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# Observer

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## Media Expert Leah Laiman Speaks at Annual Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts

By Joy Basewicz

The Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts sponsored its annual lecture at SCW on Wednesday evening, October 30, in Koch Auditorium. The lecture, entitled "Ethics and Morality in a Medium Without Any" featured Leah Laiman, co-head writer of the ABC daytime drama "One Life to Live." The event was attended by professors, students and alumnae.

The evening began with a few words of tribute towards the forum's founder, the late Morris Epstein. Peninnah Schram, associate professor of speech and drama at SCW, spoke of Epstein's many accomplishments. He made a tremendous contribution to the world of folklore by being the first to translate a medieval work called *The Tales of Sandibar*. He was

editor of a Jewish children's magazine and is remembered as the dedi-

Throughout the course of her career, she was honored with five

Emmy nominations for outstanding writing in a drama series for popular daytime dramas as "Days of Our Lives," "One Life to Live" and "Guiding Light." The six novels she has written include, *For Richer for Poorer*, *For*



(l to r) Dean Karen Bacon, Leah Laiman, Professor Peninnah Schram, and Mrs. Morris Epstein

cated chairman of the English department at SCW. He initiated the series of lectures featuring guest speakers who are prominent in various facets of the art world. Among these high profile speakers were Joe Papp, founder of the New York Shakespeare Company, and Wendy Wasserstein, a successful playwright.

Laiman is a 1967 alumna of SCW. She acquired her Masters in theater from Hunter College.

*Better for Worse, To Love and to Cherish, Maid of Honor, The Bridesmaid, and Bride and Groom.*

Laiman spoke about the craft of writing for a daytime drama and how writing for this type of medium is unique. Writing for television is bound by the principle that the primary purpose of television is a medium

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## Prospective Students Attend SCW Open House

By Laurie Gewirtz

Prospective SCW students, along with their parents, found themselves on the corner of Lexington Avenue and 34th street on Sunday morning, November 17, to attend SCW's annual Open House. The Open House, organized by the SCW Admissions Office, began with students registering in Kushner Lobby, receiving YU bags containing applications and useful information, and being served a Continental Breakfast in Koch Auditorium.

Sarite Mitgang, SCW '97, the Admissions Office's student liaison, said, "Many high school seniors feel apprehensive about attending a new college and the Open House provided a good opportunity for prospective students to meet SCW's administration, teachers, and students."

The audience received greetings from Michael Kranzler, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College, then spoke about the Liberal Arts and Sciences program which SCW offers its students. Members of the audience were able to converse with students in a laboratory in the Science wing via a large video screen. Dr. Harold Nierenberg, Dean of Sy Syms School of Business, informed the audience of SCW's business program, and Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies, spoke of the Judaic Studies curriculum.

Students and parents were then allowed to disperse into sessions involving a variety of subjects such as choosing a career, student life on campus, residence life and technology in education.

Michele ELEM, SCW '98, said, "My younger sister who attends Bruria High School attended the Open House and she definitely came home with positive feelings about Stern which she didn't nec-

essarily have previously. She thought that the program was run smoothly and effectively, but the part that most impressed her were the outside apartments."

Students were given an opportunity to explore their prospective academic options through meetings with teachers and student representatives from the Arts, Humanities, Business, Jewish Studies, Science, Medicine, Health and Social Sciences departments. Students were able to receive information regarding almost every occupation, ranging from Dentistry and Economics to Law and English Communications. Students also met with representatives from the Career Services and Job Placement offices.

During lunch, parents and students had the opportunity to ask questions of administrators, faculty and current students in a relatively informal setting. After *Mincha*, guided tours of the school building and of Brookdale Residence Hall departed every 15 minutes from Koch Auditorium. The morning ended with a fencing exhibition in the gymnasium performed by the SCW fencing team.

Current SCW students participated in the Open House as tour guides or as student hosts. Faye Berman, SCW '98, remarked, "It's worthwhile for Yeshiva University to have us participate in the Open House as student hosts because we offered a unique opportunity for incoming freshman to openly ask us questions. It was thoughtful of the University to donate SCW sweatshirts to us so, as hosts, we were able to be recognized from a crowd."

The turnout at Open House was extraordinary. "There was standing room only in Koch Auditorium. The room was so packed that lunch had to be staggered by having some tour groups leave early. I feel that the Open House was definitely a success," said Mitgang.

## SCWSC Health Fair Attracts Large Crowd

By Atara Graubard

According to Mt. Sinai Hospital figures, 400,000 women die each year of heart disease, 52,200 succumb to lung cancer and breast cancer kills another 46,000 women. Although the women of Stern College, like many college-aged people, may feel that they are invincible, these statistics tell a different story. Tips for a healthy lifestyle and information about warning signs of specific diseases are some of the best tools a person can acquire to improve the quality of life.

The desire to disseminate this information in a supportive, friendly setting was the driving



Mor Reis, SCW '97, manning a skin care booth at the Health Fair

force behind the Women's Health Fair that took place on Tuesday night, October 29 in Koch Auditorium. Debbie Bielory, SCW '97, one of the organizers of the event, explained that she thought of the idea to hold the health fair last year to show the women of SCW that "it's time we

took control of our bodies."

Bielory and co-chairperson Cheryl Rothman, SCW '97, dedicated the fair to the memory of Ramie Joy Kertznar, an SCW student who passed away last

year soon after the decision to hold a Health Fair was made. The chairpersons hope that SCW women can learn a lesson from the tragedy - that early detection and prevention are crucial to prevent disease, even among "shel-

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## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I attended the "Mock Debate" at Stern about three weeks ago, on the assumption that it would be a fairly accurate representation of what a true debate would be between the Democrats and Republicans. Much to my chagrin, sadly this was not the case. First of all, the two speakers for the Clinton and Dole campaigns were not on the same level. The Clinton speaker was a lawyer who volunteers for the Clinton campaign in New York. The "Dole speaker" (and I use the term loosely) was a Director for the New York State Division for Women. She knew very little of the details of the Dole campaign, let alone his proposed tax 15% tax cut. Already the Clinton side came in with a great advantage. To make matters even more partisan, the moderator of the debate was also the President of the College Democrats at Stern College. Finally, only 4 to 6 questions were posed, and none of them dealt with many of the complex issues of the campaign like the tax cut, immigration, judicial abuse, and rolling back power to the states (that's the 10th Amendment of the Constitution).

As far as the conflict of interest is concerned, no debate that poses to be fair should be moderated by an interested party. The way that this conflict should have been resolved is to have either the Editor of *The Observer* or to have the President or Vice President of the Stern College Student Council moderate the debate. Instead, what I saw was a 75 minute advertisement for Bill Clinton and the Democrats and why they're better for the Jews than Bob Dole and the "mean-spirited" Republicans.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of President Clinton's accomplishments and why Jews should vote for him. According to an *Observer* editorial, "Clinton 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 did not make it into law. Thanks to Clinton, our futures are secure; Medicare, Social Security, and College loans remain intact." Furthermore, *The Observer* further asserts that Clinton has a better record on Israel than Bob Dole does.

This editorial is replete with inaccuracies, misinformation, and fallacious assertions. First of all, the Contract with America IS what propelled the GOP to take control of the Congress in 1994. To backtrack from

the Contract because a collectivist President doesn't like rolling back a portion of the powers of the Welfare state would be obsequious and indicate that the Contract was nothing more than a mere election-year ruse to get into power. Moreover, as a thinker whose political philosophy lies somewhere between conservative and libertarian, I would think that Newt Gingrich and Dick Armey would have demonstrated spinelessness to President Clinton and make it easier for Clinton to increase the powers of the welfare state, which is gradually going to go bankrupt. Even the White House's own calculations project that Medicare and Social Security will run out of money in about 10 to 15 years. That means that those Americans under 45 will not sniff even a penny of those entitlement programs. What the Contract did call for, for those people who actually read it, was to reduce the total spending on Medicare and Social Security by a smaller percentage than the President wanted to. If Clinton wanted to spend \$900 million on Medicare for fiscal year 1997 and Newt Gingrich wanted to spend \$850 million, then, Newt Gingrich only wanted to spend \$50 million less than the President. This is a cut of no more than 2 or 3 percentage points. College loans are a big problem and many people default on their college loans or have to defer paying their loans for many years. Money doesn't grow on trees.

