

Campus Conversations

President Lamm Discusses Dating and Marriage with Stern Women

By Atara Graubard

A recent flyer pinned to a wall in Brookdale Hall advertised an online social arena for observant Jewish singles. The Internet provider offers chat rooms as well as a matchmaker service which tries to match up members based on dress and indicators of level of observance such as being "shomer negiah." Phenomena such as this notice are indicative of the strong emphasis placed on dating and marriage in the New York Jewish community and SCW in particular. The experiences of almost any college graduate can attest to the centrality of the issue of female-male relationships

in all universities. However, in YU, these interactions take on a special role. Students in a college where dorm rooms are decorated

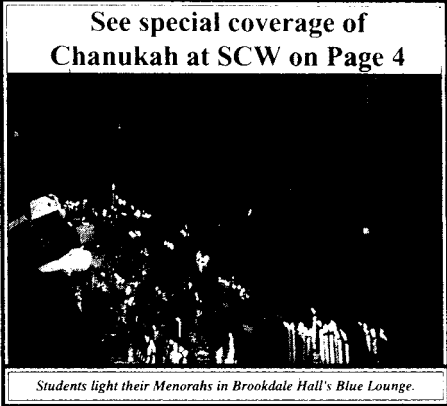
student does not feel the pressure or the inclination to marry while earning a Bachelor's degree, she is constantly bombarded with issues regarding relationships from peers, authority figures and the Jewish community at large.



SCW students filled the cafeteria for the first ever Campus Conversations with Rabbi Dr. Lamm

On Wednesday December 18, the President of YU, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, came to SCW to address the student body on the subject of dating and marriage in a nascent forum called "Campus Conversations." In No-

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See special coverage of Chanukah at SCW on Page 4

Students light their Menorahs in Brookdale Hall's Blue Lounge.

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Student Complaints Addressed Regarding Computer Labs

By Naomi Storer

The SCW computer lab is the source of many complaints. Students, many of whom have no other access to computers, are frustrated by the difficulties that go along with using the lab. Students complain of slow e-mail computers, awkward lab hours and lack of experienced operators.

Tamar Weisberg, SCW '99, tries to avoid the computer lab as much as possible. Weisberg explained, "I find that the benefits do not outweigh the hassles." SCW, in response to student complaints, is planning to implement changes to the computer situation.

Many students are not happy with the hours of the computer lab. "I have come to use the computer lab during school hours and found it closed. I had a paper due, and that was the only time I could go to the lab. I didn't know what to do," said Miriam Berman, SCW '98. "Also, there is no reason the lab should close at night before the school building closes." An official policy

change took place recently, allowing the computer lab to be opened in the morning, along with the school building, instead of opening when Mrs. Betty Gordon, director of the computer lab, arrived. This should relieve the problem of the lab being closed during school hours. But there is no plan to change the policy of closing the lab at 12 a.m., an hour before the school building closes. When this question was posed to Gordon, she replied that there is not a large enough demand for the lab to remain open until 1 a.m. on a regular basis. However, Gordon remarked, "the lab remains open later during midterms and finals to accommodate the girls' needs."

Numerous students have complained that when they are in the lab and have a question, they are unable to find the "I am an operator sign," let alone the actual operator. Furthermore, once they do find the operator, she is not always a helpful source. Gordon stated that the

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Students Concerned With Expired Elevator Certificates

By Leslie Ginsparg

The expired temporary inspection certificates hanging in the Brookdale Hall elevators are the source of much concern amongst Brookdale Hall residents. The elevators, which were newly installed this past summer, were inspected on August 20 and granted a temporary safety certificate. The certificate reads, "This elevator has not been officially approved. A temporary certificate is hereby granted for use of this elevator during construction while minor work and adjustments are made which do not effect its safe operation. This certificate expires 9/24/96."

"A lot of people have noticed that the elevators have not been inspected since August and the certificate was only temporary," said Wendy Left, SCW '98. "I think the elevators have been broken three times already, and they creak

whenever you get to the third floor. I want them inspected."

"The elevators are safe," said Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management. "The elevators were inspected initially by the City of New York, they are in full compliance of all laws, and we are awaiting the final certificate of inspection, when the City schedules that to be done." He stated that the work done over the summer, modernizing the elevators, required an initial inspection by the Elevator Division of the Department of Buildings. After this inspection, the division issued the temporary certificate. It is then up to the city to come out and do the final inspection. Socol attributes New York City's delay in returning to perform a final inspection to a lack of elevator inspectors. A number of inspectors were arrested for accepting bribes, leaving the Department of Buildings short staffed.

Inspector Maltese of the El-

evator Division of the Department of Buildings stated that a temporary certificate is issued when an elevator is safe to run, but must have minor work completed before a final certificate can be issued. "The elevator was tested with an elevator inspector, and passed all tests. A temporary certificate then and only then is issued. They do all the safety tests. They can run that car until they get a final." Maltese further stated that a temporary certificate is good for a year, regardless of the date printed on the paper. The temporary certificate states that it is valid for only one month because the inspectors feel that the elevator companies should be able to complete all the necessary adjustments within that time period.

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Editorials

Campus Conversations

The long awaited Campus Conversations with Dr. Lamm took place on Wednesday, December 18. This was SCW's first opportunity to benefit from the insights and advice of our Rosh Yeshiva. Campus Conversations is a spin off of Dorm Talks, a similar program that has been going on at YC for many years. For all those who witnessed the event, it was truly a sight. The jam packed cafeteria was a refreshing change from most SCW events which are severely under attended. Students were especially eager to hear Dr. Lamm's discussion of dating and marriage, a topic with nearly universal appeal at SCW.

Dr. Lamm had much to say to SCW students about dating. The majority of it was good, sensible advice, which is severely needed in the current YU dat-

ing scene. Instead of recognizing the merit of Dr. Lamm's general thesis, many SCW students, like the YC students before them, focused on a few points. The main source of controversy was Dr. Lamm's assertion that men and women should date more than one person at a time. Getting caught up in each and every statement that Dr. Lamm made however, is to gloss over the true significance of the discussion. A forum in which students are introduced to ideas and opinions, particularly controversial ones, is what college is all about. YC has had such programs for years and it is about time that SCW has been given the same privilege. If students are not open minded and secure enough in their own opinions, to hear differing views, then they certainly are not ready for marriage.

The Survey Says

It is that time of year again, finals are approaching and winter vacation is on the horizon. As the semester comes to a close, SCW students are asked to take time out of their busy schedules to fill out course evaluation forms. This year the task for students is greater than usual since Yeshiva University is conducting an overall university study. In an attempt to get such a task over with, it is tempting to hastily fill out the evaluations without giving them much thought. Such an action is, however, unwise and potentially detrimental. Contrary to popular belief, these forms have a purpose other than adding to the work load of an overburdened SCW student.

The academic evaluations are used by the administration to do just what their name implies. Students have insights and perspectives on professors that the administration does not. In what other fo-

rum are administrators willing to consider the input of students? By honestly asserting one's opinions, a student can help ensure that good professors stay on and that bad ones are let go.

Through the university survey, students have a say in the future of Yeshiva University. There is no shortage of things to complain about YU. In an effort to solve the many problems that SCW students face, the administration is reaching out to the student body for constructive criticism. The complaints aired by students are usually legitimate, yet they lose all validity when students use them solely as an excuse to deride YU. Academic evaluations and university surveys are a means for real improvements and should be viewed by students as an opportunity rather than a burden.

The Undergraduate Councils of SCW and SSSB would like to extend their sincerest appreciation to Emily B. Shapiro, Chani Koenigsberg, Natanel Lebowitz and all those who helped in making the annual Chanukah Concert a huge success.

The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 340-7794. Fax (212) 340-7788. Published tri-weekly during the academic year by Stern College Student Council. The views expressed in signed columns are those of the writers only and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Observer, the student body, the faculty or the administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any products or services advertised on these pages.

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Thank You

The Governing Board of the *Observer* has no qualms about criticizing any aspect of SCW that is in need of cure. It should be noted however, that the *Observer* is equally as ready to give praise, when it is so deserved. The Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Services currently deserve such approbation. SCW students were pleasantly surprised to receive gloves as a Chanukah gift. The gloves

themselves are not as significant as the thoughtfulness and caring that went into them. One of the benefits of a small university is a sense of closeness, warmth and understanding between all facets of the university. These are feelings which are too often absent from SCW. Any attempt to kindle such sentiments should be greatly appreciated by the student body.

Op-Ed

By Julie Stampnitzky

The New York City Department of Transportation recently released a list of the city's twenty worst intersections. Number one on the list, the most dangerous intersection in all five boroughs, was Park Avenue and 33rd Street. Yes, this is the crossing just one block from Brookdale Hall, where the tunnel entrance is.

From 1992 to 1994, there were 44 accidents involving pedestrians at this intersection. (Number two, with 43 accidents, was nearby Herald Square, the intersection of 34th Street, 6th Avenue, and Broadway.)

Many of us have crossed the intersection of 33rd and Park recently, walking from the dorm to Café Roma or the Lexington and Windsor apartments. Some of us may have noticed the metal fences on the northeast and northwest corners. As reported in the *New York*

Times on December 13, the hazards of this particular intersection are jaywalking and the tunnel entrance. Those fences are there for a reason: to keep pedestrians from crossing on the north side, where there is no crosswalk, and drivers exiting the tunnel can't see them until it's too late.

Sure, we all jaywalk, crossing in the middle of the block, or running across when the light is red. Sure, jaywalking is technically illegal, but we'd hardly be New Yorkers if we didn't do it occasionally. After all, someone late for a class can hardly be expected to wait one more minute for the light to turn green...can she? But keep in mind: each year around 300 pedestrians are fatally injured on New York streets. I'm not saying you should never cross against the light. But please, look both ways before you cross.

From the Executive Editor

On Sunday, December 8, I, along with various SCW student leaders, had the privilege of attending the 72nd annual Yeshiva University Hanukkah Dinner and Convocation.

During the convocation, the Governor of New Jersey, Christine Todd Whitman, was given an honorary degree from YU. After the presentation of the degree, Whitman delivered a speech to the crowd.

Whitman stressed the importance of zero-tolerance programs in her administration. She said that in New Jersey, acts which are conducted out of hate are not stood for. She stressed the fact that New Jersey is the first and only state in the United States to implement mandatory Holocaust and Genocide education programs. After hearing this, a roar of applause could be heard from the audience in support of her actions.

Recently in SCW, an event was run by the Resident Assistants. The event entailed decorating each floor of Brookdale Hall for Chanukah. After completion, each floor was to be judged and the winner was posted.

Those of us who participated in the event had fun while brightening up the usually dull walls of the dorm. On some floors music blasted and food was served, all in anticipation of the floor *achdus* which was to be generated from the event.

