



THE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

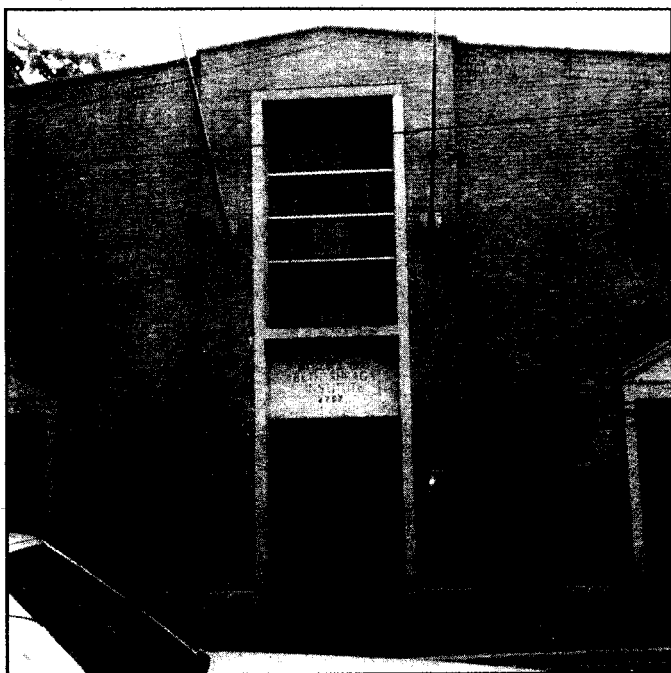
# Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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The Beth Shraga Institute

## Bronx Shul Donates Building to YU

By Aviva Laufer

The Beth Shraga Institute building and all of its assets will be legally transferred to YU following the forthcoming High Holidays. According to Rabbi Herbert Dublinsky, of the YU Development Office, the building might be used for RIETS or sold.

The shul's closing is due to a lack of funds and the disintegration of the surrounding Jewish community. The final decision to transfer the shul's ownership to YU was established by a two-thirds vote by the shul's Board of Trustees and the congregates' formal consent and approval.

Epstein convened Beth Shraga's Board of Trustees on May 5, 1997, to discuss the shul's situation and possible options of how to handle its decline. Epstein said that it was clear that they had kept the shul going as long as they possibly could and they had no choice but to close. While they considered selling the shul building and distributing its assets to different charities, the board unanimously resolved to transfer everything to YU. A letter was sent to all members of the congregation informing them of the Board's proposal and called a meeting on June 22 in which the

proposal would be discussed and voted on. After the June meeting, a second letter that reviewed the outcome of the meeting for those who did not attend and provided the congregates with the option to take back their memorial plaques from the shul was sent.

Epstein claims that the shul's board has had a long-term relationship with YU since the 1980's. In return for the *tallitot, sifrei Torah*, the shul's building and assets, YU agreed to mount all memorial tablets and plaques remaining in the shul in the Washington Heights campus. YU also agreed to continue to say *Kaddish* for those members of the shul who have passed away. Dublinsky maintains that the official transfer of ownership is still premature, since nothing official or legal has actually happened yet.

When asked if he thought YU would sell the shul building, Epstein explained that he, along with the shul's *continued on page 2*

## Tuition Rises For Second Year

By Observer Staff

SCW tuition rose from \$13,650 to \$14,280 this semester, a 4.6% raise. This seems to follow a pattern, as tuition rose by 4.2% in 1996 as well. The raise in tuition is more than double the 2% rate of inflation.

In March, the YU Board of Trustees, in consultation with Sheldon E. Socol, Vice President for Business Affairs, decided to increase tuition for 1997. According to Neal Harris, Acting Director of Student Finances, tuition rose to account for an increase in faculty salaries and for the general cost of living. Harris emphasized the fairness of YU's tuition, as SCW students are getting "two educations," one in Jewish studies and one in general studies.

Tuition at Bryn Mawr College, a women's college in Pennsylvania similar in size to SCW, did not rise in 1997 and

remained \$20,020. Tuition at Barnard College, another Manhattan school which would be similarly affected by a raise in living costs, only rose from \$19,576 to \$20,202, a 3.2% increase. The Barnard Office of Admissions said that their limit would be a 5% tuition raise.

A positive addition to tuition payment for 1997 is the opportunity to pay with credit cards. This option is appealing both for its convenience and because of the opportunity to earn bonus points or frequent flier miles offered by some credit card companies. Bernard Pittinsky, Director of Finance, said that the administration originally got the idea to allow credit card payment from the YC Student Life Committee. 264 SCW students paid tuition using this new option.

## Cafeteria Now Under Kashrut Supervision of OU Products Removed from Shelves

By Ayelet Grun

As of September 1, 1997, the responsibility of monitoring *kashrut* in YU's four cafeterias officially transferred from YU to the Orthodox Union (OU).

In previous years, the *hashgacha* in the YU cafeterias was monitored "in house" by a YU faculty member, Rabbi Phillip H. Reiss. Yet, according to Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, the job was getting too big for one person to handle. "There is a point in an institution's life," commented Rosengarten, "because of size changes, that others can do something better for you than you can."

YU eventually needed to find someone new, regardless, since Rabbi Reiss is planning to retire in

the near future. The other Rabbis in YU, according to Rosengarten, "are doing other things with their lives" and don't have the time to devote to "the demands of a modern facility."

YU decided to turn to an organization that is equipped to regulate *kashrut* on a regular basis. According to Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of the Mazer Yeshiva Program, it was simply "the natural place to turn" since many of the YU faculty are affiliated with the OU already. Rosengarten added that the OU *continued on page 11*

# Editorials

## Safety and Security at SCW?

Midtown Manhattan is not getting any safer. The two recent attacks on women in the area (including one on 33rd St. and Park Ave.) has driven this point home. Students, who were in the past accustomed to walking from Brookdale to Schottenstein (passing 33rd and Park) at one, two, or three o'clock in the morning, have begun to question the safety of such trips.

But the fact is that students study late at night. Such trips will continue to take place. Since SCW now has two dormitories, with Midtown Manhattan as the campus in between, the Department of Safety and Security needs to take measures to accommodate this new situation.

According to Donald Sommers, Chief of Security, there is a local van which runs 24 hours a day (a service which is an absolute necessity), but has anyone seen this alleged 24 hour van? Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, has said that van services will not be extended beyond 1am. Students are left wondering, is there late-night van service, like the uptown campus has, or

not? Security officers are often willing to escort students between the dormitories late at night, when the local van service is no longer running. But sometimes they are not so amenable and will only go after students ask profusely. There needs to be an established policy that security guards escort students whenever those students feel it necessary.

The Security staff has greatly increased this year, and SCW students are grateful for that. But even with the increased personnel, security guards cannot be in every place at every time. Therefore, the university should take steps to prepare students for any situation (more than the one-hour security workshop given on the first day of orientation). There is more than one way this could be done. One suggestion would be to offer a women's self defense workshop, such as those offered at colleges across the country.

With increased safety measures and good student judgment, every student should have a safe and healthy year at SCW.

## Let Us Play

Most college athletic teams play a good proportion of their games on Saturday. SCW teams, of course, play no games on Saturday. SCW would not schedule an activity that would compromise a student's observance of Shabbat. The coaches of SCW's three teams—Basketball, Tennis, and Fencing, will either schedule competition for a different day, or not attend.

Therefore, it is surprising that the SCW administration ignores another *halacha* relevant to athletics: that of modest dress. Many SCW students would like to join the basketball or fencing team, but are constrained by the prospect of wearing pants in public.

This is unfair. Going to college should mean more than just attending classes. It should mean participating in the diverse extracurricular activities which a college offers its students. SCW students can be

part of an cappella group or a musical play that is seen only by women, but they do not have the chance to compete in sports without compromising their *halachic* beliefs.

SCW should take steps to remedy this situation, by hosting athletic meets in the YU sports complex, where attendance could be limited to women only, or by creating new teams whose members might compete in skirts, as the tennis players do. For example, a number of students have expressed interest in a volleyball team. In addition, the existence of a fourth team would make SCW eligible for the National Collegiate Athletics Association. That would satisfy current team members who have been clamoring for NCAA eligibility as it is a prerequisite for participating in certain competitions.

The Governing Board of the Observer would like to thank Supporting Services, Facilities Management and the Office of Student Services for their help in renovating the Observer office.

## Bronx Shul Donation

continued from page 1

board, trusts that YU will utilize the building in an appropriate manner. Epstein stated that "the money would go to Jewish education [and] scholarships." He noted that the members of Beth Shraga trust that YU "will keep their word and respect their obligation."

Beth Shraga was founded in 1945 by Rabbi Hyman Baras and is located at 2757 Morris Avenue in the Kingsbridge section of Bronx, NY. The shul began as Conservative-Orthodox, and has wavered back and forth over the years. For the past fifteen years it was considered Orthodox. On an average Shabbat, there are about 20 to 25 congregates in the shul, and an estimated 70 tickets are usually sold for the High Holidays.

In its early years, the shul members included many young families who contributed to the shul's funds and to the community. When the neighborhood transformed in the late 60's and early 70's, however, many Jews moved away. As the digression of members and funds continued, Beth Shraga became the only real Jewish identity left in the Kingsbridge community.

Despite hardships, the shul remained active. Its funding came from membership donations, dues, fund raising and through the contributions of dedicated

members. In a recent discussion, the president of the shul, Mr. Robert Epstein, said that to many, "the shul was really their lives. It's been a blessing that they've been standing tall to keep their Jewish identity in the community...I have a lot of respect and admiration for them."

Epstein said that the shul members are "profoundly saddened" by Beth Shraga's closing. Under the circumstances however, "they know, understand and accept" the decision. While YU will be able to perpetuate the name and memory of the shul to some degree, as Epstein put it, "there will be a tremendous void that won't be able to be filled." He admits that "the solution doesn't factor in the people who are bereft of a place to worship when the shul closes." The only other shul in close range to Beth Shraga is three quarters of a mile away. There is a *sheitl* located a few blocks away from Beth Shraga in a two-family house which "usually scrapes up a *minyán* on Shabbat."

Mr. Epstein explained that if large donations would be made and funds would be somewhat replenished, the closing of the shul would be delayed. Yet the eventual donation to YU would follow through nonetheless.

## The Observer

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

My freshman year at SCW I was reluctant to walk alone outside at night. In the early evening hours I would walk between Brookdale Hall and the school building, and later at night I would rely on the van. The following year, because I had never experienced any real danger, I would stay out a bit later, reasoning that 34th Street is safe and well-lit. This year, living in Schottenstein Hall, I have walked on dimly-lit side streets even late at night, usually with friends, but often by myself earlier in the evenings. Sometimes I feel a bit uncomfortable, wondering if it is really safe to be walking alone on side streets after dark.

The reports of two recent sexual assaults on women in our immediate neighborhood have confirmed that mid-Manhattan after dark is far from being an ideal neighborhood.

But the danger has always been there and, at least for the near future, will continue to exist. What is different this week, as opposed to last week or the preceding weeks, is our perception of the danger. The attacks, which are alarming for their seriousness and proximity to SCW, should not create school-wide hysteria. As tragic and frightening as those instances were, we need to remind ourselves that such dangers are, unfortunately, part of life in an American metropolis. But that does not excuse us entirely. As students of SCW, we need to take measures to protect ourselves and our peers. YU security has temporarily extended its local van service to later hours of the night, a positive move which should ease some fears. But soon the van schedule will return to its normal hours, which end at 1am.

At a recent Student Life Committee meeting Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, explained the role of the vans. The YU van service exists specifically for the safety and security of students. The vans are not a taxi service



for lazy students. They are also not designed to run 24 hours a day. He encouraged SCW students to take responsibility for their own safety by not staying out beyond 1am, adding that students who need assistance later than that hour will be escorted on foot by the security guards on duty.

This policy may be frustrating for students. I have been inconvenienced recently when I needed to return to Schottenstein after 1am. However, Rosengarten has a point. As young women in New York City, we have to realize that there are some hours of the night that it is simply not safe to be outside. It is inconvenient to stop studying before 1am in order to catch the van the night before a test, but the reality is, that is when the vans stop running. We need to appreciate the availability of security, and try to take advantage of it during its operative hours.

If we are lucky, then we will not hear of other violent incidences in our neighborhood again. But even when the shock of such news has faded, we need to remind ourselves that the potential for violence, especially violence directed at women, still exists. We need to be careful all the time; not just when newspapers and police reports remind us of the dangers that are inherent in a large city.

## FROM THE SSSBSC PRESIDENT

Hi everyone! I just want to update everybody on what is coming up at SSSB.