As far as the last infantile assertion that Clinton "has a bond with the Israeli people" and Bob Dole does not, President Clinton openly campaigned for Shimon Peres during the spring before the eventual victory of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and furthermore, Clinton called the digging of the tunnel by the Kotel, "an obstacle to the peace process." From now on, I implore *The Observer* as well as *The Commentator* to address the ideological as well as the practical consequences of the huge differences between state-run governance and liberty-oriented governance.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Normand  
YC '95

*Editor's Note: The Mock Presidential Debate was moderated by Sharona Cohen, President of the J. P. Dunner Political Science Society, a nonpartisan SCWSC club.*

## The Observer

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## Editorials

### Model United Nations

On the weekend of November 7-10, 15 YU students temporarily gave up their U.S. citizenship and abandoned their religious and political biases. As delegates representing Pakistan and Lithuania at the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC), the SCW delegates had to look beyond their views, in order to represent the policies of the governments of Pakistan and Lithuania. This event took place in a day and age in which many Republicans in Congress are calling for the abolition of the UN. As a result, the very existence of model united nations conferences is being called into question.

The United Nations was created in 1945 in order to maintain international peace and security and to promote economic and social development. As is clear from an even cursory glance at world events, the UN has not succeeded. Critics of the UN argue that it can not be effective. They point out that the UN is a large bureaucracy with out any power, since its resolutions are not legally binding.

What critics do not realize however, is that even though great strides are not often made, the UN has accomplished small incremental steps on the road to a better world. Any forum that was able to bring into the same room, the United States and the U.S.S.R during the Cold War and Israel and the Arab nations while the Intifada was raging, is quite successful. This is not to say that simply participating in the UN will bring peace, but it does make the prospect of peace some what more fathomable.

As the YU UPMUNC delegates negotiated, wrote, and voted for resolutions, they did face many of the frustrations associated with the UN. More importantly though, as a result of discussions, arguments, and friendly conversation, the YU delegates also discovered that each and every country, no matter how foreign to them, has legitimate concerns and opinions. Any political or economic accomplishments that the UN could achieve pale in comparison to this vital realization.

### Post Election Analysis

The 1996 election season is officially over, and SCW students have every reason to be proud. On the whole, we kept up with the campaign issues, watched the debates, and cast ballots for the candidates of our choice. It is tempting to assert that we fulfilled our constitutional obligation and now can tune out of politics until the year 2000. This however, would be a grave error. There is an unfortunate misconception among the

American people that it is only necessary to venture into politics every four years.

Political activity is not restricted to elections, but rather is a way of life. President Clinton and the members of Congress can not be left to handle the country as they see fit. They are our representatives; we gave them their jobs and we have an obligation to ensure that they fulfill those jobs. Even if

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SCW WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK MR. AND MRS.  
SAMSON BITENSKY OF FAB  
INDUSTRIES FOR DONATING  
A COMPLETE SET OF  
SCHOTTENSTEIN GEMAROT  
TO THE SCW BEIT MIDRASH**

## SCW Student Council News Update

By Laurie Gewirtz  
SCWSC Recording Secretary

The Executive Board members of the Stern College for Women Student Council held their first meeting during Orientation week and have since held weekly meetings every Tuesday in room 601 of the School Building. The first meeting of every month is open to all SCW students.

Over the summer, a computer was donated by SCW alumnae for the use of SCWSC, TAC and SSSBSC. Computer training workshops were conducted by Adena Saltzman, SCW '98. SCWSC made a contribution over the summer as well and donated a television set which was placed in the lounge of the school building.

Orientation week was a success thanks to Orientation heads Melanie Arum, SCW '97, Ilana Adler, SCW '97, Hannah Shonfield, SCW '98 and Gila Blazer, SCW '98. The *Guide to the Perplexed* was delivered to the student body thanks to editors in chief Mor Reis, SCW '97, and Heshy Willig, YC '97.

Thank you to the Senior class for sponsoring the selling of SCW paraphernalia. Anyone still interested in purchasing SCW T-shirts, sweatshirts, or hats, please contact Senior class Vice President Courtney Marks, SCW '97.

Each Executive Board officer is in charge of overseeing a certain number of clubs, honor societies and publications sponsored by SCWSC. The officers have been instructed to be in contact with, and be available for, the heads of these clubs. Two new committees instituted this year are the Canvassing Committee and Athletics Committee. Parliamentarian Hannah Shonfield now oversees all SCWSC committees.

After club fair all club heads were requested to phone every person on their sign-up sheets even if their services were not needed specifically at that time. In addition, all club heads were requested to submit event notification forms to the *Observer* and *In Motion* before planning a club event. Event dates are to be cleared with SCWSC Vice President Emily B. Shapiro and all flyers publicizing that event should be stamped with the Council's approval before being legally posted. Certain inactive clubs were encouraged to plan future events and were warned that if they remain inactive, their charters will be revoked. All clubs should be in touch with SCWSC Treasurer Chana Katz, SCW '97, concerning their budget and finances.

The SCWSC Health Fair, held on October 29, was a success thanks to its heads, Debbie Bielory, SCW '97 and Cheryl Rothman, SCW '98. The fair, which was

open to all SCW students and female faculty, gave out literature, free samples, door prizes and provided information concerning health issues varying from nutrition to breast cancer.

Elite chocolate coins, compliments of SCWSC, were distributed on November 3 in honor of the upcoming Election Day, reminding students to cast their vote.

Elections for Freshman class board positions and Sophomore class secretary were conducted on November 6, thanks to the efforts of the canvassing committee, headed by Alysa Frenkel, SCW '97.

Every single one of the 90 tickets bought for the Sophomore and Junior class sponsored event to Chicago City Limits on November 7 were sold. Thank you to Sophomore class President Jennifer Weiss, SCW '99 and Junior class President Shana Leibtag, SCW '98, for a job well done.

All students who live in outside apartments can contact SCWSC Corresponding Secretary Rachel Milner, Lex 4A, for any questions or information. Outside apartments which have not yet received a SCWSC dry erase message board should contact an executive board member.

A Student Council meeting was held on Wednesday evening, November 13, with all class board members. Class boards were encouraged to meet on a regular basis and were also requested to sponsor a *shabbaton* and hold two or three class events a semester.

YU's annual *Chanukah* concert will be held on Thursday night December 5, at 8 p.m. in Lamport Auditorium, and will feature Avraham Fried, Mendy Wald and Neshoma Orchestra. Anyone who would like to purchase tickets can call Adina Adami, SCW '98, Micol Rubin, SCW '98, Batya Brander, SCW '98, or Rachel Butler, SCW '98.

Various events and lectures have already been sponsored by Alpha Epsilon Delta, the Blood Drive Committee, Chemistry Club, Computer Science Society, Education Club, English Honor Society, Israel Club, Joint Disease Testing Committee, J.P. Dunner Political Science Society, Philosophy Club, Pre-Law Society, Psychology Club, Sigma Delta Rho, Speech Pathology and Audiology Club, and the Student Alliance for Global Awareness, among others. Information about future SCWSC events is publicized in *In Motion*, the new SCWSC newsletter.

Suggestions and feedback from all students at SCW are wanted and always welcome.

## FYI

**"Campus Conversations"  
with Rabbi Dr. Norman  
Lamm will take place on  
Wednesday, December 18.  
All SCW students are  
invited to attend.**

## Editorial

*Continued from page 2*

you did not vote for the candidates that were victorious in the '96 election, simply by participating in the electoral process, you gave legitimacy to the winner and therefore have a say.

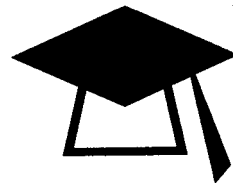
In the next few months the President and Congress will deal with issues that may have a direct impact upon our lives. It is vital that every SCW student makes her opinion on the issues known to her elected representa-

tives. Voting, though important, is not the only means to attain this goal. Letter writing, phone calls, and protests are three small ways in which we can make our voices heard. Our degree of involvement will determine whether we are passive members of our society, blindly following the politicians or active citizens, working to ensure that the politicians follow our lead. The choice is ours.

