



THE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Observer



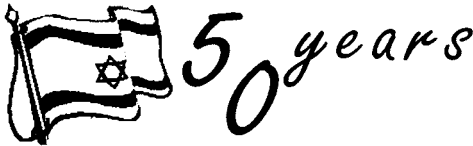
"Wait Until Dark"
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE

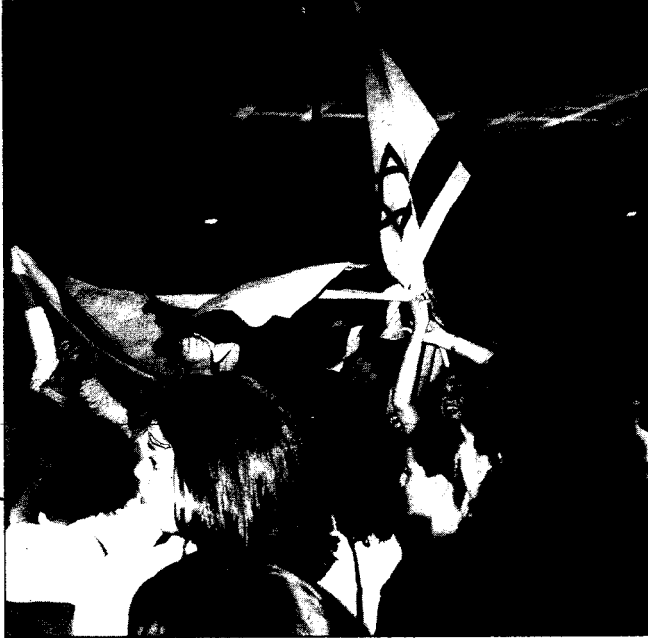
May 13, 1998

VOLUME XLII NUMBER 1

17 Iyar, 5758



see pages 8 - 9



SCW students celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut in Weissberg Commons on YU's Main Campus.

Honors Courses Bring New Opportunities to SCW Students

Miriam Eljas
Features Editor

Students registering for the Fall '98 semester have been offered a new educational opportunity: honors courses.

The fall semester will be the first attempt on the part of SCW administration to create a full-blown honors program.

Many SCW departments are offering honors courses in addition to traditional course sections.

Students taking chemistry will be able to take either Honors General Chemistry taught by Dr. Raji Viswanathan during the JLM hour or General Chemistry taught by Mrs. Cecily Dobin in the D2 hour.

The purpose of the honors program is to address the needs of a heterogeneous student body.

According to Associate Dean Ethel Orlan, some students are ready for a more independent and advanced form of study.

In order to take an honors course, a student must either be on the Dean's List or have a high

school average of 90 or above.

For several years SCW faculty have been discussing an honors program to meet the demands of the growing student body.

"The honors courses and the full honors program which will be introduced in the near future are indicators of the intellectual vitality of Stern College. More and more students are ready and desire to move rapidly through the stage of passive learner to active creator. The honors initiative responds to these interests and will be a fine enhancement of our program," Dean Karen Bacon explained.

Dean Bacon hopes to produce a complete honors program over the course of the next few years. To participate, students will be required to take a certain number of honors courses, complete an independent research project and work one-on-one with a faculty mentor.

Honors courses taken before the actual creation of the program will count towards graduation with honors when the program is in place.

Computer lab planned for Brookdale Hall

Eileen Chudow
News Editor

The SCW Student Life Committee is investigating the possibility of converting part of the first floor study Hall in Brookdale Hall into a computer lab.

According to Mr. Arthur Myers, Director of Management Information Systems and Academic Computing, subject to management approval, there could be a "half

dozen stand-alone computers" in Brookdale as early as this fall.

Space and cost issues are still being examined. The current plan calls for dividing the study hall into computer and non-computer areas.

The computers would be installed with Microsoft Office programs so that students could type their reports. There will not be Internet access because there are no direct Internet connections in Brookdale. Logging onto the Internet would take as much as 30

times longer than in the school building.

Myers explained that Internet access would create the need for telephones, modems, Internet access kits, and greater support services, making the computer lab too costly.

Students would log in their use of the computers and notify MIS in the school building if there is a problem, such as a computer needing repair.

Myers understands that not every student would use the computers, but [see Computer Lab, page 6](#)

1998 Valedictorians Announced

Gila Rosenthal and
Rena Krakowski
Observer Staff Writers

The valedictorians for Stern College for Women, the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies and Sy Syms School of Business have been announced.

Shari Klein, SCW '98, a speech pathology major is the valedictorian for SCW. Bracha (Shapiro) Krohn, SCW '98, who



Rachel Greenberg,
SSSB Valedictorian



Bracha Krohn,
Judaic Studies Valedictorian



Shari Klein,
SCW Valedictorian

double-majored in Judaic Studies and English Literature, is the valedictorian of the Ivy Department of Judaic Studies.

Rachel Greenberg, SCW '98, is valedictorian for SSSB. Klein and Krohn will deliver their valedictory addresses at the senior

dinner on Wednesday, May 20. Greenberg spoke at the SSSB on Monday, May 4.

[see Valedictorians, page 6](#)

VIEWS

Observer

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Unsigned editorials represent the views of the Observer's editorial board. Opinions expressed in the pages of the Observer do not necessarily represent the opinions of SCW, its student body, faculty or administration.

The Observer is published tri-weekly.

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Making Observer History

The Observer wishes to thank the governing board of the 1997-98 academic year, under the leadership of Leslie Ginsparg. This year, for the first time, *The Observer* has been regarded as a serious publication. Both the style and content of the paper have been consistently applauded. We have reached new heights in covering and presenting news to the Stern College community. The new board can only hope to replicate and continue this success.

A newspaper depends on many people and countless details to succeed. But most of all, a good newspaper needs a vision. Leslie

provided that vision this year, inspiring the staff, and demanding excellence when mediocrity would have been good enough. This year *The Observer* has proven that the women of Stern College are more than capable of producing quality, informative newspapers.

The efforts of a newspaper's staff often go unheralded. Reporters are rarely thanked for writing good news stories. The staff of the 1997-98 *Observer* was exceptional and will be missed. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the 1998-99 editorial staff who will attempt to fill their shoes. Our task lies before us.

Make the Midtown Center Handicapped-Accessible

Government buildings and public institutions are required by law to have entrances accessible to disabled individuals. Stern College for Women is a private institution, and is therefore not held to the same standards as public buildings. However, it has been the practice in recent years for private institutions to make their entrances and exits accessible by installing ramps and automatic doors.

When disabled individuals arrive at SCW they must be assisted to enter the building. The main entrance has several

steps that present a formidable obstacle to disabled individuals. While security personnel are willing to assist students or visitors who have trouble entering the building, that is not enough.

The stairs at SCW's main entrance send the involuntary message to disabled individuals that they are not welcome here. While SCW may not have any current students who are physically disabled, that does not excuse the situation. We cannot deny that disabilities exist and that sometimes college-aged students are touched by them. It is time we modernized SCW's facilities.

Leadership and Loudness

Bella Abzug, a feminist, political activist and former Congresswoman, passed away a few weeks ago. She was honored by The New York Times after her death. An editorial spoke of her passion and her loud voice. She cared so much for her causes, the editorial said, she wanted to make sure she was heard.

The editorial concluded by saying that Abzug reminded us that important causes are worth yelling about. That in politics, where money is power, it is rare to find someone so driven by her

cause that she feels the need to shout.

Stern College for Women has just elected a new set of leaders. Among their many responsibilities is the obligation to advocate student needs to the university's administration. That is not always an easy task. The challenge for the student body's leaders is to present their ideas, both within the university and within the community, as a whole, with all the passion of someone who cares enough to yell.