September 23 is an important day to remember. It's the date of the Sy Syms Student Reception—an informal reception for the Sy Syms student body, as well as our numerous Sy Syms minors and anyone else who is simply interested in all that goes on within SSSB. The reception gives each student the opportunity to speak to our deans and faculty, meet our executive board, receive a lovely gift (not that this should have any bearing on your intent in joining us), and most importantly, you will have the chance to sign up with our various clubs and societies (The American Marketing Association, Joint Business Society, Information Systems, Investment Club and *The Exchange*.) I hope to see every student involved. Whether you are a Sy Syms student or not, if any of our clubs appeal to you, please join them. Hopefully this year we will have the chance to develop new clubs here at SSSB, but once again it requires student involvement. We want



to hear where your interests lie, so please let us know. Get involved, in any and every way because it can be fun and rewarding.

I hope that everyone has had a great start to the new school year. Remember, it only gets better. Stay tuned for our upcoming events like Career Fair and the SSSB Shabbaton, both in November. Best of luck.

Cheri Ochs  
SSSBSC President '97-'98

## FROM THE TAC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Students,

Have you ever had one of those weeks when your alarm was set for p.m. instead of a.m.? You got caught in a downpour without an umbrella? The elevator broke and you were late for gym? You finally made it to lunch and there were no more tuna wraps? You lost your id? And Nynex accidentally cut off your phone line? Does any of this sound familiar? Well I have been there too. Just think of it this way: you now know the system quite well. Now that you have mastered these few survival skills, let me take a moment and tell you about the fun and relaxing things you can do when you have some spare time.

Spare time? You know the time after you've slept for two hours, spent six hours in lab and eaten lunch at 7:30 p.m. The truth of the matter is you really do have spare time when you can take advantage of all that SCW has to offer. These past few weeks have been jam-packed with fun activities for everyone to enjoy. Recently, at the Club Fair students had an opportunity to find out about the various clubs and committees that are offered in SCW. I gave everyone an opportunity to explore the student activities as well as to meet new people and to share ideas about new clubs and programs to work on for this upcoming year. Many of the programs that were suggested are already being worked on for this semester. *Nach Yomi*, *Chaburot* and Alumni learning are just a few of the programs that have just been started.

*Rosh Hashanah* cards are being sold in the lobby this week and we are working on a *selichot minyan*. In addition I am



happy to let you know that we will be reinstating the tradition of having a list of daily events in the lobby to let you know what is going on.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Dean and Office of Student Services for all their help over the last few weeks. They have really helped make our programs a success.

This year has started off amazingly and I am so happy to see that there are so many people that want to get involved. With your continued enthusiasm and input, I am sure that we will have a great year. Just remember, there really is time for you to get involved. A few minutes a day can really make a difference. I hope to see you all at next week's Campus Conversations.

Have a *G'mar Chatima Tova*.

Mechal Weiss  
TAC President

## FROM THE SCWSC PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Students,

The build-up, the excitement, the climactic plea of frantic club leaders for your signature on their membership list... Club Fair '97 is over. "So, what's next?" you may ask. The answer? INVOLVEMENT. Coming or signing your name was merely the first step in this process. The next one can happen on a variety of different levels: reading posted flyers and *In Motion* as an informed bystander. Attending an event as an interested student. Planning one of these events as a club president. The key is the realization that there are degrees of participation and involvement and to choose which are best for you.

On another note, I would like to introduce the first of a series of Campus Conversations for the 97-98 academic year. On Monday, September 29 at 8:00p.m. in Koch Auditorium, Dean Bacon will join students in discussing the topic "Do We Have More in Common than We Think?" This occasion will provide students with the opportunity to share ideas with both Dean Bacon and one another in an informal setting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to all the student leaders who con-



tributed to the success of Club Fair '97. Thanks to all of you, the year is off to an enthusiastic start. I am honored to be working for you and with you in our shared efforts to serve the student of Stern College for Women.

As *Rosh Hashanah* and the *Yamim Noraim* approach, I wish you all *Tekavatav Ve' Techatamu Tovah*.

Hannah Shonfeld,  
SCWSC President '97-'98

# Around the Campus



NYPD police car outside Midtown Center

## YU and NYPD Increase Security

By Leah Lubetski

Increased enrollment, the opening of Schottenstein Hall and recent events have led to an increase in YU security. Reports of two women sexually assaulted on Wednesday, September 18 near SCW prompted YU Security to take "plenty of measures" for increased safety around SCW, according to YU Chief of Security Donald Sommers. He assured that the vans will now transport students between the dormitories all hours of the night. In addition, security guards will escort walking students who feel unsafe. While Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, affirmed that students could be escorted even at very late hours, he said that local van service, which has previously operated until 1am, will not permanently extend to later hours.

A new addition to the security force is a New York City Police Department police car at the entrance to the Midtown Center. It was dispatched by NYPD after the September 4th triple suicide bombing on Ben Yehudah Street in Israel. The NYPD has in the past sent police cars to other sensitive areas such as the Turkish Mission and the Cuban Mission. NYPD will keep SCW under surveillance for an indeterminate period of time.

In reaction to the bombing, Sommers sent out a memo to the YU community stating that they "are aware of the increased concern for safety ... as a result of the tragic events in Jerusalem"

and that "the University's Office of Safety and Security in coordination with the NYPD, is continuing to take appropriate steps to provide all of us with a safe and secure environment." Sommers asked students to cooperate with security measures by carrying their ID cards and showing them whenever requested to do so by a security officer. In addition, Sommers asked students to be alert to their surroundings and report any unusual individuals or packages in the area.

The added security has elicited varied reactions from students. Shira Markowitz, SCW '98, "appreciates the noticeable increase in the number of security guards."

While agreeing that security at SCW is excellent, Batshöva Tessler, SCW '2000, felt that the increase in security made her feel a little trapped sometimes.

Although many students find it a hassle to show to their ID, Michelle Lavitt, SCW '2000, said she "feels safer" knowing that they ask for it. Shonnie Kesselman, SCW '2000, found that the guards were taking their job very seriously. She commented how a security guard physically matched her face with her ID card by holding it up to her face to check her identity when she walked into Schottenstein Residence Hall.

As for further changes in security measures, Sommers said that his office is "constantly reassessing the situation."

## Newly Formed SH Committee Makes Progress

By Estee Sandler

Due to complications and missing items in SCW's new Schottenstein Residence Hall (SH), the Office of Student Life established a Residence Life Committee that would monitor student feedback concerning SH.

The committee convened all the residents of SH and asked the students what improvements were most pressing for them. Nine representatives volunteered to act as liaisons between the students and the committee. Headed by Yael Berger, SCW '99, and Shlomit Keehn, SCW '99, the Residence Life Committee met with members of the Office of Supporting Services, Facilities Management, Food Service, Student Life and Environmental Services on

September 8 to discuss those improvements.

To date, Residence Life, has addressed the poor shower pressure and lack of full length mirrors, and put a television set in the second floor lounge. The day after the Committee met with administrators, 200 mirrors arrived and were installed in SH. Shortly after, the shower pressure was fixed, shelves were put into the communal bathrooms in the West wing and a soda machine was installed in the SH lobby.

The committee is still working on putting hooks in every room, improving van service to SH, adding a stereo to the athletics room, obtaining vacuum cleaners for student use, purchasing vending

## Club Beat

By Gila Rosenthal

Monday night, September 8 officially inaugurated the extracurricular component of the 1997-98 school year, with a mandatory meeting for SCWSC '98. Opening remarks by SCWSC president Hanaa Shattara, SCW '98, focused on the enthusiasm she had already witnessed on behalf of the club and her desire to see members take every advantage of the opportunity. Planning ideas of things you would like that events could be duly publicized and to minimize conflicting activities. Journals and other annual publications were enjoyed to be completed and distributed before *Levush*, as last year's distribution during finals and move-out left many publications sitting on the tables long after the dorm residents had left.

One club head raised the problem that despite signs plastered on every wall imaginable, many students are not aware of upcoming events, or of the existence of weekly newsletters available to them. The question could not be resolved satisfactorily, as the only solution is for students to make an effort to keep themselves updated and seek to get involved. Here, then, is an attempt at what is important in the coming days around the school.

**Chaplains Club** (which has just successfully completed this semester's notebook sale), will be selling *Rosh Hashanah* grams with a candy. The price will be 75 cents for one, and five for \$3.50. All proceeds will go to *tzedakah*. Keep your eyes out for more information.

Two of the aspiring new clubs this year, the College Republicans and College Democrats, are looking for support from the student body. They are both interested in the school's political scene and are looking for members to help them grow.

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Koch Auditorium.

This year's first **Campus Conversation** will be held on Monday, September 29 in Koch Auditorium. Dean Bacon will be speaking on the topic "Divided We Stand, Divided We Fall - Problem".

The **Carving Club** will be running freshmen club elections on Wednesday, September 24 during club hour in Koch Auditorium. All freshmen are encouraged to do their civic duty.

The **Chaplain Club**, one of this year's new clubs, will be featuring lectures throughout the year given by famous authors in the Jewish world. They are also trying to arrange for a "Pitmen's" concert at some point in the year.

The **Chaplains Club**, in conjunction with the **Tzedakah Committee** (which has just successfully completed this semester's notebook sale), will be selling *Rosh Hashanah* grams with a candy. The price will be 75 cents for one, and five for \$3.50. All proceeds will go to *tzedakah*. Keep your eyes out for more information.

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## Student Activities Table Removed

### SCWSC and TAC Expect Programs to Suffer

By Yedida Goldman

Students returning from summer vacation may have felt a curious emptiness upon entering the Midtown Center lobby. Gone was the familiar easel that announced daily events. Gone was the folding table where important student activities were publicized, where the blood drive had its sign-up sheet, where trees were sold on *Tu B'Shvat*, where TAC notebooks were sold at the start of each new semester and where films were played for *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. Gone too was the burgundy plastic bench with the plants on each end. The bench and plants have been relocated to the eighth floor of the Midtown Center. The table, on the other hand, has been moved to Koch Auditorium, a place with less congestion, to make room for increased student traffic.

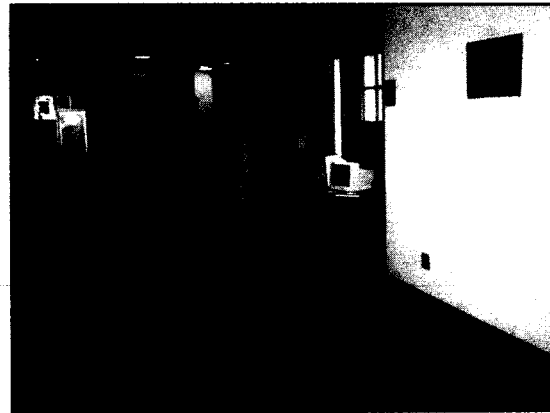
TAC was the first student organization to suffer from this decision to move the lobby table. Mechai Weiss, President of TAC, was informed that the biannual SCW notebook sale would not take place in the lobby, as it had in the past. Instead, the sale would take place in Koch Auditorium. According to Weiss, the notebook sale was disappointing. She had been hoping to make more money so that TAC could cover its costs and give a larger sum of money to *tzedakah*. Last year, TAC ran out of three-subject notebooks; this year, nothing was sold out. Although the number of students eating in Koch Auditorium has risen since last year, it is still a relatively remote room. Weiss attributes the drop in sales to Koch Auditorium's location and to the easel's removal. "People didn't even know about the notebook sale," said Weiss. "We hung up signs, but they are not as prominent as the easel or the table, and they get covered over quickly."

SCWSC has also been adversely affected by the policy change. SCWSC President Hannah Shonfield, SCW '98, feels that the easel and the table were major sources of publicity for SCWSC. As a result of their displacement, students are no longer aware of SCWSC activities on a daily basis. Activities have already suffered as a result, specifically the Yankee's game, which was a part of orientation. Shonfield feels that the transfer to Koch Auditorium will be a major problem in the future for all SCWSC events, especially the blood drive.

There is also concern among SCW Blood Drive Coordinators, Deborah



*Commemration of Kristalnacht in the lobby last year*



*The lobby today*

Waltuch, SSSB '98, Yael Berger, SCW '99, and Keren Nadata SSSB '99. Waltuch, who is coordinating the blood drive for her third straight year is nervous that as a result of the diminished publicity, not as many people will give blood. According to Waltuch, although there are posters hung up all over campus, that is not enough. "A tremendous amount of publicity was done by students announc-

ing the blood drive to other students as they passed and encouraging them to sign up and give blood." Students who dorm are more likely to notice the posters since they are hung prominently throughout the dormitories. Commuting students and faculty, on the other hand, have a greater chance of missing the signs, and the blood drive itself.