About two days later when I opened my door, I noticed that everything in my hallway was on the ground. Not only was the large hanging *dreidle* ripped from the ceiling, but anything that was hanging on our doors was torn down as well.

I thought that maybe this was just a freak thing, and did not think much of it. Later that day, I heard that my floor was not the only floor in which this happened. I was appalled that someone would actually go and tear



down the decorations. I could not imagine what would possess a person to do such a thing.

I immediately thought about all the RA's who worked so hard on making their events successful, and how they must feel seeing all their hard work destroyed.

I can't help but make a correlation between these two incidents. I am not saying that the tearing down of decorations is equal to the hate crimes which Whitman was speaking about, but I am saying that it is a problem. Acts such as this should not be tolerated in SCW. I know that we don't know who did this or how it happened, but something must be done about it. Students should not feel as if they should not participate in future events such as the decorating event, for fear that whatever they do will be torn down by people who have nothing better to do with their time.

I can only hope that this was a one time occurrence at our school and that whomever did tear down the decorations would have enough courage to apologize and do something about it. A person's hard work and effort, no matter what it is, is worth more than any gratification received from tearing down some nicely decorated pieces of paper.

Andrea Snyder

Opinion

Christmas and "Jew York": Reflections on the New York Holiday Season

By Randi Sorscher

What is this "holiday phenomenon" that happens right around this time every year? People talk about "getting into the holiday spirit"; Santa Claus and the Salvation Army are everywhere, and the myriad of lights and wreaths in the city is just unbelievable. Well, it seems it's "The Holiday Season" in New York...once again.

A popular television show made the joke first, and now I repeat it: December 24 is the most popular night for Jews to invade Chinese restaurants. And movie theaters. And any other public activity, because, hey, there are no lines, everyone's home celebrating. The other day I was listening to the radio and a young man called in and was asked if he has big plans for Christmas Eve. The young man replied, "Well, not really," to which the radio host responded, "Oh that's right, you must be Jewish."

And it makes me wonder, When did the Jewish people all of a sudden pop onto the holiday scene? NBC's local news set proudly displays a Chanukah menorah next to its wreath. And the feature story in its newscast is "The Latest in Chanukah Menoras." What is this phenomenon that has the media and popular culture equating our Chanukah with their Christmas?

A popular Reform Rabbi has recently written an article in which he raises some key questions about this occurrence. What does the Jew answer when the storekeeper down the block wishes him a "Merry Christmas?" Why does the Jewish child's public school put on a Christmas play or pageant? Does he participate? When did this "secularization" of the religious Christian holiday occur?

And to his comments I add, why

does the public school give off for Christmas, but not for Chanukah? And why do some Jewish day schools give off Christmas time? Have we become so influenced by the culture surrounding us that we have learned to ignore the anonymity of the non-Christian during this time?

And yet, it's a difficult question, because as I said before, there seems to be a strong measure of acknowledgment on the part of the society in which we live of our holidays and our traditions. But is the interest of the public one of wonderment at these Jewish holidays they may know nothing about? Is it one of support, or mere intrigue in the heritage of another popular ethnic group? Do we not realize the strong impact we have had on this society? We have an immense responsibility towards this "curiosity" we have created. We must remember that though it is a day off for most of us, it is not our holiday; it is not for us to accept a "Merry Christmas" greeting as if we are grateful that someone has thought to wish us well. During this time we stand back and let other ethnicities in this country espouse their religious freedom, as they have allowed us to employ ours. We must treat their freedom with the equal amount of respect with which they treat ours.

Reflecting on the holiday season in New York raises puzzlement at the huge popularity rate of this holiday here. Stores rely on this time for their biggest profits; hotels in New York City have never been more crowded. And yet the Jew sits home and watches television, goes out to eat, or learns, as if nothing out of the ordinary is happening outside. What a wonder.



(l to r) Joelle Tollinsky, SCW '97, Saritte Mitgang, SSSB '97, and SCWSC President Tami Finkelstein, SCW '97 display the gloves given to SCW students as a Chanukah present compliments of the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Services.

The Observer would like to express their condolences to Mrs. Livia Turkel upon the death of her husband.

May Hashem console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Chanukah at SCW

By Orly Goldenthal

Chanukah at SCW always seems to fall out of an extremely busy and hectic time of year. Papers, projects and the onslaught of finals are all-consuming and place a tremendous amount of pressure on the student body. Despite all of these external pressures, the spirit of Chanukah always prevails. Thanks to student run organizations such as SCWSC and TAC, almost every night of Chanukah was filled by a different activity or event. One such event that students look forward to every year is the annual Chanukah Chagiga.



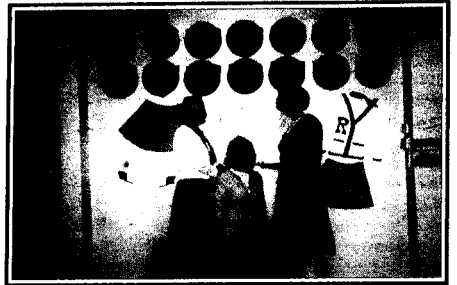
Residents of Brookdale Hall's Third Floor take a break while decorating their hall for Chanukah.

The Chagiga was planned by committee chairs Leslie Ginsparg, SCW '98, Penny Joel, SCW '97, and Aliza Kravetz.

SCW '97. On Tuesday night, December 10, Koch Auditorium was transformed into a hip-hop fifties dance floor. Red, white, black, pink and silver balloons filled the room. Records of the "oldies" were among the fifties motif decorations that lined the walls. The theme of the Chagiga was *Grease*, a play on the word Greece (the Greeks who were the villains of the Chanukah story) and grease, or oil, the staple product of Chanukah.

"The Chagiga was great! It really showed school spirit and unity. It was a lot of fun and the dancing was really exciting," commented Bracha Ruiter, SCW '98. After an hour and a half of dancing stu-

dents gathered to hear a *D'var Torah* on Chanukah, given by Ginsparg. After the *D'var Torah*, the Belles, SCWSC's very own a capella choir, performed a new arrangement of songs. The combination of fun, music, dancing,



Chanukah Chagig Heads (l to r) Leslie Ginsparg, Aliza Kravetz and Penny Joel display the 50's decor.

D'var Torah and of course food imbued the school with an inspiring feeling of the spirit of Chanukah.

Sarah Katz, SCW 2000, remarked, "With all the tests and papers that are due this week, I really forgot that it was Chanukah. The Chagiga brought the spirit of Chanukah all back. It was amazing."

Another event that helped students get into the spirit of Chanukah occurred before the holiday began. On Wednesday night, December 5, a Chanukah floor decorating contest was held in Brookdale Hall. The "decorate your hall event was sponsored by TAC with the assistance of the Resident Advisors. Each floor was provided with art materials, supplies and snacks. TAC also handed out complimentary Chanukah cookies to each room. The goals of this event were to bring people on each floor together in order to

get to know one another better, have some fun, and get into the spirit of Chanukah. "It was really fun working with people on my floor and getting to know them better. We really had a good time making decorations and getting ready for Chanukah," said Aliza Friedman, SCW '98.

Some floors had themes for their decorations, including "candle land" and "a stroll down East 34th Street". Other floors created different variations of menorahs, dreidels, latkes and the like. The contest was judged the next day and the winners were the students of the 12th floor.

"I think the floor decorating contest was a great way to get people reached up for Chanukah. It gave us a head start on the amazing Chanukah spirit that always fills this school," said Yael Sehor, SCW '98.

Opinion

The Other Miracle on 34th Street

By Susan Jacobs

As the earth turns round in its diurnal course, and the sun once more hides away until the dawn, the traffic increases on 34th Street, and millions of busy New Yorkers rush home from work. But for eight short days during the busiest shopping season of the year, pedestrians on 34th Street are privy to a view unique in the glittering city. Peering into the windows of Brookdale Residence Hall they can view a golden inferno as hundreds of young women kindle their Chanukah Menorahs and publicize the miracle of their religious freedom and the resilience of a people who have survived endless years of persecution.

Some of the passersby are familiar with Chanukah; some are heading home to light their own Menorahs, but many are so enamored of the scene that they come close for a few minutes to gaze and to soak in the beautiful glowing rays. Although the residents of Brookdale Hall may be conspicuously camouflaged for most of the school year, during this brief week thousands are aware that observant Jewish women reside here.

On the first night of Chanukah, after lighting my own Menorah, I stepped out onto 34th Street to listen to the comments of anonymous people as they passed by. One woman remarked, "Oh! It's the first night of Chanukah." Another exclaimed, "How cute! I love it!" One man, when asked for his reaction said, "It's nice. More people should do it." Another said, "I'm so proud to be Jewish."

SCW students might find some of these comments funny or lament the fact that many passersby who are ob-

viously Jewish either do not know about or do not commemorate this joyous festival. However, Chanukah should make us keenly aware that, throughout the year, we are truly representatives of traditional Judaism, and the world is always peering in at us, wondering what we are doing, and often misunderstanding the significance of our acts. On the bright side, most of the observers of our candle-lighting ritual were very impressed by the beauty of the act. We should remember that the beauty inherent in our religion which we so often take for granted is poignant and obvious to those outside our ranks.

On this Chanukah, like every Chanukah at SCW, as our flames came to life each night, we were acting as ambassadors to the world around us. We truly publicized the miracle of Chanukah to outsiders and to ourselves. Perhaps some of the passersby were inspired to go home and kindle their own Menorahs, but just as important was the effect of this experience on the women of SCW. Seeing the awestruck and nostalgic glances of strangers made us aware of who we are and what we represent. By opening our windows to the world each year, we create an opportunity to look in at our selves.

It is not merely with the illumination of candles that we celebrate Chanukah each year, but also with the illumination of souls. We should be sensitive enough to our experience to allow our souls to be illuminated and aware of the many souls looking to us as the source of their light.

Concert Features Dedi, Avraham Fried, Mendy Wald

By Julie Stampnitzky

On Thursday, December 5, the first night of Chanukah, over 400 SCW students made the trip to the Main Campus' Lampport auditorium, site of the annual Chanukah Concert Extravaganza, a project of the Undergraduate Student Councils of Yeshiva University.

As in past years, the entire concert was student-run. Together, YCSC, SCWSC and TAC decided who would perform at the concert and what songs they would sing, brought in sound and lighting technicians, and set ticket prices. Students sold tickets for every one of the auditorium's 1109 seats. Said TAC Vice President Chana Koenigsberg, SCW '98, "We were aiming for the greatest student involvement, the maximum level of Chanukah celebration, at the least expense to the students." Ticket revenues just covered the expenses. Prices were lower than in previous years; the most expensive seats were \$28.

The concert opened with an original song performed by four YC students. Shmuel Bodenheimer, the song's composer, played the keyboard as Elie Borger, Yitz Shapiro and Aaron Blumenthal sang. Mendy Wald and Dedi

orchestra. The music had the audience on their feet and dancing in the aisles. Said Arielle Elbaz, SCW '95, "It's incredibly leibidik. I haven't felt such inspiration in my neshamah since I was in Neve Yerushalayim."