In Search of Ourselves: The Power of Jewish Women

Aviva Laufer
News Editor

I attended a symposium about Jewish women sponsored by the New York chapter of Hadassah and the Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at New York University called "In Search of Ourselves: The Power of Jewish Women." Two dozen scholars were brought together to address issues of remaining true to tradition and values while achieving a balance between the roles of wife, mother, daughter and professional.

Dr. Miriam Shields delivered a seminar stressing self-esteem. She explained that working and achieving while lacking self-esteem will lead one to feel that everything she does is in order to please others. It will prevent one from arriving at a sense of self-fulfillment. She emphasized that while one cares for others, one must not neglect one's own needs. Relaxation is crucial to conserving one's energies which are necessary to cope with all of one's responsibilities. One must have time in which to do things that one enjoys.

Even if one has a positive sense of self-esteem, one may be confronted with an issue of how to make time for all of one's responsibilities. One must have time in which to do things which one enjoys.

Even if one has a positive sense of self-esteem, one may be confronted with an issue of how to make time for all of one's responsibilities. A suggestion offered from one of the attendees, was to sometimes be willing to "cut corners." She commented that sometimes one

must come to grips with taking short cuts. "This," she said, "is integral in maintaining one's sanity."

Interesting points about working Jewish women were raised in a session called "Living the Challenge: Money and Power in the Workplace." A commonly held notion is that while it has always been traditional for women to remain at home, women are now suddenly breaking this mold. Dr. Carol Diamant, who delivered this session, provided a perspective on this issue that surprised many women listening. She explained that in early years (prior to the 1950's), Jewish women were actually quite active in labor unions and were skilled in human advocacy. Opportunities and necessity beckoned women to have jobs. There were also those who worked as teachers and seamstresses.

It was in the 1950's, after the war, when, due to the influence of non-Jewish American values, more women than ever before had begun staying at home. Diamant went on to explain that since women still retained their energies and were accustomed to applying them in the workplace, they began to rechannel them toward child-rearing and women's organizations.

In her opinion, it is due to either a desire to actualize ambition in the workplace or due to economic needs, that more Jewish women are now once again seeking higher working positions. As a result, they are now apt to donate money than time to organizations in order to feel a sense of Jewish involvement. Even when donating money, they will use a high degree of discretion and

only make a donation when they feel that it will make a significant difference.

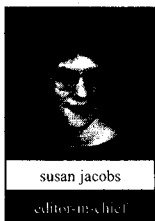
Diamant acknowledged the need and appreciation for donations, but expressed concern over the limited participation from women under age 60 in organizations. She reverted back to the issue of balancing one's time and weighing one's priorities.

Some sessions also dealt with biblical text analysis, and women's roles in the Bible were discussed. While I can only speak of the session that I personally attended, I was extremely perturbed by the speaker's approach. I felt that her attitude was cynical and condescending and that this impacted her analyses which she gave off as being the only possible approach.

When I approached Joann Abrams Rosoff, President of the New York chapter of Hadassah, with concern, she claimed that she did try hard to get a wide range of speakers which would cater to an audience of different backgrounds and affiliations. "Even if you didn't agree with her," she said, "at least she got you thinking."

Reflecting on those words, I realize that if there is someone who I disagree with so strongly, I have not only a responsibility to myself, but also an obligation to others, to become knowledgeable enough to counterbalance those arguments which I deem not only controversial, but antithetical to Jewish ideals. In the end, I learned a very positive lesson.

Facing the future: Israel at 50



susan jacobson
editor-in-chief

You can add *The Observer* to the seemingly endless list of publications responsible for the analysis and over-analysis of Israel at 50.

I must say, my impression of the glitzy star-studded events that have taken place in recent weeks is that they are fundamentally lacking in Jewish content, and for that matter, sincere feeling about Zionism and Israel.

All of a sudden every actor in Hollywood is having a revelation about how profoundly he/she was impacted by Israel. Funny, a year ago they made no public declarations about Israel, but somehow they've become the spokesmen for the Jewish people, the United States and Zionism. It's almost sacrilegious.

When did we get to be so shallow? Maybe it's just historical idealism, but weren't the early Zionists people who were driven with purpose, people who were motivated by substance and not by superficiality? When did glitzy celebrations replace the heartfelt declarations of

the past? When did the idealism of Zionism sell itself short for the attractions of materialism?

I wrote an article recently about why Americans are so enamored of Israel at 50. One person I spoke to said somewhat pessimistically that most American Jews aren't actively involved in celebrating the anniversary, that they are disillusioned by the struggling peace process and the perception that Israel persecutes Palestinians and ostracizes non-Orthodox Jews.

In contrast, a New York Times poll measured sentiment towards Israel from both the Jewish community, and the American people in general. That poll found that most Americans and the vast majority of American Jews have positive feelings about Israel. The poll's respondents were split, however, on whether an autonomous Palestinian state should result from the peace process.

But the poll couldn't answer in substantial terms how American Jews really feel about Israel. Or why they feel the way they feel. The poll couldn't measure the fears people have about the peace process. How even staunch supporters of the process worry that it could be a mistake. And that people on both sides of the debate think that dragging our feet only prolongs the de facto warlike state that Israel exists in. I'm not sure there's any

way of measuring these feelings.

I'd like to think that most of us have enough humility to admit that none of us knows what the correct solution to Israel's travails will be. I hope we are honest enough to recognize that proponents and opponents of the peace process each strike a chord with the desires of the Israeli people and that is why both opinions retain a strong hold on the Jewish imagination.

If we refuse to negotiate with the Palestinians, we've realized, then the insecurity that now exists will only persist and perhaps worsen. On the other hand, we are all frightened about what the outcome of a peace settlement will be. We are all aware that less land may mean less security. We know that the political memory of the world is very short, and that five years down the road, it's possible that no one will remember how much Israel has sacrificed and ask the nation to give more. We wonder what we will say then.

But the process goes on, and Israel is now 50. And 50 years from now there will be different questions. And we will continue asking them, even if they remain painfully unanswered. The important thing is that we embrace the debate without denying how poignantly it pains us.

Growing pains



ayelet grun
executive editor

Ababy is born through tears, sweat and pain. Its first cries are ones of bewilderment, of shock.

Through its first few months the baby learns basic techniques of survival — how to eat, sleep and demand what he/she needs.

Later, the ability to walk, talk and laugh helps the baby navigate his way through his structured life.

The baby is now a toddler. He goes to playgroup and meets other children his age. He learns that he has an identity separate from the rest of the kids. A teacher shows him how to share.

When the baby hits elementary school, he learns to read and write. He discovers that there is a large world around him that he does not know about.

Peer pressure make the baby's school days challenging. He must "look the look" and "talk the talk" to impress his new friends.

When the baby becomes a teenager, things happen that he doesn't understand. He evaluates himself and his worth in all aspects of life. He wants to explore new things and new ideas. He sees that he excels in certain areas and takes pride in his new-found talents. Little things begin to annoy him.

The baby will mature and grow into an adult. But to his parents and the people who watched him grow, he will always be their little baby.

I missed the first 30 years of the State of Israel's existence. But to me, the country is still my baby.

I have watched the country flourish from an agriculturally based state to a technological one. I have seen cities rise in the middle of the desert and population ratios expand. I watched the stores fill with top quality goods from all over the world.

I met its people. We hiked through the hills

together and swam in different seas. I have seen their tears and shared in their joys.