Due to the significant enrollment

increase this academic school year, Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College for Women, foresaw a major congestion problem in the lobby of the Midtown Center. The lobby has always been a source of major traffic and crowds, but the 1997-1998 school year enrollment increase promised to exacerbate the problem significantly. A number of measures were implemented to help ease the overcrowding, among them the new elevator system. During freshman orientation, academic advisement was stationed on the eleventh floor, far away from the Registrar's Office and the elevators.

Bacon, however, did not feel that these measures were sufficient. The overcrowding problem was serious and something else needed to be done. Expanding the lobby is a solution under consideration for the future, but is not a possibility for the present. The remaining option was to remove the table, the bench and the easel, the only mobile pieces of furniture in the lobby. Both Bacon and Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director, Supporting Services Administration, agreed that this was the best possible solution, and the furniture was taken away.

"I understand the traffic problem and the need for space," Shonfield said, "but the lack of publicity for student events is a much more serious problem." She suggested restoring the table and easel to the lobby for a trial period, to see if the increase in students has really made the crowding significantly worse than last year.

It is unclear whether or not the decision to move the advertisement table and easel was meant to be permanent or merely a temporary measure enacted to help control the mad rush taking place at the start of every academic year. Although not involved in making the decision, Ethel Orlan, Assistant Dean, SCW, was unsure that the move to Koch Auditorium was anything more than a temporary situation. Student leaders, on the other hand, have been informed that the move was permanent. The issue was raised at a Student Life Committee meeting on Friday, September 19. At the meeting Rosengarten raised the possibility of restoring the table and easel to the lobby if Dean Bacon, who was not in attendance at the meeting, agrees to such a decision.

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help in setting up  
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## Students Concerned with Use of Styrofoam in Cafeteria

By Esther S. Finkle

Corabbeny men first meal of the Fall 1997 semester in the SCW cafeteria, many students found that Styrofoam cups had replaced the paper and wax cups used in previous years.

Leonard Judson, Assistant Director of Food Services, explained that the new Styrofoam cups come in three sizes and all fit one lid. The cups endure both hot and cold liquids, eliminating the need for separate paper cups used for hot liquids and wax coated cups used for cold. In addition to being more efficient and durable, these cups are cheaper than the ones used in past years.

The decision to switch to Styrofoam cups was of great concern to Ora Shinnar, SCW '98, Co-President of Student Alliance for Global Awareness (SAGA). Styrofoam is bulky, non biodegradable and releases environmentally hazardous chemicals during its manufacture. According to Shinnar, "Past presidents of SAGA have extensively lobbied not to use Styrofoam in the cafeteria, so the sudden presence of Styrofoam cups in the place of paper ones is very disturbing."

Food Services claims they were aware of all environmental issues prior to plac-

ing the Styrofoam cups in the cafeteria. Judson explained that in the long run using Styrofoam cups is more efficient since the wax cups were not recyclable and one needed more than one paper cup when using them for hot liquids to prevent burning one's hand. It is important to note, however, that despite being made of Styrofoam, the cups currently used in the cafeteria are chloro fluoro carbon (CFC) free.

Food Services is aware that the general usage of foam is not an optimum situation. However, they feel that students must do their part by making a conscious effort to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.

Currently satisfied, Food Services intends to keep the cups and has placed them in the cafeteria at YC as well. Shinnar said that she appreciates that Food Services takes environmental issues into consideration when making purchasing decisions. The next step is to implement a program to recycle these cups.

To facilitate recycling programs, SAGA has appointed Lisa Kaplan, SCW '99, as a recycling coordinator who will work on improving recycling conditions in SCW.

## Record Enrollment Ends Two Year Slump

By Yedida Goldman

After an enrollment drop of 54 students between the 1995-96 and 1996-97 academic years, enrollment for this year soared, as numbers increased by more than eighty. It is the largest enrollment in the history of SCW and SSSB.

The greatest increase of students has been from the post-Israel group. Close to sixty additional students came to SCW and SSSB from schools in Israel this year. There was also a slight increase in freshmen and transfer students. The number of early admission students, on the other hand, has decreased. Although there are still some high school seniors admitted, early admissions, according to Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, has not been encouraged and has dwindled over the years.

Kranzler does not know what caused the low numbers of the '96-'97 academic year. However, as a result of the decreased enrollment, a lot of effort was concentrated on recruitment for the '97-'98 year. The deans were involved much more heavily in the admissions process this year than in years past. Both Rabbi Dr. Efraim Kanarfogel, Chairman, Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies, and Ethel Orlian, Dean of Students, SCW, flew to Israel at different times of the year, to recruit new students, assist with academic advisement and help with any other problems that potential students may have encountered.

The Office of Student Finance worked very closely with the Office of Admissions to accommodate all of the applicants. According to Kranzler, Neal Harris, Acting Director of Student Finance, and Jean Belmont, University Bursar, were "spectacular." They put in extremely long hours to handle all of the requests for financial aid as quickly and efficiently as possible, and were very "customer service" oriented. They made the difference with a lot of students."

Even during the decrease in enrollment, standards for admission were tightened, a trend that has been fairly consistent over the years. There are still students admitted on provisional status, but the standards for that have been raised as well. Provisional status means that an applicant is admitted as a regular student, but they are limited to six courses a semester and must maintain a minimum grade point average. Kranzler feels that irrespective of standards for admission, there should always be a level below the regular standard, for two main reasons. First,

to give a second chance to students whom the Office of Admissions deems capable of high academic performance but who were not sufficiently successful in high school because of lack of motivation. Second, because standards are universal, (an 85 GPA and a combined score of 1100 or more on the SAT's), regardless of the level of the high school attended. A student who barely maintains a B average at a very weak school, where the average grade may be a B+ or an A-, should not be equally admitted with a student who attended a very rigorous high school and maintained a B average. Provisional status enables SCW to distinguish between applicants from different schools and send the weaker students the message that they were admitted only on condition, and they must perform up to a certain standard or be dismissed.

The great number of students has caused some technical problems. The dormitories, Brookdale Hall and Schottenstein Hall, are both full, and the university is still required to rent outside apartments at Windsor Court to accommodate all of the students living on campus. In addition, local van service has been unusually slow this year, especially since a van is now required to stop at SH as well as BH, WC and the Midtown Center. According to Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration, two new vans were purchased and any problems that arise because of lack of van space will be dealt with as they come.

The Midtown Center is also extraordinarily crowded. Classes are functioning at the highest possible capacity and are squeezed into rooms that can barely accommodate them. According to Dean Orlian, the deans worked very hard to open as many courses as possible to as many students as possible. A new *Tanach* teacher was hired this summer and an extra Developmental Psychology was added to the schedule when the first one was closed out but was still in great demand. Classes that normally have small enrollments have expanded significantly this semester. Popular courses were allowed to grow beyond the normal numbers, and were moved to classrooms that could hold the greatest number of people. Although so far unsuccessful, a committee exists which is searching for a new building that will be either in addition to or in place of the Midtown Center.

## ClubFair'97

By Gila Rosenthal

Club Fair, one of the most distinctive initiation rites of a new school year at SCW took place on Tuesday, September 16th at 8 PM, and the following day during club hour.

The object of the fair is to introduce new students, and antiquated ones, to the vast array of clubs and societies existing in SCW. Club fair gives students an opportunity to glimpse all that there is in the school, and sign up for clubs they may have wanted to join earlier but didn't know how to join. By the same token, the fair serves as an integral means of generating publicity for the various extracurricular activities. As one club head estimated, about 70% of her group's publicity came from club fair. According to her, the energy and enthusiasm felt in the crowded room was contagious, and effectively pumped up interest in the clubs.

Two freshmen described the fair as "very informative - it's nice to know there's so much variety - but it felt like a real *balagan!* A real mess!" Other students also expressed feeling overwhelmed, as they took in the over 80 clubs lining the perimeter and center of the room, and hundreds of students filling in the spaces.

According to SCWSC President Hannah Shonfield, SCW '98, this year's fair contained many organizational improvements over last year's. One of the most obvious and decorative changes were the balloons flying over each chair, announcing the name of the club stationed there. Shonfield described the balloons as "fun and facilitative," as they served as effective markers to indicate where each club was, while at the same time providing the room with a festive atmosphere. "Organization is key," she maintained, as

fitting 85 clubs into one auditorium is no simple task. This year tables were arranged in the center of the room as well as along the walls, increasing the surface area available for clubs. In addition, there was assigned seating, with three student council clubs followed by three TAC clubs, the SCWSC clubs being arranged alphabetically. The purpose of this, said Shonfield, was to minimize the lack of order of last year's club fair, while avoiding the polarization of the two councils, SCWSC and TAC, which would have occurred had the two been completely separated.

The mandatory club head meeting of the previous week also served to make the fair more organized. Club heads were told to arrive at the fair 45 minutes in advance, so that they would be set up by the time students began to come. A club fair booklet, listing all the SCWSC clubs, societies and publications, was handed out to each student. According to Shonfield, distributing the booklets rather than leaving them at the entrance to Koch Auditorium, guaranteed that each student would notice and take one. Classical music played in the background, and during club hour on

Wednesday the Belles, SCW's *capella* group, performed two songs. But the prevalent noise heard throughout the fair was the talking of students filling the room.

Commenting on the success of this year's club fair, Yael Berger, SCW '98, stated, "In comparison to last year, this year's was extremely more organized, which made it easier for students to

continued on page 19



Club Fair, Koch Auditorium

On behalf of SCWSC,  
TAC and SSSBSC we  
would like to thank both  
the Office of the Dean  
and the Office of Student  
Services for their  
assistance in making the  
beginning of the Fall '97  
Semester a success.

Special thanks for the  
popular new ID holders  
and for their on-going  
support and concern  
for the students of SCW.

# Why Yeshiva University?

## YU's New Marketing Campaign

By Bethanie Lieberman

On Sunday, September 14, 1997, YU ran a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* that challenged its readers, "Why Yeshiva University?" The answer was included along with a picture and story of "a true man of distinction," Aaron Feuerstein, YU '47, owned a textile plant in Massachusetts that burned down one winter night. Despite the incurred losses, Feuerstein continued to keep his 3,000 workers on his payroll until he was able to reopen his plant. For this magnanimous act, he was awarded national media exposure and acclaim from President Clinton in his State of the Union address. Feuerstein credited his action to his YU education. YU taught him two things: "First, think creatively; look beyond rote solutions. Second, Jewish values must live in the workplace as well as in the synagogue because all people, owners and workers alike, are created in the image of the one G-d." He mentioned the dual curriculum in YU and how the skills he learned there helped him deal with the situation he faced in his plant. At the bottom of the advertisement was a remittance coupon with boxes to check, a request for obtaining further information about any of the YU programs, donating money or including YU in one's estate planning or will.

The advertisement ran recently in several newspapers of Jewish affiliation, such as the *Forward*, the *Jewish Advocate* in Boston and the *Jewish Week*.

Full-page advertisements in the *New York Times* are not the norm as far as YU publicity goes. If they need students, there are far less pricey methods of contacting potential applicants, as well as ones that will reach more high school students. How many seventeen-year-olds read the *New York Times* regularly? Although Feuerstein's story is both exemplary and valorous, the truth is, that the actions of an alumnus of the class of 1947 are not necessarily going to motivate droves of students to apply to YU schools. What then was the real agenda of the public relations department, and why did they undertake such a costly expenditure with such little apparent value?

David Rosen, Director of Public Relations for YU, called these advertisements "an institutional identity and marketing campaign," not designed to target potential students, but potential benefactors. This explains why so little emphasis was placed on the faculty and fields of study in the advertisement, and why an older role model was chosen. YU was specifically directing these ads to the affluent middle age and older population of all Jewish affiliations. This group is the most able and likely to donate large sums of money. YU was hoping to enlighten those individuals who may

have misconceptions about YU, or who may not be familiar with the university. YUPR hopes to "...broaden the universe of people generally and Jews in particular, who are aware of Yeshiva University and what it does."

The recent advertisement is, in fact, part of a campaign. Next week, a second profile of a YU graduate is due to run in a similar "Why Yeshiva University" advertisement in the same newspapers as the September 14 ad and the week following that, a third profile, featuring noted philanthropist Irving Stone of Cleveland, Ohio and his son-in-law and grandson Gary Weiss, YU '84. The heading will once again be "Why Yeshiva University," and its purpose will be to show YU's tradition of family values. Bringing examples of real people is in order to tell the YU story in "human terms." The message behind them is that YU is interested in Jewish continuity and in the preservation of Jewish identity.

Rosen explained that Feuerstein's kindness was not what inspired the campaign on a whole, it was just opportune timing that he made the news recently. "It's not like we said, 'Gee, here's something we can capitalize on.' It didn't happen that way at all."