During intermission, students mingled, enjoying snacks and drinks sold by YUSSR, and Dougie's buffalo chicken wings. Following intermission, the winner of the YUSSR raffle was announced. Many SCW students had bought the ten dollar tickets and hoped to win the prize, two tickets to Israel. The money raised by the raffle and the sale of food will help fund summer camps for Jewish children in the former Soviet Union. Said one student representative, "Sadly, most of these kids don't know anything about being Jewish before they come to camp." YUSSR is not affiliated with Yeshiva University.

The second half of the concert featured Avraham Fried, a star in the world of Jewish music. He followed several old favorites by introducing a new song, "Chazak." As students sang and clapped along with the performers, it was evident that the concert-goers were having a great time.

Jonathan and Faye Kellerman Come to Koch Auditorium

By Ilana Bruger

The modern orthodox husband and wife pair of *New York Times* best-selling suspense novelists, Jonathan and Faye Kellerman, came to Koch auditorium on November 21 to discuss "Home Sweet Homicide: What's a Nice Jewish Girl and Boy Doing Writing Crime Thrillers?"

The program is part of the innovative "Authors In Residence," a new initiative which is bringing acclaimed writers and other literary celebrities to the university during the fall semester to teach undergraduates and keynote a public forum.

The lecture was open to the public free of charge, drawing a large crowd of admirers and aspiring writers, both young and old. Over 300 people attended, more than could be contained in Koch Auditorium. Those who could not be seated in the auditorium were brought to the cafeteria where they watched the lecture live on a large screen.

Faye Kellerman, who graduated in 1978 with a D.D.S., was hardly prepared for a career in literature. She began writing while she cared for her children at home. Her accomplishments include the Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus mysteries, short stories and reviews. Kellerman thanks her husband, Jonathan Kellerman for supporting her in her career as a novelist.

She advised serious writers to find an inner voice before attempting to write. Through this voice, words will flow much easier onto paper. Faye also recommended writing about what one knows. She follows that advice herself in her novels. Being that Judaism plays a large part in her life, she writes about Jewish themes, and the main character in her mystery novel series is Rina Lazarus, a Jew who has a firm belief in G-d.

At the end of her speech she read amusing excerpts from her fan mail. For example, one devotee thanking her for the

books, wrote that she was a high school librarian and enjoyed reading trashy novels during the summer. Another aficionado has a crush on Peter Decker, the hero of her mystery novels, and asked Faye to introduce her to a someone like him. Faye responded with a letter explaining that Decker is a fictional character.

Jonathan Kellerman started writing seriously at the young age of nine. In 1971, he won the Goldwyn Literary contest at the age of 21. He used the prize money to buy Faye's engagement ring. Twenty five years later he presented the same award to another aspiring young writer.

His first book in the Alex Delaware series, *When The Bough Breaks* was published in 1985. When the book was published he was working with terminally ill children at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. In his thrillers Jonathan Kellerman draws upon his expertise as a clinical psychologist. His hero, Alex Delaware, is a child psychologist who solves crimes with the assistance of Los Angeles detective Milo Sturgis.

Getting published was a tough process. Jonathan wrote other novels that got rejected repeatedly. Jonathan felt himself a failed writer with a really good day job. His wife Faye pushed him to find an agent to get his books published.

Both of the Kellermans have received many movie offers for their books. But, Faye Kellerman realized that the movie industry will ruin her books. She got an offer for *The Ritual Bath* by a producer that intended to make Rina Lazarus not Jewish. She stated that if someone is going to ruin her book, "they will have to pay a dear amount of cash for it."

Friedkin and Smiley Conclude Authors in Residence Program

By Julie Stampnitzky

With a lecture by William F. Friedkin, the Academy Award-winning director and screenwriter, YU's Authors in Residence program concluded. During the Fall '96 semester, this initiative featured a series of six lectures by renowned writers. These addresses were attended by students, faculty and the general public. The lecture series was held in conjunction with an SCW course on Contemporary American Literature.

As in other literature courses, the students in Dr. Joanne Jacobson's class on Contemporary American Literature read a number of novels and short stories. In class discussions and in writing, they dealt with the abstract concepts embodied in these works and tried to discover the author's intentions. The students in this class, however, had the opportunity to ask the author to explain his or her writing, because through the Authors in Residence program, they had the opportunity to meet those people who works they had studied. In addition to the public lecture, students enrolled in the class attended a dinner for each lecturer and had a special class with the author to ask questions which they had prepared about the works. "I enjoy being

able to question the authors," said Ahava Aaron, SCW '97, "and having the opportunity to see the personality behind the book."

The featured speaker on Sunday, November 24 was Jane Smiley, who won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for her novel "A Thousand Acres," a modern retelling of Shakespeare's "King Lear." Her other books include "MOO," "Ordinary Love," "Goodwill," and "The Age of Grief." Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz, in his introduction, said of Smiley that, "In her work America has slipped forever beyond innocence...unspoken secrets lurk beneath the surface." Her talk focused on the writing process: creating a believable narrator, relating a historical novel to the contemporary reader, working together with editors. Smiley said that many potential writers fail because they try to write based on life, and find that life is too vast and complex to be confined to writing. "Writers learn to write from literature, not from life," she said. Smiley revealed an interesting incident about her own writing efforts. While working on

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ATTENTION MIDTOWN RESIDENTS

YOUNG LEADERSHIP - BEIT MIDRASH - TORAH STUDY PROGRAM

Monday Evenings
7:15PM-8:15PM

Eight Sessions
November 18, 1996 - January 6, 1997

We look forward to welcoming singles and young marrieds who live in our community.

Open To All Men And Women
Please Join Us Free-of-Charge!

Choose from one of four classes being offered simultaneously:

Talmud Group, Tractate Berachot. This small group is perfect for those who have had little opportunity to enrich themselves with Talmud study, and seek to do so under the guidance of a well-versed teacher. General Topic: Laws of Prayer.

613 Commandments, Sefer HaChinuch. Each week participants will have the opportunity to explore a different Mitzvah. Topics include: Charity, Circumcision, Mezuzah, and Peru U'revu ("be fruitful and multiply"). This class allows for deep philosophical discussions as the implications and applications of our Torah's Commandments are carefully analyzed.

Bible, Weekly Torah Portion. This class offers an exciting, week-to-week analysis of the Parsha. The class will seek to uncover the mysteries of our Torah by drawing from classic biblical commentaries to enlighten the understanding of the text.

Laws of Shabbat, Shmirat Shabbat KeHilchata. The laws of the Sabbath are immense! Participants will have a chance to explore and discuss many of these laws and their applications. Topics include: Laws of Candle lighting, Kiddish, Havdalah, and Cooking

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SCW Acquires World Wide Web Page

By Malka Lawrence

One of the major goals set out by the SCWSC Computer Science Society this year was the reconstruction and the improvement of SCW's web page. In an effort to achieve this goal, the society, through the distribution of a flyer, announced the formation of various subcommittees which will each be responsible to research a certain aspect of SCW which will be relevant for use on the web page. The topics will include everything that can be deemed useful to SCW students or anyone entering the page from the outside world. The web page acts primarily as a forum for public relations for YU, and as an internal information source for YC and SCW students. The subcommittees include such headings as student life, career services, faculty, computer centers, athletics, security, li-

brary, writing centers, dean's office and admissions. The leaders of this new project are Adena Saltzman, SCW '98, and Joanna Sternlauf, SCW '98.

Saltzman explained the purpose and the benefits of SCW acquiring a web page. "The main function of the page is to give outsiders the opportunity to find out about Stern. In the past the Stern page was similar to that of YC and was not updated. Now the web page has all the most recent information about all Stern activities such as the career section which will be updated monthly. The web page will also be useful to students who wish to spread various announcements throughout the student body.

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Campus Conversations:

Continued from page 1

ember, Dr. Lamm conducted a similar program on the Main Campus for the men of YC as part of the ongoing Dorm Talks—meetings in which the President addresses YC students regarding various topics relevant to undergraduate life.

At the beginning of the semester, SCW students expressed a desire to institute a similar program at the Midtown Campus. After the Dorm Talks up-town, student interest intensified. TAC President Emily J. Shapiro, SCW '97, said that many Stern women approached her about initiating the Conversations after students heard about the dating and marriage talk given Uptown. Simultaneously, President Lamm contacted the Office of Student Services about delivering a talk to the

SCW students. Lamm remarked that he wanted to address the women to equally afford them the opportunity to discuss this crucial topic. These parallel efforts converged in the inauguration of the Campus Conversations. The event was co-sponsored by the three student councils: SCWSC, SSSB and TAC.

Student representatives formulated the four scenarios that served as the jumping-off point for Lamm's remarks. The scenarios were distributed to the student body to familiarize the women with the issues to be discussed. Before the event, Residence Assistants also held floor programs in the residence halls on the topic of dating and marriage. Students were encouraged to discuss these issues amongst themselves and come prepared with questions to pose to President Lamm.

Some students questioned the propriety of holding a discussion on dating and marriage in a university, a forum generally reserved for debate on academic issues such as literature, science and politics. Citing the stale jokes on the status of the Mrs. as the official degree awarded by Stern, several women criticized the choice of dating as a formal topic of discussion by the University president. "I think that it is a pity that the one address of the student body by the President [recently] has been on the topic of dating and marriage," commented Rachel Leiser, SCW '98.

President Lamm noted in his speech that the primary focus of SCW students

should be learning Torah U'Maddah and not matrimony. However, Leiser remarked that the choice of dating and

Scenario I

Yossi and Rebecca met at a Shabbaton. Her friends don't understand why she is going out with him; it seem like they can't agree on anything. But Rebecca just keeps telling them how much she loves him, and their differences in ideals and values just pale in comparison to the love they share. After all, how many times in life does one ever fall in love this way? Certainly not more than once. It is only a matter of time before they announce their engagement. They are obviously incompatible, but they believe that love can conquer all. Can it? What does *Yahadut* have to say about romantic love?

marriage as the topic of the first Campus Conversations with the Rosh Yeshiva is "intellectually insulting" because it relegates the academic aspect of the college to a position secondary to the social arena. Although dating and marriage are undeniably relevant and important issues, their primacy in the university milieu is questionable.

President Lamm spoke to an audience estimated at 250-260 women, while seated in the chair from his office, which was imported to the cafeteria for the event. Students gathered around tables and were provided with refreshments, lending a relaxed atmosphere to the discussion.

The Conversation, which lasted an hour and a half, consisted of President Lamm's comments on the scenarios followed by a question and answer session. Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani of SCW, moderated the discussion.

