



THE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

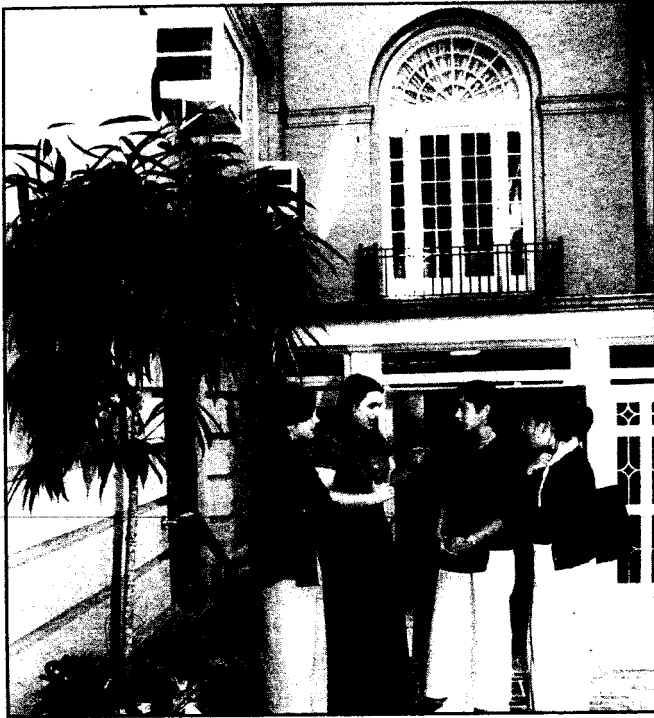
Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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Schottenstein Hall

Schottenstein Dorm Opens

By Nava Bak

A new era has begun for SCW with the opening of Schottenstein Residence Hall. The 174 single-occupancy student rooms in Schottenstein Hall are all filled, and Brookdale Residence Hall, the school's pre-existing dormitory, is still filled to capacity, with around 540 students living there. Due to the increase in enrollment, there was not enough room in the two dormitories for all the student who required housing. Therefore, it became necessary to continue the Independent Housing Program, which had been scheduled to end, and to house students in six Windsor Court apartments.

According to Miriam Gold, the new Resident Supervisor, ninety-percent of the students housed in Schottenstein Hall had requested to live there. Gold said that some of the other rooms are filled by girls who requested only one or no roommates in Brookdale Hall. Others are occupied by juniors or seniors who requested suites in Brookdale. "Since we could not give a suite to all the girls who requested one," said Gold, "we felt that Schottenstein would be the next best step in luxury for them." As for the reactions of students placed in Schottenstein, Gold said that there have been

many requests both to move from Schottenstein to Brookdale, and from Brookdale to Schottenstein. Her policy calls for a two-week waiting period before anyone will be moved.

Most Schottenstein residents are excited about their new rooms. Deborah Levy, SCW '99, likes the new dorm "because it's quieter and more conducive to getting work done." Others have also commented on the general lack of crowds, especially in the elevators. However, some find it lonely not to have roommates.

A few problems put a damper on the excitement of the move-in process. On Sunday, the first day of Orientation, there was both a street fair on Lexington Ave and a Pakistani Parade, causing traffic difficulties for students moving into the dormitory. Both Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, and Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration say that they, unfortunately, only were informed of this the week

Continued on page 2

YU Ranked in Top Tier for the Second Year in a Row

By Observer Staff

In its college and university survey, US News and World Report ranked the undergraduate programs at Yeshiva University in the "top tier" of American higher education.

This is the second consecutive year that Yeshiva University has earned such a prestigious status.

The survey compared 229 various schools based on qualitative and quantitative criteria designed to measure the quality of undergraduate programs.

In 1996, US News and World Report lifted YU's status from the second and third tier to 45th place. The 1997 survey showed that while YU was still among the top 50 schools comprising "tier one", the school's rank fell to 48th place.

YU public relations director, David Rosen, noted that from a statistical standpoint, the 48th rank is essentially the same as

the 45th rank. "It is common for schools to bounce up or down several places from one year to the next due to small shifts in numbers among competing schools. For example, Yale was rated number one last year and it dropped to third place this year. And Harvard, which was number three last year, was number one this year."

Yeshiva University President, Norman Lamm, added that while the school is "pleased that this major national survey has again ranked us in the first tier," the school does "not want to overemphasize the significance of surveys like this because they are not nearly as precise as they claim to be." He added that the University has "outstanding faculty and staff" and is "continually upgrading the quality of our academic programs."

In With The New Changes in SCW

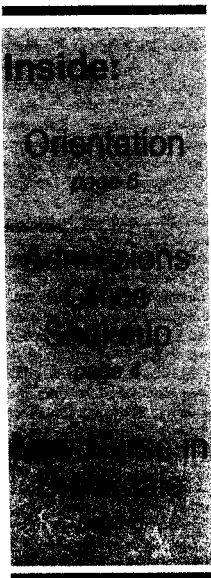
By Yedida Goldman

The start of the 1997 fall semester brought with it new changes to the Midtown campus. In addition to the opening of the Schottenstein Residence Hall and the Art Annex across the street, changes were made in the preexisting facilities. Students returning from the summer months found that Stern College for Women was, in many ways, different from the way they had left it.

One major change has been the institution of peak elevator hours in the school building. During peak hours, security guards, acting as elevator operators control the floors on which stops are made. The general pol-

icy is that students and faculty are expected to walk a maximum of one floor up and two floors down. The elevators do not stop in the basement dining room, or on the second floor, since the frequency of stops on those two floors added greatly to the inefficiency of the elevators. The specific hours labeled as peak vary on a daily basis, but in general begin at 8:40 a.m. and end in early to mid afternoon. Although the official policy originally intended to have operators throughout peak hours, it seems that after the first day the program operated only during those

Continued on page 9



Editorials

Save Some for Brookdale

The 174 students housed in Schottenstein Residence Hall are basically pleased with their new dormitory and with good reason. The single-occupancy rooms have new furniture, carpeting and individual air-conditioning units. While some of the rooms have communal bathrooms, these bathrooms are cleaned daily and supplied with soap, paper towels and toilet paper at no extra expense. With several lounges, an exercise room and a planned cafeteria, it is likely that Schottenstein will be students' first choice for housing in years to come.

But what about Brookdale Hall, the dormitory facility which houses a majority of the SCW population? Brookdale Hall is still filled to capacity, with four and five students stuffed into uncarpeted

rooms fit for three and four respectively. It is understandable that when a University acquires a building, it would want to pour all of its financial and creative resources into the new facility. But please save something for Brookdale. It seems that with all the hoopla surrounding the opening of Schottenstein Residence Hall, the deficiencies of Brookdale Hall, and there are many: overcrowding, inadequate lounge space, chairs that do not fit into the desks, lack of Internet capabilities, to name a few, have been put on the back burner.

Schottenstein Hall is a beautiful, first-class dormitory. The residents of Brookdale Hall, the majority of the SCW student body, deserve to live in a facility of equal caliber.

Refund the \$50 E-mail Fee

Students wishing to open email accounts this year were pleasantly surprised. They could tear up their fifty-dollar checks. E-mail accounts, for SCW students, are now free.

No one is complaining about the change in university policy. Email service is free as it always should have been (although the quality of the service, namely the inability to display graphics,

is still a cause of discontent). But what about the hundreds of SCW women who paid for their e-mail accounts? Their \$50 should be refunded. If the university policy has been changed, those students who paid for an email account should be compensated. Why should students be penalized because YU took such a long time to change an archaic and irrational policy?

Check out our web page
<http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Union/9516>

Registrar Defaults on Grades

Almost no SCW students received their spring semester grades in the mail this summer. Even some students who requested transcripts never received them in the mail.

The Office of the Registrar, responsible for grades distribution, defended its actions. A representative said students were expected to find out their grades either by calling the posted 800 number, by contacting the YU grades website, or by requesting a transcript. None of the posted signs, however, mentioned that

these were the only ways to receive one's grades.