Indeed, it was a good choice to profile him first, for yet another reason as well. The \$22 million donation by Anne Scheiber, an elderly woman in the Manhattan area, and previously unknown to the YU community, inspired YU's recent burst of interest in widespread publicity. They hope that someone will be impressed enough with YU to act similarly. As Rosen explained, a gift of such proportions to YU would certainly justify the money spent for advertising. Although the *New York Times* was unreachable, Rosen estimates that a full-page in the Sunday *New York Times* costs about \$50,000. Multiplied by three weeks, and added to the costs of the full-page ads in the smaller, Jewish newspapers, the large expense on the part of YU is evident. Rosen has faith however, that the *New York Times* is a good place to advertise as it is the "only real national newspaper," and reaches the whole Jewish community.

If this series of three advertisements is as successful as is anticipated, another three may follow, although they are still in the planning stages. At least two of the next ads will profile prominent women under the same heading of "Why Yeshiva University." YUPR hopes that this campaign will bring widespread awareness and support of YU from the national Jewish community. Maybe then, the next time people are faced with the question, "Why Yeshiva University," even more of them will have an answer.

# Falling Through the Cracks

## Students on Beginner and Elementary Levels Dissatisfied with Judaic Studies Courses

By Sarah Balch

Although SCW offers a wealth of Judaic Studies courses, according to Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Fry Department of Jewish Studies, out of the 91 Judaic Studies courses offered this semester, only seven are offered to students on beginner and elementary levels. That is a significantly less than the 62 courses offered on the advanced level. Upon entering SCW, students are assigned a Judaic studies class level ranging from beginner to advanced. Placement is based on high school performance and an oral examination administered by a member of the SCW faculty.

Many students on the beginner and elementary levels expressed frustration at the dearth of classes. "With so few classes offered, I really am not exposed to as many teachers and teaching styles as I would like," remarked Shirra Shيران, SCW '01. "Although the class size is fine, a larger variety of classes and teachers would be great."

Karen Nisenbaum, SCW '01, commented, "I wish I had a larger selection of subjects to choose from. Although I really enjoy my Bible class in Genesis I wouldn't mind learning Numbers as well."

"Many of the lower classes are insufficiently stimulating. Just because my Hebrew skills aren't advanced doesn't mean I don't want to be challenged," a SCW Freshman said.

Anna Adelsky, SCW '01, jumped up a level to a lower intermediate class in order to gain a greater variety of subject matter. "There are some really great

courses at SCW but not enough of them are offered on the elementary level." A student has the option of registering for classes above her designated level, but to a large degree is constrained by the insufficiency of her Hebrew skills and previous background.

In response to students' concerns, Rabbi Kanarfogel explained that with the low number of students enrolled exclusively in beginner and elementary classes, it becomes difficult to program a diverse course schedule. Expressing optimism he commented, "The Judaic Studies program is designed not only to inform students but also to allow them to progress in their level of studies. Students should aim to develop their skills so that they will be ready for the array of courses available as levels increase in difficulty."

Two new programs have just been launched by the SCW administration in order to facilitate students' transition into more difficult classes. Mrs. Rywka Shulman, Instructor of Bible at SCW, will begin meeting with students on the lower Judaic Studies tiers in order to help guide and monitor them.

According to Rabbi Kanarfogel, Shulman's guidance will ensure that students aren't left stagnating in courses that are too basic. In addition, Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg,  *mashgiach ruchani* of SCW, will begin a series of lectures on October 23 regarding practical  *halachic* issues. Taking students with weaker Judaic backgrounds and exposing them to immediately applicable information will hopefully yield fast results.

## Why YESHIVA UNIVERSITY?

BECAUSE JEWISH VALUES  
LIVE IN THE FACTORY AS WELL  
AS IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

On the December night, Aaron Feuerstein celebrated his 75th birthday. He didn't work, went up in smoke - literally. Despite the fire that devastated the Massachusetts textile plant his grandfather founded, Aaron Feuerstein (YU '47) refused to give up on Middle Mills or to leave his workers jobless as the winter holidays approached.



Imagine any other choice - or any better investment than Yeshiva University, which prepared him to make it. "Yiddish taught me two important lessons," says Feuerstein. "First, think creatively; look beyond rote solutions. Second, Jewish values must live in the workplace as well as in the synagogue because all people, owners and workers alike, are created in the image of the one G-d."

Saving the *Franklin D. Roosevelt* required the advice and of a Talmud scholar and the ethics of a committed Jew. Investors thinking beyond Feuerstein rebound a case of the-on-reserve plan. Jewish ethics inspired him to keep 3,000 workers on the Middle Mills payroll until the plant reopened - saving national media coverage and praise from President Clinton. Feuerstein calls it

By combining Jewish and secular studies, Yeshiva University enables more generations with Judaism's high ethical standards and with the practical knowledge to put those standards to work in the world. To learn more about Yeshiva University, receive the coupon below or call: (212) 360-0863.

The attached is learning more about Yeshiva University.

Yes, I would like to receive more information about Yeshiva University.

I would like to be contacted by Yeshiva University regarding my donation.

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The New Yeshiva University Advertisement



# OPINION

## Expand Judaic Studies Options for Beginners

By Nechama Kaganoff

Ask the typical strong-standing, academic, well-rounded SCW student why she matriculated at YU, as opposed to any other college. She will probably answer you that, above all, it's the Judaic Studies, in addition to the other benefits of SCW.

Why and for what exactly are we grateful for in the Judaic Studies connection? For some of us, including myself, we have participated in the field of 12 years in a dual college, double curriculum system. We have continued on into graduate school in order to pursue further studies. We have been able to incorporate our Jewish education with our secular education and have been able to graduate with college degrees and to actively participate in Torah.

For others, however, the Jewish and the secular education at SCW has been a challenge. For those who don't have much strong skills, but are required to learn to survive and gain time when SCW has to offer in the intermediate to advanced intermediate level.

What about the vast of the few who come to SCW with a limited knowledge of Torah? They come to learn about Judaism, to know what it means to be proud of their religion. Most importantly, they desire to improve their skills. Are they not entitled in the same excellent educational Judaic, which we proudly boast? Should they be limited in their program? Why can't they come to SCW and learn to survive and gain time when SCW has to offer in the intermediate to advanced intermediate level?

It is time to change the courses in the

Judaic studies department. There's no reason why there should be only one beginner's course and limited number of beginner/intermediate classes. With the abundance of teachers and rabbis in SCW or in the New York metropolitan area, we should be able to incorporate more beginner's classes. Why is it that YU has numerous tracks for all types of students (JSS, IBC, etc.), and there is a lack of resources available for SCW students?

Two specific cases come to my mind. One is that of a freshman. A bright, capable student at the beginning stages of practicing Judaism. She came to SCW this year fall, expecting to have the same of Torah at SCW while open to her. Unfortunately, there is only one course available for her to take. The second case is a senior. Four years ago she came to Stern to major in Judaic studies. It is unfortunate that her weak skills should handicap her from reaching her potential. Because there aren't sufficient courses for her level, she is forced to take classes on a higher level, above what is in her best interest. How is this a fair Torah education for her?

No doubt, SCW offers a lot of Torah opportunities, including the overflowing *Beit Midrash*, *parsha shiva*, *Dina Yezra*, *Shivrit Parsha*, et al. Yes these are tremendous opportunities for those who come and they are all about, who already see the beauty in Torah. We need to reach out, and most importantly, to provide for those who are just beginning, what it is they need to flourish and grow to their potential.

THURSDAY MAY 21 11 AM

THE THEATER  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

# Commencement 1998

SENIORS, HAVE YOU FILED FOR GRADUATION?

IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS



## Public Relations Director Resigns

By Observer Staff

David Rosen, Director of the Public Relations Department at YU for the past four years, has resigned. His last day will be October 1. He cited moving on and a desire to work with a variety of clients as his reasons for leaving YU. Rosen has been working for universities for the past 15 years. Before assuming the role of Director at YU, he worked for Brandies, Harvard and the University of Chicago.

Rosen will be taking the position of

Vice President at Howard Rubenstein Associates, a Public Relations agency in Manhattan.

YU is currently seeking a replacement for Rosen.

Rosen's departure will not affect any of the projects the Public Relations Department is currently working on, including the new "Why Yeshiva University?" campaign.

I would like to thank all of the students, faculty and administration of SCW for their support during this difficult time.

Shoshana Greenberg

Check out our Web page

<http://www.geocities.com/Observer/5161>

# **DO WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN WE THINK?**

**Please Join Us for a Pre-Rosh Hashanah**

## **CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS**

**Featuring Dean Karen Bacon**

**Monday September 29**

**Koch Auditorium**

**8:00 PM**

**co-sponsored by SCWSC and TAC**

# Cafeteria Kashrut

continued from page 1

was the most "appropriate" choice due to its "breadth of staff" and "sophistication." He noted that "rather than YU creating an OU, there was already one created."

YU administrators approached Rabbi Menachem Genack, Director of the OU, along with other OU administrators in the late spring of 1997. They drafted a food services application and submitted it to Rabbi Lenny Steinberg, Rabbinical Coordinator for the OU. Rabbi Steinberg took over the *hashgacha* proceedings from that point on.

The transfer, in the process since the early summer of 1997, involved extensive time and effort on the parts of both the OU and YU. Rabbi Steinberg noted that he spent most of his time during the summer working with YU, a "major undertaking," to ensure that the level of *kashrut* in the YC, SCW, Cardoza Law School and Einstein Medical School cafeterias was up to the OU's standards by the time school started in late August. Expert *mashgichim* from the OU were brought into the cafeterias and suggested that YU make several changes. Rabbi Steinberg would not comment as to the nature of some of these changes, yet pointed out that "more equipment had to be bought" for the kitchens.

Changes were made regarding some of the food products; and some items, such as the popular vegetable scallops were eliminated.

Steinberg explained that since the scallops were not manufactured in *parve* equipment, YU could not maintain the *Cholov Yisrael* standard in its milk kitchen and serve scallops made with *Cholv Akum* (milk supervised by a non-Jew) utensils at the same time.

In the past, the YU cafeterias carried Israeli products such as Milky and Danona yogurts, that were under the *hashgacha* of the Israeli Rabbinat of Naharia. Since these products are not accepted by OU standards, they had to be removed from all of YU's food counters and refrigerators. Mr. Moshé Singer, manager of the cafeteria at SCW,



Non-OU Certified Hawaii Punch Previously Sold in Cafeteria

removed the Milky yogurts from SCW the very first week of school. While there were still Danona yogurts in the refrigerator that first week, he added that he would not order the product anymore. All Israeli products under the Naharia *hashgacha* have since been removed. The Hawaiian Punch in the juice dispensers has been replaced with juices approved by the OU.

Rabbi Halberstam, one of the *mashgichim* at SCW, mentioned that the lettuce has been replaced with *Bodek* (pre-checked) lettuce, and that the stamps are removed from the strawberries to avoid unnecessary concerns. Singer added that the cafeteria uses *Bodek* broccoli as well.

A SCW student was "very excited" and "very pleased" when she found out about the transfer of authority in *kashrut*. However, she still worries if the "Israeli products are slipping through the cracks."

Yet Rabbi Steinberg claims that the OU *hashgacha* is very tight. "A kitchen runs with a system," he said, and like in every system, "everyone needs to know what they need to do."

There are two *mashgichim* (*midim* (permanent observers) in SCW. Rabbi Halberstam works from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Rabbi Mordechai Brisman works from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m.. Both Rabbi Halberstam, a former *mashgiach* in the YC cafeteria, and Rabbi Brisman are employees of the OU. The Rabbi in charge of overseeing the entire *hashgacha* operation, (Rav Hamachshir), Rabbi Chaim Chernoff, is based uptown yet rotates to the other three facilities periodically. Steinberg noted that Rabbi Chernoff has been "in food service for years" and is experienced in *kashering* "major kitchens." Although Rabbi Chernoff has had to spend a lot of his time traveling between the four YU kitchens, Steinberg expects that there will "not [be] much of a need for him to come" to SCW as often once the "system" is established.

Singer now only supervises the managerial aspect of the kitchen, which he finds "easier" than the managing and *kashrut* he was responsible for in past years.

From the moment the delivery trucks drop off the food at SCW, the *mashgiach* on duty signs off each package and brings it to the kitchen. All packaged foods arrive closed. The cooked *fleishig* food that arrives from the Main Campus comes in packages sealed with plumbers. The *mashgiach* monitors all the cooking, checks the stores and display cases, and supervises the transfer from the *milchig* kitchen to the *fleishig* kitchen.

At night, Rabbi Brisman closes all the refrigerators with numbered, red plastic plumbers and writes the last three digits on the plumbers for Halberstam. The following morning, Halberstam checks to see that all the plumbers are intact and match the number left for him.