# COMMENCEMENT 1997

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## University of Pennsylvania Representative Speaks to Pre-Law Students

By Nechama Goldfinger

On Wednesday, October 30, 18 SCW students gathered in room 304 during Club Hour. Members of the SCW Pre-Law Society were looking for a law school that would be right for them as students and as Jews. Arlene Levine, Director of Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and herself an Orthodox Jew, spoke about the Law School's admissions process and provided students with reasons why her school should be one of their top choices.

In inviting prospective law school applicants to attend the meeting, Dean Michael Hecht, Associate Dean of YU, and YU's Pre-Law Advisor, explained that several YU graduates have attended the Penn Law School and have "done very well." The law school is keenly interested in attracting Orthodox Jewish students, and Levine has been helpful in the past to applicants from YU. Hecht felt strongly that any SCW student interested in applying to law school would benefit from hearing her speak.

The meeting began with a brief introduction by Hecht. Levine then spoke about the school and following her address answered students' questions about the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the law school admissions process in general.

Levine acknowledged that Penn Law School's rating in traditional rankings, such as the ones published by *U.S. News and World Report*, has varied. However, she stressed, it has always placed in the top ten. So what sets this school apart from other Ivy League Schools, which can also speak of the superiority of their academic standards? It has the rarity of a small school located in the midst of a big city. With a first-year class of only 240 students, the academic atmosphere is less competitive than at most top schools, and the student-to-student tie is

closer. The student-faculty ratio is 18:1, and though many of the professors are world-renowned, they are accessible to students.

Whereas many other law schools are located on enclosed campuses, the students at the Penn Law School have easy access to such esteemed institutions as the Wharton School, the Penn Medical School and the Annenberg School. The school also offers joint degree programs with other disciplines and prides itself on its public service program.

What might keep a SCW student from considering this school? Hecht explained that many students on the Ivy League level would prefer to stay in New York, in the heart of the American Jewish community, to attend NYU or Columbia, rather than go "out-of-town." Levine therefore emphasized the warm, accepting and stable Jewish community to be found at the University of Pennsylvania.

One question that concerned students was the "personal statement" required by most applications. Should an applicant "play down" her Jewishness? Levine said that if it is important to a student and central to her life, she should not try to hide it. With several real-life stories, Levine got across the point that the student's goal should be to portray her individuality. She stressed that if a student presents herself as she truly is and a school does not accept her, then that school probably would not have been right for her. In addition, Levine strongly expressed the importance of visiting any school a student is considering.

Questions about law school, the admissions process, and this meeting may be directed to Dean Hecht or to Danielle Weinstein, SCW '97, President of the Pre-Law Society.

## Authors in Residence Program Continues with Grace Paley

By Rose Eljas

The picture on the cover of Grace Paley's collected stories shows a small woman with white hair who might be a stereotypical grandmother. The photograph, however, does not adequately portray the character of this woman. As Paley spoke to the Contemporary Literature class and assembled company on Wednesday, November 6, it became apparent that strength and potency, as well as tenderness, must be added to Paley's description.

Late at night, with the fluorescent lights of a classroom flickering on and off, an almost surreal atmosphere surrounded Paley's listeners. Though her audience was in the midst of what was mid-term season, listening to Paley read her stories and personal anecdotes caused other agendas to be forgotten.

The lecture, which was open to the public free of charge, is part of "Authors in Residence," a component of the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence. The lecture by Paley was entitled "Literature: Does It Speak to the Modern World?"

In a thick New York accent, Paley read several of her short stories aloud. They were tales of women, their men and their lives. Paley shaped her realistic portrayal of the human condition with a tone of sorrow and regret, intertwined with tempered joy. Her stories do not sound contrived, although, as their author revealed, a short story might take her up to a year to write. "Her writing is simple and straightforward - everyone can relate to it," said Shulamit Juni, SCW '97, who read one of Paley's stories before coming to hear her speak.

Paley, who in 1989 was named the first "official writer" of New York State by Governor Mario Cuomo, gave tips and tidbits of information on how to write a book and have it published. She explained how her work was discovered, while baby-sitting her chil-



Grace Paley

dren and the children of her neighbor, a publisher. ~~Once~~ that occurred, Paley said, she had no difficulty in having other works published. She spoke of the lonely life of a writer; its rewards and its hardships. She also asked about Stern women, their lives, and their hopes.

Paley is the daughter of Jewish immigrants and is a native of the Bronx. Her works include *The Little Disturbances of Man*, *Long Walks and Intimate Talks*, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute* and *The Collected Stories*, which received a 1994 National Book Critics Award nomination.

"I thought it was nice that she is proud to be known as a Jewish writer," said Debbie Bielory, SCW '97. Paley has been honored by the National Institute of Arts and Letters, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the New York State and Vermont governments.

## Dr. Alfred Bader Kicks Off Chemistry Lecture Series

By Aliza Ricklis

Monday night, November 4 was not a school night, yet dozens of YU students were thinking about chemistry. Undergraduate students, together with members of the YU administration and faculty, as well as YU high school students, had the opportunity to listen to a lecture entitled "The Chemist as Entrepreneur," given by Dr. Alfred Bader.

Bader is the founder of Aldrich Chemical Company, one of the two companies which merged to form Sigma Aldrich Chemicals, a company well known to scientists around the world.


The presentation was part of an annual series of lectures delivered by well known scientists and supported by Dr. Ira Kukin. Not coincidentally, the date of the lecture coincides with National Chemistry Week. According to SCW Chemistry professor Dr. Lea Blau, who introduced the speaker, the celebration of National Chemistry Week is "to display the beauty and importance of chemistry and its benefit to humans."

In his lecture, Bader explained how his company was started and how it has grown. When Bader was a student, the prevalent attitude was "Nobody competes with Kodak [chemical company]." All of the compounds a chemist needed were in the Kodak catalogue. Any compound not listed there would have to be synthesized by the chemist. Bader described how he was able to make his company succeed by devoting time and effort to his work and treating his customers with the utmost respect. Sigma Aldrich Chemicals now has a library of over 100,000 chemicals and its sales will exceed one billion dollars this year.

Bader encouraged those who are interested to enter the business of chemical production, particularly to specialize in one area of chemical production. For those whose interests lead them in different directions, however, Bader encouraged patience and devotion when pursuing any goal.

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# YU Delegates Participate in UPMUNC XXX

By Stephanie Dienstag  
and Rebecca Leicht

In a world where complexity is a growing factor, a mature and informed understanding of the international environment is necessary to lead the human race into the next century. In light of this objective, YU sent a delegation to University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference, held November 7-10 at the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia. Attracting collegiate delegations from across the continent as well as special delegations from the Russian Federation and the Philippines, the goal of UPMUNC is to help nurture an understanding among the participating students of international relations.

The 870 member conference opened with words from the Mayor of Philadelphia, Ed Rendall. The keynote speaker of the opening ceremonies was former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias Sanchez. He invigorated the crowd with his calls for peace, placing much responsibility of the fate of world peace in the hands of the UPMUNC delegates, "the leaders of tomorrow." Following the speeches, the Thirtieth annual Model United Nations formally began with the strike of a gavel. The delegates immediately dispersed to each of their committees for the first session.

The YU delegation was comprised of thirteen delegates from SCW and YC. YU delegates represented either Pakistan or Lithuania. As in the actual United Nations, the

conference was divided into categorized committees. Delegates were assigned to either a General Assembly Committee, such as Disarmament and International Security or the World Health Organization, or an ECOSOC (Economic/Social) Committee like the Commission on Human Rights or the International Court of Justice, or participated in one of the Crisis Committees or Regional Summits. Delegates were assigned to their committees before their arrival at the conference in order to enable them to research the topics that were discussed during Committee Sessions.

Elizabeth Renna, SCW '99, represented Pakistan in the Human Rights Com-

mittee. "In order to represent the country that you are assigned to, you have to separate your own ideas from those of that country," explained Renna.

