by the Pop artist. Sure to include some of the flags, targets and numerals that he is known for.

Closed Wednesdays.

Guggenheim Museum Fifth Avenue at 89th Street

*Ellsworth Kelly - a survey of the artist's painting, sculpture, works on paper and photographs.

Sunday-Wednesday 10-6, Friday and Saturday 10-8.

Whitney Museum of American Art Madison Avenue at 75th Street

*"I'll Be Your Mirror" - a retrospective of the gritty, disturbingly glamorous photography of Nan Goldin.

Wednesday and Friday-Sunday 11-6, Thursday 1-8.

American Museum of Natural History Central Park West at 79th Street

*Exhibition of the Codex Leicester, Leonardo's manuscript on subject such as hydrodynamics and astronomy.

Daily 10-5:45, Friday and Saturday to 8:45.

Morgan Library 29 E 36th Street

*"A Fine Line: Rembrandt as Etcher" *Seventeenth Century Dutch Drawings

*"Seeking the Splendid Misery: Presidential Races from Washington to Truman" Tuesday-Friday 10:30-5, Saturday 10:30-6, Sunday, Noon-6.

Top Ten Things To Do on Election Day Vacation

(Besides Voting)

10. Ride the subways for fun.
9. Clean your room for *Pesach*.
8. Go to the Museum of Television and Radio, and watch every episode of "Three's Company"-twice.
7. Get Married.
6. Dress in mismatched plaid clothing, strap on a fanny pack, and take pictures of The Empire State Building.
5. Clip your toenails.
4. Hang out at Planet Hollywood, find famous people and stalk them.
3. Fly to Israel.
2. Fly back.
1. Hang out at the polls and yell "Reagen for President."

These Shoes Ain't Made for Walking

By Aviva Hanfling

Imagine eating only *bamba*. Yes, *bamba*. That disgusting, Israeli, peanut-snack. Day in and day out, that's all you eat -- *bamba*. No chicken, no pasta, no anything -- just *bamba*. Breakfast, lunch and supper, that's all that you know -- *bamba, bamba, bamba*. Sure, sometimes it's in milk and sometimes it's barbecued, but no matter what you do to it, it's still *bamba*. So why would you eat it? Why subject yourself to such torture? It is neither tasty nor healthy. The answer is obvious; a few "cool" people have decided that *bamba* is "hot". It is the food of the Nineties, and what person of the Nineties would want to be out of step with an entire decade?

As absurd as this sounds, sacrificing both common sense and comfort for a greater cause, many of us have fallen victim to the *bamba* syndrome. The disease wears a different mask, but do not be fooled, it is one and the same. This plague that strikes so many of us women is platform shoes. Those uncomfortable, ugly, impractical shoes. Well sure, some of the great thinkers of the Nineties, like Calvin Klein, Donna Karen, and Isaac Mizrahi, have fought hard for their acceptance, but these shoes just do not make sense.

What ever happened to common sense? I could understand a skirt or a shirt being a little uncomfortable, but shoes? Have you ever heard of a sensible sweater? Of course not, just sensible shoes! Shoes, being on your feet for the majority of the day, are best when they provide some type of comfort. Platform shoes espouse no such virtue. Not only do they create blisters, they are difficult to walk in. Imagine that, shoes that you can not even walk in! What is going? Have we all lost our minds?

Making sacrifices of this caliber might be somewhat understandable if we were discussing the *Mona Lisa* of footwear. However, these shoes just do not rank with other occasions of historical martyrdom. Had someone worn a pair of platform shoes fifty years ago, they would have been exiled from the fashion world. Now, they are not only embraced, but are heralded as being ahead of the times, as "trendsetters." Have

everyone's eyes just recently been opened? Have we just now been made aware of the blindness that had plagued us for so long? Certainly not. These shoes are simply "trendy."

What is trendy? Sure, there are numerous definitions of the word (Webster's defines "trend" as a general inclination, direction, or course; a fad), but I would like to propose my definition. Namely, that trendy means ugly. If the said article of clothing or accessory was actually attractive, people would always wear it. They would not need a group of designers and magazine publishers to tell them to. The fact that these shoes are aesthetically pleasing to us only during certain decades should teach us that trends are not necessarily pretty.

I must admit that I too was a victim; wearing those clunky shoes all summer, tripping all over the place and massaging blisters on my feet every night. Yet I overcame, (actually, a friend could not take the sight of them anymore and threw them in an incinerator). I am now a new woman. I have broken free from the shackles of silly footwear.