And now, when fighting breaks out within the state's factions, and slurs from fellow Jews abound, I see the behavior of an adolescent. I see a country that is experimenting with discovered abilities, a country that is trying to establish its identity among the large array of nations.

Between the frustrations and the doubts, the essential love for the state of Israel has not changed. People may express their affections for it in a different form than before, but the strong feelings are still there.

And so, as I celebrate the birthday of my little baby, I say to it and to its people — remember the dreams of your youth and strive to fulfill them; explore and review, but don't compromise yourself in the process; grow and prosper in the same strength you have displayed until now.

Yom Hadelet Samuech

So long, farewell, auf wei der sehen, goodbye



leslie ginsparg
editor emerita

This year went by very quickly. I know I say that every year, but this year, I really mean it. I guess that's because this year I'm graduating.

I'm graduating? I can't be graduating. I was just bounding down 34th Street, on the first of countless cab rides from LaGuardia, looking out the window wide eyed, as if I were on my first trip to Disneyworld.

Ready for adventure. Not knowing what to expect. Hoping I would have a good bed and be able to live with my roommates.

It's over? My college experience is over? I've gotten so used to being in Stern, that I have a hard time believing I will be anywhere else. I would be in denial but I picked up my cap and gown today, so it must be true.

Going back to my state of mind in that inaugural cab ride, in my wildest expectations I didn't imagine for a moment that I would be editor-in-chief of *The Observer*. But this has been my greatest adventure. *The Observer* did great things this year. I'd like to thank the governing board and writers — everyone who contributed to Volume XLII of *The Observer*.

There are two individuals who deserve special thank you's. *The Observer* owes much to their hours of

work. So do I. I couldn't have done my job without them. The first is our design/layout editor, Lauren Krieger. She does not get the credit she deserves. What she did this year, in terms of modernizing and completely redesigning the newspaper on a program she taught herself overnight, was amazing.

The second woman is my co-editor-in-chief, Susan Jacobs. We don't have enough space on this page for me to thank her. Susan is an incredible person to work with. I learned so much from her and am so appreciative for everything she did for me this year. Really, I am. (Especially for making the all-nighters more fun — that goes for Lauren too). I am so happy that Susan will be editor-in-chief next year and I wish her, Ayelet and next year's board the best of luck. One piece of advice, Susan, I've told you this so many times and you never listen to me, but maybe if you hear it from a professional journalist, you'll take heed. So, in the words of CBS anchorwoman Jane Robelot, "Sleep is highly overrated. Sleep is not important."

I also want to thank my roommates — particularly my roommate of three years, Miriam Berman — for putting up with ~~my~~ me. What am I going to do without you next year?

Lastly, I want to thank everyone, who by reading the paper, made our hard work worthwhile. Special thanks to those people who took time out to give us feedback.

Thinking back on the year, I received the most

feedback on the issue of students' self-perception of Stern. That is one of the most important issues facing Stern women today. We have a responsibility to respect ourselves and change the stereotypes. Stern is a very special institution — it is the only place where there are so many religious women studying together. We are the next generation of Orthodox women. Dean Bacon recently addressed the Women in US History class. She best articulated this point when she said that students at SCW are writing the book on Orthodox women. What we do how we see ourselves — will have an effect on how Orthodox women are valued, and how Stern College is perceived by our daughters. We have so much strength. Instead of knocking each other down, we should use it.

I've watched Stern grow over the past three years. This year, I heard students raise topics that used to be begrudgingly taken for granted and saw students innovating strong college programs. I hope that in the coming years, those who graduate continue to support their alma mater and those who remain as students continue to raise the level of expectations for future Stern women.

Stern College also watched me change over the past three years. I enjoyed both academic and leadership opportunities, that were unique to Stern. I had a wonderful experience here. I sincerely want to thank all my teachers, classmates and the administration for helping me to grow into a proud and productive member of the Orthodox community.

NEWS

Beth Israel/YU Partnership to Cure Health Care Blues

Sara Kostant
Observer Staff Writer

Yeshiva University undergraduates will get help for their coughs and sneezes by the Fall '98 semester. Permanent medical personnel will be available to treat YU and SCW students on their respective campuses, thanks to a partnership between YU and the Corporation Health Services Network, part of the Beth Israel Healthcare System (BIHS).

BIHS is one of the three largest medical systems in New York and is an affiliate of the Manhattan campus for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Efreim Nulman, University Dean of Students, stated that this partnership was needed so that the University could effectively "assume responsibility for student health care."

Beth Israel will provide a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant on a full-time basis, as well as a part-time medical doctor. The medical personnel will provide primary care to students without an appointment during these times. In case a student needs emergency care, the attending medic will "coordinate access to care within the Greater Metropolitan Health Services system," and he or she will get "priority service and access to the best hospitals within that system." The medical personnel will also provide referrals to specialists.

Nulman added that the Main

"If there is a problem, there is someone to listen. As the University's Dean of Students, all medical services report to me."

- Dr. Efreim Nulman, University Dean of Students

Campus has priority access to the Beth Israel North sports medicine facilities (where the New York Knicks are treated) in case of athletic injuries.

Although the program became effective January 5, permanent staff has not been hired yet. A search for a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant to work on campus regularly has already begun, and a permanent system is expected to be in place this summer. For now, an "interim structure has been set up...the permanent doctor and nurse practitioner are not here, but Beth Israel sends us temporary medical personnel who rotate daily."

Nulman said that most of the complaints about the current system deal with its temporary structure, and will abate once the personnel become permanent.

A Student Healthcare Sub-committee was established to "act as a liaison between the students, and the YU administration and Beth Israel." The sub-committee members who represent students at healthcare meetings are Aliza Fox, Ayelet Grun, Cheri Ochs and Lauren Paley.

Dr. Robert Nadj, the director of medical services at YU, and Ann Bienstock, the project manager and troubleshooter for the new program, were also present.

Stern College's medical office is currently located in Brookdale Hall, rooms 2A and 2B. Currently, office hours run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

Absence of such an office at the Schottenstein Residence Hall was discussed by the student sub-committee at healthcare meetings. Plans for a medical presence at Schottenstein remain up in the air, according to one of the sub-committee members.

Although this and other difficulties have yet to be ironed out, Nulman urges students to continue giving their opinions to the representatives of the sub-committee. "If there is a problem, there is someone to listen" said Nulman. "As the University's Dean of Students, all medical services report to me."

Stuart Eizenstadt to Speak at YU Commencement

2,000 Graduates will receive degrees

Sara Kostant
Observer Staff Writer

Stuart Eizenstadt, Under-secretary of State in the Clinton administration, will address Yeshiva University's graduating class on May 21st in Madison Square Garden.

Eizenstadt, along with six other individuals, will receive an honorary degree at this year's graduation.

Dore Gold, Israel's permanent representative in the United Nations, will deliver greetings to the graduation's participants in honor of this special occasion of Israel's 50th anniversary.

YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm is expected to speak as well, and will introduce each of the recipients of the honorary degrees.

The YU commencement exercises usually feature one or more guest speakers.

2,000 degrees will be bestowed to graduating seniors at the event. The audience is expected to consist of 4,000 spectators, mainly friends and family of the graduates.

According to SCW Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian, the graduation degrees are not conferred individually, rather, Rabbi Norman Lamm will "proffer the degrees to each school in union."

The dean of each school will accept the degrees on behalf of his or her class.

Dean Orlian added that because final grades will not be out by graduation, diplomas cannot formally be granted to the students; the registrar must check to make sure all seniors have enough credits before they can officially graduate.

Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and Cardozo School of Law usually have their own graduation ceremonies.

Yeshiva College, Stern College, and each of the graduate schools hold their own awards ceremonies the week before graduation.