The YU delegation stayed at the University of Pennsylvania on Shabbat and did not attend committee sessions scheduled during that time. The delegation attended Friday night and Shabbat services at the Hillel House on Campus, resuming their positions in UPMUNC on Sunday morning. Although a major part of the conference was scheduled on Shabbat, "the experience itself was nonetheless worthwhile as it provided the means for students to actively involve themselves in the process of representing their

respective countries," said Adam Moses, YC 2000.

On the last day of the Conference students attended a Plenary Session, entailing the adoption of Resolutions passed in committee sessions of the General Assembly. The session was followed by a formal Closing Ceremony.

This is the third year that YU has sent a delegation to UPMUNC. Renna, who received a verbal commendation at last year's Model United Nations Conference, said she enjoys participating in UPMUNC because it provides her with an opportunity "to represent my school in an intercollegiate meet-

## Leah Laiman

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for marketing. As a result of this, the writing content and style are dictated by what will be enticing to the viewer and what will satisfy the sponsor. If the viewer likes the show, he or she will stay tuned and, consequently, will see more of the sponsor's commercials. Laiman explained how the focus on increasing the market influences the variety of techniques applied to script and plot writing. Writing for daytime drama deals with "creating a palatable package," said Laiman, which will assist in attracting and retaining viewers, who are also consumers, to the commercials which are in between the drama.

The sensitive subject of morality in television medium slithered its way in the evening's discourse. When reflecting on television and television writing in the context presented by Laiman, a distinction is drawn between morality and television. "The reality is," said Laiman, "that one cannot think in terms of providing a moral message in this medium. It's designed for selling. It's candy and bubble gum for the mind. TV shouldn't be a forum on ethics. It shouldn't be a place where one should bring morality into the public unit. Writers, producers, network executives, and sponsors don't really have control over moral choices. It's up to you. You have the power to turn off the TV."


Among the sea of mixed reactions toward's the forum's topic, Judi Srebo, SCW '97, said, "I disagree which the idea that the power of maintaining the quality and values of TV is in the hands of the viewers. I believe that we, the viewers, do have a certain amount of power, but that producers, writers, and executives have power as well because they are the ones who put it out there for us to see and they know that the temptations are very strong to watch. I did, however, agree with a lot of the things she said and do admire her for maintaining her Jewish identity in the confines of her work".

T O U R O L A W C E N T E R

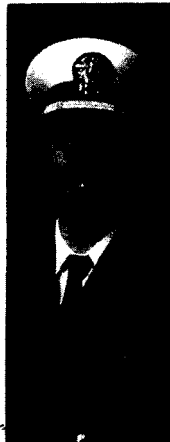
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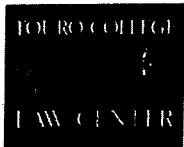


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# THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

## Student Services Offers Guidance Programs for New Students

By Jessica Weller

FTOC it sounds like it should be the name of a sorority. The term is actually an abbreviation for First Time On Campus. FTOC are students of both SCW and SSSB who are Freshmen, Early Admissions, Sophomores who are returning from study in Israel and any other new students on campus.

Orientation takes place at the beginning of the first semester, but what happens next? Are all of the new students left to wander aimlessly around the streets of midtown Manhattan? Not at all. Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services, is responsible for the FTOC program. After Orientation, Hait sends out letters to all of the FTOC students, inviting them to meet with her. Upper-class SCW and SSSB students may be unfamiliar with this letter because it was only sent out these past two semesters.

Approximately 200 letters were distributed during the fall semester to all the FTOC women, invite students to come and meet with Hait. The goal of the meeting, according to Hait is, "to make contact, meet with them personally and let them know that we are here to help with any issue big or small." About half of the student who received letters responded and scheduled an appointment with Hait. She encourages all students

new and old to meet with her, and feels it is important to form a personal relationship with the students as individuals.

When the student meets with Hait a variety of issues are discussed. Anything from academic information to where to find the nurse are questions that the students pose to Mrs. Hait. This program plays an important role because many times students are unaware of the resources available to them. Without this assistance, many of the Student Services available to students would go unnoticed. In addition to the letters and meetings, Hait also leads management sessions for the students. A session was held at the beginning of the semester and will be repeated again before finals. Hait feels that this is an important service because many times students returning from Israel feel lost in the college setting. She stresses the importance of making personal contact with the students and making the transition period into college life as easy as possible.



Beth Hait

## Special Programs For Student Needs

By Susan Jacobs

The Student Services programs at SCW take many forms and are designed to serve the needs of a diverse student body. The department includes Pre-Health Sciences Advisement, International Student Guidance and the position of Mashgiach Ruchani.

According to Dean Efreim Nulman, University Dean of Students, "YU students come to be educated not only inside the classroom but outside of class as well. It is the job of Student Services to create an enjoyable, comfortable environment for them." He said that students are educational consumers, who can expect to get their money's worth in the services provided by the University. The providers of this service must know what students need and what will make them happy.

Nulman emphasized that the true judges of whether or not YU is doing its job are the students. A student satisfaction survey, conducted by an outside firm, will be conducted in the near future to measure the success of student services. "We want to hear from the students. We need to serve them in the context of the institution's mission of Torah-U-Madda, and we need to do it in a menschlich way," said Nulman.

Dr. David Weisbrot is the Pre-Health Sciences Adviser for SCW and YC. He advises students who are pursuing careers in the doctoral sciences, which include medical and dentistry programs, and masters programs like physical therapy and nursing.

During their freshman year, Dr. Weisbrot holds a meeting with students interested in the health science field to inform them of the related academic requirements at SCW. Over the next three years he meets with students several times to make sure they are fulfilling the necessary requirements. Because students applying for medical school must seek admission a year before they plan to attend, Dr. Weisbrot meets with students several times before the end of their junior year to make sure they are gathering letters of recommendation for their applications.

From there, Weisbrot acts as the students' advocate, compiling a packet of information about each student, writing recommendations and sending letters from other faculty members, and then following the progress of applications. During the senior year he holds mock interviews with students to help them feel more comfortable with the interviewing process.

Dr. Weisbrot urged students who are interested in health science careers to "come see me at their earliest opportunity so I can guide them and so they can take advantage of the resources here." He added, "The whole objective is to see that students can get in [to graduate schools], but I need to know the students to help them."

Mrs. Marga Marx is the International Student Adviser for SCW. There are currently 60-70 students, from a dozen different countries, who are officially classified as "international." When they arrive at SCW, in addition to the general student orientation,

## What is your view of the Shabbat Enhancement Program?



Deborah Waltuch

"Although I have never stayed in, I think the advertisement has been encouraging and the feedback I have heard has been encouraging - I am considering staying in for the next Shabbat."



Shani Katz

"The program is very good. The speakers have been excellent and it is very relaxing to stay in and yet still have a conducive Shabbat environment."



Marina Allis

"Publicity for the program has been good, and it makes people feel comfortable knowing that they have the option of staying in and having a great Shabbat."



Tovah Leichter

"I think it's incredible that every Shabbat I have an opportunity to stay with friends and enjoy Shabbat while I listen to shiurim on interesting topics. So I definitely think the program has encouraged me to stay."

international students participate in a separate orientation geared to their needs. Afterwards, for the rest of their SCW careers, Marx is available to meet privately with students within the Office of Student Services.

According to Marx, international students' concerns may be personal or family-related and range from social and religious adjustment to financial needs. Sometimes students contact Marx for help filing immigration or citizenship papers. Marx said, "In the past many students escaped from Iran, Syria, and Lebanon. They had to deal with family separation, and often later being reunited with their families." She noted that international students "work very hard. Sometimes their parents can't work because of the language." This places a lot of responsibility on the students whom she called "very motivated to achieve."

All of the international students at SCW speak English. The goal of Student Services is to mainstream the students and get them involved in the school. Sometimes arrange-

ments are made for students to spend Shabbat with families outside of SCW to make them feel more comfortable in an observant environment. "Many of the girls were never exposed to Judaism growing up and this is their first exposure," said Marx.

The international students contribute significantly to the educational environment of SCW. Ideally, Marx said, "Everyone should learn from everyone else." However, she recognized that often international students stick together because of difficulty communicating with American-born students. She did not place blame on either group for the lack of communication, but recognized that making the effort to communicate can be very difficult for both sides.