If there are any problems or questions in the kitchen or concerning the *kashrut* of a particular product, the *mashgichim* are instructed to contact the OU immediately.

Steinberg commented how "helpful" the YU administration has been and how they did "anything it took" to obtain the OU's approval. He added that this transfer was an extreme expense for YU and will continue to cost them at least \$100,000 per year.

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# Risky Business

By Michal Greenwald

The other day, as I was waiting on line for dinner in the SCW cafeteria, I witnessed a very disturbing sight. The girl standing right ahead of me held a plate filled with no more than seven string beans and some lettuce leaves. "This is it for me tonight," she said to her friend. "I've got to lose weight!!!" Interestingly enough, her friend did not respond with an "Are you nuts?!" She seemed to find eating string beans and lettuce for dinner completely normal.

Girls, girls, girls, when will you ever learn? Crash dieting (otherwise known as starving yourself) does not, will not and can not work! Sure, subsequent to not eating for two days you'll feel a bit lighter, but it's not fat you're losing, its water and nutrients. After a few weeks of dieting, it'll be muscle. Then, if you can keep it up longer, you'll lose some fat—but nothing significant. Why? Because your body—the fuel-efficient model G-d created—will be in starvation mode and there is no way it will give up any precious fat. Fat is the fuel used to give you energy when you are running on empty. Fat is what your body strives to retain when it does not receive enough. And fat is what you will be after your metabolism has slowed to a speed that would make your grandmother proud.

After your precious metabolism slows—that very metabolism that helps keep you thin—you will spend your day feeling weak and sluggish. You won't even dream of hitting the treadmill as you can't lift your feet to walk much less run, you

come to an important realization. Food is extremely pleasurable. And so you'll taste one fry from your "unhealthy" friend's plate and pretty soon you won't be able to control it any longer. Three Haagen Dazs pints later, and your body will say "Hey, she's eating fat, gobs and gobs of it! Let's grab it while we can!" And it will hold onto any incoming drop of grease, oil and fat and place it into its storage area (otherwise known as your thighs.) The vicious cycle will begin again when it hits you that you have a wedding in two weeks and must get into that dress.

So how do you fit into that dress without crash dieting? How long will it take? The marketing world would like you to believe it can take only two weeks. Some claim you can lose the weight in three days. Truth is you can do it in one hour: LIPOSUCTION. But if you don't have \$8,000 extra dollars lying around or if hospitals make you queasy then there is really only one other healthier option. It takes a long time and requires commitment and change but it'll keep you fit for life. Everyone knows what it is but everyone is too lazy, busy and rushed to do it. The answer is exercise and healthy eating coupled with consistency and room to cheat once in a while and bang—your slim dreams can be a reality. So next time you are tempted to eat nothing but string beans for dinner remember that in the long run you will not end up looking like one.

# International Cafe Gets Overhaul

By Sarah Cate

Have you tried the new tuna wraps with the sun-dried tomatoes? How about the tofu with sautéed vegetables? The International Café in Koch Auditorium has a completely new menu this semester, which was planned with healthier eating habits in mind.

Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, said that he changed the entire menu over the summer in order to facilitate healthier, vegetarian eating. "We wanted everything to be more natural," he said, "There is organic bread and we try not to add any extra unhealthy additives to the food. For example, in our egg salad, we use fresh chopped eggs, with nothing mixed in. We want to continue in this direction of healthier food by giving people the option of keeping away from dairy."

Student responses to the new menu were overwhelmingly positive. Aviva Katz, SCW '98, said, "Last year the salad bar had nothing; now there are more choices. It's also more affordable this year and much healthier. The people who work there are really nice. They prepare the food for you while you wait and apologize if an item is not available. The food also looks better."

Miriam Grossman, SCW 2000, found the change in Koch a pleasant surprise. "Last year, dinner in Koch was leftovers from lunch in the main cafeteria. They mainly served leftovers, grilled cheese, pizza, and knishes. Now there are more options for vegetarians; there are tuna wraps and vegetarian stuffed cabbage-it's

just much healthier. I really like the new healthy additions to the menu."

There were a few complaints from students amid all the praise for the new menu. Chana Charpak, SSSB '98, said, "It closes too early to eat dinner after classes." She also felt that it was unfair to the out of town students to charge so much for the food. "Students from out of town can't afford the prices, because they are on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Katz also felt that it closed too early. "I would prefer it if they would stay open later for lunch. The International Café closes at 3pm and classes end at 3pm. If you don't have time to get food before class, you're stuck without lunch. Additionally, there's nothing open on Sundays until 4:30 P.M.," she said. Katz was also concerned about the long wait in Koch. "Sometimes the lines really back up, and it takes a really long time to just get your lunch," she complained. Many students suggested that the Koch staff prepare more food in advance, especially the more popular items on the menu. Other suggestions included adding more tables to Koch in order to give the students more room to eat.

Many students hoped that the Food Services Committee would at least give students the option of having cheese on the pizzas in the International Café. As Grossman put it, "I hope they bring the cheese back!" Many students are looking forward to more new changes in Koch as the year progresses.

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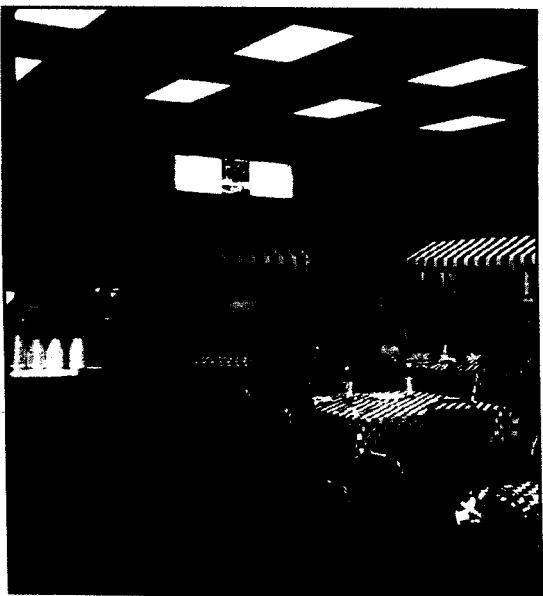
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The International Cafe, Koch Auditorium

# Personalities

## Summer at Weizman Institute

By Ilanit Benjamin



Cheryl Younger

Cheryl Younger, SCW '98, was among 30 privileged students selected to participate in an international program in research at the world renowned Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel last summer. During the program, students from the various fields of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Applied Mathematics conduct research at the Institute.

Younger, a biology major and business minor, heard about this internship through the SCW biology department. She also met with a former SCW student who had been on the program the previous year to learn more about the program. The application process began in early December and in March she was informed of her selection. She had been selected among hundreds of talented students from universities such as Harvard, MIT and Columbia for research at one of the world's finest science institutes, known for its excellent research standards and brilliant students. Younger was excited and surprised at her selection. "I was pleased and pleasantly surprised about the news," she said. "I feel very fortunate to be part of this project."

Younger left for Israel right after finals. There she met other students on the program from countries such as Great Britain, Russia and Switzerland. Living with students from different cultures and backgrounds was a learning experience in and of itself. Most of the students were between the ages of 20 and 24 and had prior experience in research. Although a bit nervous in the beginning, Younger was quick to make friends and get comfortable with her working environment.

Younger was a member of a team doing research in "Tumor Suppressor Genes in the Ovary." After discussing with the head of the lab, she chose a specific topic. She researched the use of the gene

Most students do not have the chance to meet all the Judaic Studies professors 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 Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, originally from Westchester, New York, has definite YU roots. A product of YU's Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy (MTSA) high school and YC, where he was a member of the first class of early admission students as well as the first class of the combined BA/MA program in Judaic Studies, Rabbi Kanarfogel continued his education at YU studying in RIETS under Rabbi Soloveitchik, Rabbi Herschel Schachter and Rabbi David Bleich. He received both his Ph.D. in medieval Jewish history and his *semicha* from YU. He began teaching at YC in '78 and at SCW in '79. Upon appointment as Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies in SCW in '84, Rabbi Kanarfogel continued his teaching exclusively in SCW and is now in his 28th year at YU since entering high school.

Rabbi Kanarfogel, who may be described by some as the busiest person at SCW, divides his time between teaching two high-enrollment courses, directing the Judaic Studies Department and doing research in his field. He describes the sphere of research as "a separate world;" his publications include over 40

articles, one published book *Jewish Education and Society: History in the High Middle Ages* [1992], and another book which is due to come out this year. Rabbi Kanarfogel enjoys studying ancient manuscripts and "writing [original scholarly works] from a fresh perspective based on the manuscripts." He has lectured extensively throughout the United States and Israel and has participated in visiting scholars programs in the University of Pennsylvania and Ben Gurion University in the Negev.

Rabbi Kanarfogel's courses at SCW generally cover topics related to Jewish history, but he has also occasionally taught *halacha* courses and has even given a *gemara shiur* at IBC. Commenting on the importance of learning Jewish history, he stated, "Jewish history has a value not only unto itself, but it is also informative in all aspects of learning...Jewish history [must be viewed] not only [in the context of] the past, but also in the present."

Reminiscing about some of the more colorful moments in his career at SCW, Rabbi Kanarfogel recalled the time in one of his first years of teaching when one Jewish history student asked him toward the end of class if he would like to see a relic from the second Temple period. She then proceeded to the shock of everyone present, to open her shoulder bag and pull out a live and writhing snake. Rabbi Kanarfogel immediately asked her to please relocate the snake, as



Rabbi Kanarfogel

he tried to retain a sense of calm over himself and the frantic class. He added thankfully, "Nothing like that has happened again in the past 20 years."

Expounding upon the his love of teaching, Rabbi Kanarfogel commented, "The part I enjoy most is seeing students, who come to us having never been exposed to our methods and literature, leave us not only knowing the information but also integrating it in ways they could not when they first entered SCW." He also enjoys "the challenge of expanding the SCW Jewish Studies Department to higher levels. We are already quality, but we never rest; we are always improving."

## YU Graduate Takes on NYC

By Susan Jacobs



Jules Polonetsky

Jules Polonetsky has come a long way from his days as an undergraduate student of YU. A devoted Democrat, Polonetsky is Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's running mate for the position of Public Advocate. This move comes after a successful tenure as one of the youngest members of the New York State Assembly, representing Coney Island, Brighton Beach and Bay Ridge since 1994.

Polonetsky, who is 32 and holds a law degree from New York University School of Law, has also worked with former Congressman Stephen Solarz and Congressman Charles Schumer. The

causes he has advocated range from rent control and abolishing the state's apparel tax, to challenging a security company financed by the Nation of Islam which distributed bigoted literature to residents of a Brooklyn housing development. Publicly opposing the Nation of Islam earned Polonetsky widespread public disapproval, but he also gained the attention and support of Mayor Giuliani, who later asked him to be his running mate.

On September 15 Polonetsky returned to YU to speak about his campaign and to emphasize the importance of student involvement and awareness. His causes have sometimes drawn negative media

attention because, as he said, "Conflict sells," but he added, "If you're right, you have to ignore the fluff." He also addressed his controversial political choices, noting that many Democrats have crossed party lines to support Giuliani's campaign. But the decision to support Giuliani was not entirely political. Polonetsky was impressed when, at an anniversary celebration for the United Nations, Giuliani asked Yasser Arafat to leave the event. "That took guts," said Polonetsky, noting that other political figures have shied away from condemning Arafat.

In a personal interview, Polonetsky addressed some questions relating to his personal outlook, the issues he has chosen to advocate and the influence his background has had on his ideas.

"I have often been the person people come to on certain issues because of the Jewish interest," he said. Polonetsky challenged the funeral home industry in New York City when he realized that grieving family members were being encouraged to pay for fancy coffins and embalming which were not only unnecessarily expensive, but which are also contrary to *halacha*.

Wearing a yarmulke, he is identifiably Jewish, and is therefore often consulted by non-Jewish legislators and Jewish constituents about a variety of issues. For

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## Shortened Lunch Hour Causes Cafeteria Congestion

By Alyssa Lebowitz

Many SCW students have been going hungry on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The schedule break on those days, in which a good part of the student body eats lunch, was shortened this semester, from forty to thirty minutes. At the same time, enrollment at SCW has increased. As a result, there are more students buying lunch in less time. Many of those students find that by the time they get through the lunch line, it is already time to return to classes.

The time slot allotted to lunch was shortened because of a scheduling change that added an extra ten minutes to the break between the K and I hours. Previously, the K hour class ended at 11:40 AM, the I hour began at 11:50 AM, and the schedule break extended from 1:05 - 1:45 PM. This year, L hour does not begin until 12:00 PM, and the schedule break begins at 1:15 PM, ending at 1:45 PM.