The Stern College awards ceremony was held May 11th in Koch auditorium at 4:30 p.m.

A separate senior dinner will be held for SCW seniors.

Although the award recipients of the various schools will not be announced at the commencement, they will be acknowledged for their achievement. Their names will be listed in the commencement booklets given out at the graduation to all participants.

Seniors' reactions toward the impending graduation vary. Orly Goldenthal, SCW '98, will be present at the graduation ceremonies, but will not be receiving her diploma until January '99. She must remain for another semester at SCW to earn sufficient credits to graduate.

She says that hearing her name announced at graduation will be "a little weird."

"It's kind of a tease," she says, "we're walking down with our year to be with people we went through it with, but we aren't really graduating."

Ora Shinnar, SCW '98, remarked that "it will be strange having to worry about school during *yom tov* next year." She says that she liked SCW "tremendously" and feels she derived much benefit from her four years here.

Miller Completes Authors-in-Residence Program

Miriam Rosenblatt
Observer Staff Writer

Culminating the Gottesman Authors-in-Residence series, Arthur Miller spoke to a full house of students, faculty and guests at SCW on Sunday, April 26.

Despite a last minute rescheduling, so many people came to hear Miller that the school was forced to place closed-circuit television screens in the cafeteria and in classrooms so guests could see and hear the speech. Students received priority seating in Koch, a surprise to many.

"The students attending this speech were given first importance, which is unusual, but refreshing," said Dena Rothstein, SCW 2000.

Miller, a renowned playwright, famous for his plays "The Crucible" and "Death of a Salesman", read from his new play, Mr. Peter's Connection. The play premiered on April 28.

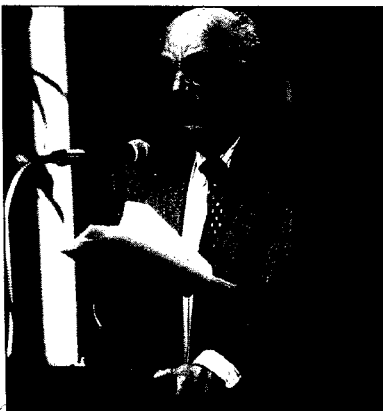
Miller has won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award.

After his reading, Miller answered questions from the audience. He responded to questions varying from McCarthyism to Judaism, and morality in literature to Tennessee Williams.

Miller started writing during one spring break in college. During that vacation he produced his first play, which won some awards.

Yet Miller claims that he doesn't "think of myself as being particularly successful... I know how to do these things. I can make plays that work on the stage -- generally... either you have that talent, or not."

While many were impressed with Miller's direct manner and his humor, some students found him a bit cold, and were disappointed by the hyped-up event. "It was wonderful



Arthur Miller addresses students and guests in Koch Auditorium.

to see him, just an average guy who went to the University of Michigan and started writing just to write, and he was successful. That's very encouraging," said Rothstein. "However, I was more impressed by [Jamaica] Kincaid and [Tillie] Olsen, other authors in the series, who were warmer to their audiences, almost included the listener, rather than seemed stepped back from them."

Following the lecture, Miller joined 30 students for a sit-down dinner where he signed books and responded to their questions.

'80s Night Rocks the House

Fileen Chudow
News Editor

Although a lot of attention is focused on the future and the approaching millennium, some students at SCW just want to return to the past.

On April 7, students gathered in Koch Auditorium to celebrate the previous decade with an event called "Rockin' '80s Night."

Sponsored by the SCWSC Fun Club, TAC and SSSBSC, '80s Night allowed students to munch on pizza, several days before Passover, while dancing to the familiar rhythms they grew up with.

'80s Night, the brainstorm of Fun Club President Stephanie Ives, SCW '98, was organized by Rachel Katz, SCW '2000, Nikki Paley, SCW '99, and Dina Rothstein, SCW '2000.

The event, combined with a *chametz* party, was created to provide a fun break at the end of midterms.

The event's three organizers formed the d.j. group "Milli & Vanilli," named after the lip-synching '80s music group, Milli Vanilli. They played '80s hits, such as Michael Jackson's

"Thriller", Madonna's "Get Into the Groove", George Harrison's "I've Got My Mind Set On You" and REM's "Stand."

Katz said that only dance music with a good beat was chosen.

"Milli & Vanilli" also asked '80s trivia questions, such as which rock star dropped out of school to come to New York City (Madonna) and which band broke up in 1983 whose lead singer went on to have a successful solo career (the band was Police; its vocalist was Sting).

Posters of rock stars, such as Whitney Houston and John Mellencamp, and of movies, such as ET and Star Wars, decorated Koch.

One handmade poster displayed the names of television shows, including "Growing Pains," "Who's the Boss?" and "The Cosby Show."

Students dressed up for the occasion in hip belts, jeans jackets, high side ponytails, legwarmers and leggings with spike heels.

Many students were too young to wear these styles when they were fashionable, and enjoyed the opportunity to model them a decade later.

Students thought '80s Night



Ilanit Leavitt and Ola Izrailov SCW '98 groovin' at the '80's party.

fulfilled Paley's promise that it would "be the event of the year."

Sarah Monchar, SSSB '01, declared the event "a great success" and expressed the hope that she'll be able to repeat the event next year as the newly elected sophomore class president.

Beth Kessler, SCW '99, added that it was "a great break

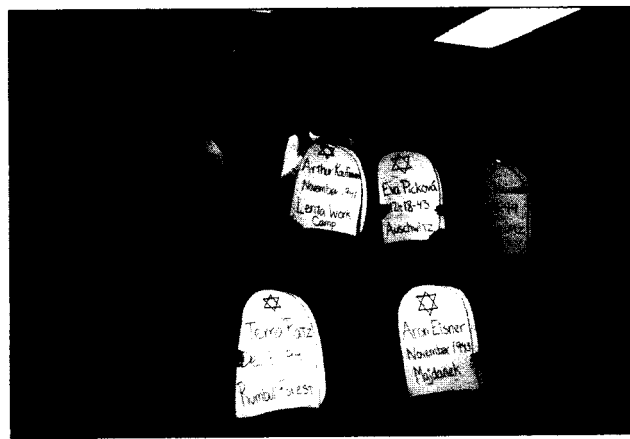
from writing papers, and that it was cool that everyone was able to do their own dance."

Aviva Klein, SCW '98, said that the music brought her back a decade, and that she hadn't "expected the event to be as great an idea," as it was.

Katz said students enjoyed '80s night because the '80s were

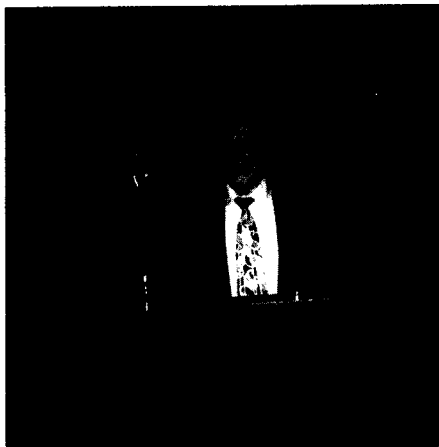
when they grew up, and many have happy memories connected to the songs played.

Shlomit Kheen, SCW '99, found '80s Night to be awesome, and said, "There was a great turnout, everyone danced, and it's a good stress reliever right before Pesach."



Above:
Student at SCW present a dramatic tribute to the victims of the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah. Front row: Meira Schneider and Orly Goidenthal. Back row: Shauna Peters, Sarah Harris, Leebie Mallin, Rachel Moskowitz, Ilana Sperling

Right:
Holocaust survivor, Jack Ratz, spoke to SCW and YC students at Weissberg Commons.