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani, holds a weekly *shiur* on Wednesday evenings, which is open to the entire student body. In addition, he is available on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment to meet with students who have questions or concerns. His weekly *shiur* will be featured in the next issue of *The Observer*.

## Enhancing the Shabbat Experience

By Kayla Pliskin

Shabbat at SCW has never been better. With funding from the Board of Trustees, last year SCW began a Shabbat Enhancement Program which provided subsidized Shabbatons for practically every Shabbat in which school is in session. The funding not only provides a lower cost so more students can participate, it also allows more emphasis to be placed on Shabbat programming.

Every Shabbaton has a guest speaker or scholar-in-residence. If the weekend is not co-sponsored by YC, a volunteer *minyana* is provided and a rabbinic intern also attends. Meals are eaten communally in the cafeteria, and *Dvrei Torah* are given by the students. There is usually an *oneg* at which the guest speaks, and a *kiddush* on Shabbat morning after *davening*. Occasionally, the sponsoring club organizes an activity on Saturday night as well.

The Shabbatons have been well attended. The first Shabbat of the school year, during Orientation weekend, had over 200 participants. The Russian Club Shabbaton, which was the first Shabbat back from Sukkot vacation, had a turnout of over 100 students, despite the lack of time to publicize. There is a mixture of Shabbatons that different clubs sponsor, but "you don't have to be a member of the club to come," said Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services. "It is a wonderful experience to participate in, unique to Stern."

Hait oversees the Shabbatons from start to finish and works with the club leaders to make the Shabbatons successful events. A club that decides to organize an event comes to Hait to schedule a date. Some Shabbatons were set up as early as last May, and nearly the entire school year is already booked. There are still a few weekends in the spring which are not yet sponsored, for interested clubs.

Hait checks to see if the club wants to have the weekend co-sponsored, assists in finding teachers or guests for the programs, and offers ideas and even themes for the meals. Hait then makes sure the event is publicized through posted flyers or personal invitations.

Hait said that she is "thankful to the Resident Assistants who encourage the students to attend and to the club leaders who put in a lot of effort." She added that, "all these are key in making Shabbat a wonderful experience." According to Hait, the increase in attendance is due to student involvement and participation.

It is rare that a Shabbaton is canceled. In the event of cancellation the weekend is made into an in-house Shabbat where students can pick up their meals from the cafeteria on Friday morning and eat together in Brookdale Hall's Orange lounge.

Rivki Garfinkel, SCW '97, is the TAC representative to the Shabbat-Enhancement Committee. As an RA, she has stayed in for Shabbat and she knows what it is like to be an "out-of-towner" with no place to go. Garfinkel noted that Shabbatons are even

## An Inside Look At Student Services Workshops

By Rachel Linsider

Student Services is a term that is frequently heard around SCW, yet many are unfamiliar with the actual programs and goals which it entails. The main goal, as indicated by the title, is to meet the needs of the students, as expressed by the students. If the Student Council, clubs, or the student body as a whole, express interest in any area, the Office of Student Services attempts to respond to it and work with the students to fulfill their needs.

Under the guidance of Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun, Coordinator of Student Services Beth Hait and Residence Supervisor Alexis Levitt, the 1996-97 school year has been successful to date. There have

been a number of new workshops that have been initiated as well as old ones that have resumed. In addition, there are several new ideas that have the potential to arise over the course of the school year.

Time /

### Stress Management Workshop

College students are often faced with the problems of using their time wisely and avoiding overbearing stress. The purpose of a Time/Stress Management Workshop, which is held during Orientation at the start of each school year, is to provide students with the tools and skills necessary to create one's own system of time stress management. Many students are reluctant to take advantage of these programs because they feel that they are too independent to make use of these resources. However, Student Services stresses the fact that these workshops are geared towards promoting inde-

pendent decisions. The workshops provide the means by which to reach this independence. If, after the workshop, a student desires to have an individual follow-up session, that option is also available. So far, the workshop has been a success, and students have shown interest in continuing this program.

### Senior/Junior Workshop

Seniors and Juniors are encouraged to attend the Senior/Junior workshops to deal with the problem of "what do I do next?"

For Seniors, life after college can be intimidating. This workshop's goal is to help make the hard adjustment from college life to working or graduate school a bit easier.

From finding a good insurance policy to finding a good roommate, this program covers all aspects of the transitional stage.

Juniors also have to start thinking about how to approach graduation.

"What should I be thinking about?" and "How should I go about applying to graduate school?" are common questions which are answered at this workshop.

These two workshops are held in conjunction with The Office of Placement and Career Services.

### New Student Workshop

Another difficult transitional stage is going from high school to college, where one no longer has all the comforts of home and the more lenient atmosphere of high school. The purpose of this workshop is to help new students apply the skills they learned in high school, and promote develop awareness of how they can develop the new skills needed for college.

### Bereavement Group

One of the newest workshops provided by Student Services is the Bereavement Group. Started last year, the positive feedback about the club caused it to resume this semester. The intent of this program is to provide a forum to discuss issues of loss, such as coping with a loss, coping with new family units after a loss, how to stay connected to the lost person and how to move on. "Those who were involved last year thought that they benefited," stated Levitt, who plays a major role in the Bereavement Group. "The benefit is a result of coming together with others who share in a common experience."

After the first two weeks of meetings, an established group is formed for the semester. However, at the beginning of the next semester, the group will reopen to welcome new members.

Continued on page 10

## New RA Responsibilities Create Improved Dorm Programs

By Alyssa Leibowitz

To most SCW students, school would not be complete without the dorm. The Resident Life Program has been instituted to make life in the dorm as much like a home as possible. For this reason, the Resident Assistants have been asked to make special programs for their floors and to keep up with the floors' interests.

Alexis Levitt is the Residence Supervisor. There are a total of 16 Resident Assistants in Brookdale Hall, including two Graduate Assistants, as well as an RA and Graduate Assistants for the Independent Housing facilities.

Levitt has regularly scheduled meetings with the RAs to discuss activities and events for the students of each floor. According to Francoise Sorkin, SCW '97, the RA for the 19th and 20th floors, the RAs have meetings and discuss activities that their floors have enjoyed, as well as new ideas that they would like to try.

The RAs have a multidimensional job. They must be a resource, a peer advisor, a friend, a listener, a programmer and one who can create a living environment that enhances the education and mission of the school within a community setting. They are the link between the students and the university.

This year the RA manual was revised and sections were updated. RAs have always been involved in programming, but are now required to conduct more programs through-out the year. The changes were made to make

the dorm environment more comfortable to the students.

There is no bottom-line in programming. The RA should make up programs that interest the students

on her floor. The different categories of activities that can be held are ones that are educational, social, spiritual or complementary to the religious environment. Students who desire a specific program should speak to their RA about bringing the activities about.

Not only do the RAs rely on their floor-mates for programming ideas, but they also try to interest their floors with their own hobbies. Leebie Mallin, SCW '98, the RA of the 18th floor, used the motto of her floor in a recent program. As a political science major, she has a passion for politics and made up her floor's slogan to compliment this. Her motto is, "On 18 Your Vote Counts." On election night the floor held a party to watch the results of the election, discuss the issues and socialize.

The main goal of the activities coordinated by the RAs is to enable the students on every floor to get to know each other and to socialize. Future events planned by RAs are trips to Broadway shows, lectures and holiday parties.



Alexis Levitt



Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun doing what she does best: speaking with SCW students.

## Visiting Educators Speak at Stern

By Julie Stampnitzky

Many of the students who come to SCW have already spent a year learning in Israel. Some of them try to recapture the flavor of the Torah of *Eretz Yisrael*. Fortunately for them, YU arranges for visiting rabbis and teachers to speak to Stern students, allowing them to recapture, for a short while, the unique learning which they miss. On Wednesday, November 13, these students were especially lucky, for two *shiurim* were scheduled. Lectures were given by Rabbi Abraham Sherman of Tel Aviv and Joy Rochwarger of Midreshet Moriah.