This new, unannounced policy upset many SCW students. Because students were expecting grades in the mail, many did not save the 800 number or the website address, or request a transcript. In addition, foreign students were at a disadvantage because the 800 number operated only in America. The web-site was also problematic because not all students have Internet access at home. Those students who could receive their grades, still

had no precise calculation of their GPA, as that information could not be accessed from the phone number or website.

Knowing one's grades is important. Grades offer students feedback on their courses and also define one's GPA. Having grades on paper is important both for students who need to know whether they passed a course and for students who simply want an official list for themselves or their parents. Most surveyed students who did use the telephone number or web-site address said

they expected that the service was a faster way to get grades, not the only way.

The Office of the Registrar will give a grades printout to those students who request one. However, issuing a free printout to each student, in addition to 800 number and website options, would be ideal. If the Office of the Registrar intends to alter its policies and discontinue previous services, the least it can do is inform the student body beforehand.

DORM

Continued from page 1

before, and that nothing could have been done about it. On Wednesday, August 27, the first day of classes, a Schottenstein Hall resident experienced a scare when a ceiling tile in the communal bathroom fell on her head. Rosengarten said that the tiles seemed very tight, and the building fully passed inspection before this incident, so it was merely a fluke, and he doesn't understand how it occurred.

Located at 119 E. 29th St., across from the new SCW art building, Schottenstein Hall has 8 floors, with an east and west wing, which are really separate buildings connected by a bridge on the fifth floor. Each east wing room shares a bathroom with either one or two other rooms. The west wing has communal bathrooms for everyone on the floor. Separate elevators serve each wing. Each room is carpeted, equipped with an air-conditioner unit and furnished with new light-colored wooden furniture including a desk, five drawer dresser, and twin sized bed.

Non-residential portions of the building are still under construction. Rosengarten, said that the remaining renovations will be complete by late October. When complete, the building will include a lot of public space. SCWSC President Hannah Shonfield, SCW '98, wants students to realize that

"Schottenstein is for everyone to enjoy. It will house facilities that make it an extension of the campus for all SCW students." There will be two lounges on the first floor where men will be allowed to visit. A large beit midrash will be housed on the second floor. The eighth floor solarium, temporarily housing exercise equipment, will be part lounge, part study hall. The exercise room will be relocated to the basement. Additional study halls, laundry facilities, a convenience store similar to one on the Main Campus and a synagogue are also planned. For now there will be no televisions in the lounges because, according to Gold, "The student life committee felt that it was not necessary." A special student committee for Schottenstein Hall is in the works.

A big question amongst Schottenstein residents is whether there will be a cafeteria in the building. The answer is yes and no. Rosengarten explained that the room on one's left when entering Schottenstein actually extends around the building in an "L" shape. It will have the "flavor of an old-fashioned parlor which can function as a dining room." While food will not be served there on a regular basis, there is a kitchen in the building which will be functional for use on special occasions. Rosengarten speculated that this room which can hold around 200 people would be a nice place for a Shabbaton.

On the issue of security, Rosengarten assured that "every type of effort is being

taken to secure Schottenstein." Cameras keep watch over all areas of the building, and there are security guards posted throughout the area. Advanced electronic systems are being implemented for security and for fire safety. Rosengarten noted that Schottenstein Hall has "the most advanced fire system of any of the [YU] buildings. If someone lights a candle in a room, it tells you which room the candle is in."

So far no new system for inter-campus van service has taken effect. However, the school has purchased two new vans, and the local vans have been shuttling Schottenstein Hall residents upon request. Socol envisions a shuttle schedule with regularly scheduled pick up times at both Brookdale Hall and Schottenstein Hall, much like the system on the Main Campus.

Rosengarten gave some insight into the construction, and the time it's taken to prepare Schottenstein for habitation. The building was purchased close to two and a half years ago with the help of the Schottenstein family and other donors. It had been a Salvation Army hotel and was occupied at the time of purchase. The original plan was to simply clean up and paint the building and have students move in for the Fall '96 semester. As engineers and architects, the Deans, and SCWSC's Student Life Committee looked into it further, a new plan unfolded. According to Rosengarten, it was decided that this building should be "a very positive addition- beautiful and comfortable. [We said] Let's try to make

this building as modern and elegant as possible- something to be proud of. Let's not take shortcuts, and spend more." So the construction project become both a renovation and a restoration to bring back its old glamour and beauty.

A group of women from the SCW Board of Directors have been heavily involved in the building. Rosengarten said that "they had a vision- to make Schottenstein a showcase for the rest of the university. They modeled it after real ritzy women' colleges." Rosengarten anticipates "exquisite furniture" arriving for the lounges and promises that the students will agree with his description when they see it.

While working on the restoration, a number of surprises were literally "uncovered." An old carpet was lifted in the lobby to reveal a floor that, according to the foresight of the building experts, was an elegant black and white stone. A technique which utilizes diamond dust for heavy scraping restored this floor to its original beauty. Similarly, a solid oak floor was discovered in one of the lounges, as well as a wooden wainscot on the walls.

As for plans to accommodate further enrollment increases, Rosengarten pointed out there is some unfinished space on the second floor of Schottenstein which can be made into more student rooms if the need arises. Beyond that, he said that YU will do what they have always done in the past and keep expanding to accommodate students.

From the Executive Editor

Beginning a new school year is always an occasion of mixed emotions: regret at leaving home or exciting summer locations, disappointment that the "long" summer passed so quickly and, most of all, excitement for the year ahead. This year has been no different in that respect, and the start of school has been eventful and exciting. However, there have been more sobering events as well.

In the midst of producing this issue of The YU Observer, Princess Diana was fatally injured in a car accident. The news came as a shock and remains a source of sadness. I think that I speak for many of my fellow students when I say that Diana's death has moved me.

As one friend put it, we don't think of famous people being vulnerable to the normal workings of fate. Diana's death leaves a great deal of pain for her family, her nation and the world she affected.

The life of Princess Diana went from fairy-tale to tabloid expose. None of us envied the reality of her circumstance, but Diana conducted herself as we imagined a princess should. Despite personal insults and degradation, she publicly displayed the greatest integrity in her relations with the royal family. Her personal life may not have lived up to our moral standards, but her public life was one of concern, generosity and quiet activism.

What strikes me most about Diana's death is the fact that her life was taken away so quickly. As we enter the month of Elul we are supposed to have a sense that we are defending our lives, and that



we too could suddenly be taken from this world. But most of us go about our lives as if we will live forever, sometimes taking risks we know to be dangerous. Diana's life may have had little or no application to our own, but her death should illustrate how fleeting life can be.

When we examine our deeds in the past year, we should not take for granted that we have lived this long. But we do approach each new year with a certain confidence that next year we will still be here to ask repentance once again. I'm not suggesting that we live our lives with a morbid sense of imminent death, but tragedies like Diana's death remind us that no one, despite power, wealth and influence, can escape death. Diana's life ended abruptly and without warning; such endings are beyond human control. We can only control the way we live life, not the way we die.

Susan Jacobs

From the Editor-in-Chief

Everyone judges people on first glance. Everyone. I see the way students in the caf stare at other students who don't look exactly the way they do. I see this so well because I am embarrassed to say I have done it myself. I have judged a person's personality, religious level or how much I would have in common with her entirely on the grounds of appearance. But every student in this institution is a member of the same human race, the same nation and the same religion. By virtue of these three characteristics alone, each and every one of us have so much in common. But we let small things like skirt length, hair style and where and if we went to Israel make us believe that we are irreconcilably different from one another.

I believe that the biggest problem in the Jewish community is intolerance. People look down on anyone who does not think or act exactly the way they do and choose to be friends only with others exactly like themselves.

As Shira Markowitz said in her Orientation *Chagiga dvar Torah*, there is no better time and place to stop intolerance than here and now. Elul is the time of year specially set out for repairing relationships *bein adam l'chavero*, between man and his friend. SCW is a melting pot. Just like everywhere in the world, there are people here who are not



exactly like you.

In SCW, every student has two options. She can start contributing to the problem at a very young age, or she can make a concerted effort to be a solution. She could judge people as Martin Luther King Jr. phrased it, "by the content of their character," not by their appearance.