Witnesses to a Witness

YU Commemorates Yom Hashoah

Aviva Laufer
News Editor

"How many of you are children of survivors?" asked Holocaust survivor Jack Ratz at the Yom Hashoah Commemoration ceremony. "How many of you are grandchildren of survivors?" he continued. There was a show of hands. "This," he said, "will show you who your grandparents are."

Ratz, the featured speaker at the April 21 ceremony is the author of "Endless Miracles," a memoir of Ratz's life and his Holocaust experiences.

Ratz was 14 years old when his home of Riga, Latvia, was attacked by Nazi hordes. He then went on to suffer through several death camps, concentration camps and death marches.

As Ratz described the horrors he lived and losses he experienced as a teenager, he paralleled the experiences he had in his teenage years with those of a typical teenager today.

As noted by Nina Freeman, SCW 2000, "it helped us to reflect on our own lives and it made everything he said so much more powerful to us as teenagers."

Ratz displayed a ring that he smelted from a silver spoon during the

Holocaust, complete with the engraved dates on which his mother was killed, and his own Hebrew initials.

The program was jointly sponsored by TAC's Zachor Club and YCSC's Zachor Club. About 70 YC students and 50 SCW students attended.

TAC's Zachor club held another program in Koch Auditorium the following night. It included a candle-lighting ceremony and skit.

A great emphasis was placed on relating to one's lineage and remembering, as well as *davening*, on behalf of the *Neshamot ha'Thorot* (holy souls) that died at *kiddush Hashem* (sanctifying God's name).

Adrianne Segal, SCW '99, felt the program was definitely "emotionally thought-provoking."

Only about 70 students attended the program at SCW.

One SCW junior noted, "while some may not have attended YU's Yom Hashoah programs because they planned to attend Yom Hashoah programs elsewhere, I feel that many students are, unfortunately, apathetic." Another sophomore added that, "while I was disappointed with the turnout, I would prefer not to think that way. I would like to assume that they had good excuses."

CAMPUS NEWS

1998 Valedictorians

continued from page 1

The senior class also chose a favorite professor of general students and of Jewish studies. Dr. David Shatz, who teaches both secular and Jewish philosophy, was chosen as the favorite secular professor. Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Ivy Department of Judaic Studies, was selected as the favorite Judaic studies professor. Students voted for the professor awards earlier in the year.

Klein attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush and Midreshet Moriah seminary in Israel before spending three years as a student of SCW. She plans to go on to graduate school for speech pathology in the fall.

As a speech pathology major, Klein became close to the small group of students who shared her major.

"Although there is a lot of competition getting into [gradu-

"Obviously, I'm leaving Stern most of all with the knowledge that I've gained here. But even more than that, I've learned how much left there is to know, how much more I have to learn."

- Bracha Krohn, Judaic Studies Valedictorian

ate] schools, I really don't feel that at Stern," she said.

In addition to her studies, Klein has been active with Yachad, HASC and Bais Ezra, an organization that helps developmentally disabled adults become independent.

Krohn is a Boston native. She attended Maumonides and Michlalah-Jerusalem College for Women in Israel before coming to SCW.

Krohn and her husband live in Great Neck. They got married last June, and both serve as youth

directors of in the local Young Israel. Next year, Krohn plans to attend the Bernard Revel Graduate School, with the eventual goal of becoming a high school *Tanach* teacher. English Literature, she says, was taken purely for enjoyment. She has no plans to use it in her future.

During her years at SCW, Krohn served as co-editor of Bina Yeteira, the weekly parsha newsletter and was involved in organizing the monthly *Rosh Chodesh minyan*.

"Obviously, I'm leaving

Stern most of all with the knowledge that I've gained here," said Krohn. "But even more than that, I've learned how much left there is to know, how much more I have to learn."

Greenberg has a double major in Accounting and Finance. She attended Torah Academy Girls High School in Philadelphia, her hometown, leaving after her junior year to enter SSSB as an early admissions student.

She spent the following year at Michlalah, then returned

to SSSB for two more years.

Greenberg has been involved in a variety of school activities. She served as a freshman senator, juniors ombudsman to the Student Life Committee, blood drive captain, contributing writer to both *The Observer* and Bina Yeteira, member of the Bikur Cholim society and participant in the Murray Hill Synagogue outreach program.

Beginning in the fall, Greenberg will be working for Price Waterhouse, one of the "Big Five" accounting firms. She is considering going to graduate school, but for now is "taking things one step at a time."

"All of my Sy Syms professors have been really wonderful," said Greenberg. "I've learned a lot from all of them. They serve as wonderful role models, as religious men, *yarei shamayim*, who have succeeded in the business world."

New computer lab

continued from page 1

dent can afford her own computer, but said that it is not possible to "put in enough [computers] for everyone" either. He thinks it is a "good idea to have a student computer lab." He added that the "direction of higher education is that of students bringing their own computers into their dorm rooms so that they can work at any time of day or night."

Students are receptive to the plan. Faigy Gruenebaum, SCW 2000, said, "I think it's a very good idea, and very con-

venient." She added that she does not need the computers because she has one in her room. Michelle Rothberg, SSSB '01, said, "what they're missing in this building is a computer lab."

Sima Solaimanzadeh, SCW 2000, said, "I think it's a really good idea because not everyone can afford" a computer.

She added that the computer lab is "full during finals so having another room would be helpful." Other students, such as Nechama Maryles, SCW 2000, hope that there will eventually be printers and Internet access.

Attention Observer Writers and Contributors:

If you are missing photographs or disks, please contact Susan Jacobs to retrieve them from The Observer room.

T"ו

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FULL TIME

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Head Start/Brooklyn

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Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. is looking for a paralegal in matrimonial law.

New York Medical College

Positions are available for clinical research assistants. Excellent opportunity for those pursuing a career in health sciences.

Victim Services

is looking to fill a positions for Research associate.

JCC

JCC's all over the country are looking for people to work in Jewish communal service.

The Jewish Museum

is looking for an Exhibition Assistant in the Fine Arts Department.

The Center for Jewish History

is looking for an AA in the Development office.

Jewish Schools

Beit Rabbani, Westchester Day, Park East, JEC and Moriah are looking for a variety of teachers.

Shearim

Fellowship for those who love Jewish learning and serving the Jewish community.

The Osborne Association

Client Advocate, Counselor/Court Advocate and Research Analyst Consultant positions open for criminal justice org.

City of NY Parks & Recreation

There are a plethora of jobs available with the Parks Department.

U.S. Attorney's Office

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Diamonds & Jewelry

JDM Import Co. and Namdar both have various office positions available.

Oren Tours

is looking for tour guides who speak fluent Hebrew to lead tours for Israeli groups visiting the U.S.

National Council of Jewish Women

is looking for an administrative assistant in their Marketing & Communications Dept.

Sweater Showroom

A Knit Above is looking for an assistant.

Media & Communications

The American Comm. for the Weizmann Institute of Science needs someone to work with the head of media relations.

SUMMER POSITIONS

Market Research

Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. is hiring telephone interviewers. No experience necessary.

The Everett Public Interest Internship Program

has a number of positions available in non-profit center.

Proskauer Rose LLP

is offering paid summer internships in their Marketing Department.

Thieme

Medical and scientific publisher looking for people in editorial, production, marketing depts.

Powell Tate

Special projects assistant needed for paid summer internship.

Warner Brothers

Summer internship available in marketing & sales.

Wenner Media, Inc.

The publisher of Rolling Stone and others is looking for someone to assist in the promotion department.

Stern's

Learn the day to day operations of managing a retail business.