Sherman is spending two months at YU, giving weekly *shiurim* to RIETS kollel students and also speaking to YU undergraduates. Formerly the chief chaplain in the Israeli Defense Forces, he is *Av Hat Din* in Tel Aviv, with jurisdiction over one and a half million people. Sherman, who spoke in Hebrew, explained the Torah viewpoint on relating to Jews who are not observant.

After an introduction by Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivory Department of Jewish Studies, Sherman opened his *shiur* by saying that the Torah's dictates must guide all our decisions. The Torah, he explained, is not merely a book; it is the "living Torah," offering new perspectives in every time and place. Each generation has *chachamim*, such as Rabbi Moshe Feinstein in our era, who have been designated by Hashem to make the Torah alive for their generation.

Relating to the non-religious is "the heaviest, most difficult question" for us, at a time when the state of Israel is split into contending factions which are becoming

increasingly polarized, said Sherman. The question was addressed by the Baal Hatanya, who wrote that although one is commanded to hate evildoers, the *mitzvah* of loving one's fellow Jew also applies to them. This contradiction can be resolved by the Talmudic passage which expresses the view of Beruriah that one should not hate the sinner, only his evil actions. Sherman acknowledged that as a judge he often hears cases from people who are less than perfect. The way to resolve such feelings, he said, is by having compassion for the person who did not have a Torah education and is missing out on so much of what is truly important in life.



Joy Rochwarger speaks to Midreshet Moriah alumnae after her lecture.

The audience of over 40 women enjoyed the lecture greatly. "I think we miss having speakers in *lashon hakodesh*," said Emily J. Shapiro, SCW '97. "His message is important for students in YU, whose interactions with non-religious Jews is limited."

Later the same day, a large group of Stern students gathered to hear a *shiur* from Midreshet Moriah teacher Joy Rochwarger, who was in New York to conduct interviews. After distributing letters to the women from their friends and teachers in Israel, she spoke on the topic of, "The Seal of *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*: Truth." She related this concept to the *parsha* of *Toldot*, and to an episode in the life of her late grandmother, to whose merit the *shiur* was dedicated.

According to Kanarfogel, if students express an interest, Sherman may be asked to speak again at SCW.

## Zachor Club's First Program Recognizes Kristallnacht

By Orly Goldenthal

On Thursday, November 7, the newly formed Zachor Club launched its first program of the year. The Zachor Club, sponsored by both SCWSC and TAC, is dedicated towards organizing programs involving the Holocaust and Holocaust related issues.

58 years ago, on November 9-10, 1938, The Night of Broken Glass, or commonly called Kristallnacht, ignited the burning years of oppression, torture and the murder of six million Jews under the Nazi regime. As a memorial to this event, the Zachor Club arranged a video and pictorial exhibit portraying the before and after effects of Kristallnacht. In conjunction with this display, the Zachor Club organized a letter writing campaign to President Clinton, Mayor Giuliani, and Senator D'Amato. The purpose of the campaign was to petition these public figures to assist in the location, retrieval and return of Jewish-owned money and property which was put into Swiss and American bank accounts during World War II. The statute of limitations on these banks is near its end and if action is not taken soon the money will remain in the banks and dispersed among many different countries. The letters are an attempt to return the money and property to their rightful owners.

A large percentage of SCW students turned out for the letter writing campaign and the organizers were pleased to see so many people involved. "The fact that the project was able to involve all members of the Yeshiva University community including the faculty, and students of SCW, SSSB, YC, and Wurzwiler School of Social Work, exemplified that this is a situation which people really care about and are willing to do what they can to improve it," said Zachor Club



Members of the newly founded Zachor Club at the day-long Kristallnacht Memorial.

head, Mechal Weiss.

Students' reactions to the letter writing campaign were on the most part optimistic. Zahava S. Kahan, SCW '98, said, "The message that we are trying to get across is an important one. Hopefully the letter writing campaign will accomplish this." Kahan further stated, "The Zachor Club is unfortunately a necessary one, and I am pleased to see its revival. The Jews have been through too many horrifying tragedies which have the tendency to be forgotten as the years go by. The least we can do is remember."

The Kristallnacht display and letter writing campaign are just a few examples of several programs and activities which the club is planning for this upcoming year. Possible programs include a trip to the Washington Holocaust Museum and a panel on tolerance. The Zachor Club also has information about a Heritage University Seminar Tour to Poland, Lithuania taking place from May 22-28. An optional stop in Israel extends the trip to June 4.

Any student interested in more information about the Heritage tour, or any of the club's activities, can contact club heads Orly Goldenthal, Chana Kapustin and Mechal Weiss.

## Students Attend AIPAC Leadership Training Seminar

By Sivan Rabinowitz

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) held its Regional Political Leadership Training Seminar on November 8-10 in Boston, Massachusetts. The theme of this year's program was "TEA, The Elections and After." SCW students were among the 500 university students who attended the event. The Shabbat program was held at Brandeis University. On Sunday, the students went to Tufts University, where the Seminar continued.

On Friday night, students heard the Honorable Barney Frank, a democrat congressman from Massachusetts speak about "Jewish Perspectives in Congress." Nancy Kauffman, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, led a symposium on "Jewish Activist: Search for Identity Through Involvement." Kauffman listed different ways, both direct and indirect, that students can help Israel. She stressed the importance of being active and doing something that will make a difference.

The next speaker was Professor Gordon Fellman of Brandeis University. He spoke

about "critical awareness." Fellman stated that in order to be active, one must analyze his situation in life, as well the situation of the entire world critically and use this knowledge to correct the problems that exist there.

After Shabbat, AIPAC sponsored a "Boston Tea Party," a boat trip that left from Rowes Wharf at the Boston Harbor.

The Seminar continued on Sunday at Tufts University. Jeremy Bash, a Media Activities Coordinator of AIPAC, instructed students on how to speak productively with the media. Other seminars were given on lobbying politicians, running for office, voting and other methods of getting involved in politics.

AIPAC is an organization registered to lobby Congress to support pro-Israel legislation. The Leadership Training Seminars are part of AIPAC's Political Leadership Development Program, which aims to involve pro-Israel students in the American political process. Over 18,000 Jewish students from 425 campuses in all 50 states are affiliated with AIPAC.

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Application forms are available at the Office of the Dean and the Office of the Pre-Health Advisor.

Students completing their junior year (or in exceptional cases their sophomore year) with the appropriate grade point average are welcome to apply. Graduating seniors are not eligible.

Applications should be submitted before the final examinations of the fall semester to Dr. Lea Blau, Department of Chemistry, Stern College for Women.

# Looking Back on Twenty Five Years At SCW: Rabbi Saul Berman

By Susan Jacobs

In the October 28, 1971 issue of *The Observer*, an article entitled "Welcome Rabbi and Mrs. Berman" appeared. The article, written by Esther Fuchs, announced the arrival of Rabbi Saul Berman and his wife to SCW. Rabbi Berman, today one of the most renowned members of the SCW faculty, was then Religious Studies Chairman and Mrs. Berman was a guidance counselor.

### Still a Favorite

Describing the enthusiasm of student reception towards the Bermans, Fuchs wrote, "... I was not really surprised to find that their reputation of congeniality and genuine concern for student welfare was quite accurate. Certainly, after having had the pleasure of spending some time with them, I could hardly help but join the ranks of the 'Berman Boosters.'"

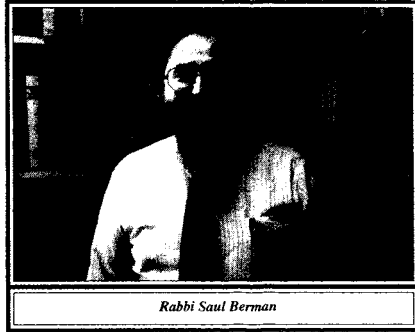
Current students remain fans of Rabbi Berman. Ahava Aaron, SCW '97, remarked, "He is an excellent teacher. He is articulate and passionate about his material. He shows a tremendous mastery over his material, but at the same time he is willing to listen to suggestions from the class."

Rabbi Berman is an alumnus of YU and of two other universities. He received a BA in English from YU in 1959 and *smicha* from RIETS in 1962. In 1966 he earned an M.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a J.D. from New York University in 1968. His wide range of knowledge is reflected in his teaching methods. Adina Lauer, SCW '99, commented, "I really like listening to what he has to say. The topics that we learn are very pertinent to our lives. He is so knowledgeable and he makes the class excited to learn."