Many commented that they felt that it was important to hear the opinions of the Rosh Yeshiva and President of YU on an issue that is very central to the lives of many YU students. Jordana Nusbaum, SCW '98, remarked, "I think that it is time for some direct communication between the administration and students. I was not particularly surprised by anything [Dr. Lamm] said, but I think that it was important to hear [these positions on the issue of dating] from the Rosh Yeshiva, [who is a source] of guidance for the students."

The four scenarios raised questions which students debate in their private discussions of dating and marriage. Judaism's view of romantic love, the role of external criteria in a potential partner, the tension between the mind and the heart's role in a relationship and the determination of when one is ready to get married were some of the issues raised. Students subsequently asked President Lamm about the role of *aliyah* in dating, the practice of forming multiple relationships at one time, the role friends should play when witnessing an abusive relationship and various technical aspects of the dating process.

President Lamm repeatedly stressed the relative worthlessness of *chitzoniut*, external factors that are often significant in one's decision of whom to date. Previous educational background, dress, family custom, organizational involvement and other "resume" items often form a composite stereotype of what a certain person is "looking for" in a mate. Lamm stressed that commitment to Torah, character, personality, similarity of ideals and concurrence of values are factors that are more important in a relationship than the size of a brim on a hat or the number of years one learned in an Israeli yeshiva. He firmly stated that, "*Yirat shamayim* is not defined by clothing."

Perl Brandel, SCW '99, said that she

was aware of the stereotype that is associated with the students of each of the various yeshivot. Certain activities and attitudes are automatically attributed to every person who learns in a specific place without considering the reality of his or her personality and belief. "I think that it made a big difference that [Dr. Lamm] himself, an important figure in the University, commented on the prevalence of stereotypes in Stern and life in general. I had always felt the way Dr. Lamm does on many of these issues. Hearing these views expressed by him reinforced my confidence in my beliefs," said Brandel.

President Lamm addressed the tension between the Western notion of love and the Jewish view of the basis of a strong relationship. He said that the two are neither mutually exclusive nor corequisites of each other. Lamm reiterated that "real" love can sometimes only be the result of many years of developing a relationship and is not necessarily the result of a "conflagration" of attraction. He noted that the phrase "falling in love" implies that love is a "booby trap" into which one is ensnared. The phrase also logically implies that such a fortuitous attraction can just as easily be followed by "falling out of love."

Lamm contrasted the way the Torah describes the bond between the *Avot* and the *Imahot*. The word *ahava*, love, appears in the discussion of the Yitchak/

Scenario II

I am a single, orthodox, Jewish female, 5'6", with chin length brown hair. I went to Bruriah for high school, then two years in Michlalah, and I am currently an advisor in two of the best NCSY regions around. My majors are Judaic Studies and PT. I believe in *Da'at Torah* and will cover all of my hair (except for a *Tefach!*). I am seeking a *Sha'lvim/Morasha Kollel* guy who went to HASC for at least two years and then switched to NCSY summer *Kollel*. You must wear a black hat and dress *yeshivish* (white shirts with stripes only), wear a *davening jacket* (no tie), and be either pre-law or even *smicha* bound is ok. Please call soon. How important are external "resume" items in determining the eligibility of prospective marriage partners?

strongly agreed with Lamm's criticism of the substitution of the interior of a person with the exterior. She commented that when she was in Israel, she was very

Rivkah and Yaakov/Rachel relationships, but not Avraham/Sarah and Yaakov/Leah. Lamm used these examples to illustrate the Torah's view of love as an important part of a relationship, but emphasized that "love cannot conquer all." Responsibility to society, family and Torah must be taken into account along with love.

Many students feel that they must reach a point where they are ready for marriage before deciding to embark upon a relationship. This reflects the popular attitude that dating is a process

that must always be viewed as a direct precursor to marriage. Lamm pointed out that someone with this attitude might think that she is not ready for marriage.

Great Expectations

However, the process of developing a serious relationship might evoke feelings for the willingness to make a commitment. He commented that does not date because she feels she is unable to decide that she is ready for a serious commitment "does not put faith in relationships." He stressed that although the eventual goal of dating is marriage, two people going out do not have to reach a decision on future commitment early on in their interaction. A potential couple's spending time together and having "good, clean fun" at the beginning of a relationship should be the basis upon which a solid lifelong commitment is built.

Shulamit

Juni, SCW '97, remarked that since marriage requires assimilating another person's goals and lifestyles with one's own, serious considerations must be made regarding the willingness to change personal aspirations and interests for the strength of a marriage. Graduate school, careers, community service and choice of residence often must be altered or put on hold when a person gets married. "Getting married involves [significant] self sacrifice. You must be sure that you are at the point in your life where you [do feel ready to commit to a radical change and assuming responsibility for another person]," said Juni. She questioned the wisdom of embarking on the dating process without the willingness to act if a relationship became serious.

Tzippy Russ, SCW '98, raised another issue that she felt must be addressed before one makes a decision to commit to a relationship. She asked Lamm about his thoughts on the view of marriage as a viable alternative to developing one's own personal relationship with G-d. Russ was disturbed by some women's desire to have a "vicarious religious experience" through their husbands' learning and observance instead of looking for ways to "enhance their own *yirat shamayim* and Torah learning." Lamm responded that he sees a woman's responsibility in her own service of G-d as a crucial element in her personal development. Russ afterward commented that she felt that in his remarks, Lamm did not comment on the gravity of the situa-

tion, perhaps because the issue is one that only be recognized by one immersed in such an environment on a daily basis. She

Scenario III

Dear Diary,

I met this really great guy, Steve, over winter break. He seems really nice and is really great and is even pretty good looking! But I don't know what to do. He called me the day after school started and asked me out. I am so confused! I know that I am ready for a relationship, and I really want to go out with him. But I am definitely not ready for marriage. All of my old roommates are either already married or engaged. Heck, most of my friends are engaged. My roommates keep pressuring me to let them set me up. They say they know some great guys who would be just perfect for me. Should I just let them set me up? But what about Steve? Am I allowed to date even if I know I'm not ready for marriage? HELP!!

noted the fact that "a [woman] will ask a [date], 'How much are you learning?' But how much are we learning? Girls come back from *shanna aleph* and are immediately thrust into learning without determining how they fit into the Jewish community. On the other hand, men generally have a few years [of post-high school experience] to clarify their attitudes towards Judaism. Therefore, [when a couple does get married], the husband will often dominate his wife [in the religious arena] and mold her attitudes [because she has not had sufficient opportunity to determine them for herself]."

Many students disagreed with President Lamm's attitude toward the role of *aliyah* as a criterion in a potential mate. He conceded that, "if someone is dead-set on [moving to Israel], maybe it doesn't pay to meet a fellow [who does not want to live there]." However, he repeatedly stressed that this is one issue that must be weighed very carefully amongst others. Lamm cautioned against giving up certain essentials in a partner—dedication to learning Torah, personality, and midot—for this one factor. He instead suggested that couples try to work out a compromise on the issue, such as visiting Israel often or planning to move later on.

Students disagreed with President Lamm's position regarding *aliyah*. One of the first questions many Israel-bound women ask when a potential date is suggested to them is the man's view on mov-

ing to Israel. One student remarked, "It surprised me that he did not put *aliyah* in the perspective that many place it. I will only date guys who plan on living in Israel—not as a criticism on the guy, but because I view it as an integral part of his personality and value system, [criteria that Dr. Lamm suggested must be compatible when looking for a life's partner]. Should I now call up all those people [I declined to date] and say that I'm now ready?"

One of the most frequently discussed issues addressed in the YC Dorm Talks was also raised in the Campus Conversations when President Lamm stressed his basically uncontroversial position that knowledge of a potential mate and a basis of comparison to other men are crucial prerequisites to a commitment. Lamm remarked that a student can date more than one person at a time if she does not have a special commitment to any one of them. He noted that when he was a student, people often dated several people on an informal basis. Since a single date generally does not engender a deep bond between two people, Lamm suggested that a person can accept another invitation even if she intends to date another man simultaneously. When she develops a special connection to a specific person, she can choose to limit herself to dating only him and trying to develop their relationship further. She can

Several women remarked that although this practice might have been common in the past, it is often taboo in today's social circles. Students questioned if a person can really concentrate on trying to develop any single relationship if he or she is dating several people at once. This difference of opinion highlights the distinction between the view of dating as a carefully orchestrated activity specifically geared towards finding a spouse versus the opinion that going out should be a relaxed, fun experience in which marriage is an eventual, but not intensely immediate, goal.

President Lamm's address provoked laughter and serious discussion. His comment that a man's tendency to focus too intently on certain issues at the expense of proper social interaction necessitates that "to a certain extent, the function of a wife is to civilize her husband," elicited laughter, raised eyebrows and a few knowing nods. After the Conversation, the residence halls were buzzing with students' reactions—agreement and disagreement—to their Rosh Yeshiva's comments. Many women approached Lamm to thank him for addressing such a difficult issue in an open, relaxed and enlightening manner.

Lamm stressed common sense and calm throughout the Conversation. He emphasized that parental advice, personal responsibility for one's future,

careful thought and a relaxed attitude should be recognized as essential in the dating process. He urged students to reach a balance between reasonable criteria of judgement and flexibility in standards. Lamm remarked that although one must not be too rigid in untenable standards to which a mate must conform—for example, no one should be assigned a "black mark" for being the child of divorced parents—a student must be careful not to swing in the other direction, because "sometimes,

Scenario IV

It was not love at first sight, not even close. Yael and Eli were thrown together by a Torah Tours coordinator who sent them both up north for Simchat Torah. It wasn't that he didn't come across as a nice person, when they met, but he, ah, failed the "eye exam." Over the course of Yom Tov, however, they got to know each other and Yael found herself in a predicament. She had to admit that he is intelligent, learned, responsible, and caring. She found herself looking forward to the conversations they had during the breaks in the program, and it seemed to her, from what he was saying, that his life goals matched hers almost perfectly. He is exactly what she is looking for in a life partner. Should she give the relationship more time even though she isn't attracted to him? Are similar life goals enough to build a meaningful relationship?

then use her past experience on other dates as a basis of comparison in her choice of a partner in life, one of the most important decisions in anyone's life.

people have such open minds that their brains fall out."

Bina Yeteira

By Daniella Weinstein
 Bina Yeteira is TAC's weekly publication containing *D'verei Torah* on the *parsha*. The *parsha* sheet consists of three articles written by student volunteers. The publication is under the supervision of its three editors, Rena Gelb, SCW '97, Bracha Shapiro, SCW '98 and Daniella Weinstein, SCW '98. Although Bina Yeteira is a long standing tradition in SCW, this year's editors have introduced several changes. Since this is Gelb's second year on the editorial staff, she has been able to provide many insights based on her previous experience, and has helped create a publication which is more efficiently produced and distributed.