The staff of Orientation '97 was a diverse group. Each leader and peer advisor worked together to create a successful program. Orientation '97 is an example of how much positive can come out of a coordinated effort. Imagine what we could accomplish if we all stop talking about each other and start talking to each other.

Leslie Ginsparg

From the SCWSC President

Hey everyone! Believe it or not the summer is over and yet another school year is upon us. I am proud to say that Orientation '97 was a huge success: from the packed dinner cruise to record-breaking Shabbaton attendance. The success of these and all other Orientation events was made possible by the hard work, dedication and ongoing support of the Office of Student Services and the Student Council Orientation Committee. A special thanks to the orientation staff members Marina Allis, Peshla Secunda, Shaindy Kahn and Adina Loberfeld for their time, commitment and endless enthusiasm.

Needless to say, the 1997-98 academic year is off to an amazing start. The momentum of this "Orientation spirit" will merely carry us from one achievement to another during the upcoming year. My advice to you is: CATCH THE RUACH. Let it guide you towards new and uncharted territory.

Make this a year of firsts for yourself. Stay in the dorm for a Shabbaton. Meet a new friend in the "caf." Take a more challenging professor than you have in the past. Go to a Student Council social event. Get involved in a club you've



never experienced before. Get involved period. Carpe Diem (Seize the Day) and this year will be the most memorable and fulfilling ever.

So, get a head start by visiting Club Fair '97 on Sept. 16th and 17th: your connection to all the clubs, committees, honor societies and publications Stern College for Women Student Council has to offer.

See you there!

Hannah Shonfield
SCWSC President

From the TAC President

Dear Students,

Hey! I want to welcome all of the new students as well as those returning. I hope that you have all had a meaningful summer, and that you are ready to embark on yet another school year. For some of you, this may be your first year of college, and yet for others this may be the last time that you will be in a classroom situation. Whatever your personal situation may be, take advantage of it. As someone said, "These are the times to remember for soon they will slip away, these are the days to hold on to, for soon they will fade away." Take advantage of your college days—make a difference. TAC has so many ways for people to do this. This year there are over 30 committees, and we are looking for enthusiastic people to work on them. Come see me if you are interested. The Club Fair is the perfect opportunity to find out more about all of the various clubs that TAC sponsors. The Club Fair will be on September 16th and 17th, and we are looking forward to all of you coming to see what TAC has to offer.

I would like to welcome the new addition to the TAC board, Michal Grunstein, who will be one of the Vice Presidents. I would also like to wish our Vice President, Yael (Schor) Rosenthal a mazel tov on her recent marriage to Ari Rosenthal.

I am looking forward to having an incredible year. The year has had a terrific



start, and I hope for the trend to continue. Orientation '97 has been a great success. Thanks to everyone who worked hard. The first shabbaton of the year was a record breaker, with over 300 women attending. Bikur Cholim has already begun for the year, and will continue throughout the year every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening. To get involved, please see Maika Wachtel or Ayelet Galowa.

There are lots of great things planned for the year, and I am open to all suggestions and concerns. I am in BR 8F—Feel free to stop by almost any time.

Stay tuned for Campus Conversations, returning September 29th.....

Keep Smiling,
Mechal E. Weiss
TAC President

A huge thanks to the Office of Student Services for their endless support and contribution to the success of Orientation '97
SCWSC and the Entire Student Body

Around The Campus

Club Beat

New Clubs for a New Year

By Gila Rosenthal

Every year, the list of activities that students at SCW can get involved in grows. The spectrum of extracurricular clubs available is as wide-ranging as the student body, and this year many new societies have been created.

Among those sponsored by SCWSC is the Fine Arts Society, headed by Nicole Paley SCW '99 and Rachel Graber SCW '98. The purpose of this society, which had been dormant for the past few years, is to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities available in the city. Besides organizing various outings, the club aims to bring cultural events to the campus as well.

Another new club plans to offer Chabad-sponsored speakers. Headed by Devora Ifrah, SCW '99, this group's aim is to provide a forum to host a number of speakers on a variety of topics, not limited to Lubavitch issues.

The Fun Club, which is as yet still in the works, promises to provide entertaining, stress-relieving, fun-filled activities, such as a night of art projects in the dorm.

Last year SCW hosted a women's health fair for the first time. This year, a new development is a Women's Health Forum. Planned by Sarah Weintraub, SCW '98, the club will plan presentations about reproductive health and other issues in women's health. There is a possibility of a speaker on the issue of sexual orientation of the speaker.

And, from the student body, a new club is being formed. The club will be a place where students can go to get help with their studies.

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Kranzler Stands Alone

By Observer Staff

Over the summer, Michael Kranzler was left as the sole member of the Yeshiva University admissions staff. Despite being left alone, all of the projects slated to be organized during the summer are running on schedule.

According to Kranzler, the summer is used for dealing with any academic or financial issues concerning students already admitted to SCW. He said that the Yeshiva University Model United Nations Conference (YUNMUN), one of YU's biggest recruitment projects and the Red Saracheck high school basketball Tournament are running on schedule.

Memphis Montag worked for the

Admissions Office for four years. She got married last year and has recently moved to Far Rockaway. She took a job closer to home in order to make her commute easier. Ari Ganchrow, a law school graduate, left the YU Department of Admissions to work in a law firm. Lisa Slansky has been out of the office since before Pesach for personal reasons.

Kranzler noted that he felt understaffed even when he had four people working in the office. He attributes surviving the summer to his long hours and to an "indispensable" work study student, Ryan Hyman. YU is actively interviewing people to fill the vacated positions.

TAC Adds Third Vice President to Board

By Esther S. Finkle

The Torah Activities Council (TAC) has added Michal Grunstein, SCW '99, as the third vice president on their 1997-1998 board.

Due to the nature of the vice president's responsibilities, TAC has employed two vice presidents in the past.

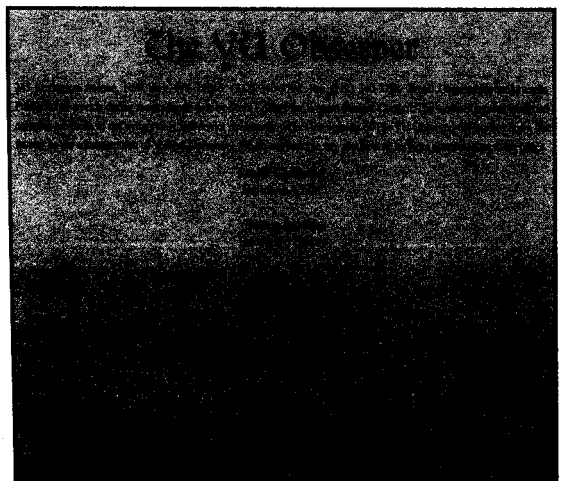
Last year Yael (Schor) Rosenthal, SCW '98, and Shira Genack, SCW '98, were elected as joint vice presidents. Due to the recent marriage of Rosenthal, TAC felt it was necessary to acquire a new

vice president to ensure TAC's optimum success. Grunstein was chosen on the basis that she was the runner-up for vice president in last year's election. She assumed her position soon after Rosenthal announced her engagement.

Grunstein, a Biology major in her junior year, lives in Teaneck, NJ, and attended Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel. Expressing her excitement about the upcoming year, Grunstein hoped that, "G-d-willing, TAC will have an amazing year and I look forward to working with everyone on the board."

**We're looking for a few good reporters...
and some business, layout and
art people too.**

**If you're interested in working on the
1997-98 Observer, please call the
Observer office @ 340-7794**



Yeshiva University

Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our returning and new students for the Fall 1997 semester.