### 25 Years of Change

The 1971 article quoted Rabbi Berman saying, "Girls' Jewish education must be at a par with boys' Jewish education. We're beyond the point where girls don't need extensive education equal to that offered boys." While this sentiment has been echoed through the halls of SCW countless times, the SCW students of 1971 probably placed

more value on these words than current students who have grown up in a society where they were never denied educational access. Rabbi Berman spoke about the changes in both student body and levels of learning at



Rabbi Saul Berman

SCW in the past 25 years. In 1971, approximately one third of the SCW student body entered with limited Judaic studies background. "They were a significant presence in the school," said Berman. "They are hardly present now; at most they constitute five percent of the student body." Throughout the late 1970's and early 1980's, Orthodox synagogues across North America catered to less observant families who sent their children to afternoon *Talmud Torahs* for Hebrew and religious school. In high school these students were sustained by organizations like NCSY and the former YU seminars, and many of them later came to SCW and YC to further their Jewish education.

According to Rabbi Berman, these students were, "an enormous source of spiritual energy. They had transformed themselves, and they had a deep and passionate desire to absorb *Yiddishkeit*." Towards the mid 1980's, this one third of students reduced massively. As Orthodox *shuls* closed their afternoon Hebrew schools in favor of *yeshivot* and day schools, a segment of the population began sending their children to Con-

servative and Reform congregations which continued to provide afternoon instruction. As a result, for a segment of the population previously attracted to SCW, all contacts to the school were cut off. The configuration

of SCW students became 90 to 95 percent *yeshiva* high school students and Israel students. This change allowed SCW to provide more advanced level Judaic Studies classes to students requesting them, but presented a great loss in an important social element at SCW. Rabbi Berman called this change "an enormous loss to the Jewish community." He noted that the ma-

has attracted a portion of students who used to acquire the fundamentals of their Jewish education at SCW. Today, many students enter SCW on a higher Judaic Studies level after a year in one of these schools.

### Broadening the Vision of SCW

During his first years at SCW, Rabbi Berman served as Religious Studies Chairman, a position which no longer exists. He explained, "Judaic Studies were not a single department. 'Religious Studies' included mostly *Halacha*." Rabbi Berman later became the Chairman of all the Judaic Studies departments.

The article by Fuchs states, "The Rabbi maintains that *yeshiva* graduates are often insufficiently sensitive to the outside world. *Yeshiva* education tends to have a narrow focus of what constitutes Jewish concerns and interests. The religious community must maintain an outgoing relationship with the outside world." She also writes, "The ideal situation, suggests Rabbi Berman, would be one in which the Orthodox Jew is able to relate to the outside world within the sphere of his Jewish heritage, that is with *Halacha* serving as the basis for man's relationship."

majority of students entering on the Beginner and Elementary levels are foreign students and recent immigrants with little Judaic Studies background. In addition, the popularity of *baale teshuvah yeshivot* in Israel

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## 25 Years Ago in *The Observer*

YU maintenance and cafeteria crews went on strike, leaving SCW students to clean up after themselves.

Mrs. Johanna Milner was dorm mother of the Stern Residence Hall (not yet called Brookdale).

Listed as one of FAC's future hopes was the publication of a weekly *Devar Torah* on *Parshat HaShvuah*.

Dorm Counselors, graduate students who lived in the dorm, were replaced by Resident Assistants.

An ad from the Israel Government Tourist Office enticed students to fly round-trip to Israel for \$355.

The "Campus Guide," a precursor to the *Guide to the Campus*, appeared on the last page of *The Observer*.



## "Present Laughter" Presents Lots of Laughs

By Dina Bogner

Lately, it seems that in order for a play to be a success on Broadway, there needs to be, in the best cases, a totally new, unique message and look on, in the worst cases, a risqué soap actor starting in, or an over-attendance of hydraulics. Revivals of non-musical plays have been, of late, serious, important and weighty, and they often struggle to find a large audience. Recently, producers David Rieenthal and Anita Waxman decided to bring Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" to Broadway, taking a huge gamble that a funny, lighthearted play written sixty odd years ago could attract and entertain an audience today. I hope their gamble pays off. I had the opportunity to see "Present Laughter" in previews, and I loved, loved, loved it.

"Present Laughter" starts stage and screen star Frank Langella as Garry Lyndene, an older, much adored stage star, who finds that being so loved and worshipped by so many is often a greater burden than it is a pleasure. Garry is off to Africa to do a play, and yet he cannot seem to let go behind the many people who cling to him, among them an ex-wife, a young socialite, his best friend's wife, and a struggling male playwright who is forever showing up at his doorstep.

In three hilarious acts Coward draws the audience into 1930's London, and into the privileged lives of his witty, wonderful char-

acters. In this production the language and situation feel amazingly contemporary, and the irony of the strangeness I sometimes feel watching a revival. The cast is marvelous. Mr. Langella's Garry is vain, pompous and controlling, yet somehow, the audience understands why everyone around him loves him so much. Also notable is Allison Janney as Liz, Garry's ex-wife. Ms. Janney has real star presence, and I believe she may become one as a result of this show.

It felt slightly odd to be at least 50 years younger than anyone else in the audience, but I learned not to let a silly thing like feeling like a fetus scare me off. "Present Laughter" was hysterical. I laughed my head off straight on through. And all I look for in a theater experience is entertainment and enjoyment. I do not necessarily need to relate to the characters, or experience some major epiphany when the play is over.

"Present Laughter" is an amazingly entertaining, fun play. For that reason I hope lots of people go see it. Noel Coward's work is able to withstand time's test and come across as fresh and accessible to today's young theater audience, as well as all the people who remember the play's original production. I wish the producers and cast good luck in their courageous endeavor, and I hope "Present Laughter" allows other wonderful works to be rethought and revived.

## Top Ten Ways to Procrastinate During Midterms

By Laverne and Shirley

10. Count how many people you know in *The Guide*.
9. Buy *Brides* magazine and design potential wedding dresses.
8. Stare at your walls-it's amazing how fascinating they can become.
7. Go to Kinko's and xerox your...hands.
6. Fill out all your grad school applications-Freshmen, it is never too early to start.
5. Count how many blue gumballs they have at Milner's.
4. Scrub those bathroom tiles.
3. Read ALL the signs hanging in the stairwells.
2. Figure out your finals schedule (must they post that during midterms?)
1. Solitaire. Mindsweeper. Need we say more?

## Student Services Workshops

Continued from page 7

### Women's Health Series

After the great success of the Health Fair which took place recently at SCW, Student Services is planning to create a series of programs concerning women's health issues. They include the following:

1. A workshop on breast self exams, to emphasize the importance of being aware of breast cancer. This workshop was conducted previously, and it featured guest lectures by a nurse and a breast cancer survivor.

2. An exercise event is another possible program that may be developed this year. It will stress the idea that exercise is an essential part of one's daily energy. The workshop will likely consist of instructions on how to do quick and short exercises in one's own dorm room. Following the program, a healthy dinner will be provided.

3. A nutrition program, an outgrowth of the Health Fair, will focus on creating a better, healthier sense of self. Since eating habits are greatly altered in college life, students have expressed interest in this type of program.

4. Shalom Task Force, run by SCW

alumnae Shulamith Goldstein and Tziri Goldfinger, is also expected to reappear over the course of the year. This program offers assistance to women and families whose home life is abusive. The purpose of the organization is also to make people aware of situations which can occur in the home, and to inform them of assistance available to them.

### Campus Conversations

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm will be the first speaker in a series of "Campus Conversations." This renewed program gives students an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the invited speakers about various issues that are of concern to the student body. Before the "conversation", students will meet to prepare certain scenarios that they wish to discuss. The scenarios will be given to the speaker prior to the meeting to enable him or her to prepare for the discussion.

More information about these programs can be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Services.