One new feature which began recently was the addition of a *parsha* question after the last article. Students are encouraged to hand in their answers to the envelope marked Bina Yeteira in the school Beit Midrash. The most intriguing answers will be printed in the following week's newsletter. "The question is something exciting and different which makes Bina Yeteira all that much more interesting to read," said Bracha Rutner, SCW '98.

In order to reach more of the student body, posters urging students to volunteer to write articles were hung up in three central locations: the school Beit Midrash, the lobby of Brookdale Hall and the Cafeteria. Students could choose which *parsha* interested them the most and then sign up for that week's Bina Yeteira on one of the posters. "This has been very helpful to us in terms of getting people to write articles," said Shapiro.

The articles are then typed by the volunteer typists, or the editors, and are handed in to the Office of Student Services on Tuesday mornings. The articles are then sent to production at the Main Campus. When production is completed, on Thursday morning it is returned to SCW. Copies of the *parsha* sheet are hung up in folders in the school building Beit Midrash, the School Building lobby and the lobby in Brookdale Hall. The sheets are available early Thursday mornings to enable their attainment by more people.

Up Close With the Executive Board Members

The TAC Executive Board Members were asked to comment on TAC's progress this semester and their outlook for the remainder of the year.



Emily J. Shapiro, President SCW '97



Chani Koenigsberg, Vice President SCW '97

"I think TAC has been extremely successful this year. We've started a number of new programs. We have plans for working on others in the future. Attendance for all the programs has been phenomenal. I think that people are excited about the opportunities that TAC provides at SCW."

"TAC has high hopes to significantly increase the involvement of the entire student spectrum in Torah and Chesed activities through programs ranging from thought-provoking and meaningful guest Torah lectures to achdus and chizuk-enhancing activities of the Study Buddy and Keshet Committees."

Torah For Its Own Sake: Tuesday Nights With BUDS

By Rachel Linsider
 Students often feel frustrated when they are unable to find a specific time to set aside and learn Torah *Lishma*. Either they feel bogged down by schoolwork

'98, and Michal Werblowsky, SCW '98, BUDS is a weekly Beit Midrash program. The program was started two years ago and has so far been a success. On

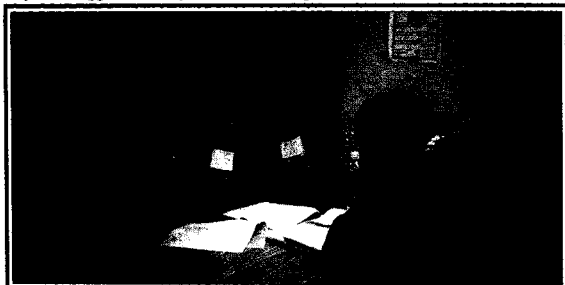
then she is set up accordingly with another student. Each *chavrusa* is given a source sheet, which is written in both Hebrew and English, and they proceed to learn for an hour, or more if desired. "It's a great opportunity to meet people and to take a break from your regular daily classes," said Braun.

Many students agree that BUDS allows them to forget about the pressures of school for an hour. It is also easier when someone else sets aside a specific time for you to learn Torah, and you know that a learning partner will always be available during this time.

Stacey Leibowitz, SCW '99 and Judith Podell, SCW '99, who are participants of BUDS, expressed their enthusiasm. "It's amazing. It gives us an opportunity to learn in a relaxed atmosphere."

The topics that are given out to each *chavrusa* vary from week to week to allow many different areas of interest to be covered over the course of the year.

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(l to r) Marnina Allis, SCW '98, Shulamit Braun, SCW '98 and Shoshana Katz, SCW '98, participate in BUDS in the School Beit Midrash.

or they just can not find someone to learn with. One of the main goals of BUDS is to solve this common problem.

Headed by Shulamit Braun, SCW

Tuesday night, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., students meet in the school Beit Midrash and learn Torah for the sake of learning. If one does not already have a *chavrusa*,

Torah Lishmah: Rabbi Hochberg's Wednesday Night Shiur

By Kayla Pliskin
 Torah learning extends beyond academic requirements at SCW. Just visit room 301 at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights and join Rabbi Hochberg for his weekly shiur to see how.

Rabbi Hochberg moved from tiny Lowell, MA to Jamaica, NY in 1990, where he is currently the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. He joined the staff at SCW as Mashgiach

Ruchani just last year. And, extenuating circumstances notwithstanding, he has given his weekly shiur ever since.

Chaya Badrian, SCW '99, likes the structure of his shiur: a source sheet is handed out and Rabbi Hochberg discusses these sources. Badrian finds the topics "interesting and applicable to life and to the future." She tries to attend every week "as long as midterms don't

interfere."

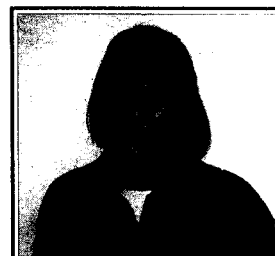
Badrian is one of the 25-30 students who participate weekly. Although the number and composition of the crowd tends to vary with the time of the year and the topic, "The crowd is consistent and only slightly smaller during midterms-not as much [difference] as last

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TAC Executive Board



Nitzan Pelman, Vice President SCW '98



Deniera Grant, Secretary SCW '97



Rivka Ross, Treasurer SCW '98

"I'm pleased with the interaction between the TAC executive board and committee heads and in turn with the student body. We hope that the student body will continue to participate with as much enthusiasm as they have."

"A lot of new events have been very successful this year. Because of good publicity like *In Motion* people are aware of what's going on."

"In general things are going very well. The committees are really taking off. It always makes me happy when I hear people are going to attend TAC activities."

Students Discover Relaxation in Weekly Parsha Shiur

By Ayelet Gran
 It is ten o'clock on a Wednesday night, and while most SCW women are gearing up for the end of the week, eighteen of them abandon their activities and head to Brookdale Hall's Beit Midrash to hear one of their peers deliver a brief shiur on Parshat Hashavua.

Parsha Shiur attracts approximately 20 women per week. The Shiur's coordinators, Leebie Mallin, SCW '98, and Yael Schor, SCW '98, encourage attendance through word of mouth and by posting catchy signs throughout the dorm and the school buildings. Although Mallin and Schor admit attendance declines on days when special shiurim are offered, they are proud of the fact that the pressure of midterms and papers have not impeded the steady crowd of women who attend Parsha Shiur.

In fact, the students attending Parsha Shiur felt that the Shiur's convivial atmosphere provided a break from the stress and pressure of daily work. Judith Lelonek, SCW '98, who attends the Shiur regularly, said that "the casualness

and relaxed atmosphere" of the shiur and the absence of "school pressure" encouraged her to make her way down to the Beit Midrash for the half an hour Shiur

Lishma learning." Unlike other shiurim, she pointed out, Parsha Shiur is a "change from the norm" since students "get to hear from people you wouldn't



The Dorm Beit Midrash fills up each week for TAC's Parsha Shiur

every Wednesday night.

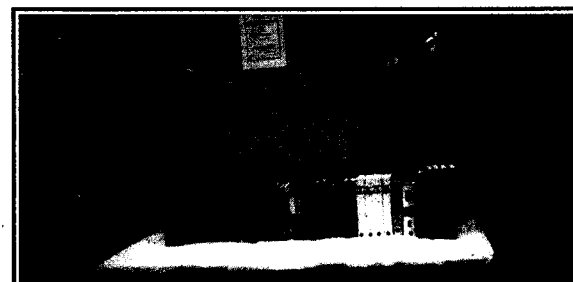
TAC Vice President Chani Koenigsberg, SCW '97, noted that "large groups of women every week gather for 20-30 minutes for stress-free, Torah

[otherwise] expect to hear from."

Schor feels that because the women presenting the Shiur varies from week to week, the styles and the focus of the shiur also radically differ. Mallin added, "There is no standard Shiur...you can learn something new from everyone else."

Koenigsberg claimed that Parsha Shiur is "a direct way to take what you are learning and put it into action" or as Schor put it, the Shiur "becomes an expression of yourself."

While Wednesday is full of various TAC activities and shiurim, Mallin and Schor felt that Wednesday was the optimal day to hold the Parsha Shiur. Schor said that Wednesday is "the time of the week when people look at their calendars and say they don't know anything



New Seforim donated to the School Beit Midrash were displayed during Chanukah

Bikur Cholim Update

Mira Hochberg
 From Bone Marrow testing and blood drives, to tzedakah campaigns and bikur cholim, the Jewish community is constantly performing countless acts of *chesed*. SCW students are no different. Each day, students take a break from their hectic work schedules and club meetings to participate in various acts of *chesed*. One organization that benefits from student involvement is the TAC Bikur Cholim Committee, headed by Meredith Gaisin, SCW '97, Shira Kinderlehrer, SCW '98 and Tova Bessaleli, SCW '97.

Every Monday through Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. a van, packed with students eager to perform Bikur Cholim leaves for Beth Israel Hospital. Although the visit is short, the time is well spent. "It's right here in the city," said Rochel Butler, SCW '98, "and you not only give but you come back with a great feeling of satisfaction."

"We often gain the most from the *chesed* we perform," said Gaisin. "We become so involved in our tests and papers and become so upset by little things, but walking through the hospital and visiting patients reminds us of how much we have to be thankful."

"When my sister Devorah was in the hospital," said Butler, "I remember the difference Stern students made. She looked forward to the visits; it was a much needed part of her day, as much as anything else." Although the time spent with each patient may be minimal, "even talking to someone for five minutes can brighten their day," said Gaisin.

Bikur cholim is definitely one *mitzvah* that SCW students find hard to pass up. There are even occasional times when students are turned away due to van capacity. However, there are three trips each week and student are encouraged to come. "It's nice to make a commitment, but you can go anytime," said Gaisin. In addition, students staying in SCW for Shabbat often walk to NYU Medical Center to visit patients. A patient once requested to be transferred to NYU so she could benefit from these visits. Apparently SCW has a reputation to uphold.

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SCWSC Meets with Dean Bacon

By Laurie Gewirtz

For the first in a series of interactions this academic year, the SCW Student Council Executive Board joined Dean Karen Bacon at a breakfast session on Wednesday, November 27. The meeting marks the initiation of an effort to provide dynamic communication between the administration and the student body.

The exchange allowed Executive Council members to present questions and concerns voiced by SCW students, and afforded Bacon the opportunity to inform the student body of new developments from the administrative level. Bacon emphasized the need for students "to focus on the essential elements of a quality education and to build a firm academic foundation from which to explore various career opportunities."

Student Council Corresponding Secretary Rachel Milner, SCW '98, raised issues pertaining to the computer system at SCW. She noted the networked terminals' susceptibility to viruses, and Dean Bacon strongly agreed that the situation must be addressed immediately. After hearing the technical difficulties, Bacon contacted university MIS representatives at the Main Campus to declare the urgent need for a solution to the potentially disastrous situation.