The question that remains unanswered is: Why? Why do we subject ourselves to this? Why do we enslave ourselves to fashion, and at what cost will we continue? Most importantly: How much longer will we eat *bamba*, before we realize that it is simply no good?

APPLICATIONS

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ARMAS	PIANO	DIE
PRETTY	PENNY	ITO
FIELD	AMMAN	
MANAGE	HELPERS	
ANIMAL	MARTHA	
RECON	FORAY	DOT
INKS	RATES	ROSE
ODE	AUTOS	RAZOR
LANDER	LEVELS	
ABORTED	NOMINEE	
RADII	TOGA	
IRE	QUARTERBACK	
AGO	UPPER	KYRIE
SEN	ESTEE	SEEDY

FYI

On November 4th, SCW will have the honor of hosting a lecture given by Alfred Bader, renowned art collector, founder of Aldrich Chemical and author of "Alfred Bader: Adventures of a Chemist Collector." Mr. Bader will speak on "The Rembrandt Research Project and the Collector."

All students interested in art and art collecting are invited to come learn from this remarkable man.

The lecture will be held at 2:00 p.m. in room 718.

Revel Lecture Series

Continued from page 5

cratic system was less successful during the time of the second temple, when a corrupt group of priests also had secular authority. Based on its mixed historical success, Cohen did not consider the theocratic model to be an effective means of government for the state of Israel.

Cohen went on to explain that democracy may not always be an equitable system of government. The danger of this system is that the group holding power might ignore the concerns of those who did not vote for them, since this group is in the minority.

According to Cohen, this was the situation during the recent Labor administration. In one incident, when hundreds of thousands of Israelis protested the Oslo accords, Prime Minister Rabin said in response, "Demonstrations don't move me...I know what is best." During this period, people were threat-

ened and even arrested for opposing government policies. They were charged, ironically, with "posing a threat to the democratically elected government." The Oslo Accords were eventually approved by a slim majority of Knesset members, despite the apprehension of a sizable minority of Israeli citizens.

Cohen regards the split between those Israelis who are committed to their Jewish heritage, and "post-Zionist" Jews who want to assimilate as a country into the culture of the Western world, as the biggest fight in Israel today.

She concluded her talk by quoting Eli Shragi, a professor at Hebrew University who defines himself as a secular Jew. According to Shragi, "Israel will not be viable as a state or a democracy unless it will be at the same time Jewish and democratic."

Israel-Palestine Relations

Continued from page 7

noticed that any such statements are "intellectual exercise" and not official, binding agreements. However, the Palestinians do have provisional control over some land in Gaza and the West Bank. The Oslo II accords designated three types of security regions, called areas A, B and C. In area A (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem) and area B (480 towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza), the PA is in charge of "internal security and public order," while Israel has the "overriding responsibility for security." The IDF withdrew from these areas in late 1995, turning them over to PA forces. The Palestinian flag now flies in these regions. Before these deployments, the IDF had already withdrawn from the Gaza strip, retaining complete control only over Jewish settlements and military outposts. The IDF maintains control over all of area C, the 70 percent of the West Bank consisting of Jewish settlements.

The Oslo II accords state in their preamble that "the aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the current Middle East peace process is, among other things, to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority... [and a] permanent settlement based on Security Council Reso-

lutions 242 and 338... within five years of May 4. The final continuation of the region may not be finalized in five years. However, in this volatile region, 'sorry relations' between the Israelis and the Palestinians will likely continue until the matter is resolved."

The complex, unclear and controversial nature of the Oslo Accords and the Palestinian Authority laid the groundwork for the recent explosive clashes in Israel, centered in Nablus, Bethlehem, and the Gaza Strip. The breakdown of the Palestinian chain of command highlighted the fragility of Arafat's control over his people. The resulting political maneuvering and finger-pointing in the Knesset underlined sharp differences and turmoil within the Israeli community regarding the role of the Palestinian under Israeli sovereignty.

As evidenced by the spectacle of armed forces, who were supposed to be parading in joint patrols, shooting at each other, the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians has entered a deadly new stage.

The first bullets shot by Palestinian policemen shattered the modicum of trust built by some Palestinians and Israelis and arguably justified those who saw no hope in negotiations.