An official lunch break was included in the schedule a number of years ago in order to give students with heavy course loads time to get something to eat. The latest schedule revision employs similar logic. According to Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW, this new change was not intended to shorten the schedule break. Rather, it was meant to allow time for students taking classes in the new Art Annex to return to the Midtown Center in time for the next class period. Additionally, this allows time for students who take labs that overlap with the scheduled lunch hour to grab something to eat in between

classes.

Some students think that the change is positive. Miriam Lawil, SCW '98, noted that she liked the new schedule. "The twenty minutes between K and I gives me time for lunch that I otherwise would not have."

According to Cham Bardash, SCW '98, the idea is good, however, the twenty minutes are simply not enough. "We need at least a half hour to make it worthwhile," she said.

Many students feel that the decision has only caused problems. During the scheduled lunch hour, the lines are extremely long and the process of buying lunch wastes almost half of the already shortened break. Once students have purchased food, it is still difficult to find a seat, and when they are finally seated, there is almost no time left in which to eat. For Yael Berger, SCW '98, the exceptionally long lines and overcrowding are strong deterrents. "On Tuesdays and Thursdays," she said, "I don't buy lunch in the cafeteria at all. It is just too crowded."

Apparently the schedule change was made without considering the negative effect the loss of ten minutes would have on the lunch hour. Jake Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, was taken by surprise when asked what actions Food Services was taking to ease the overcrowding and the long lines. "I was not informed of any change in the schedule," he said, "but I'll look into it."



Cafeteria lines during shortened schedule break

## Club Beat

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thing else (ideas are also welcome), please contact Tami Cohen or Danielle Schmidt. The aim of this club is both to feed into neighborhood *gemachs*, and to maintain an internal one for SCW.

A pre-Rosh Hashanah issue of *Hamevaser*, the joint YC-SCW Torah publication, is scheduled to come out soon, and is looking for writers. Anyone interested should speak to Rachel Leiser.

The **History Club**, yet another first-year program, headed by Tamar Bednarsh and Nitzan Pelman, will be featuring the movie "The Power of One" sometime this month. The club, which is for both history majors and non-majors, will be featuring documentaries and speakers throughout the year, as well as a trip to Manhattan's Lower East Side with Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Professor of Jewish History, and an end of the year visit to Ellis Island with Dr. Shrecker.

**Kehillath Jeshurun** (KJ), the one-on-one learning program with adults of limited Jewish background, will be starting after *Sukkot*. The program takes place weekly on Thursday nights at a shul on the Upper East Side. Anyone interested should contact Aliza Ricklis.

**Nach Yomi**, an individual learning program which has printed calendars (available in the school *Beit Midrash*) for the completion of the *sifrei Nach*, by learning one *perek* a day, on one's own or with a friend, will be holding a *siyum* on Wednesday night, September 24, for the completion of *Sefer Yehoshua*. The *siyum* will be held in the school *Beit Midrash* (sixth floor), from 8-8:30 PM.

The **Nefesh medical journal** is looking for writers. It will be holding a meeting in around three weeks for all potential writers to discuss ideas, topics, etc. For more information, contact Laurie Gewirtz.

There will be a voter registration drive on September 29-30 from 9AM - 5PM in Koch Auditorium, run by the **J.P. Dunner Political Science Club**. Together with the **College Democrats** and **Republicans** clubs, they recently sponsored a lecture at YC by Jules Polonetsky, a YU graduate running on Mayor Giuliani's mayoral ticket. On Wednesday September 24, they conducted interviews for the University of Pennsylvania Model

United Nations Conference (UPMUNC). Also upcoming is a lecture at SCW given by Ruth Messinger, Democratic mayoral candidate.

On October 29, **The Psychology Club** will be sponsoring a lecture given by Dean Segal, Dean of Ferkauf Graduate School.

**The Psychology Journal** is looking for writers. Anyone interested should contact Talia Klein.

The **Rosh Chodesh Committee** provided students with a *minyana* the second day of *Rosh Chodesh Elul*, with bagels served afterwards for breakfast. Help is needed in finding men to make a *minyana*; however, the next *Rosh Chodesh* in school won't fall out until December.

On Sunday, September 28, at 1:30 PM, the **Russian Club** will be sponsoring a trip to the opera.

**SAGA**, SCW's environmental club, sponsored this past week's *Shabbaton*, together with **Sigma Delta Rho**, the science honors society, and **Alpha Epsilon Delta**, the pre-med, pre-dent honors society. They also sponsored a trip to the Museum of Natural History on Sunday afternoon, September 21, to view the Lost World exhibit, a collection of full dinosaur fossils and props used in the movie.

The **Sephardic Club** will be meeting for dinner this coming Thursday night, September 25. Location to be announced. As part of the **Shiurim Committee**, Rabbi Hochberg has been giving a *shiur* every week at 8 PM on Wednesday nights in room 301. Rabbi Mordechai Willig will be speaking on Tuesday night, September 23, and Rabbi Mayer Twersky will deliver a lecture at the Main Campus on the Wednesday night of *Aseret Y'mei Teshuva*.

The **Speech Pathology and Audiology Club** will be holding a Graduate School night on November 4, in which SCW graduates currently in graduate schools for speech pathology will discuss what to expect and how to prepare for graduate school.

The latest achievement of the **Student Life Committee** has been to secure a television and mirrors in Schottenstein Hall. The **Tefilla/Tehillim Committee** will be sponsoring a *Selichos minyan*, and hopes to have a *shiur* each night beforehand.

## Polonetsky

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example, he was contacted by Mandel Ganchrow, the president of the Orthodox Union, who had discovered that a number of life insurance companies were denying policies to anyone who spent more than 10 days in Israel per year. Polonetsky and NY Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver addressed the issue and were successful in having at least one life insurance company change their policy.

If Polonetsky is elected Public Advocate, he will have the responsibility of not only dealing with residents of the largest city in the U.S., but also with the largest Jewish community in the nation. "The Jewish community has not focused effectively enough on state legislation that affects their concerns," he said. Jewish organizations often have offices located in Washington, D.C., but few pay as close attention to the activity in Albany, the NY state capital. "It's hard to get things done in Congress," he said. As a Congressional aide, Polonetsky worked on the bill for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, an act that took months to negotiate and was recently struck down by the Supreme Court. Similar laws take much less time to pass on a state level.

Polonetsky's move to city politics was one of chance. He briefly contemplated running for the U.S. House of Representatives when Congressman Schumer leaves his seat to run for the U.S. Senate. But the opportunity to run with Giuliani was an attractive one, so he decided to take the chance on what would be a challenging campaign.

Polonetsky has criticized his opponent, incumbent Public Advocate Mark Green, for using the office as a springboard to higher office. He has promised that he will define the role of Public Advocate, and work to represent the interests of New York City. But the battle is still one of David vs. Goliath. "But if you remember, David won," said Polonetsky. "I think I represent a team effort to continue to improve the city." He hopes that Giuliani's coattails will help put him in a position to effect change in New York City.

While Giuliani has been a popular mayor, recent reports of police brutality have cast a shadow over his reputation. Polonetsky explained that Giuliani has increased the budget for the civilian complaint review board, which hears accusations of police brutality. As Public Advocate, he would not be soft on police who misuse their authority. "Cops have to realize, if they act like criminals, they'll be treated like criminals, not just cops who made mistakes," he said. However, he expressed his confidence that the majority of New York City police officers are hard-working individuals who try to do their jobs. He added that accusations of police brutality should not be an excuse to allow the crime rate to rise again.

Polonetsky emphasizes the accessibility of the political arena to those who are interested in getting involved. He welcomes the support of students who are interested in being involved with his campaign.

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Students say *T'hilim* for victims of Ben Yehuda bombing

## Reaction to Terror

By Miriam Rosenblatt

I wish I could say when I heard the news about the September 4 suicide bombings in the heart of Jerusalem, that I didn't believe it. But I did. Somehow over the last few years it's become all too easy to believe such tidings. My first reaction was to say the chapter of psalms I know by heart over a couple of times.

I hadn't heard all the details yet. Maybe it wasn't very bad. Maybe it was wrong. After class, I went back to the dorm to watch CNN. Unfortunately, the news was bad enough and real enough. They were broadcasting analysis upon analysis, sketchy videos and the same grim statistics over and over again. I saw on the television the streets I was on just three months ago and the chaos that now prevailed. I saw the men who usually walk indifferently next to each other, the black hatted and the bald headed, hoisting stretchers together into ambulances. Like the other times, I cried. And like the other times, I wished that I could be there.

Some react to a *pigua*, a terrorist attack, with fear: "That's it...no more...don't go to Israel...if you're already there don't take buses...don't leave your home...don't go to town." Some react politically: "That's it...no more...we must make peace now...give the land away...it's the only way to stop our children from dying." Or alternatively: "You can no longer stoop to negotiating with these murderers...stop the talks...let's fight." Some react emotionally, crying into their *tehillim* (psalm) books, or they frantically call every person they know until they are sure that all their loved ones are safe. Some react nationalistically, wanting to cling to their brethren. Some calmly accept the will of G-d, *daven* for those hurt and work to better themselves and the nation so it won't happen again. Most, I think, feel some combination of all of these.

There is no one right reaction to such events in Israel. Each has its legitimacy. But there is more than just gut reaction. There is a comfort, a way to make some sense of it all. *Chazal* teach us that there

is nothing that happens on this earth that is not orchestrated by *Hashem* himself, and there is no thing that He does that is not for our good.

This is not always so easy to see. We are not granted the supreme power of sight to ascertain the benefit of each situation. But G-d, like a parent, always loves us, and like that proverbial parent, even when He punishes us, it is somehow for our betterment. We, like small children, cannot see how this can be so. We are amazingly shortsighted, especially when the ones we love are in pain. But our comfort must be that G-d has a reason to do what He does and there is what to be gained.

I won't presume to offer suggestions as to the "why" of recent events. I won't say it's because we have too much intermarriage or because we have too much infighting. I do not know because I am as ignorant of G-d's reasons as any human. Factually, part of Israel was brutally chopped off from the rest of us. The only comfort I've found is in knowing that G-d means only the best for us and that all He does is an effort to help us draw closer to Him. The only message I can take from all of this is that we should work harder to be close to *Hashem*, so He won't have to sound such a loud alarm. Individually, that obviously means different things, but we would be foolish not to realize that G-d IS trying to tell us something. Not to listen after He shouts at us this way would be downright imbecilic.

We are living in times of *galus* (exile), when things are often hard for us as a nation. The thing that keeps us going, though, is hope. We have a promise from G-d Himself (and I think we can trust Him) that this *galus* will end, and there will be no more running to the TV to watch CNN, no more frantic phone calls abroad. The peace and security we crave will one day be ours. Hoy soon that is depends on us.

# OPINION

## A Worthwhile Summer Experience

By Esther Finkle

The intensity of the first weeks of school brought me to the realization that the summer is long gone. But the memories of my summer experience are ones that pleasantly linger and cheer happy thoughts. This summer, I participated in T'chiya Volunteers, a program located in an impoverished neighborhood of Tel Aviv, called Shechunat Hatikva. Sarah Garber, Aliza Kallion, Halana Krup, Debbie Plamick, Bracha Rutner, Jessica Weller (all SCW students) Dahlia Framin (a Barnard student) and myself, composed this year's contingency.