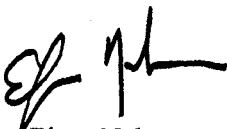
Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Office of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns. Our student services source book provides you with useful information.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to use our services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new semester begins, we wish you continued success in your endeavors.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year

Hatzlachah Rabbah,



Efrem Nulman
University Dean of Students
F419



Zelda Braun
Assistant Dean of Students
MID 114



David Himber
Associate Dean of Students
F419

Message from Dr. Norman Lamm

In welcoming you to Yeshiva for the 5758 (1997-98) academic year, I offer you this urgent advice: Don't rush! Real education requires a degree of leisure—time to think, to absorb what you've learned, to understand it and criticize it and evaluate it. If you try in every way to get out before you've really gotten in, you may well emerge with a degree, but it will be fairly meaningless; credentials without substance are a deception.

Learning is a process, not an event. Remember that our tradition bids us to be *koveia atum le'torah*, which means, literally, to set aside times for Torah—times, in the plural—because Torah demands not only the time to study the text but also the leisure to ponder and assimilate it. Your Rebbeim are outstanding sages who have spent long years plumbing the depths of Torah, and you can learn from them only if you invest the time and the same kind of dedication, patience, and love of Torah that they brought and bring to their labors. Your professors are experts in their various disciplines. Do not insult them by a breathless rush through their lectures as if they were the academic equivalent of fast food; the latter will give you a belly ache, the former a mind-ache, a disease of the spirit. Both are the equivalent of "junk food."

Along with this practical advice it is important for you to appreciate the conceptual and ideological framework within which Yeshiva offers an education to its students. To that end, permit me to share with you several excerpts from an address I delivered at the Centennial of Yeshiva University in 1986 which I hope you will take seriously.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and blessed new year, one filled with love of learning, passion for Torah, clarity of thought, health of body and spirit, and creativity in the adventure of acquiring not only knowledge but also wisdom.

The faculty and students of Yeshiva University have made many contributions, of varying degrees and importance, in many fields and in many disciplines. But if I were to focus on what is perhaps Yeshiva's unique contribution, it would be this: that we have endeavored to provide a liberal education within the context of moral and spiritual affirmations; that in providing intellectual leadership in Jewish thought and learning and cul-

ture in its broadest and deepest sense, we have learned and taught that such profound Jewish commitments need not be confining and tribal, but can offer enlightenment and illumination on the higher aspirations of all human beings, on that which inspires every man and woman on the face of the earth.

Despite the inevitable tensions that rise between Torah and Mada, between the fidelity to its sacred tradition and the search for universal knowledge, such conflicts are not fatal. Granted that we have not achieved full coherence (amongst all our various schools (and probably never will), some general principles emerge, even if disguised by some, are of value to all: that the pursuit of knowledge is worthwhile and deserving of sacrifice; that knowledge ought to ripen into wisdom; that whether or not one believes that human beings are the purpose of creation, they are certainly the purpose of education; that the effort by man to transcend himself is admirable even if he often fails; that there are virtues that we should cherish, they may be ignored for generations; that life is sacred; that men and women are not mere spiritual dignity which makes them worthy of our respect, our reverence, and our dedication to their welfare.

Yeshiva University under the leadership of its distinguished predecessors, Dr. Bernard Revel and Dr. Joseph M. Allen, has become one of those schools that have managed to embrace science, technology, law, and the social sciences of our day—without compromising their integrity—while at the same time offering a welcome home for those whose theological convictions are based upon the reality of mind and soul and the existence of an active and creative God who reveals and guides and loves. It is not even necessary that the same people who do medicine and science share, with those who do Bible and Talmud, the commitment of spiritual existence. It is even not necessary that they debate or talk with each other, although that would be helpful. The very fact that both exist within the confines of one academic establishment is itself a reminder to each that the other must act as a corrective to one's own penchant for narrowness and self-righteousness.



The participants and staff of Orientation '97

Get Oriented

Orientation '97 Introduces New Students to College Life

By Esther S. Finkle

Orientation '97 was designed to acquaint students with the various programs and services offered by YU, as well as receive advisement from staff and administration. Several events focused to energize the student body were open to both new and returning students.

Marnina Allis, SCW '98, and Pesha Secunda, SCW '98, co-heads of the Student Council Orientation '97 Committee, began planning Orientation '97 early in the summer. They worked closely with Mrs. Zeldia Braun, Assistant Dean of Student Services, and Hannah Shonfield, SCWSC President, to coordinate their ideas. Sponsored by the Office of Student Services and the Office of the Dean of Students, Orientation '97 began on Sunday, August 24, 1997. All students new to Stern College for Women (SCW) were expected to attend the three day orientation.

Commenting on the success of Orientation, Shonfield said that "The [Orientation] program could have never come into fruition without the aid of the Office of Student Services and the Office of the Dean. The success of Orientation can be attributed to the partnership between them and the Student Council Orientation Committee."

Describing her feelings about Orientation '97, new student Rebecca Sontag, SCW '01, explained that, "The school provided a lot of events in the first few days that really helped me to adapt to my new surroundings. Since the school is new for me, it is going to take me a while to get used to things, but I am being patient, and taking it one step at a time."

Forty Peer Advisors were delegated by Allis and Secunda to be present at select-

ed sessions and events, in order to initiate programming and answer questions. Peer Advisor Tova Rosenberg, SCW '98, stated that, "Being a Peer Advisor was a lot of fun. I got to meet a lot of new girls, and make their first couple of days much easier."

On the first day of Orientation freshmen, students returning from Israel and transfer students lined up in front of the Brookdale and Schottenstein Residence Halls to receive their dorm room keys. SCWSC and TAC held their respective orientations that afternoon and distributed Orientation kits. Every new student received a card holder on a key chain, a gift from the University that is unique to Orientation '97.

The evening events, "human bingo" and floor parties with the Resident Assistants, focused on introducing new students to their peers.

The second day of Orientation started with a continental breakfast. Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, spoke to the new students. Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Judaic Studies, followed Lamm's address with a shiur entitled "Intolerance and Catastrophe—Lessons from the Destruction of the Second Beit HaMikdash."

The afternoon involved a mandatory academic orientation to explain the scheduling process and academic requirements, the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) orientation, placement tests and a security orientation. Workshops discussing how to choose a major, how to succeed in college and tips on planning were held.

Continued on page 9

YU Faculty to Attend Major Conference

By Observer Staff

Yeshiva University faculty will be among the leaders and members of 22 major Orthodox Jewish organizations in North America that will convene Thanksgiving weekend (November 27-30) to address current challenges faced by rabbinic, educational, and lay organizations.

The Conference of the World Council of Orthodox Leadership (North American Section) and The World Council for Torah Education will focus on the theme "Translating Vision into Reality." Topics on the agenda include religious Zionism, Torah education and modernity, women's education and leadership and the relationship within Orthodoxy, with other Jewish movements and with non-Jews.