Allison Witty

Continued from page 6

with her fellow freshmen. Her agenda includes, but is not limited to: more timely academic advisement for all those who need it, left-handed desks, more attention from RA's, floor parties, Rosh Chodesh breakfasts and shiurim, ice skating at Rockefeller Center, movie nights, "munchies" during finals week or any other suggestions placed in Allison's suggestion box outside room 16A, or e-mail box at witty@yu1.yu.edu. And, if all else fails, there is always the telephone!

So, on November 6th, help create "Generation U," because a vote for me is a vote for you.

Leicht and Mallin

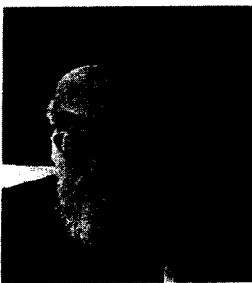
Continued from page 6

YULA and Mindy at Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia, while still keeping up with their busy work loads. The two have also been involved in many extracurricular activities: high school newspaper editors and writers, sports-team leaders, NCSY board members, Model-U.N. and Debate participants. Mindy and Rebecca have always been up for a new challenge. The Freshman class at Stern needs some unification; our voices should be heard. Mindy and Rebecca are the ones to represent the voice of the class. Such presidential candidates like these are hard to come by. It's up to you, freshman students, to make this dream team your reality.

THE WRITING HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

For over fifty years **HaRav HaGaon Dovid Lifshitz zt"l** served our yeshiva faithfully. Hundreds of *talmidim* benefitted from his vast Torah scholarship, and countless others from his guidance and warmth. To honor the sacred memory of Reb Dovid and his Rebbeztin, the *talmidim* of our yeshiva have commissioned the writing of a new **Sefer Torah** to be placed in our Beis Midrash.

The Student Organization of Yeshiva and the friends and family of HaRav Dovid Lifshitz zt"l invite you to join them in performing this great *mitzvah*.



Even if one writes only one letter of the Torah, he is regarded as having written the whole Torah himself.

— Menachos 30a

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SCW SPORTS

Yankees Road to the World Series

By Shaindy Frankel

Okay Yankee fans, fasten your seatbelts, put your game face on and come to be patient. These are just a few helpful hints to maintain your sanity in these times of rampant fever. If you have no idea what I'm referring to, then take your pulse and make sure that you are still breathing.

Yankee mania has swept NY in a big way. It all started 7 months ago when the Yankees seemingly large 12 game lead became nearly non-existent. It had been cut down to a run two and a half game lead, thanks to the Yankee's mediocre play coupled with the Orioles' winning ways. Yankee fans could not help but panic as they saw their once dominant team being toppled over like a sack of potatoes. Now, 2 months later all of that nonsense is over. Our tough and reliable yankees made us believe once again when they finished the regular season with a fury and were crowned the division champs.

Now we roll on to the postseason where in the first round of the playoffs the Yankees faced the Texas Rangers and the ultimate Yankee "killer", Juan Gonzalez. The Rangers were confident that they would be victorious over the Yankees because they played well against them during the regular season. However, their egos were checked at the door as the Yankees made quick work of the Rangers, winning them 3 games to 1 in a best of 5 series. The next road block were the Baltimore Orioles. "We want Baltimore, we want Baltimore", Yankees fans chanted and that is exactly what they got. Like the Rangers, the Yankees put the Orioles to bed early. However, this time around the Yankees were not only fighting for a trip to the world series, they were fighting for their pride to show Baltimore and their Orioles who's the boss. They did just that, but not without the heroics, blood, sweat, and tears that make a championship team.

The Yankees generated their heroics with the play of Bernie Williams, Cecil Fielder, and the always exciting Darin Strawberry, not to mention the unhittable pitching they got out of their starters and their closers. But, the Yankees also got help from a guy that did not even need to suit up. He was not really a guy either, but an eleven year old kid sitting in the bleachers, who happened to stick his glove 6 inches into the field trying to catch a deep fly ball hit by Derek Jeter. If the kid had not interfered, the ball would have been caught by the Oriole outfielder and so his anger toward the kid and the umpire, who ruled the hit a homerun was completely justifiable. What hurt the Orioles even more was that this homerun tied the game going into the ninth. From their perspective, the kid cost them the game and provided a serious shift in the momentum of the series. As far as the Yankees were concerned, the kid was an angel who willed them to win. He changed the outcome of the game and provided the Yankees with the momentum that they would never give up. But as Tom Hanks said in the movie *A League Of Their Own* "there's no crying in baseball." So, the Orioles will just have to suck it up and enjoy the early start of their winter, but the Yankees, were now in a position to be World Series Champs, a feat they have not accomplished in 15 years.