Milner mentioned that most students are not aware of the three on-line computers recently connected to facilitate

Internet exploration in the third floor lab through Netscape. Bacon attributed the communication gap to the new organization of academic computing under MIS. She explained the new jurisdiction, under the leadership of Art Meyers at the Main Campus, has not yet developed a smooth system for informing students of new developments in the computer room. Bacon suggested that the Computer Science Society serve as a liaison between MIS and the student body.

Many students complain of the inefficient number of computers with e-mail capability, and Milner suggested the possibility of utilizing some of the terminals in room 415. Bacon clarified that currently the in room 415 are strictly for instructional use, for they are designed to teach only. They can neither print documents nor connect to the YU server. However, additional terminals for e-mail use will be available shortly.

Student Council Treasurer Chana Katz, SCW '97, wondered if progress is underway in improving the physics laboratory. Bacon answered that the University ordered a preview of a computer controlled physics lab. The administration is also in the process of searching for a full time faculty member for both the physics and computer labs to provide technical support.

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15 Years Ago in The Observer:

In response to a SOY all-male Chanukah Chagiga, which had been co-ed in previous years, SCW established the first SCWSC Chanukah Chagiga.

An article protested the proposed move of Wurzwiler School of Social Work (WSSW) to the YU Main Campus. The move was considered contrary to the Torah atmosphere of YU.

A letter to the editor in response to the proposed move, sent by Solomon H. Green, then the Associate Dean of WSSW, recommended moving SCW to the Main Campus. He wrote, "The dedication and commitment of Stern students, staff and faculty to Torah would certainly assure the protection of a Yeshiva atmosphere."

The cost of an upcoming SCW/YC Shabbaton was \$10 for women and \$18 for men.

Editor-in-Chief Rachel Katsman wrote an editorial admonishing students for pre-judging the political views of Meir Kahane without reading his writings. She wrote, "Get the facts, hear him speak, read what he has to say, and be a little bit responsible before you say anything 'fashionable' about Rabbi Kahane."

A "World Jewry Update" focused on the continued imprisonment of Anatoly Sharansky in the former USSR. At that time he had just been sentenced to three more years of imprisonment at a labor camp where he would be subject to almost complete isolation and would only be allowed to write one letter to the outside world every two months. Students were urged to attend a vigil at the Soviet Mission to protest Sharansky's condition and the worsening situation for Jews in the USSR.

Dorm Parents Mordechai and Sima Reich wrote a short column expressing concern for the fact that students had been unresponsive to a recent fire drill. They wrote, "Failure to respond to a fire alarm is not only a violation of the law, it will result in your dismissal from the residence hall!"

In a column called "Speak Your Mind" four students responded to the question, "Do you think that the level of maturity in your classes is what should be expected in a college atmosphere?" Responses were mixed.

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Registration: Monday, January 20, 1997 and Tuesday, January 21, 1997
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(SUNDAY CLASSES MEET FOR ONE 110 MINUTE SESSION PER WEEK)

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	JEWISH SPECIAL EDUCATION Rabbi Eliezer Vilinsky TEACHING BIBLE: PROPHETS Rabbi Nacham Muechel
MONDAY	6:00 p.m. 7:50 p.m.	MORAL DEVELOPMENT Dr. Yitshak S. Harod SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: PROBLEMS AND PRACTICES I Rabbi Chaim Feuerman, Ed.D.
TUESDAY	6:00 p.m. 7:50 p.m.	COGNITIVE PROCESSES AND METHODS IN JEWISH EDUCATION Dr. Aharon H. Fried TEACHING BIBLE: PENTATEUCH Dr. David Ellich
WEDNESDAY	6:00 p.m. 7:50 p.m.	SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY JEWISH EDUCATION Dr. Alvin I. Schiff WORKSHOP IN INFORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION Prof. Peninah Schram
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That Was Then and This Is Now: 16 Years of CORE

By Susan Jacobs

CORE, the Judaic Studies requirement at SCW, is what makes SCW distinctive from secular universities, but CORE in its current form was not always a part of the SCW curriculum. Before 1980 students were required to take approximately 60 credits of Judaic Studies classes while they were at SCW. These classes could be distributed among the semesters in attendance at SCW, and did not cover the breadth of Jewish scholarship currently available. An article in the December 3, 1981 issue of *The Observer* entitled "Core One Year Later: Drawing High Marks," written by Ellen Bart, discussed some of the issues students had with the CORE system.

At its inception in 1981 Core was "a major project undertaken to improve both the quantity and quality of Jewish education at Stern," according to the article by Bart. However, the switch to CORE took time. In the spring of 1980, the Freshmen class was put on CORE. That fall the incoming Freshman class also began CORE, and when Bart wrote her article three classes were operating on the CORE system. Because of the new requirements of CORE and the increased number of classes available, new faculty had to be hired. Between 1980 and 1981 "eight to ten new full-time appointments were made...as well as additional part-time faculty," wrote Bart.

When Bart wrote her article Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel was a Jewish History Professor at SCW. Today, in addition to his original role, Kanarfogel is also the Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies. In 1981 he was quoted as saying of the academic demands of CORE, "When it comes right down to it, which will go first, Biology or CORE?" In a recent interview, Kanarfogel said that at SCW "there is a challenge for students to do it all. Students are putting priority on both Biology and CORE and they are over-achieving." He also remarked that since the transition to the CORE curriculum there has been "no thought of going back" to the former system. "There is no question the level of Judaic studies has risen significantly," he added.

One of the problems that has always been at the heart of the issue of CORE is the way Judaic Studies credits are included in the students' overall grade point average. In 1981 Bart wrote, "At its institution the Core program was criticized severely. Students felt that the additional class hours and corresponding reduction in credits would mean a workload that they would not be able to handle." Current students have similar concerns about workload and credit for classes. Students are required to take eight or nine credits of Judaic studies classes

which, at most, show up on their transcripts as six credits.

Nikki Paley, SCW '99, said, "I think [CORE] should definitely show up as more classes; every class should count for credit. I came to SCW because I wanted my Judaic Studies classes to take precedence. Therefore, I think that I should get credit for them."

Ychudit Robinson, SCW '99, had a different perspective. She said, "[CORE] encouraged me to take a risk and to take classes I wanted to take. I can take whatever I want to take without conflicting with my other subjects."

Kanarfogel explained that the system of credit for Judaic studies classes was created to "legitimately and appropriately allow students to take extra Judaic studies classes and complete their majors." With the current system, Judaic Studies count for a limited portion of the 128 credits required for graduation from SCW. This leaves more credits allotted for secular and major requirements. He emphasized that all of the students' Judaic Studies classes are listed on the second page of their transcripts. He said that CORE was "not designed to deny students anything."

Still, many students have concerns about the system. Shoshana Greenberg, SCW '98, suggested, "They should either lessen the amount of CORE or perhaps give us credit for all three classes or do something to compensate for the heavy workload. There should be a reality check that says, 'Hey, wait a second, seven classes is a lot of work.'"

If the intent of CORE is to give students challenging Judaic Studies classes, then some students feel that their courses are falling short of this goal. Sarah Friedman, SCW '98, said, "A lot of times the Judaic Studies classes aren't so challenging. Maybe they should require fewer Judaic studies classes but make them more challenging." Friedman also commented on the system of Judaic studies levels at SCW. "I think they need to rearrange the level system because a lot of advanced classes aren't necessarily so advanced."

On the other end of the spectrum, students on the lower levels of Judaic Studies have very few options of which classes they choose to take. Greenberg remarked, "They need to be more understanding of students without a strong Judaic studies background. I understand that there aren't that many students in that category, but I still feel they need to work on it."

Regarding levels of Judaic Studies at SCW, Kanarfogel said, "The problem is its very difficult to achieve homogeneity." Often students who complete Beginner or Elementary level classes and then move up a level, find that they are not fully prepared to handle the next level. This occurs because the classes are geared to the level of the majority of the students, and students who enter on the Lower Intermediate level often have more skills than those moving up from the Elementary level. Kanarfogel said, "The solution is to create more sections to try to achieve homogeneity." He mentioned that this year there are three sections of El-

ementary Hebrew offered which work at different paces. He said, "I am very amenable to opening new sections" to help students improve their skills on their own level.

When asked if students entering on the lower levels are successfully able to move up during their time at SCW he remarked, "Most girls really move up, they may not leave here on the advanced level, but they are making progress."

One of the biggest advantages of CORE has been the ability of students to major in specific areas of Judaic Studies. One of the fields currently being expanded is the availability of classes in *Torah she-ha'al peh*. Another aspect of

CORE which Kanarfogel mentioned is the way that ideas from different classes often mesh, creating a fuller understanding of the material students are learning. "It's possible to study *Rambam* in three different classes in three different ways," he said.

In 1981 Bart quoted Kanarfogel saying, "We have established Stern as a serious place for Jewish studies. I challenge people to find a program with such diversity." Today, acknowledging that CORE is not perfect, and that flexibility and improvement are always necessary, he said, "We have achieved a lot. We have exceeded what we thought the program would be."

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Students Explore Careers in Public Health

By Miriam Grössman

On Wednesday, December 4, during Club Hour, students gathered to hear Dr. Jacqueline Kurtz discuss "Options in Science that You Didn't Even Know Existed." Sigma Delta Rho, SCW's Pre-Health Honor Society, arranged the program in order to help students who had an interest in science, but were not interested in the usual career choices.

Kurtz obtained her Master's Degree in Public Health from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. She is currently a Safety Specialist at YU. Her responsibilities include insuring the safety of faculty and students at YU and managing hazardous waste disposal. This involves educating faculty members about the potential health and safety hazards about their jobs, which may include working with chemicals or removing asbestos and managing the disposal of hazardous biochemical waste for the school.

Kurtz explained that her field has been growing tremendously since the 1970's. This growth is partly the result of an increased awareness and concern about the issues that Public Health encompasses, such as occupational safety. In 1970, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) which is responsible for setting and enforcing safety standards across the country. Kurtz touted the benefits of this field, which include a starting salary of around \$30,000 a year for applicants with an

MPH, an open job market (around 5,000 jobs are available in this particular field every day) and the flexibility of choosing a job that does or does not require frequent travel. Careers in Public Health may be in fields such as Environmental Health, Industrial Hygiene, research, education, public policy and health Management.

Kurtz mentioned the various degrees offered within Public Health, the educational requirements, joint MD-MPH programs and MPH-JD programs.

Students who attended this program had mixed reactions. Sarah Friedman, SCW '98, a biology major who is unsure what career path she wishes to pursue, said, "This program wasn't as helpful as I expected, but I hope that there will be more sessions about careers for science majors."

While some students discovered that this field was not for them, others were very enthusiastic about career opportunities within Public Health. Susan Price, a lab assistant at SCW, felt that Public Health is a field that is growing because of the importance of the issues such as epidemiology, the environment and occupational safety. "No company can be without a Public Health/Safety Specialist," said Price.