Sales & Marketing

Turner Broadcasting Sales needs someone in the support areas of the sales office.

Prudential Preferred Financial Services

is looking for a human resources intern.

WLIR

Learn programming, promotion, production, marketing and sales at this radio station.

New York Legal Assistance Group

Intern at this not-for-profit legal services organization.

Science Research Booklet

is now available at the OPCS for those interested in doing research this summer at AECOM & elsewhere.

Jewish Communal Services

JCRC and American Joint Distribution Committee have non-paid internships available.

Mt. Sinai & YAI

have paid and volunteer positions in clinical and research functions available.

Spelling Entertainment

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Publishing

Hadassah & Inc. Magazine are looking for summer interns to assist in proofreading, fact-checking, etc.

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The OPCS has a pamphlet of internships in the above fields, compiled by the Poli Sci faculty.

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From the

DEPTHS of the WEST, ISRAEL at 50

Israel's 50 Years Celebrated at YU

Miriam Grossman
Observer Staff Writer

The SCW and YC Israel Clubs, TAC, SCWSC and Bnei Akiva sponsored both a Yom HaZikaron commemorative ceremony and a Yom HaAtzmaut celebration on Wednesday April 29.

Both occasions were especially significant due to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel.

Commemoration of Yom HaZikaron began early on Wednesday, as the SCW Israel Club featured various films in the Midtown Center lobby throughout the day.

SCW students traveled by bus to the Main Campus. There, they partook in a program that began with the recitation of Israeli songs and poetry.

The program was followed by a memorial ceremony which many students found to be "extremely moving."

Six YC undergraduate students who had served in the Israeli army marched with Israeli flags and lit candles in memory of the fallen soldiers who died while fighting for the state.

Speakers included Rabbi Meir Goldwicht and Daniel Kutner, Israeli Consul of Academic Affairs.

An emphasis was placed on reflecting upon Israel's development and its future.

The speeches were mostly in Hebrew, a problem for many undergraduate students.

During a special Yom Ha'atzmaut *ma'ariv*, *Tehillim* were sung in unison and the *Shema* was recited aloud, resonating in the large crowd. A shofar blow was sounded after "*Hashem hu Haelokin*," Hashem is the God, was proclaimed aloud three times.

Students began to dance holding hands and waving Israeli flags, ushering in Yom HaAtzmaut as the Neginah orchestra

played live Hebrew music.

Beth Kessler, SCW '99, said, "The dancing reminded me of Israel!"

The celebrating was enhanced further when students had the opportunity to dance for two *chatanim* and *kallot* (grooms and brides) who got engaged in the midst of the evening's festivities.

Blue and white cookies and Orad's filled with blue cream were available as well as plenty of soda. The dancing went on until about midnight. At the conclusion of the *chagiga*, students organized a *kumsitz* in Tenzer Gardens, which was later moved to the Rubin dormitory because the festivities were interrupting the sleep of other students on campus.

Festivities continued into Thursday when SCWSC, YCSC, TAC and SOY hosted a picnic in Belfer Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The picnic consisted of live music, dancing and *lalafel*.

Despite transportation being provided to the picnic from the Midtown campus, less than 20 SCW students attended. An ongoing drizzle deterred some would-be picnic-goers.

YU students were invited to attend an Independence Day celebration in Bryant Park sponsored by New York City mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Several SCW and YC students attended, though some were disappointed with the content of the celebration. The celebration featured well-known personalities like Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Judd Hirsch, but lacked serious content about Israel's 50th birthday. Instead, the event focused on performances loosely tied to Jewish heritage and Israeli culture.

"I personally couldn't figure out the connection between a lot of what they did and Yom HaAtzmaut," said one student. "I preferred the YU celebrations."

Growing Up with Intolerance

Rachel Anne Samsonowitz

I was raised in Jerusalem by an American mother and a South American father. My family resided in a haredi neighborhood. I attended haredi religious schools and maintained an ultra-Orthodox lifestyle.

One of the unforgettable aspects of my childhood is the prominence that politics had in it. Most Americans are rather casual about government and politics, but in Israel, politics evoke the deepest passions. The interest and involvement in politics encompasses all echelons of the public, including the youngest children.

Immediately upon my entrance to first grade, I suffered discrimination for not belonging to the right political party. I had no idea that the girls had divided themselves according to which political party their parents voted for. On the very first day of school, two girls approached me and asked me who my parents voted for. I told them that they voted for Degel HaTorah, the non-Hasidic haredi party. It wasn't literally true, since my parents were not yet Israeli citizens and couldn't

vote, but my childish mind knew they somehow felt closer in affiliation to Degel HaTorah than the other groups. Upon my answer, these girls left, patently not interested in my friendship.

I was flabbergasted. Who cared what political party one is affiliated with? I wondered. Americans are far less interested in the Israeli political scene than are Israelis, and growing up in an American home, who even heard political talk? Could it be we had done something wrong by not belonging to a political party? How does one "belong" anyway?

When I returned home that day, I described the encounter to my mom. She was baffled no less than me. Coming from the United States, she had never seen anyone in her Orthodox community involved in politics, let alone six-year old children. She explained to me that all Jews are equally deserving of respect, regardless of their political views. She found it incredible that political affiliation should have any bearing on personal relationships.

Things of course became much worse when election season rolled

around. Tensions and disparities between each of the groups were heightened even more than they normally were.

Many children would enthusiastically take it upon themselves to advance their parents' political parties. They would hang posters from their houses and bulletin boards, and then go tear down the political posters of opposition parties and spray-paint degrading remarks about the opposing party leaders. I still remember the "Boz Shas!" graffiti in our neighborhood. The hostility wasn't just expressed in arguing over posters, but often carried itself over into fights in the classroom and recess playing.

Since Israel is a politically-volatile country, the raging political climate never seemed to die down. When an issue erupted that affected the different groups, everyone took sides. It took me a while to realize though, that people tended to be different and friendly when it came to relating on a one-to-one basis. With maturity I saw that things were not as bleak as they had seemed from a child's perspective.

Five Grains of Israel

Gila Rosenthal
Observer Staff Writer

As Israel celebrated its 50th birthday, strong feelings abounded among the students at SCW. Different students marked Yom Ha'atzmaut in different ways; some recited a special *tefillah* at night, and in the morning sang *Hallel* and a *Hafotrah*. Others simply said extra *Tehillim*.

Regardless of the particular strain of commemoration, a common theme ran through them all: thanks to Hashem for the gift of *Eretz Yisrael*.

Feelings for Israel run particularly deep in SCW because most students have spent some time in Israel, whether through studying there for a year, or vacationing for a summer. Almost everyone has had personal contact with the land, and hence also a unique collection of "Israel stories."

Hoping for Hospitality

Rachel Greenberg, SSSB '98, recalls spending *Simchat Torah* in the community of Arzei HaBirah, Jerusalem. She and a friend were prepared to eat the second day Yom Tov meals by themselves, but decided to try and see if they could find a place to eat with a local family.

The first night, watching *Hakafot* at the Chassidic Nevardok shul, they began talking to a young American woman, and asked her if she would be able to host them.

The woman apologized, and said she wasn't sure if she could host them because she was staying with her parents in a hotel.

A short while later, the woman came running over to the two girls to tell them that she couldn't find her father to ask his permission, but if they would give her the address at which they were staying, she would get back to them during the day.

Sure enough, she showed up at their door the following afternoon, and told them that they were invited for both Yom Tov meals. Greenberg and her friend could not believe the hospitality they had encountered.