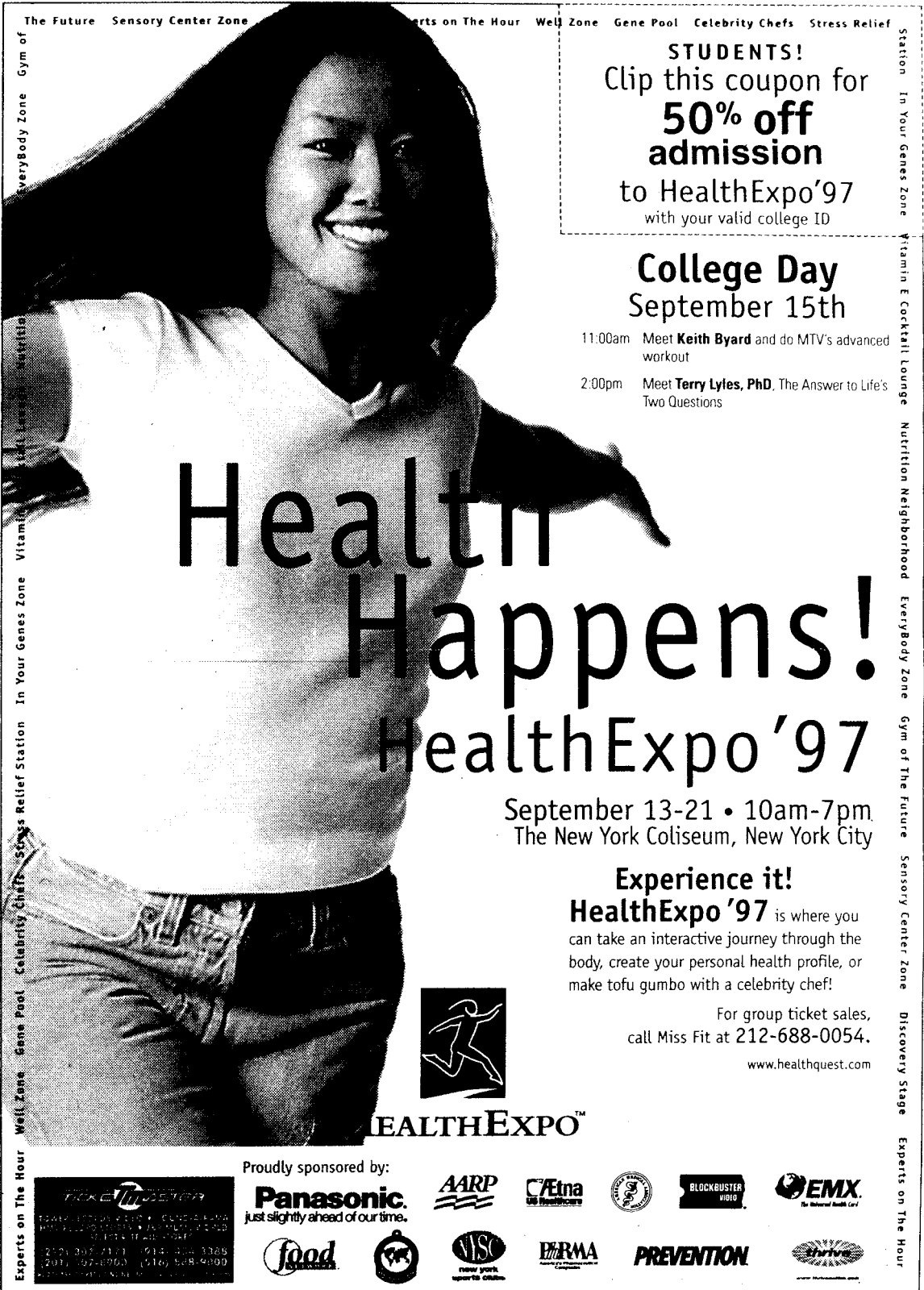
Plenary sessions, devoted to issues of

critical concern to the Orthodox community, will be followed by related workshops aimed at helping participants set their communal agendas to meet the challenges faced by synagogues, schools and organizations.

The following Yeshiva University faculty members are scheduled to attend: Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University; Rabbi Marc Angel, President, Union of Sephardic Congregations and President of the Rabbinic Alumni at Rabbi Issac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS); Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani of RIETS; Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS; Dr. David Shatz, Professor of Philosophy at Yeshiva University and Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS.



Orientation Chagigah



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PREVENTION

Personalities

To Learn and to Teach

By Rena Krakowski

Most students do not have the chance to meet all the Judaic Studies teachers during their years at SCW. Therefore, in each issue, the Observer will spotlight the life of one teacher and his/her position at SCW.

Rabbi Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani of SCW, was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, and grew up in Flatbush, New York. He earned a BA from Yeshiva University, where he attended Rabbi Parness's shiur for two years and then



Rabbi Hochberg

Rabbi Lichtenstein's shiur for another two.

After college, Rabbi Hochberg studied in Israel at *Yeshivat HaKotel* (which was then an all-Israeli Yeshiva). The yeshiva had just moved into the Old City and the students were among the very first to live there. Rabbi Hochberg then returned to Yeshiva University for three years, where he learned in Rav Soloveichik's shiur and received smicha.

Rabbi Hochberg served as Rabbi of a *shul* in Lowell, Massachusetts, for sixteen years before coming to New York. Besides being *Mashgiach Ruchani* of SCW and offering courses in the Judaic Studies department, Rabbi Hochberg is the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates in Queens, a young and vibrant shul.

Rabbi Hochberg's courses include one on interpersonal relations (*Mitzvat Bein Adam L'chaveiro*) and one on marriage from a *halachic*, *hashkafic*, and psychological perspective. These topics were

chosen with a specific reason in mind. Rabbi Hochberg explained, "I find that one of the elements that is most neglected in today's society is that of interpersonal relations - both in general and within the family, so I chose to focus on those ideas."

Now in his third year as *Mashgiach Ruchani* of SCW, Rabbi Hochberg enjoys a wonderful rapport with the students. He can be found in his office on the sixth floor on Mondays from 12:00-3:10pm and 4:25-5:30pm and on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:25pm and 4:40-8:00pm. He is there for counseling, guidance, *halachic* questions, or even simply to talk. Even after graduating, students have kept in touch with Rabbi Hochberg, calling him at home and at school.

"The most gratifying part [of my job] is that in my contact with students, I feel I can help [students] at a variety of levels and from many different backgrounds grapple with problems and deal with a wide range of issues."

The Midas Touch

By Rachel Linsider

A new dorm and new elevator rules are not the only changes that were made for the SCW '97-'98 school year. SCW also welcomed in new Residence Supervisor, Miriam Gold. Gold replaces Alexis Levitt, who married over the summer and moved to Atlanta.

After graduating from SCW, Gold went on to get her master's degree at Wurzelweil School of Social Work. She simultaneously worked with the mentally ill at the Federation Employment and Guidance Services (FEGS). She worked

at FEGS for five years before returning to SCW.

Gold's basic responsibility is to make sure the dorms run as smoothly as possible. She is also in charge of seeing that the Residence Assistants do their jobs properly. Gold's other responsibilities continually change throughout the year as needed. When asked to describe her position, Gold said, "What's interesting about this job is that it seasonally changes. This week my main responsibility is to deal with the moving in process. But next week that will obviously

change."

Gold also works directly with Assistant Dean of Students, Mrs. Zelda Braun. Gold expressed her excitement in working with Braun. "Working with Mrs. Braun is a dream. She's wonderful and supportive."

During Levitt's term as Residence Supervisor, she incorporated other activities into her job description. For example, she established a bereavement group which met periodically to discuss various problems students may be experiencing

at home. Gold also hopes to establish these types of activities as soon as she gets more settled into her new position.

Gold is pleased with the first week of school. Aside from the unavoidable check-in lines and elevator problems, Gold believes everything is off to a good start, especially for someone who is new. "My main goal is to see a well-run dorm where the [women] are safe and happy," stated Gold. "I would also like to see Stern become a community." She added, "It's great to be back at Stern!"

New Nurse Staffs Brookdale

By Miriam Rosenblatt

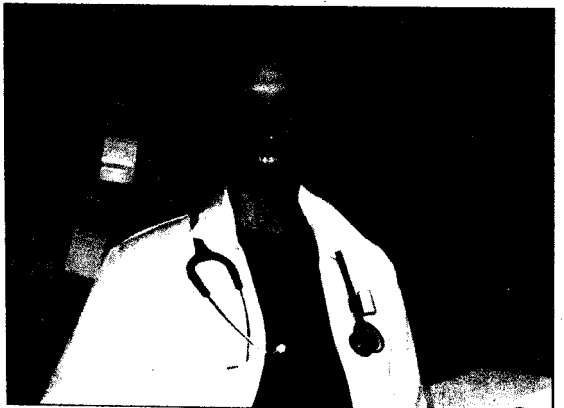
Into every college career a little rain must fall. Cold weather, rain, snow - all of these can make you sick. But SCW has a new weapon against illness. Enter Leslie Berger, the new nurse here at SCW. With her refreshing outlook on nursing, Berger sets the stage for a year of good health for the students of SCW.

Berger graduated from SCW in 1987, attended the Beth Israel School of Nursing and since then has been working in pediatrics, neurosurgery, and the ER. Berger's attitude towards nursing is one of caring. Her demeanor is kind, yet knowledgeable. When asked about her philosophy towards patient care, she replied, "To soothe them, to comfort them and to treat them." Nursing, she said, is more than just providing health care. "You have to get a shot, and that can either be like a nice experience or this terrible, traumatic thing. So there's a way to do it and a way to do it... You want to be a compassionate person." Her intent, she emphasized, is not to do the patient any more damage by being less than caring. "You can be an angel, or a malach hamaves (angel of death)," she said.