SCW is planning to have a shaped major in Public Health. Students interested in taking courses under this major should contact Ora Shinmar.

Adina Moshavi Speaks at Club Hour Torah U'Maddah Lecture

By Laurie Gewirtz

On Wednesday afternoon, December 4, during club hour, SCW students gathered in room 718 to hear a lecture on Torah U'Maddah sponsored by TAC. The guest lecturer was Mrs. Adina Moshavi, a professor at SCW who is completing her doctorate in Bernard Revel Graduate School. Moshavi spoke to a group of approximately 30 people about how the literal meanings of names in Tanach do not always match with the explanations given by the name giver.

An example of a person whose name and explanation corresponds almost identically is Yishmael whose name means "G-d will listen," in the future tense, but whose official explanation is "G-d listened," in the past tense.

The name Reuven means "look, a son!" but Leah explains the name to mean "HaShem saw my sorrow." Another example of mismatched meanings can be seen in Shmuel's name. The name

Shmuel can have a number of literal meanings such as, "his name is G-d," "the name of G-d," or "son of G-d" but the explanation which Chana gives for the name is "from HaShem I asked." Both Leah and Chana could have just as easily given their sons names using words which corresponded better to the meanings which they wanted the names to have.

Moshavi then offered some possible solutions for the contradictions in name and meaning. Sforno suggests that the names Reuven and Shmuel were in existence before Leah and Chana named them and that perhaps all Biblical names which we think are unique to tanach really belonged to people before who just happened not to be mentioned in Bereshit.

The main theme of the lecture was that one can study Torah in an analytical and technical manner.

Elevators

Continued from page 1

While the Elevator Division admits that the shortage of inspectors has caused delays, an inspector is usually able to come within a week. But the responsibility for arranging a final inspection belongs to the company that built the elevator, not to the City. The Elevator Division waits for the company who built the elevators to call, attest that all minor work has been completed, and arrange for a final inspection. The inspection is then performed within a week.

Even though Facilities Management and the Elevator Division of the Department of Buildings both attest that the elevators are safe, many students will feel more confident riding the elevators when they see a new certificate. "I would feel reassured when I see a letter from the city, or even the school saying that the elevators are safe," Leff said.

According to Socol, the final inspection for the elevators is scheduled for January 7.

Learning to Save Lives

By Courtney Marks

On December 9, 10, and 11 SCWSC sponsored three types of CPR courses for students: a community CPR course, a professional rescuer CPR and a CPR refresher course. The refresher course was available to those students who already have CPR certification and needed to renew it. Shira Kaplan, SCW '98, taught all three courses. She is certified as an American Red Cross instructor for CPR, a lifeguard instructor and an EMT. She has worked as an active lifeguard for six years.

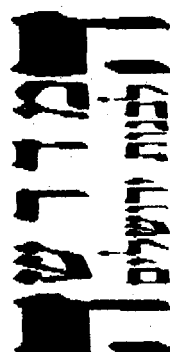
A total of thirteen students participated in these courses. The cost of the community CPR course and the refresher CPR was \$50 each, and the professional rescuer course cost \$60, in addition to the \$5 fee for a mask.

The community CPR course entails learning the basic life support training of adult, child and infant CPR. The basics of life saving measures begin with the ABC's of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). (A) is for *airway* - One must first open and maintain and clear airway in the victim. (B) is for *breathing* - One must check to see if providing ventilation is necessary. (C) is for *circulation* - One must

check the victim's pulse for circulation and if there is no pulse an artificial circulation must be administered via external chest compressions.

In the professional rescuer course the students learned additional techniques such as two person rescuer. They also learned how to use different life saving devices such as a bag valve mask and resuscitation masks to aid in providing ventilation. "I feel the course was successful because the Stern students are knowledgeable and open to learning new skills," said Kaplan.

The students took the courses for a number of reasons. "In general these are skills everyone should learn. I feel the course was taught well and the instructor was clearly well versed in life saving techniques," said Leah Hirshaut '98. Many graduate schools in the health professions require their students to be CPR certified for entrance to the schools. The students overall seemed to feel CPR is a necessary skill to learn and deemed it important to know what to do in emergency situations. "I wanted to learn basic skills in CPR so I would know what to do if an emergency ever aroused," said Tova Kaplan, SCW '97.



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Discovery Program Reveals Torah Codes

By Elana Siderer

On Tuesday, December 2, crowds of excited people left Koch Auditorium saying, "It's amazing" and "Unreal." Their exclamations were inspired by the program that they had just attended, Aish HaTorah's Discovery seminar, which was sponsored by TAC. The presenter of this particular seminar, Rabbi Daniel Mechanic, introduced the YU students and their guests to "the Torah codes." He explained how hidden words can be found in the Torah's letters by counting off letters in regular intervals. He showed that messages could be found which refer to recent events, hidden in the mil-

lennia-old text. Discovery utilizes the latest high-tech computers to locate some of the intricate codes which are hidden throughout the Torah.

With the use of an overhead projector, Rabbi Mechanic showed where references could be found in the Torah to major events in the current Middle East peace negotiations, as well as detailed descriptions of illnesses such as diabetes and AIDS, which scientists have only recently begun to understand. "The only thing that I'm still wondering about is, where am I in there?" said Aviva Malowitzky, SCW '98.

According to TAC President Family J. Shapiro, SCW '97, while Aish HaTorah runs a number of different kinds of Discovery programs, TAC decided that the seminar which dealt with the codes would attract the widest range of people. Thanks to the intriguing topic, and a great deal of publicity, a total of 150 people attended the lecture, prompting Rabbi Mechanic to joke that he had only expected ten people.

While the codes found by the researchers at Discovery can be used to convince people that a higher Being must have authored the Torah, the program is

also extremely beneficial for those who are already observant Jews. Even for someone who grew up believing that God wrote the Torah and that He knows the future, it is a mind-boggling experience to see actual evidence, as seen from the dropped jaws of many attendees. As Shira Sheplitz, SCW '98, said, "I had heard about the Discovery program before, but until tonight I had never attended one. It's really even more incredible than I had heard. It's just something that you have to experience for yourself."

BUDS

Continued from page 8

Decision-making, friendship, Shabbat and prayer are only a few examples of the different subjects presented at BUDS. Topics are also created that pertain to the different holidays or Jewish events that occur throughout the year. This year, there is an average of about 15 participants in the BUDS program.

Barbara Burg, SCW '98, said, "It's unfortunate that many students don't get involved in BUDS. It is a great program that allows me to learn excellent and challenging lessons with my friends."

More information can be obtained by reaching Shulamit Braun or Michal Werblowsky.

Parsha Shiur

Continued from page 9

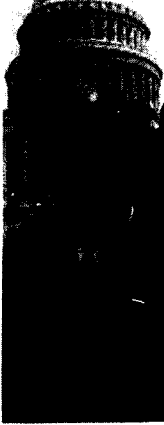
about the Parsha of the upcoming Shabbat." Noting the late hour of the shiur, 10:00 p.m., Mallin and Schor added that timing is also essential since most people are still awake and attentive at that hour, yet are settled in their rooms for the night.

Both she and Mallin felt that part of the Shiur's success comes from its accessible hours.


Enthusiasm for the shiur was apparent by the strong turnout Mallin and Schor experienced when seeking volunteers to deliver the *shiurim*. Currently, every slot until the end of the year is taken. Volunteers were asked to present a Parsha they really like rather than being assigned one to discuss. Mallin and Schor are pleased to note that not only are slots during finals taken as well, but that there is not one repetitious speaker for the entire year.

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Top Ten Things To Do During Reading Week (4 days)

By Laverne and Shirley

10. Go to Bio lab.
9. Go to Chem lab.
8. Take Bio lab final.
7. Take Chem lab final.
6. Go to Make-up gym classes.
5. Go to a class given by a teacher who is making up for a class that he missed.
4. Go to a class given by a teacher making up for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, which everyone missed.
3. Go to a class given by a teacher who could not complete the syllabus in the appointed number of classes—and isn't going to complete it during this class either.
2. Go to a class given by a teacher to ask question before the final, even though no one will have any questions because no one has started studying for the final.
1. We have reading week?

Authors in Residence

Continued from page 5

Goodwill, she suffered sleepiness and headaches, and feared that her inspiration had run dry. Instead, it turned out that her symptoms had been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Smiley has high expectations for the present generation of female authors, the product of education in universities from which women had previously been excluded. An author has to write with authority, she explained, and in the past, men assumed that a woman could not write with authority.

The final lecturer of the Authors in Residence series, William Friedkin, spoke on December 9 on the topic of

"Writing for the Camera." Friedkin won the 1971 Academy Award for *The French Connection*, and also directed films such as *The Exorcist*, *The Night They Raided Minsky's*, and *To Live and Die in L.A.* Friedkin has also directed live television and documentaries. His speech included a discussion of the film he is presently working on. He characterized the present movie industry as mainly money-driven. Said Dina Bogner, SCW '97, a member of the Contemporary Literature class, "He seemed to have a sense of morality; it's great to know it exists in Hollywood.

SCWCS Meets With Dean

Continued from page 10

Milner inquired as to whether any plans exist for adding professors to the chemistry and economics departments, as students would like to have a choice of instructors in these disciplines. Bacon reported that during the spring semester Dr. Kanovsky, a visiting professor from Israel, will be teaching an economics course. An additional economics course will be taught by two other visiting schol-

ars. Throughout the meeting, Bacon stressed the fact that she is very open to students' suggestions. She also informed the group that a recently hired consultant will be developing a questionnaire to help the college profile the student body. This information will help future planning.

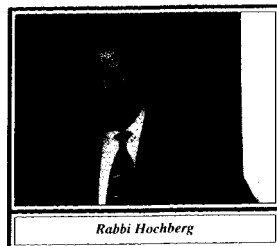
Rabbi Hochberg

Continued from page 8

year," said Rabbi Hochberg.

The shiur is geared toward the entire student body. Students follow the text, while Rabbi Hochberg discusses the general topic of the shiur. Previous topics have been Choosing a Community, Hebrew, and Kiruv. Topics are chosen from "what the girls want and important or pressing issues," said Rabbi Hochberg. He chooses his weekly topic from a request list given to him by students last year. Some enticing shiurim for the future include Aliyah, Woman's Role in Judaism, Non-Jews in the Workplace, and the Halachah and Hashkafah of Dating. However, Rabbi Hochberg is still open to suggestions. If any student has a special request, she can tell Rabbi Hochberg or one of the TAC Shiurim committee heads, Shlomit Cooper, SCW '98 and Aleza Maslow, SCW '98. Each shiur stands alone; one need not have attended the first shiur to come in the future.