Crash, But Don't Burn

In the same vein, Rebecca Feldman, SCW '2000, noted that while studying for a year in Israel, she "crashed every event known to man. Brises, weddings, and everything in between."

She added that this is what makes Israelis so special - their "open door" policy. "They don't care if you're underdressed, or if they've never seen you before. Everyone is welcome at their *simchas*."

Forefather's Footsteps

Chaya Badrian, SCW '99, described a Shabbat she spent in Chevron on *Parshat Chayei Sarah*. She followed a stream of Jews walking down the

road to neighboring Kiryat Arba on Friday night, and saw hundreds of donkeys and camels, owned by the nearby Arabs. At that moment, she felt she had been transported back to the time of Abraham *Avinu*.

Graying Hair, a Little Early

Sima Golden, SCW '99, recalls a different type of Yom Ha'atzmaut experience. Her father had come to visit, and they went for a stroll down Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem where various forms of festivities were taking place.

One of the teenagers sprayed her father with shaving cream, and, as she remembers, laughing, it took him a while before he realized his hair had



suddenly turned white.

An Irregular Shabbat Walk (or maybe not)

Another student remembers her Israel adventure. During the summer, she and a friend decided they would pray 40 days in a row at the Kotel, a special *segulah* for having a particular request answered.

This posed a particular problem on Shabbat, since the girls needed to find a place in walking distance of the Kotel.

During their first Shabbat, the girls slept in Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem. Early in that afternoon, water bottles in hand, they started off on the long trek to *Har HaBayit*.

They decided to try the back road behind the neighborhood rather

than taking the main streets through the center of town.

Unfortunately, due to construction, certain key paths were no longer there. With no other means of getting to the other side of the hill, they had to resort to climbing down a mountain, in their Shabbat best.

The detour took a little longer than planned, and by the time they got to the Kotel and prayed *Mincha*, they were not sure how to get back to Bayit Vegan before sunset.

Walking quickly, they remembered a shortcut. They climbed through thickets, under barbed wire, frantically trying to make it back on time.

Suddenly, they hit a dead end, the back of an apartment building. The street they needed was about twenty feet below, and they didn't have the time to start walking all around the building to get to the road below. Helplessly, they looked at the street. They saw a fire escape belonging to the apartment building.

Smiling, they climbed up the fire escape, and knocked on the back window of one of the apartments.

A woman opened the back door with a bemused smile, and graciously let in her dusty, unexpected visitors.

She let them out her front door, and the girls made their way down to the front of the building, and exited onto the street they had been aiming to reach. The girls made it back to Bayit Vegan just in time for the third Shabbat meal.

Mixing Joy and Grief

Shira Markowitz, SCW '98, shared her Purim experience in Moshav Matityahu. It was 1996, and the past few weeks had sent Israel reeling from one bombing to another. Nobody felt like celebrating Purim that year. When she arrived at the *moshav*, the place was silent in mourning.

However, as night fell and Purim approached, Rabbi Zev Leff, the Rabbi of the *moshav*, encouraged the people to rejoice in the holiday. He led them all in singing and dancing.

Many of them, including the Rabbi, were drunk, in the spirit of Purim.

Markowitz describes the scene as surreal; one moment they would all be dancing and singing, and the next they would be crying over the recent tragedies. Rabbi Leff called in the guard of their *moshav*, a non-religious Jew, to join in the dancing.

Rabbi Leff thanked the man for protecting all of the lives in the *moshav*, gave him a hug, and brought him into the middle of their dancing circle.

Markowitz added that it struck her that this was, in effect, a microcosm of life in Israel: tears of suffering, but always mixed with the intense joy of being a Jew, living in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Coming of age in Israel

Dr. Zafira Lidovsky Cohen

I was born and raised, during Israel's formative years, in a small town that in time became the symbol of God's forsaken place. Yet, I can vividly remember that for years there was no doubt in my mind that Afula was the focal point of the entire universe. I never had real close relatives. My parents left Poland before World War II, leaving behind their entire family. None of their immediate relatives survived. Yet, I don't recall ever feeling any sense of isolation or loss.

Most of my peers had the same background as mine and we were a close knit community. Each one of us was everybody's child and all adults in our community were the best relatives one could wish for. We always felt so safe. For years there were no locks on our front doors. I can't recall even one incident of crime in my hometown.

All kids of all ages were always out in the streets (there were no cars in the streets until the mid 1960s!) playing with each other into the night. Our mothers' voices calling our names was the one and only signal that it was time to call it a day. I guess I always knew that we were surrounded by enemies that wished to "throw us into the sea." Yet, I don't recall any sense of fear or anxiety or distress.

We were proud of Israel's Defense Forces and trusted their ability to protect us. We were all looking forward to turning 18 and joining the armed forces. For the boys, the defining moment was to be found fit for the most daring of the army's units.

I always thought that I knew all there was to know about Jewish history. I learned about the destruction of the Temple, about the exile, about the

miserable life in *galut*. I heard so much of persecution, oppression, anguish, agony and grief. Yet, I was convinced that it was all over. I believed that Jewish destiny has changed forever and that the new state of Israel is precisely the blissful haven of "the end of the days" that was prophesied by *Yeshu'ahu*, *Yirmeyahu* and all other biblical prophets whose exalted words we recited in school over and over again.

I felt so fortunate. I adored my parents for their vision. I admired their wisdom and courage. I revered the nation's leaders for their efficiency and perseverance. As a devoted member of the Labor Zionist youth movement, I vowed to preserve and protect the Zionist foundations of the country which they have laid down and to never forget my moral obligation to keep the Zionist enterprise alive.

I would never be able to tell when all these feelings began to change or when my innocence was lost. Reality changed. The fabric of society changed. As Israel began to grow and prosper and its focus shifted to industry and commerce, my generation began to desire the "good life" and in our pursuit of affluence and prosperity we forfeited the ideals and idyllic lifestyle of our early years.

Israel at 50 is so different from the place I so often go back to in my dreams. Yet when I see a third generation of sweet, healthy, carefree, rambunctious little sabras packing Israel's streets, I rest assured that the Zionists' dream does live on.

Dr. Cohen teaches Hebrew language and literature at Stern College for Women.



SCW students dancing in Weissberg Commons.

Atlanta Hit Hard by Pre-Pesach Tornado

Susan Jacobs
Editor-in-Chief

The tornadoes that swept across the southeastern United States before and during Pesach disrupted the lives of thousands of people. Part of Atlanta's Jewish community was seriously affected by a tornado that struck just two days before the start of Pesach.

Trees that were uprooted by strong winds blocked roads and crashed into the sides of buildings. Congregation Ariel, an Orthodox synagogue, sustained damage to its roof and a back wall, forcing congregants to hold services in the nearby Jewish Community Center for the duration of Pesach. Only a few families sustained damage severe enough to force them out of their homes, but many more were seriously inconvenienced by the storm.

"It was like a war zone," said Esther Bronstein, SCW '99, an Atlanta native who saw the aftermath of the tornado.

For two days after the storm the neighborhood did not have electricity. Homes did not have heat, and the tap water was undrinkable. Emergency services distributed bottled water throughout the neighborhood. Many families were not able to *kasher* their kitchens for Pesach because of the power shortage. Refrigerated food had to be moved to the homes of congregants that had not lost power.

On the morning of Friday, April 10, *erev* Pesach, the electricity returned at 10:45am, giving some families just enough time to *kasher* their ovens and cook for the holiday. Families helped one another by sharing their meals with those displaced by the storm. Others let congregants use their ovens to cook for Pesach, even allowing them to *re-kasher* their ovens.

"People would say, 'I won't be insulted if you *kasher* my oven,'" said Rabbi Binyomin Friedman, spiritual leader of Congregation Ariel.