T'chiya, conceived in 1972, has sent delegations of American university students to developing neighborhoods in Israel to facilitate community improvement, teach English and work with children who suffer various abuses. It is an independent non-profit organization that is partially funded by the United Jewish Appeal, the World Zionist Organization and private donations. Before departure, I was aware that I would be working with Shechunat Hatikva children, devising stimulating educational programs and helping families utilize community resources. This was the job description that was presented by the interviewer, but the experience of T'chiya is not something that can be described with words. The prospect of spending seven weeks in Israel was very exciting, although, I was not prepared for the sweltering summer temperatures of Tel Aviv, the uninvited cockroaches who found comfortable

dwelling in our bathroom and the most incredible summer of my life. Our base was a seniors' home, where we enjoyed friendly contact with the elderly and organized a weekly bingo game with the residents. Six days a week, the eight of us managed a day camp for about two hundred children from Shechunat Hatikva and adjacent neighborhoods. Our days included arts and crafts, swimming, dancing, sports and *tivolim*. We worked on teaching social skills and reinforcing positive behavior. When an opportunity presented itself, we incorporated English, often soliciting confused looks from the children, who were ages kindergarten through fourth grade. The fee was minimal so that the kids could afford to attend and we served as counselors to initiate programs and provide fun activities. Many children came from single-parent families, had a parent on drugs, suffered physical or mental abuse or were financially destitute. We were there to help alleviate some of this grief, to give out lots of hugs and to improve their English education. During the afternoons, we tutored English to students and families upon request, and visited others who needed extra attention. On Shabbat we invited the children to the neighborhood park to sing, play games and enjoy a Shabbat atmosphere. Bracha Rutner summarized the experience by stating, "I felt that this summer we made a tremendous impact on these children's lives by giving them a couple of hours a day in a

loving environment to put aside their problems, and just be kids." The kids were tough and often disagreeable, but eventually, they began to like "Ha'Americani" and had lots of fun. Although they did not always understand our Americanized Hebrew, they knew that we came for them. We became absorbed in the foreign lifestyles of these families and devoted our capabilities to improving lives. When we stepped out onto the streets, the people would shout, "Look here come the Americans." It was wonderful to know that our presence was so appreciated. The community was a mosaic of people with detailed histories, from far away lands. They were poor, but they were always warm, welcoming and willing to give you whatever they had. Over the years, T'chiya has lost popularity and I would like everyone to know what an incredible program it really is. Generally the program is coed and it would be nice if there were more applicants. It is a small organization that does tremendous work. There is a great need for loving, motivated, energized people to work in this community. To leave was painful and we all felt the sadness of leaving the children and families with whom we established a passionate connection in seven short weeks. Our work had just begun and it was time to go. The summer was so rewarding and hopefully one day we will all go back to visit this exceptional little community. This summer we all know that we really did make a difference.

## Thinking of Others

By Julie Stampnitzky

SCW women who *daven* in the second floor Beit Midrash in Brookdale Hall complain that the noise caused by people using the exercise room directly below, interferes with their concentration during *Shacharit*.

Students wishing to subscribe to the New York Times were reassured to learn that their papers will be found in locked boxes in the lobby. After all, in previous years, subscribers sometimes found there were no copies left when they looked for them.

"I wouldn't leave my stuff in the communal bathroom," said a senior living in Schottenstein Hall, "Someone might use my shampoo."

What does this say about our school and about us? How can a Torah Jew take something that does not belong to her, or disturb another person? Where is the respect and trust that should characterize relations between SCW students?

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah, we should think more about the effect our actions may have on others. Increase the level of civility; don't push into the elevator or the lunchline. Your roommate is trying to sleep? Keep your voice down. At the same time, try to be *dan l'kaf zechut* (give others the benefit of the doubt). Shouldn't our school be a place where Torah values are not only learned, but practiced?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Safety In Numbers?

### To Whom It May Concern:

Most of us were raised with the concept in our heads that if we are hired for a job then we do it. Of course, many of us have encountered people who do not agree with this concept. Usually what we feel in reaction to this is annoyance tinged with anger. What I and many of my peers feel is anger tinged with fear. As part of our tuition, Yeshiva University provides a van "service." This "service" is designed to transport Yeshiva University students between the uptown and downtown campuses and also locally within each campus. Unfortunately, our "service" is not serving us.

In an occupation where one is self-employed, one can make one's own hours. However, as a van driver for the Yeshiva University, there is a certain schedule that must be followed and is not. Several times situations have arisen where an uptown or local van has departed earlier than its scheduled time. This leaves students who are headed uptown with the option of waiting for the next van or taking the subway. In the case of a local van leaving early for the night, the girls are left to walk back to the dorm by themselves, with a group of friends or

escorted by a guard.

In the past two weeks, two separate incidents occurred involving women being attacked. One occurred on Park and 33rd Street and one on Lexington and 28th Street. For those who are not aware of a minor fact, Schottenstein Residence Hall is located on Lexington and 29th Street. On the surface, telling us that there is "safety in numbers" sounds good. However, if someone is going to prey on women, he is going to do it whether they are in a group or not. Realistically, Yeshiva University should realize that the average amount of women in a group would be about three and that it is easy to attack a small group like that.

I am not being naïve enough to ask for the 24-hour van service that is available in the uptown campus and probably being paid for by both Stern College and Yeshiva College tuition. All I would like is to have the same quality of van service that was available to us for the past two years. Is the safety and well-being of Yeshiva University students too much to ask for?

Sincerely,  
Nechama Maler, SCW '99

## Elevator Etiquette

### To the Editor,

This might seem like an old idea or common sense, but I think this is a message that needs to be conveyed. Please, if you live below the 7th or 8th floor in Brookdale Hall, (unless you have a disability of course), it is simply not fair for you to crowd into the elevator and make people who live on 15 or 19 wait for another 20 minutes. I understand you are tired, I understand you had a hard day, but imagine you were that person living

on 20 being shoved out of the elevator by a person going to the 3rd or 4th floor.

To the other end, it is unfair of people who live on the very high floors, such as 16, 17, 18, etc. to sneer at people who live on 11 or 12 and want to get in the elevator.

Even though it may be a little exhausting to walk or wait, everyone should really learn to be considerate of one another. Alyssa Shulman, SCW '99

## E-mail letters to the editor

observer@ymail.yu.edu



# POINT COUNTERPOINT

## In Support of Yale Students

By Gila Rosenthal

The five freshman and sophomore Yale students protesting their university's mandatory dorming regulation should be commended. The coed dormitories in which underclassmen are housed should offend any moral person's sensibilities; that these five Orthodox Jews are taking a stand against the policy constitutes a great *kiddush Hashem*.

It has been argued that, aware of the school's policy, the students could have chosen to go elsewhere. However, Yale is not just any college. It holds a prestigious place in American society, and anyone choosing to go there does so partly for its name. Therefore, upholding policies that would effectively bar religious students from attending denies them an opportunity that is virtually unparalleled.

Secondly, the entering students came in with the knowledge that they did have a way "out." As older siblings and others had done before, they could have paid for on-campus housing while maintaining an off-campus residence. The very fact that the university had heretofore looked the other way, basically condoning this practice, reveals that collecting money ranks just as highly in their value system as does exposure to cultural diversity. Obviously, these students would never have chosen to attend Yale had they felt there was no alternative to the dorm. Once there, the unjustness of having to pay double for room and board came to the fore, and they decided to question the legality of this policy. Currently, private institutions are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex or race. There is no clause for religion. How could it be, in a society as progressive and tolerant as ours, the needs of religion are completely disregarded? As one letter writer to the

*New York Times* put it, a firm commitment to no religion is a religion in itself. Many other colleges with large Orthodox Jewish populations maintain separate dormitories, or at least apartments, for students wishing to keep kosher - without any seemingly detrimental effects to the general unity and cohesiveness of the student population. As one of the five students put it, "There is lots of room for interaction outside of bedrooms and bathrooms."

The degeneracy within the dorms reflects the breakdown of the moral fabric of our society, as evident in a letter to the editor written in the *New York Times* in response to an op-ed by one of the five students. The writer states, "If the Jewish teachings he mentions are established in his mind... he could always close his eyes." Such a lackadaisical attitude to the effects an environment can have on a person reveals great ignorance and lack of refinement. As this issue is being made public, other students have been acknowledging their discomfort with the rampant lack of morality in the dormitory life. It seems that even some of the irreligious residents of the coed dorms have become disgusted with such a lifestyle.

Interestingly, one of the opponents of the students suggested that, had they wanted a sheltered, sequestered environment, they should have gone to Yeshiva University. In a certain measure, YU is sheltered. Within the four walls of our dorm, we don't have to worry about men roaming the halls, or the general permissiveness rampant in dormitory situations such as theirs. This is a right that we may take for granted, but it is one to which all students are entitled.

## If You Can't Stand the Heat

By Nitzan Pelman

"I wonder what campus life will be like? Will I be liked and make new friends? Will I have time to go out and take advantage of the night life at school while keeping up with a heavy work load?" These are thoughts commonly found racing through the head of an average freshman as orientation day slowly approaches. Upon arrival at Yale University, five Orthodox Jews pondered similar thoughts, yet, additional issues were at the forefront of their minds.

Overcoming challenges to religious beliefs and values is not an easy task. Yet, each Yale student opted to attend a secular university, thereby choosing to confront a fundamental predicament that necessitates serious consideration. The so-called "Yale five" have requested residency off campus as a precautionary measure in order to maintain the highest levels of observance. They suggest that by residing in apartments other than the mandatory dorms they will be able to better adhere to their religious standards. Yale has refused to comply with the students' requests. As a result, the students are taking the university to court under the council of Nathan Lewin, a prominent Washington attorney.

This highly controversial issue has served as headlines for various types of newspapers, religious and secular alike, including the *New York Times*. In addition, the issue has been frequently discussed by Jewish students both inside and outside of Yeshiva University. In expressing their agreement with the Yale five, students support their cause and encourage them to continue pursuing the lawsuit. The reasoning behind this approach is obvious: education should be available for all who wish to learn, and one should not be penalized or excluded from the learning process due to religious factors.

Others have expressed their dismay at the action taken by the Yale students. They feel that the essential element of education is not solely what a professor offers his/her student's in a classroom setting. Rather, college has a plethora of educational opportunities as it houses a multitude of various peoples and cultures all within the confines of a diversified secular campus.

Because Yale University ardently believes in education beyond the classroom, all incoming Freshman and Sophomores must reside in campus dorms. In other words, Yale grants diplomas to those who have fulfilled the entire university curricula which includes passing grades for academic achievement coupled with an informal education. As an institution Yale has set values and an agenda which they hope to imbue in their students.

As a parallel example to illustrate this situation, imagine the following scenario. A student wants to spend a year of study

in Israel in any of the myriad of institutions available to those who seek religious study. The student arrives at the institute and decides that she is interested in the program but not the living arrangements. She would live in Tel Aviv and attend the *shannah aleph* program during the day. Without a doubt, the institution would claim that an integral portion of a year spent in Israel, is living in the Yeshiva. As I am sure many of you can attest to, the ambience is created by the blend of study and late night discussion with friends or Rabbis. Similar to the Yeshiva's objection, Yale is refusing to allow its students a "partial experience."

Although we, as Yeshiva students, may relate more to the Yeshiva values, we must recognize that Yale's mandatory housing rule, are based upon the same valid pedagogical motivations.

The students who wish to remove themselves from dormitory life make a claim to be protecting themselves. The question is: from what? One of the Yale five, Rachel Wohlgeleitner said that "such things as immodest dress and crude language violate the spirit of Jewish Law. They are symbolic of a moral looseness or laxity that doesn't fit in the Jewish scheme." I see no distinction in living alongside students who engage in conduct that is contradictory to a "Jewish spirit" and sitting next to them in classes. If one is interested in a wholesome environment with exclusively pure language and modest dress, then why draw a distinction between the night and the day?

Furthermore, I find that the irony lies within *what* the students choose to accept from the university. They are eager to embrace the highly intellectual education from Yale professors that at times will certainly be paradoxical to Jewish thoughts and evidently opposite to Judaic ideas. Yet, somehow students can accept the academic challenge, but not the moral one. If one is so perturbed by personalities outside of Orthodoxy then perhaps he/she should not place his/herself in such an environment altogether.

In essence, Yale University must make a value judgment. The administration is compelled to evaluate the demands from individual religious groups as valid or invalid claims. The fact that many other Orthodox Jews have managed to live under the conditions of single sex floors and succeed in maintaining their religious morals places these five in the minority. This may lead Yale to believe that the present living conditions are not all that bad. In fact, Yale thinks they are basic and essential for an all encompassing education. If these students cannot handle the pressure maybe they should do some evaluating as well. As the old saying goes, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

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# CULTURAL

## Theater Review



Ray Luettens, Aysha Quinn and Matthew Brown  
in *Talk Show*

## The Old Block and Talk Show

By Dassi Zeidel

Synchronicity Space recently opened two plays dealing with father-son relationships. Both *The Old Block* and *Talk Show* were well acted and favorably received. The small theater that seats approximately 50 people was packed and although the first show began 20 minutes late it was worth it. *The Old Block*, written by Robert R. Wood and directed by Stephanie Rosenbloom, is a two character play depicting the struggle between a father and son to reconcile past rifts in their relationship. Mark Gorman, who plays Phil, a banker just named senior vice president, gives a dynamic perfor-

mance. He genuinely portrays a son vying for his businessman father to understand the way things were in the past, and desperate to forge a loving and meaningful relationship. Father and son remember the "old block," sharing stories and sentiments. The play opens and closes with strains of the song, "The Cats In the Cradle" and it is apparent how appropriate the words are to the story. Fred L. Rosenberg wrote and Colette Duval directed *Talk Show*, a play which earns its name for present-day action occurring on-air with several visits to the past during commercial breaks. The act-

ing is strong, the language sharp and witty, and the subject thought-provoking. The presentation features a family of three grappling with divorce, a father and son who've grown apart and a rekindled romance. The underlying feminist issues and social changes comprise much of the theme in *Talk Show*. This cast of six displayed believable acting, especially Charles Chessler, who played the theatrical agent Larry, and Matthew Brown who played the son, Jeff.