Mrs. Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students, was emphatic in her praise of the new nurse. "She's dynamic, wonderful, her qualifications are impeccable... while of course we shall miss our retiring nurse, Lillian Newton, I am thrilled to have Leslie Berger as part of the OSS staff."

While she would be more than content if she never met anyone at SCW in a professional capacity, Berger pragmatically anticipates getting a lot of business during the cold season. "As the seasons change towards winter, [I expect to see] a lot of upper respiratory infections, colds, sore throats, that sort of thing." Such ailments are not an immutable fact of life, however.

Common sense advice, such as dressing appropriately for the weather, having hygienic habits such as proper hand washing, covering your mouth when you cough and eating properly, can keep a person out of the nurse's office. In the event someone does need Berger's services, however, she's available on the second floor of Brookdale Residence Hall from 8 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday, a service provided by the University. Prevention is the key howev-



Leslie Berger

er. If a student has a fever, she observed, she can lose several days of class, which is no small matter.

Her method of steering clear of illness is essentially to take care of oneself. "Taking care of yourself means eating

slowly, not to rush, eat gently...get enough sleep, sleep is really important... Take care of yourselves, treat yourselves kindly, be good to yourselves, and have a great time this year," she said.

Historical Zionism Reexamined

By Julie Stampnitzky

1997-1998 is a year of anniversaries for Zionism and the State of Israel. This is the first of a series of articles reporting and commemorating the history behind these anniversaries.

One hundred years ago, on August 29, 1897, the first World Zionist Congress met in Basel, Switzerland. There, 200 delegates from 16 countries established the World Zionist Organization. They chose a flag, its design based on the striped tallit, and an anthem. Concerning the first Congress, Theodor Herzl wrote in his diary, "At Basel I founded the Jewish State... Perhaps in five years, and certainly in 50, everyone will know it." It was fifty years later, in December 1947, that the UN would vote for a Jewish state in Palestine.

In 1897, Zionism was already a major movement among world Jewry. Its largest faction was the group of Russian and Eastern European Jews known as Chovevei Zion. This group first met in 1884 in Katowice, Poland. Although the majority of its adherents were secular, the movement's framework was religious. The goal of Chovevei Zion was not to seek political independence, but simply to help Jews settle in Palestine. They formed the wave of emigrants known as the first Aliya. In 1880 there were 25,000 Jews in Palestine; 60,000 immigrants of the first and second Aliyot would join them between 1880 and 1914.

The Zionist Congress, which changed the focus of the movement from religious to political Zionism, was the brainchild of Theodor Herzl, a journalist from Vienna. Herzl was an assimilated Jew who knew no Hebrew, but he was concerned by anti-Semitism. In the early 1890's, he had proposed a different solution to the problem: conversion en masse to Christianity by the Jews of Europe, with himself first among them. It was after the Dreyfus trial that Herzl conceived of a Jewish State "where we can at last be free men in our own soil and die in peace in our own homeland." His idea of a state was a purely practical one. He was quite willing to locate the state in Argentina or Uganda, as long as it would be a homeland for the Jews.

Herzl envisioned a state with European language and European culture. Its citizens would not speak Yiddish or Hebrew, but, "like Switzerland," several languages would coexist. Herzl tried to set the right tone for the future state by making a dress code of white tie and tails for the Congress. When Max Nordau, who later succeeded him as head of the Zionist movement, showed up in a frock coat, Herzl told him to go back and change.

Zionism sought to promote a new, anti-religious culture among Jews. The proposed state was to be "like every other nation." The state would be inhabited by a new Jew, whose salvation would lie in the strength of his arm and not in his trust in G-d.

At its inception, Zionism was opposed by the Reform movement, which was more interested in having Jews assimilate into countries in which they were living, and feared a movement for a Jewish state would stir up anti-Semitism.

Following the Congress, Herzl arranged meetings with such notable figures as the Ottoman Emperor and the German Kaiser. Although, in the end, neither was willing to help such activities, Herzl's idea of a Jewish state pervaded in the eyes of the world.

Herzl died in 1904 at the age of 44. The Zionist movement established a fund for his family, which his widow chose to invest in the bonds of the Austro-Hungarian empire, rather than a fund for the Zionist movement such as the Jewish National Fund, which seemed too risky. Ironically, her "safe" investment was rendered worthless by the empire's breakup in World War I.

Herzl intended Jews to be the first to settle in Palestine, but his idea of a Jewish state was not to be realized. The Zionist movement was not to be a religious movement, but a secular one. The Zionist movement was not to be a political movement, but a cultural one. The Zionist movement was not to be a social movement, but a national one. The Zionist movement was not to be a religious movement, but a secular one. The Zionist movement was not to be a political movement, but a cultural one. The Zionist movement was not to be a social movement, but a national one.

Changes

continued from page 1

times immediately before classes began and after they were let out. Special accommodations are available for people with physical limitations.

The congestion and inefficiency of the elevators has been a serious concern over the last few years. In the early 1990's, a study was done in an attempt to increase the speed and efficiency of elevator travel. The conclusion was that stopping on fewer floors would ease the traffic problem, and a cooperative campaign was launched to encourage students and faculty to save time by skipping floors whenever possible. Elevator operators were not utilized and unfortunately user cooperation was not sufficient, so the problem remained unsolved until this past summer. An increase in the number of students, as well as greater congestion during morning hours, recently brought the problem to the forefront.

Over the summer, Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration, Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College for Women, and Mrs. Zeldra Braun, Assistant Dean of Students, met frequently both with each other, and with John Martin Associates, an elevator consulting firm, to discuss solutions to the problem. Class schedules were studied and the current plan was devised. Rosengarten hopes to eventually train students and faculty so that the need for an operator, which is

costly and inefficient, can be eliminated. The system was, therefore, instituted at the start of the semester so that both new and returning students would be immediately acclimated to the new system before getting used to the old one. In newer elevator models, controllers exist which can be programmed to stop only on certain floors, thereby removing the need for an operator. The controller in the school building is not capable of such advanced programming, although in the future it may be updated to a level at which a program for peak hours could be installed.

Student response has been, for the most part, positive. Although some students feel that not being able to take the elevator to the desired floor is inconvenient, most students feel that the minor annoyance of having to walk up or down one flight stairs is more than made up for by the amount of time saved. According to Yael Berger, (SCW '99) the new system is much more time efficient, and enables her to get to classes on time. "Elevators are running much more smoothly than last year," she noted. Although she suggested that perhaps another way to increase speed would be to have one elevator go directly to the ninth floor and make stops only during the descent, she feels that overall, "there has definitely been a big improvement."

Another change that was implemented over the summer was the rebirth of the Koch Auditorium International Cafe, introducing an era of health food in Koch. Among the many new foods avail-

able daily are whole wheat and sourdough breads, bagettes, foccacias, grilled vegetables, and for the more adventurous students, tofu. The changes were made in response to the complaint of the student-run Food Services Committee, that students desired alternative, healthier food options. Additional menu changes are planned for the basement cafeteria as well.

The interior decor of the Midtown Center and Brookdale Residence Hall were the focus of another summer project for the Supporting Services Administration. Surveys of the school buildings and the dormitories were conducted, and priority numbers were assigned to the furniture and rooms that needed to be replaced. Concentration was placed on furniture that was worn out and could potentially be hazardous and on public areas, such as the lounges. Old furniture that is replaced merely for aesthetic reasons, and is still in reasonable condition, is usually donated to charitable organizations, such as summer camps and underfunded schools.

This year, new tablet armchairs were purchased for a majority of classrooms in Midtown Center, as well as new couches for the television lounges in both the Midtown Center and Brookdale Residence Hall. In addition, many rooms in both buildings were repainted and recarpeted. Unless the urgency of the situation does not allow it, the Student Life Committee is usually consulted for input on what type and style of furnishings to purchase. New exercise equipment was

bought during the summer to supplement the existing workout rooms in Brookdale Residence Hall and the Midtown Center, as well as an entire set of equipment for the Schottenstein Residence Hall.