The only thing standing in the Yankees way were the defending World Champs, the Atlanta Braves, who finally triumphed over the St. Louis Cardinals in 7 games. But be weary Yankee fans, the Braves are on an offensive tear. Have you seen their last three victories over the Cardinals? Well, if you haven't, I'll clue you in. The Braves outscored them by a whopping 31 runs, leaving the Cardinals searching for answers. Here's a couple of answers: 1) Braves 3 man, "killer" rotation of Smoltz, Maddux, and Glavine. And 2) the hits just kept on coming-the Braves lineup was unstoppable. So, before the Yankees start preparing for the celebration, they have to prepare themselves for an all out dog fight with the Atlanta Braves.....ahh the World Series.....GO YANKEES !!!!

Alas, the fall classic came to its conclusion on Saturday night in front of a sell-out crowd in Yankee Stadium. Yankee fans were dancing in the streets, literally, as the Yankees won the last four games to become The World Champs. But their road to vic-

tory was no walk in the park. It all started last Saturday, the 19th of October, when the first game of the World Series was canceled because of heavy rains. So, the first game was played the next day and Atlanta still simmering hot from their victory over the Cardinals trounced the Yankees by a score of 12 to 1. The next game fared just as bad for the Yankees as they lost 4 to 0. Being down in a series, 2 to 0, does not bode well for any team, especially when your down to an experienced playoff team like the Braves, but the Yankees were still convinced that they had a chance to win it all. Their conviction turned into reality as they won the next four games in a row, three in Atlanta and the last game in front of their home crowd.

Yankee fans went wild as they witnessed their beloved Yankees do something that they have not been able to do in 18 years - win a championship, and they celebrated as if they had never celebrated before. Their crowning as World Champs proved to be a victory for NY sports fans as well as for the Yankee players themselves. It was especially quite an amazing moment for veteran Wade Boggs, who had never participated in a World Series game in his long illustrious career, as well as for manager Joe Torre, who wanted to win it for his ill brother, who just underwent heart surgery. It was a victory felt by one and all that will not soon be forgotten.

Fitness Flash

Just Join It

By Michal Greenwald

Many people do not know why they should join a gym and which gym they should join. Here are some helpful hints. First things first: Why should you exercise? I mean don't you get enough exercise from running up and down the stairs when the elevator is too full? And what about the long walk to school? Two to three blocks does not equal an aerobic class? The answer is simple: No.

Aerobic exercise means getting your heart rate up to its target zone for at least 20 minutes or more for a minimum of three times a week. Exercise will not only keep you in shape but it is also a great stress reliever. Exercise boosts your metabolism so you can eat more. Weight training will make you stronger so that your heavy bag of text books will not be such a burden. Above all, exercise keeps your energy level up so that you stay awake in class or at work when you need those extra continuing hours. But there's more, join in the midtown new fitness craze in October.

1) New York Health and Racquet Club: 40th and 1st Ave.

Pros: Beautiful facility, sauna, jacuzzi,

pool, and great machines.

Cons: Expensive, too far away, more mature clientele.

2) Athletic Complex: 34th between Park and Lex.

Pros: Right near the dorms, decent equipment, great price for Stern students, clean locker rooms, good classes.

Cons: This gym is not for you if you do not want people seeing you work out through the windows, it closes at 10:00 p.m., and sometimes there is a long wait for treadmills.

3) American Fitness: 31st between Lex and Park.

Pros: Right near the off-campus apartment, great equipment, great price for Stern students plus a free training session, friendly atmosphere, classes including Yoga and Boxing, open until 12:30 a.m., and no cover charge at all.

Cons: I am not sure if any of this gym is my personal favorite.

4) The Edge: 34th and Lexington Ave. and 1st Ave. Both in Brookdale Hall and in the school building.

So much to choose from and just join it!

Sports Update

The members of the 1996-1997 Lady Macs basketball team are Sandy Bagdadi, Gila Blazer, Gina Elkon, Nurit Furer, Shaindy Kahn, Shana May, Dena Rothstein, Blima Sasson, Shira Scharf, Randi Sorscher, Talia Ilana Spierer, Sheila Weinberg.

The tennis team is smoking this year with a 3-0 record. In their last two tournaments, they have outscored their opponents 16-2.

This year, there will be volleyball matches on Sunday night from 8:00-9:00 p.m. in the 11th floor gym for any person that is interested. For more information, you can contact Stephanie Ives at 683-4831.

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