In addition to his shiur, Rabbi Hochberg answers student questions and discusses any issues of concern. He is available on Mondays and Wednesdays



Rabbi Hochberg

by appointment for students who need to meet with him privately. Although anyone can speak with him, those who know Rabbi Hochberg better from taking his class come more than others. "People pick a Rebbe based on what they hear him say and whether they like the way he analyzes things," said Rabbi Hochberg.

Rabbi Hochberg said, "It is wonderful that in addition to regular class, students take the time for shiurim or chavrusas. I am proud and you should be proud too. This is real Torah Lishmah."

Computer Problems Addressed

Continued from page 1

requirements to become an operator are that the person be, "familiar with the systems, feel comfortable in the computer lab," and have a basic knowledge of Windows 95 and Microsoft Office. Despite the seminars given to the operators before and during the academic year, students are frustrated when operators cannot answer their questions.

Another common criticism is the e-mail situation at SCW. There are only ten computers allotted for e-mail use. Almost without fail there is a line to use these computers. "The fifteen minute time limit coupled with the all too often screen freezes, barely allows me to check my mail, let alone respond," said Elana Vogel, SCW '99. In response to the slow moving e-mail computers, Gordon explained that at peak times there are more users wanting to use their accounts than the server can handle, leading to the slow speed and sometimes a system shutdown. When asked if there is anything that can be done to alleviate this problem, Gordon responded that "Yeshiva University is in the process of having its server updated." Once this process is complete, the e-mail will move at a faster clip.

Recently made available to students at SCW is access to the Internet through Netscape. There are three computers connected to three separate phone lines, used specifically for Internet access. When the new server is in place direct access to the Internet will be available from all computer terminals.

Viruses are another major concern for students who use the computer facilities in the School Building. It was re-

cently discovered that there was a virus located in the computers of the SCW lab, contaminating students' disks. The college has no policy of notifying the students of a virus. No signs or notes are required to be posted informing the students of this potential hazard. When approached regarding the most recent "outbreak," Gordon explained that the virus scan that is currently loaded on all computers is working and working properly. Gordon said, however, that this virus is too advanced for the virus scan to recognize, and therefore can not alert the user of a potential danger.

Another common complaint is the oppressive heat in computer lab. The new monitors generate more heat than the previous monitors produced, leading to an increase in room temperature. Two air conditioners are currently being installed in the lab to alleviate this problem.

Among all of the complainers, there are still a few satisfied students. A graduating senior said, "The new computers running Windows 95 help make using the lab a much more pleasant experience. The new printers are quick and lend themselves to less frequent breakdowns."

But most students are not satisfied. "The printers never work. You always have to wait for a computer. The computer people don't know enough to help me. I get so frustrated there," said a sophomore. Students appreciate the improvements, but agree that computer lab has a long way to go before it will be considered "user friendly."

CULTURAL ARTS OPINION: Let's Go To The Movies

By Dina Bogner

There is one reason that I am not happy with the fact that our beloved school's vacation does not coincide with the semester breaks of every other university, public high school, every business and firm. You see, Hollywood runs on a very specific cycle. The big budget action movies and silly comedies come out in the summer, and the expensive, more serious projected blockbusters come out during the "holiday season." That is because people have a lot of free time during which, for some entertainment, the average American will go see a movie. December is a great movie month. But are we, the students of YU, free in December? Noooo. We are not. We have papers to write, test to make notecards for, study for, and take. There is not a whole lot of free time for the average Yeshiva University student during the month of December to catch a few flicks. I know, I know. The movies

will still be out in January if they are any good, and we can see them then. (Believe me, the movies theaters in Miami Beach bank on that). But that means that OTHER PEOPLE WILL SEE THE MOVIES BEFORE ME. I do not like that notion. I like to be the first one to see everything. I, unlike others, never ruin the movies for my friends. I just tell them if it's worth spending their money on. I am much more helpful than Moviephone. But back to my main point. There are so many great movies coming out in the next few weeks, and I will not be able to see any of them for ages! I cannot write any reviews for you all-I have no time to see anything. So I guess I'll just have to discuss all the movies I plan on eventually seeing.

I must confess-there is one movie I am sure I will be seeing fairly close to its release date, and that is *Evita*. I know this because I already have my ticket. *Evita* opens on the 25th at the Sony theater on 68th Street only, and at press time the entire day of the 25th had sold out, as had some times on the 26th. I really want to see this movie. The first tape I ever bought was "Madonna." I am a manic fan of all things musical (as in musical theater), and *Evita* was a stunning piece of work on the stage. Combine the two, (with Antonio Banderas thrown in for good measure), and I am pretty sure I will love this movie. So I will sacrifice a few hours to be a part of the *Evita* craze. And I will probably walk around for the next few weeks singing on the top of my lungs and wearing red lipstick. Actually, I do that stuff, movie or no movie, so no one will be too surprised. I will probably also go see it again in January with all the conscientious students who won't take the few hours off in December, but it will be really hard not to sing along

the whole thing.

Another movie that I am dying to see is yet another character-titled film, *Jerry Maguire*. I'll die that movie does not look awesome. For all of you without a television, *Jerry Maguire* stars Tom Cruise as a sports agent who is leaves his firm and his fiancée and apparently enters a relationship with a very cute blonde with a breathy voice, cute kid and Semitic last name (go Renee Zellweger!!!!). I think I would probably pay the eight bucks just to see the commercial for this movie played on a big screen continuously for an hour and a half. *Jerry Maguire* opens Friday the 13th. Everyone in this institution that I know has at least seven papers due the following week. So I had better not be walking down the halls of Stern on Monday the 16th and overhear some of you giving away the ending, or for that matter, even discussing this film. If that happens, I may explode in a fit of jealousy and hurt someone. But...I'll probably end up seeing it after writing at least one of my papers. I'll convince myself its my reward. Still, just in case, look around before you discuss it.

You want to talk chutzpah? Woody Allen's new musical, *Everyone Says I Love You*, starring Julia Roberts, Edward Norton (that sleepy kid from Primal Fear) Drew Barrymore and I'm sure some people over thirty, is playing for one week only through the 13th. When I ask you, am I supposed to see this film? Am I supposed to wait until February

when it is wide release to see it with the rest of the world (like the rest of the world sees Woody Allen's movies)? Please I am boycotting this movie for lack of respect for our schedules. I mean it. I will not (unless I hear it's really good) see this movie.

I do not think I will miss being among the first to see *Daylight* or *Jingle All the Way*. Both movies deal with man fighting impossible odds. In *Daylight*, Sylvester Stallone and many others. I'm sure, get stuck in a tunnel while leaving New York. There's lots of water, rats and screaming. I'm pretty sure no one is going to burst into song at any point. Nope. Not for me. In *Jingle All the Way*, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad fight over some toy or Christmas Eve. Once again, no singing. Once again, not gonna see it.

My point, you ask? Do I want YU to try and arrange our vacation around Hollywood? No. I like the cheaper flights and hotel rates in January. Do I expect Hollywood to release its big movies in January? Hardly. I just do not want to hear two people on the subway discussing the stirring final scene in *Jerry Maguire*. I want to not be drawn to watch the making of *The Crucible* on E! before I get to see it (they always give the whole movie away). I want to not have twelve papers to write this weekend. But mostly, I want everyone in Stern not to see the movies I want to see before I do. That seems a fairly reasonable request to me.

SCW Web Page

Continued from page 5

There will also be a newsletter page and a model U.N. page."

Sternlauf explained that students can have access to the web page through their e-mail account. She said, "After entering their account, students should go first to their dollar prompt, then to Lynx which will bring them onto the YU text page which leads onto the Stern page. Even though the world wide web page is lacking graphics, they will soon be available on SCW's web page."

Salzman assured that "the work is in progress. SCW students will soon be able to access all of this modern information with the press of a button."

Thank You to all those who donated to the TAC Chanukah Drive. Your donations are very much appreciated and are being put to good use. The clothing and toys were distributed to the needy through the following organizations:

**National Council for Jewish Women
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The Laudable Lady Macs

By Shaindy Frankel

Don't let their 0 and 4 record fool you, the Lady Macs are definitely a hot team. With each game, they inch closer and closer to a victory. In their latest game against the Emerson Lions, they nearly missed their first victory of the season by four points. The key to their improving ways has been their tough defense and teamwork. They shuffle their feet, they keep their hands up, they double and triple team, and then, they get their opponents to cough up those turnovers.

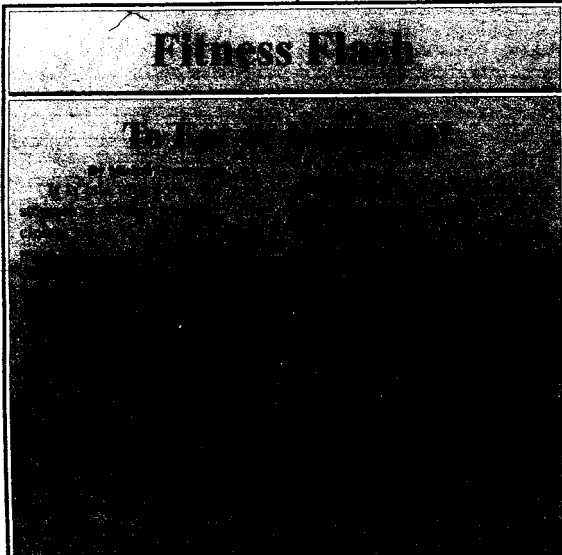
Against Emerson college, the Lady

Macs stole the ball 21 times, making the Lions wonder who and what hit them. In addition to the steals, the Lady Macs did well on the boards. Led by Shana May, the Macs pulled down 24 rebounds and kept their opponents gasping for air as they kept coming right at them. Their up tempo game was more evident in the second half as point guard Sheila Wainberg made sure to keep pushing the ball up the floor. By doing this, Wainberg provided the Macs with many high percentage shots. However, her contribution to the game did not end here. By the end of

the game, she poured in a career high 26 points and had a whopping eight steals. She truly was the star of the game. But word must be mentioned about her supporting cast, namely Blima Sasson, who had five points, Nurit Furer, who had two points and five steals, Gila Blazer, who hit a tough perimeter shot and provided the team with some hard core defense, Shana May, who contributed with four

points, five steals and over a dozen boards, and Randi Sorscher, who provided the team with leadership. All in all, each of these players were instrumental in keeping the Macs within reach of a victory.

Although they did not pull it off this time around, they feel confident that they will prevail against their future opponents. They hope to truly live up to their name, the Macabees, and pull off a miracle.



Top Row (l to r): Lady Macs Coach Steve Young, Gina Elkon, Gila Blazer, Blima Sasson, Dena Rothstein, Shira Kronenberg, Sandy Bagdadi, Shaindy Kahn, Talia Spierer, Manager Olga Izrilov, Assistant Coach Karen Green.
Second Row (l to r): Captains Sheila Wainberg and Shana May
Not shown: Lady Macs Nurit Furer and Randi Sorscher

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