Internet access is finally available at the main information centers at the Midtown Center. The libraries are on-line, as well as those floors housing classrooms that require Internet access and the administrative offices. Although not yet available to students, Schottenstein Residence Hall is also wired for direct Internet access, since the cost of installation was minimal while construction was being done. Brookdale Residence Hall is not wired, and there are no plans for it to become so in the immediate future, since the expense it would incur would be too great. Rosengarten is hoping that an alternative, wireless method will be developed over the next few years, which would make internet access available to all the dormitories, without requiring the massive undertaking that is currently necessary.

The main focus for future changes at SCW seems to be set on finishing the final details in Schottenstein Residence Hall. Laundry facilities and a snack bar are in the works and the exercise equipment, which is being housed, for the time being, in the eighth floor solarium, will be transferred to a proper workout room in the basement. A convenience store, similar in both size and stock to Morg Mart, the store located at the Main Campus, is also planned, and is expected to open sometime in the late fall.

Get Oriented

Continued from page 6

Dinner and a discussion, titled "Dine and Dialogue," was hosted by Dr. Charles Raffel, Assistant Professor of Jewish Philosophy. The night adjourned with a chagiga held in Koch Auditorium. The chagiga was organized by TAC Chagiga Committee heads Michal Werblowsky, SCW'98, and Dina Zudick, SCW '98.

Werblowsky and Zudick were pleased with the event, noting, "We were very impressed by the extreme success of the chagiga. The incoming students showed a lot of school spirit and enthusiasm for the upcoming year. It rocked the house."

The final day of Orientation consisted of schedule adjustments and registration for new students. Both an Internet workshop and a library workshop designed to introduce students to these University services were offered.

The evening event, a cruise around the city, included music and refreshments provided by Dougie's. Commenting about the cruise, Miriam Grossman, SCW '2000, exclaimed, "The food was plentiful, it was nice being on the water and it was a lot of fun."

Although classes began Wednesday, August 27, Orientation events continued throughout the weekend. Tickets for a Thursday night showing of the Broadway show "Stomp" sold out early in

Orientation. Miriam Elias, SCW '2000, noted that she "never knew you could make a symphony out of plungers."

On Friday, August 29, a free cafeteria breakfast entitled 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' was followed by a short tour of the area around SCW.

A record 270 students joined Rabbi Saul Berman, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies, and Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services, for the

Continued on page 12

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In a New York Minute

Welcome to New York

By Ayelet Grun

I'll admit it freely - I hate New York. While growing up, trips to the city were an irritating experience. I hated the blaring sirens, constant honking and the sleepless nights. I hated the endless pushing on the streets and the cold feeling of concrete as I walked from avenue to avenue. I was and still am, afraid to leave anything unattended or unlocked, certain that it will be stolen the moment I turn around.

It amazes me how I am regarded as an "out-of-towner" wherever I go. I could be halfway across the world in Tel Aviv and someone will say to me, "Oh, your friend from out of town." My regular response to such a statement is the sarcastic question "Out of which town, Jerusalem?" Somehow, people consider New York the center of the world.

I know that I am generalizing. Not everyone in New York is unfriendly, and not all areas in the city are treeless. Not all buildings are shapeless skyscrapers and not all walls are decorated with graffiti. Based on my visits to New York I felt that the city projected a generic feeling. I did not see the uniqueness and grandeur people claimed the city had.

That is, until I moved to 34th Street.

Long Lines, Phone Lines

By Dassi Zeidel

A week after school ended last semester I began my summer internship, or as I like to refer to it, my "for-free job." Twice a week I took the bus from Teaneck to the city and then a cross-town bus down to 13th street to the literary agency where I worked. Riding the bus down 7th Avenue I glanced at my surroundings with the jaded eyes of an "in-towner." I watched tourists from all over the world gawk and point at Macy's and Madison Square Garden, calling out to their companions in French, Spanish and German.

It wasn't until I drove down 34th Street on move in day that I'd felt like a complete foreigner in this noisy city full of honking cars and screeching tires. Memories of last year's move in day flashed through my mind. I remembered hours of waiting in line, waiting for a moving cart and another endless wait for the elevator. This was followed by orientation at school, meeting faculty and getting my ID card. In the late afternoon I crashed on my bed for three hours.

Understandably, I was slightly tense as the car stopped in front of Brookdale Hall at 9:10 on Monday morning. I saw one of my roommates standing by the entrance of the dorm and ran over to say hello and to find out if there were any good beds left. She told me I was the second to arrive so I grabbed her key and ran up to the sixth floor. I dumped my knapsack on the bed next to the window and ran downstairs to get my key. I dumped

As a college student, New York provides new opportunities at my fingertips. There are activities such as theaters, shows, museums, cultural events and shopping at all hours of the night. Banks, stores, libraries and offices providing every thinkable service, line the streets. Central Park has the trails for the walking, biking, roller blading and ice skating that I miss so much. And in no other city could I see so many television studios in such a concentrated area.

There is always something to do, somewhere to go and something new to see in this city. A leisurely walk down Fifth Avenue can be as much fun as picnicking on the Washington, DC Mall. And in no other United States city could one find so many Israeli establishments, Kosher restaurants or Jews working with electronics and diamonds.

Although I would never want to live in New York City beyond my college years, I do know that as far as American cities go, this one isn't so bad. I guess you could say that my perspective has changed a little. Maybe it's the neighborhood I am in and maybe I will get bored of Broadway one day. But for now, I am going to take advantage of the positive opportunities this large city has to offer.

my things in a cart, said goodbye to my father, and was unpacked by 9:45. I was very impressed with myself.

Everything seemed fine. But then the trouble began. By ten o'clock the last of my roommates had arrived. We wanted to get our phones installed so we looked around and found three phone jacks, for four girls. So we looked some more. Behind dressers and desks, in the back of closets, in the bathroom and kitchen. Finally, we found it. We had four jacks in the same corner of the room. We plugged in our phones and all seemed well until we began tripping over the wires that ran crisscross all over our room. By this time my roommates had phone service. I did not.

The second crisis was the smoke alarm going off (overheated hair dryer). I still had no phone service.

My roommates and I went to sleep pretty late and an hour later we were still awake. We had forgotten what it was like to live on 34th Street. It's amazing how much traffic there is at 2:30 A.M. I must have eventually drifted off to sleep because the next thing I knew it was 7:10 A.M. and I was wide awake. And anybody who knows me will tell you I prefer not to see daylight until at least 11 A.M. But there I was, up and ready to start the day. And what a day it was.

The first day of classes began and I decided to switch my major and my CORE classes and my Lit class. I still was not satisfied with my decision so I switched them again and again. I spent

Continued on page 12

An Orientation Journal: One New Student's Orientation Experience

By Kayla Pliskin

Tova Rhein pulled up in front of the maroon awning at 10:30am, unloaded her belongings and joined the line of students waiting to receive their room assignments. After four years at Bruria High School in New Jersey and a year in Israel at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim Seminary, she had finally landed among the sky scrapers and taxi cabs of Manhattan to begin her college career.

"Since I live in New York [State Island], I didn't have much to move in...I didn't have to wait so long; it's better later because the earlier people waited, [I] got there still fairly early so that [I] would be there and not be rushed and [get] a good bed. My parents went to the lunch activity."

After unpacking a week's worth of clothes in the corner of the eleventh floor of Brookdale that was to be hers for the year and yet without a booklist, Rhein went to Barnes and Noble.

"Everyone is telling us that we need goggles for lab so all the freshman are buying them."

After securing her pair of goggles, Rhein returned to school and slipped into one of the groups in Koch at the SCWSC orientation. In the group she chose, close to 20 students were talking with SCWSC secretary, Gila Silbiger, about their ideas for the upcoming year.

"I suggested a musical dance production. We had one in Bruria, and it gives a chance for those who can sing and dance [to perform]."