## Hannukah Happenings

Wednesday, December 4

**RUSSIAN CARNIVAL**

Weissberg Commons

Thursday, December 5

**CHANUKAH CONCERT**

Featuring Avraham Fried & Mendy Wald

Lampert Auditorium

Monday, December 9

**CHANUKAH SHIUR**

Weissberg Commons

Tuesday, December 10

**CHANUKAH CHAGICAH**

Koch Auditorium

Wednesday, December 11

**ROSH CHODESH MINYAN & BREAKFAST**

Koch Auditorium

**KESHER CLUB PARTY**

Wednesday, December 18

**ADOPT-A-BUBBIE POST-CHANUKAH PARTY**

Candles & Menorah will be sold by the TAC Tzedakah Committee



## SCWSC Freshman Election '96

By Leslie Glaspar

Elections for the SCWSC Freshman Class Board were held on Wednesday, November 6, and Tuesday, November 12. The results were as follows: President, Allison Witty; Vice President, April Simon; Secretary, Amy Gelb; and Treasurer, Heather Goldstein.

A tie in the presidential race between Allison Witty and co-candidates Mindy Mallin and Rebecca Leicht necessitated the November 6 run-off election. The board met for the first time later that evening.

This was the first set of elections run by the newly formed Canvassing Committee. The Canvassing Committee was formed this year by SCWSC, and will be in charge of the administration of all elections. The committee is run by Alysa Frenkel, SCW '97. Frenkel said of the recent elections, "I was very impressed with both the enthusiasm of the freshman class and of the candidates who were running."

A little under 50% of the freshman class voted in the election.

## Fair Educates Students About Health and Nutrition

*Continued from page 1*

tered" young women who seem to be in the peak of good health. Susan Kirshner, SCW '97, highlighted this issue. "I thought it was appropriate to dedicate it to Ramie. [The Health Fair] makes us realize the important of taking care of our bodies," said Kirshner.

Students arriving at the health fair were greeted at the door and offered the opportunity to register in a raffle to win gift certificates to various local restaurants or a Safari perfume set. They also received bags in which to store the samples and literature they selected while touring the various booths. The 13 stations at the Fair ranged from extremely serious, such as First Aid and Genetic Diseases, to helpful ones like Stress Management and Eat Right/Feel Right, and to whimsical, such as the free makeovers from The Body Shop. The scores of fliers, products, and leaflets were provided by some of the hundreds of organizations and corporations contacted by the chairpeople and committee heads since work began on the Fair last year. Students were chosen or volunteered to work in a booth based on future career plans, major, or interest in educating others on how to take care of their bodies.

The Health Fair provided information on several subjects that are often considered

taboo in the Jewish community. Representatives of the Shalom Task Force, a not-for-profit New York-based organization, explained the need for awareness of domestic violence in the Orthodox community. The organization fields call from all over the country on its hotline and provides those suffering spouse abuse - 95% of whom are women - with halachic guidance, referrals to therapists and options to explore. Shulamith Goldstein, SCW '63, informed students of the gravity of the problem and the steps taken to combat it, given the constraints of *tzniut* and the bounds of *halacha*. She reported that students were more aware of abuse because of several recent highly publicized cases which highlighted the phenomenon.

The Health Fair also focused on the importance of breast care, another topic that many SCW women are not necessarily comfortable discussing. Mary Blecha, a registered nurse with the American Cancer society, stressed that she wanted to teach the women about breast health and not just to focus on the perils of cancer. She emphasized the importance of monthly exams to detect small lumps and growths. A video, which demonstrated the proper examination

technique, was available for viewing.

Another topic of particular importance to women of Stern College is the relatively high occurrence of Tay-Sachs in blood tests for the gene that carries the disease. If two partners are found to be carriers, genetic counseling is strongly suggested to explore options to prevent the disease. Aliza Rucklis, SCW '98, who worked on the Jewish Genetic Disease Testing booth, said that the Fair was "an excellent opportunity to publicize the October Tay Sachs testing event. The Fair made students aware of the importance to prevent diseases that occur most frequently among Ashkenazic Jews."

Other points emphasized at the Fair were the importance of preventative education as well as information on first aid care. Students were invited to sign up for a CPR course and pick up fact sheets on emergency care. Stern women could also learn techniques for dealing with the stress associated with exams and ways to improve overall health through diet and exercise. Ilana Sperling, SCW '99, remarked, "Although I didn't learn anything radically new at the fitness booth, the information there reinforced some common sense knowledge about exercise. Many women in Stern worry

about their weight, however, exercise is not often a part of the daily routine."

Shulamit Braun, SCW '98, a committee head of the Eat Right/Feel Right table, said that the question asked most frequently of Mrs. Sharon Weider, the trained nutritionist manning the table, focused on students' eating habits was, "How do I cut down on fat and eat the proper amount of protein if all of the cal food is covered in oil and I don't like their chicken?"

Over 200 students toured the auditorium and studied information and literature found at the booths regarding such issues as Ob Gyn concerns, Abuses, including alcohol drugs and smoking, Dental Care, Eye Care and Skin Care.

The chairpeople hope the Fair will be the impetus to Stern women actively taking control of their health. A Tay Sachs disease test was held on October 13. Tentative plans are being made to hold future workshops in domestic issues by the Shalom Task Force and in breast care awareness. These activities and projected future Fairs are intended to make students part of a continuing education process about their bodies and how to care of them.



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# Tennis Season Draws to a Close

By Sheara Fredman

Rated among the top tier colleges in the United States, Stern College for Women excels in both academics as well as recreational talent. This year the SCW tennis team has been able to outshine all other areas. Never before has SCW exhibited such a fine display of skill, talent and perseverance in competition.

With an astounding record of four wins and no losses to complete their 1996-97 season, the SCW tennis team has proven their ability to dominate all, including schools of a significantly larger student body. One can not avoid stepping back and admiring the success of these outstanding athletes.

So, what exactly is the guiding light for

these women? Upon discussion with team members, all agreed that the driving force behind their success is their excellent coach, Evan Goldstein. This past year, he has prepared the women for competition by using two major strategies. First, he prepared them physically, by constantly challenging them and

rigorously training them to run the extra mile. Second, Yael Malik, a team captain, stressed

Goldstein's ability to mentally prepare them for the matches. Throughout the games, he has provided constant strategic pointers and has thereby raised many players

out of a slump. Rather than perceiving themselves as a small school that really had no chance of winning, he motivated the women so that they were able to envision themselves on top.

After four matches with St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn College, Steven's Tech, and New Jersey Tech, the women swept all four matches by cheering one another on, and providing continual support for one another. Even when things were rough against the fierce competition of Brooklyn College, the team, and specifically Heidi Baker, was still able to rally to victory.



Members of this year's SCW Tennis Team (l to r) Jenny Jaye, Shira Hecht and Heidi Baker

## Fitness Flash

### BREAK THE FAST

By Michael Greenwald

Quick, set your alarm clock fifteen minutes before your regular wake up time. Why? To eat breakfast, that's why! Breakfast not only gives you energy that takes you through the day, but it can also help keep you stay thin. If you eat big in the morning, you will snack less during the day, thus maintaining and even losing weight. Breakfast can also help to speed up your metabolism since your body needs food in order to burn calories. A choice like cereal that is high in fiber increases satiety, lowers fat intake at meals and sustains energy levels.

Breakfast ideally should be one of your largest meals since you have the most time to burn it off during the day. But if you are not a morning person and can barely make it to the shower, much less

put together a huge breakfast feast, chances are breakfast is obsolete for you. A helpful hint is to choose foods that are quick to prepare but not lacking in nutritional value. English muffins with low fat cottage cheese on top or yogurt with granola cereal inside are some good suggestions. A personal favorite of mine which can be made in the cafeteria is two Eggo waffles with a bit of fat free frozen yogurt on top and syrup. It tastes fattening but it really is not. Eggo waffles are relatively low in fat and frozen yogurt and syrup are fat free.

It may take time to get used to waking up a bit earlier but all in all it is truly worth the benefits. Try it and you will see that a good breakfast can really make your day.

## Lady Macs First Home Game

Come cheer on the Lady Macs for their first home game of the season as they compete against Bard College on Tuesday, November 26th, at 7:30 p.m. Vans will be leaving from Brookdale Hall at 6:15.

Note: All home games are played at Samuel H. Wang YU High School for Girls.

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