Both plays were well acted and directed, and enjoyable to watch. While *The Old Block* ran a little more on the sentimental

included, "...to put up a volleyball net and make a recreation area...make a park...with fountains, grass and trees...a sandwich bar...to relieve cafeteria congestion...The girls could have picnics out there and by doing so alleviate the outrageous conditions in the cafeteria." It was supposed to, "offer the students a way to show interest in the school." Unfortunately, due to typical bureaucracy, the lot next door still remains empty.

## Twenty Nine Years Ago in the Observer

By Zemira Baron

A quick poll showed that 75 percent of the student body is so absentmindedly and selfishly preoccupied with their own lives that they have never even noticed the empty lot they pass everyday on their way to school. However, twenty-nine years ago, it was the main topic of conversation at SCW. The SCW women of the late 1960's would be dismayed to learn that their plans to utilize the lot to create a minuscule "campus" never came into fruition. The proposals for the lot

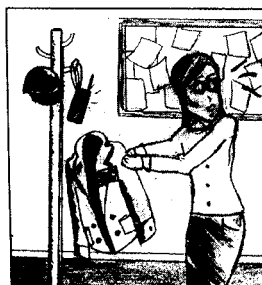
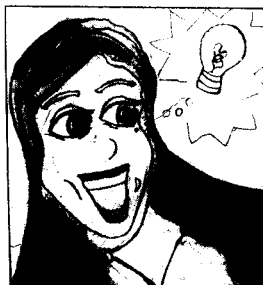
side, *Talk Show* was lighter, but not without poignant, serious moments.

Synchronicity Space was founded as a non-profit arts organization in 1989. Among other things, Synchronicity Space maintains an off-Broadway theater and fine arts gallery. On display at the gallery are works by George Rose and Barry Gealt.

The plays perform Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 P.M. and Sundays at 3 P.M. All seats are \$12 and can be reserved by calling (212) 388-8005.

## School Spirit

Elaga Steiner



# ARTS

## School House Blues

By Zemira Baron

"So...how do you like Stern?" That definitely has to be the most frequently asked question I've received in the past few weeks. And each time I'm posed with the question, I pause for a minute before giving my typical response, "I really wish I could be back in Israel; but otherwise, it's pretty good." Though somehow, people are never satisfied with this answer. They always want to know more - but how many times can you repeat yourself in such detail? So, I've decided to solve this problem once and for all. I've written a column to answer that very question, and now, I'll just carry around copies to distribute to all those well-intentioned questioners. NOTE: Anyone else who has been finding herself in this same predicament has my permission and blessing to do the same. So, here goes...

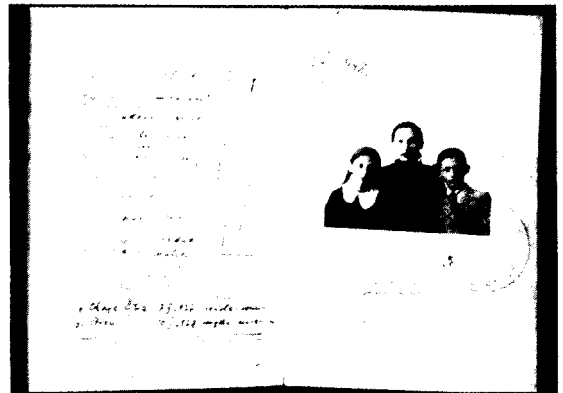
The truth is, it is taking a while to adjust, but in general, I'm quite happy. Things are a little strange here. The food is good but interesting, to say the least: cabbage or sweet potato knishes, tuna wrapped in spinach bread, cranberry hot pretzels. My sleeping habits have become virtually non-existent. Even when I get to bed at a semi-decent time, my mind is working on overdrive and I lie in bed all night, too awake to fall asleep. And this insomniac phenomenon is not exclusive - dozens of people have informed me that they too are suffering from this disease. Despite my no-sleep lifestyle, I don't even get tired; that is, until the weekend, when I instantaneously transform into a walking zombie.

Then, there are the people. It is just too weird seeing people from every stage of your life all concentrated into one area. You are surrounded in class by the girl you went to nursery school with, your neighbor's second cousin, your best friend from camp nine years ago and then half of your high school and three-quarter

ters of your Israel school, etc. etc. It all gets so confusing and you forget who knows whom, from where, etc. You think you know everybody, but really you know no one because the last real conversation you had with half of them was a heated debate over who brought in the best snack that day. You have to be polite so you walk around all day with one of those fake smiles pasted on your face. Everyone you pass spews out the conventional "how are you," but nobody actually waits for an answer. The most awkward situation is when you get stuck in the elevator with a girl you have not spoken to since fourth grade. You remember her, but maybe she does not remember you. So, do you start a conversation or not? You end up just standing there anxiously staring at the floor numbers, praying that your destination will come already. And everyone is always rushing around on their own busy little schedules so that you have no time to actually talk to the people you do want to talk to.

But my most difficult adjustment is definitely the ID card. The security here is great - so great, in fact, that I have a hard time getting into school. For some reason, every time I reach into my bag to take out my ID card, it's simply vanished. After pulling my bag off my shoulder and dumping everything out of the pockets, I finally find the card ten minutes later, nestled in between the pages of my *sid-dur*. I go through this process at least five times a day. You would think the security guards would get to know me by now so that I should be exempt from this whole ID process; but somehow, it just does not work that way.

The next question I'm usually bombarded with is - how are your classes, what are you majoring in? But I think I'll have to write a separate article to answer that one. STAY TUNED!!



## Passport for Esther, Lyuba and Aaron Zigelman Cardozo Exhibit Depicts Luboml Shtetl

By Dina Giekhinsky

The faces stare back at you. Three young girls stand wearing woolen dresses, carrying purses, with expressions too somber for their age. The hustle bustle of market day, blurred with movement, yet so detailed to the senses you can smell the fish stands and hear the customers haggling over prices. Rough-hewn workers, carefully dressed matrons peering across the gulf of time. These photographs are Aaron Zigelman's, and other native Luboml's heritage.

The Ziegelman family immigrated to the United States from Luboml in 1938, when Aaron was nine. In 1994, he created the Luboml Exhibition Project to preserve the memory of his hometown and to give a face and a voice to the townspeople of his youth. "Before they were victims, they were people," says Ziegelman. "I wanted to restore a portion of Jewish memory destroyed by the Germans, to create portraits of people who lived and loved, who went to school, were married, who knew sorrow and joy, laughter and tears."

Today located in Ukraine, Luboml has a six thousand-year history, vanquished by the Nazis. The shtetl of Luboml was a microcosm of the large European cities, with its own book clubs, theaters and newspapers. What distinguished Luboml from other hasidic towns was its many Zionist activist groups. The Industrial Revolution, the Communist Revolution and Zionism, all arriving in Luboml in close proximity, introduced a kind of modernism in what was formerly a traditional shtetl. The photographs portray employees of the Express Printing Press dressed in suits for their portrait, with posters of political meetings, theater pre-

sentations and movies in the background.

A Zionist youth group goes for an outing in the woods on *Lag B Omer*, the young men wear ties and sport coats, the girls knee-length skirts that were forbidden to their mothers. Members of the Zionist group, Beitpar, parade in uniform, looking forward to the day they will immigrate to Palestine. Even more striking is a photograph of the Solovitchik family of Luboml, portraying a bearded older man with a black silk skullcap sitting somberly next to his wife, wearing a scarf on her head and a shawl. Behind them stand their three sons, staring jauntily into the camera, their heads bare of yarmulkes. The distinction between the generations is clear.

Quotations on the wall prove how vibrant a community Luboml once was. A vividly descriptive quote by Benjamin Rosenzweig reads, "I close my eyes and see the whole city. I see the community that was there. I recall the balls that took place, a Purim ball and Chanukah ball. They danced and played. And they chose a 'Miss' like Miss America. They used to have a Miss Luboml." Commenting on shtetl life, Aaron Zigelman states: "To so many people, their conception of a shtetl is fiddler on the roof. But the shtetl was vibrant..." He adds, "Luboml is every shtetl. If you don't know where your ancestors come from, they come from Luboml."

The Luboml exhibit is free and located in the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 55 5th Avenue, at 12th Street. The hours are Sunday - Thursday, 9AM - 8PM; Friday 9AM - 4PM. For information call (212) 960 - 5390.

## CLUB FAIR

continued from page 6

research the clubs, committees and societies of their interests. As both a TAC committee head and an SCWSC committee co-chair, I enjoyed helping students find their interests."

TAC President Mechal Weiss, SCW '98,

expressed delight over how well the club fair went. "This was the first time people got to see both TAC and SCWSC committees together. There was definitely a positive change from last year. I'm glad to see people are so enthusiastic!"



Matzah Cover, Luboml Exhibition Project

# SPORTS

## "We've Got Next"

By Shalindy Frankel

In the last two weeks, SCW has done some extensive recruiting. I am not talking about nabbing those hard-working freshmen from all corners of the earth. I am referring to the recruiting of SCW's finest athletes. These are the young women, who are trained to compete in physical exercises, feats and contests of strength. Sounds a bit melodramatic? Maybe, but the ladies who possess athletic abilities, display dedication and a desire to win, have found their talents in great demand at SCW.

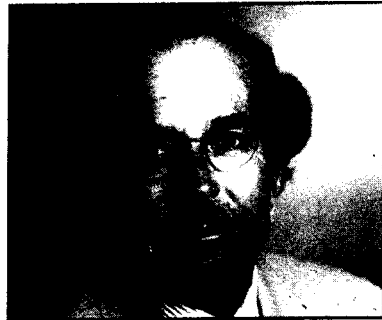
After a few initial tryouts, SCW athletic demands were met and they selected members for the three different teams. The women chosen for tennis, basketball and fencing exhibit the qualities of true champions and this year looks quite promising for the SCW Athletics Department. But, wait, there must be a "catch!" After all, this is SCW.

Oh yeah, it has a little something to do with the athletic uniforms that all members of the teams must wear during their tournaments. It exhibits unity and team spirit, which are especially important for a college like SCW. Oh yeah, and they are required by most sport leagues in order to compete. So

here is the latest on the uniform situation. The basketball team will be "riding pretty" when their first game comes around. They have all the equipment they need guaranteed to make their opponents quiver in their Nikes. The equipment includes T-shirts, sweat suits, jerseys, etc.

The fencing team has all the gear they need as well. Well, almost. The coach could use some gear to coach in. But forget about scoring points with successful touches, they will instill fear into their opponents by the looks of their lethal foils.

Now, this leads us to the tennis team. The story with them is quite the contrary. It appears the tennis team will have to rely purely on their skill to defeat their opponents. Unfortunately, as Steve Young departed from his role as Athletic Director, so did the hopes of the tennis team of receiving their athletic gear. But, not to worry fans, the tennis team already had their first match versus Brooklyn College on September 16th and they prevailed with flying colors. So, as far as they are concerned, having a SCW sweat suit is just icing on the cake and the cake tastes pretty good plain. But it sure looks better with the icing.



Dr. Richard Zernick

## Athletics Director Zernick Adjusts To New Role

By Rose Eljas

Dr. Richard Zernick, YU's new Director of Athletics has arrived and announced his intention to make the athletics at YU "perfect." And why not? Zernick certainly brings a wealth of experience to his new position. A CCNY graduate with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in health, Zernick has served as Director of Athletics, Chairman of the Physical Education department and administrator at his alma mater for the past twenty years. However, Zernick welcomes the shift from CCNY to YU and views his new position at YU as a "great opportunity after twenty-five years in the public sector."

Zernick's responsibilities at YU are twofold. He supervises the athletic and recreational activities for both the YC and SCW student bodies. Regarding the specific area of SCW athletics, Zernick mentioned his awareness "of the past problem with access to the athletic director." Due to the fact that the main athlet-

ic offices are housed at YU's Main Campus, communications between SCW students and the athletics administration prove difficult to maintain. Unfortunately, Zernick does not have set office hours in the Midtown Center. In fact, he does not really have an office. The designated athletics office at SCW sits behind the gym floor. In order to access the office, Zernick must often pass through and disturb a class in progress, a situation not quite amenable to either party.

However, other pressing topics take precedence in Zernick's order of operations. For example, until last week the women's basketball team was without a coach. Karen Green, the previous assistant coach, recently was hired for that position. For the time being, innovations in YU and SCW athletics are on hold pending Dr. Zernick's complete assessment of the current program.

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