After Hannah Shonfeld, SCWSC President, spoke promoting Club Fair, TAC officers described committees from Adopt-a-Bubbie to Rosh Chodesh and handed out SCW blue pennants.

"The information was not new. We were made aware so we have an idea [of what exists] and we can come to club fair and decide [what to participate in]."

A few hours later, Rhein returned to Koch for the dreaded ice-breaker. Students were sent in search of anyone with purple nail polish, the initials S.S., and the name Marnina to fill the squares of a human bingo board.

"I came with friends and went running around. You meet people, but there are so many names that you don't meet them." Rhein received a "have a nice day" with the orientation kits containing an orientation T-shirt, a highlighter, a folder with information about New York, a copy of sheets mailed over the summer concerning orientation activities, her very own Torah Umadda journal, and the ever-popular ID holder/key-chains. But her night was not yet over; it was time to meet the RA and the floor.

"We walked into our floor meeting not knowing anything and our RA told us to rip off some sheets of toilet paper. We had to tell one fact about ourselves for each square that we had. I had four squares because I had given some away to people who had come in late. [People told] where they are from, where they were last year, family information, their major; nothing exciting, just facts."

The RA then laid down the rules. "Hot plates are not allowed. If you have one,

don't tell her."

Rhein piled fat-free ice cream and cherries onto her day of suitcases, elevators, strangers and friends before she headed back to her room to wind down for the night, talk with her roommates and get some rest.

Rhein remembers a Monday morning of bagels and cereal, muffins, hot drinks, and orange juice.

"It was very continental - whatever that means. It sounds like an airplane." And speeches.

"Dr. Lamm was very interesting. He spoke about Torah Umadda. It's funny because people come to Stern and forget this. If you ask, will people know what it is?"

Then Rhein got a taste of Rabbi Kanarfogel.

"Many of the jokes were from class so I didn't get them, but he was in a jokey mood."

CORE information was followed by academic orientation. "It was repetitive. We had heard it already because Stern [representatives] came to Israel."

Out of the many workshops and sessions being offered (How to Choose a Major, How to Succeed in college, Life in the big city), Rhein chose to create her own workshop, "the art of relaxation" and headed back to the dorm.

"I was tired and didn't think I'd get much out of it. I don't currently have a major, but I didn't think it [the workshop] would make the difference so I didn't go, and I know the city already."

Rhein rested up for the evening events and came to dine and dialogue with Dr. Raffel followed by TAC's *chagiga*. Old and new students bonded the old-fashioned way: music and dancing.

"The *chagiga* was a nice thing to have. It was achduyya."

All danced out, Rhein put her head to the pillow and slept.

Tuesday morning, Rhein and her bed bonded for an extra half hour. There went the academic forum.

"I didn't know it was Dean Bacon. I thought it was take it or leave it; I didn't think I would miss anything I needed to know so I slept."

She did need to know about the Internet though, so she attended the Internet Workshop.

"It was good information about e-mail...and learn[ing] about the Internet which I don't know how to use...[plus] rules of the room: no food, no drinks and no sharing your password with Uptown guys."

In comparison to her expectations, Rhein was not overly surprised by what she discovered in her new school. And pleasantly, she was not too uneasy.

"I have not been here long enough to judge, but it is not radically different from what I expected. I feel pretty comfortable. The dorm is fine; I like living with friends."

But she did feel orientation was a bit

Continued on page 12

Cultural Arts

On The Town

By Dina Gielchinsky

To say that the plot of "On the Town" is the story of how three sailors on a 24-hour leave in war time New York City find romance amidst wild adventure before they return to their ship at the show's end would be to call *The Metamorphosis* a book about a cockroach.

Leonard Bernstein, along with Jerome Robbins and Oliver Smith, created this Broadway musical at age 26, and his youth projects on the play. "On the Town" radiates with energy at every single scene as these three sailors stuff the adventure of their lives into 24 hours. They may seem like carefree boys gallivanting around glamorous New York City, but the intensity and quality of the music and dance drive the point home. These boys are as real as the war they are fighting. Although the tunes are, for the most part, simple pop, they are juxtaposed by the confidence and emotion of the sailors as well as the dancing expression bordering on ballet.

This seemingly paradoxical combination typifies the themes of the plot, essentially the everlasting bonds formed between the sailors and the women they will never see again. The light-hearted

comedy aspect of the play is thereby darkened at some points when the impending realization hits to the tune of "When You're in Love, Time is Precious Stuff."

Another highlight of the play is the familiarity of the New York locales, from the stage setting to of the Brooklyn Bridge to the wild cab which runs through New York, where, of course, "The Bronx is Up and the Battery's Down." Scenes are ingeniously set in the Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Hall and Times Square, to name a few. All scene presentations give native New Yorkers the chance to display their recognition of the setting even before the curtain is fully risen.

Although "On the Town" closes shortly in "Shakespeare in the Park", rumor has it that the presentation will be opening on Broadway, where all of the incredible drama, dance and music of the Central Park Theatre can be expected to magnify to even greater proportions. You'll be singing "New York, New York" for days after and take pride in living in the city where "The People Ride in a Hole in the Ground-It's a Hell of a Town." It's a hell of a play too-Don't miss it.

Long Lines

Continued from page 11

my day waiting in line at the registrar's office behind a group of befuddled freshmen.

When I finally got home after what seemed like the longest day of my so far short college career all I wanted to do was call my best friend and complain. But, of course—no phone service yet.

So I called 411 from my roommate's phone, (with her permission of course) and after a long talk with someone named Chris, I got the number for Nynex. When I got through to Nynex and I explained my problem in great detail three times they told me they didn't have an account with my name. Apparently I don't exist. Now I'm just hoping I get my phone line before the deadline for dropping classes.

Thirty Two Years Ago in *The Observer*

"One Up, Two Down." SCW's new elevator policy, is not as new as most students imagine. A similar policy existed in earlier days. Apparently, this rule was originally introduced three decades ago when elevator traffic experienced similar problems. But elevator service, even after the installation of this rule, still did not run so smoothly...

The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor which appeared in the March 29, 1965 issue of the Observer.

"In view of the letter written and signed by four faculty members of our secular faculty, I think it is time that some of the feelings of a student be expressed.

"First of all, the teachers expressed concern over the conditions of the elevator. If I recall correctly, in the middle of last semester it was decided that during certain times of the day, the elevator will serve as an "express" and stop only at certain floors. In order for this system to be effective, we must have the cooperation of teachers as well as students. Also, I don't think it is too much to ask of our professors to walk up one flight of stairs (from the first floor to the office) especially during the ten minutes period between class changes."

Orientation Journal

Continued from page 11

long.

"They should condense orientation into two days instead of three. There was a lot of dead time. Not all [of orientation] was necessary. But...[there] should be something...They do it so it [adjusting] is not so overwhelming; the point is not the

information session but to start getting us used to our surroundings and for that it was helpful. I felt like we should start class, but the overall point is to make us more comfortable."

Official orientation programs have come to a close, but hopefully they have helped Rhein and other new students at Stern continue to settle into New York, dorm life, and classes with greater ease.

Get Oriented

Continued from page 9

Orientation Shabbaton. Addressing the student body on Friday night, Rabbi Berman emphasized the importance of time and the uniqueness of the time of Shabbat. Shonfield, Mechal Weiss, TAC President, and Cheri Ochs, SSSBSC President, gave Divrei Torah throughout Shabbat. Shira Smith, SCW '98, remarked that she "was amazed by how many people showed up [for the Shabbaton]" and that "everyone really seemed to be enjoying themselves."

The Motzei Shabbat city tour, "An Evening Around Town," a bus ride with New York Apple Tours, was sponsored

by the Shabbat Enhancement Committee and the three student councils. Keren Fisher, SCW '2000, thought the tour was "especially exciting" for her since she is "from the South."

An excursion to Great Adventure Amusement Park on Sunday, September 1 marked the closing event of Orientation '97.

Summarizing Orientation '97, Secunda stated, "It was very hectic, the last-minute planning was hard, but overall it was tremendously successful and every student got something out of it."

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