The community has been able to recover on its own, thanks to the support of congregants. In addition, other congregations and individuals have donated money to help repair the shul. Because the synagogue was well-insured, Rabbi Friedman has passed the money along to families that suffered extensive damage.

"People have been very forthcoming," said Friedman of the outpouring of support from other Jewish communities.

Sleepless in SCW

Brooke Klein
Observer Staff Writer

It is 3:00 in the morning. Your room is dark and quiet, and faint siren sounds screech in the distance. Something is wrong. You are wide awake.

It's not that you wouldn't rather be asleep. Your racing mind is just preventing you from getting your rest.

According to the Compendium of Patient Information, "Insomnia is the inability to sleep, or to sleep satisfactorily, [and] is the most common sleep disorder." It is caused by emotional problems, specifically anxiety and unvoiced anger.

The Iowa Health Book explains that a stressful change in daily routine can cause insomnia. For example, traveling, starting a new job, or moving into a new home may cause sleep problems.

Jessica Gottessman, SCW 2000, feels that she does not "have insomnia all the time but when I do, I get in bed and just stare at the ceiling. I have a lot on my mind and I have no other time to think during the day. I do everything in bed, talk on the phone, study and I don't associate it only with sleeping."

Lea Rosenfeld, SCW 20'00, added that "Only when I have something on my mind can't I fall asleep. It doesn't even have to be



sleeping on the weekends when I'm away from school. [In school] I fall asleep between 2 and 3 am, and I usually get into bed between 12:30 and 1:00. I think about personal things, a big test, anxiety about a career, I try to lay in bed and try to fall asleep," she said.

"I've had insomnia in the past," said Melissa Tutnauer, SCW 2000. "I'm dealing with relationship issues, decisions about what to major in, career choice and family issues. When I've had insomnia it takes me about 2 hours to fall asleep. It never happens when I'm at home."

The amount of sleep required for adults varies from the traditional seven or eight hours to three or four hours.

Regular exercise, avoiding caffeine and alcohol, and a dark quiet room are some techniques for preventing insomnia. Drinking warm milk or taking a hot bath are additional recommendations for inducing sleep.

Gottessman tries to "play music until I fall asleep." But still, she said, "Usually I fall asleep one and a half hours after I get into bed. If I nap during the day I can't fall asleep at night."

something big. Usually I have no problem



Members of the Belles and Kol Shira, after their pre-Pesach a capella concert.

Kol Shira Bringing New Melodies to SCW

Kol Shira, the new a cappella group, debuts at SCW.

Sarah Cate
Observer Staff Writer

According to Yehudit Robinson, SCW '99, who heads the Kol Shira group along with Esther Levin, SCW '99, "The group was started because [when] we met at the beginning of last year, we simply enjoyed being together and singing. It's something that we all gained a lot of pleasure from. Stern really has a large enough student body to support more than one a capella group."

Levin said that the group members felt that Kol Shira could only add to the student life at SCW. "Since the student body seems to enjoy the Belles so much, we felt that we could only add to that enjoyment," Levin explained.

Additionally, since the Belles, SCW's traditional a cappella group, has only a few available places each year, the addition of Kol Shira increases the number of singing positions available each year.

The group is composed of seven members: Alyssa Reisbaum,

SCW '99, Tamar Mosak, SCW 2000, Leslie Ginsparg, SCW '98, Gila Rosenthal, SCW '99, Robinson, Levin and Margalit Landau, SCW 2000.

Landau organizes many of the harmonic arrangements.

According to Robinson, although Kol Shira has a limited repertoire at this point, the group plans to expand at the onset of the Fall '98 semester.

The group plans to hold auditions during that time. "Some details, like how often we will perform have yet to be decided," Robinson added.

"We are looking forward to developing the vocal arts at SCW along with the Belles," Robinson concluded. Kol Shira's next scheduled performance will take place in the fall.

VOICES

Debbie Shafet is
an SCW senior
majoring in
Education.



TURN

Gary Oldman: How do you like them apples?

I was watching this years Oscar's and, lo and behold, Gary Oldman was not there. Shocked, he's never been nominated or invited to the awards. Why, you may ask? Because they have no taste! Why else would Kate Winslet be nominated for her role in "Titanic." Come on, half the time she couldn't figure out what accent she wanted to use. Ya know what? If you can't do the accent, THEN DON'T (notice Kevin Costner's British accent in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," enough said).

Which brings me to my point: Gary is so good at accents, that he can concentrate on his acting. In "State of Grace," he played Jacky, a member of the Irish mob. His New York accent was so believable that you would not think that he doesn't really have that accent. In "Bram Stoker's Dracula" he dropped his voice one octave and researched what accent the count would have. Did I mention he dropped his voice an octave the whole movie? Oh I did, ok.

His acting surpasses any actor that has ever been on the big screen. Furthermore, his roles are so diverse, from Sid Vicious in "Sid and Nancy" (a role in which his rapid weight loss landed him in the hospital), to Beethoven in "Immortal Beloved" (he started dating Isabella Rossellini after they met on that set). This year he took a shot at writing and directing "Nil by Mouth," a Ruff film that takes a look at spousal and substance abuse. This film was very powerful and was dedicated to his father who died due to complications of alcoholism. He also uses feelings toward his father in a scene in Dracula where he weeps over Mina. You really feel his pain. Can I get any cheesier?

It's a wonder he was not nominated for direction this year or for any of the roles he's ever played, especially Dracula. I guess he was overlooked because Winona Ryder's performance was so bad that she even refuses to watch herself in that movie and let's not forget Keanu Reeves did write about his performance, but I'm not allowed to use expletives so let's move on.

Contrary to popular belief, he does not play a villain in every movie, and he is very funny. He needs to make comedies. On the set he goes around acting goofy and making people laugh, but is very professional (speaking of professional, "The Professional" is highly recommended) when the cameras start rolling. Did I mention that he was Lee Harvey Oswald in "J.F.K."? It's really hard writing about him because I would much rather spew my feelings out loud, really loud. He is so amazing that every one must know. In fact, if I ever became famous, I would plug him at all my interviews. So what if I'm a little obsessed? At least he is not Leonardo. (I apologize to all the Stern girls and YU guys who have posters of him on their walls). He needs more exposure, should be paid more money than any one else in show business and needs to live in my house.

I hope this article lets you know a little about Gary and his movies, and the next time you rent a movie or see one, keep him in mind. Although "Lost in Space" is not worth nine dollars, Gary is. Oh yeah, about the movie prices. WHAT ARE THEY THINKING? At least in L.A. there are matinees and student discounts N.Y. offers NOTHING. And who designs the theatres? YOU DON'T PUT THE AISLE THE MIDDLE OF THE SCREEN. Just for that, they should make the movie two bucks. Note: the Murray Hill Theatre should die!!! All right. I'm done. I'll shut up now.

Congratulations!

This year's *Observer* has improved in every possible area- quality of layout, writing and subject matter of articles. *The Observer* has become a stellar paper, of pride to the entire Yeshiva University community. *Yishar kochachen* for the hard work.

Yehudit Robinson
SCW '99

Gelman Named Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

President Norman Lamm has named Dr. Sheldon Gelman, dean of the Wurweiler School of Social Work, as Yeshiva University's interim vice president for academic affairs, effective July 1.

Dr. Gelman will serve as the university's chief academic administrator until a successor is named to Dr. William Schwartz, who is stepping down after serving in the vice president's position for nearly five years. Dr. Gelman, who has been dean of YU's social work school since 1990, will continue to hold this position during his interim vice-presidency.

The University has retained an executive search firm to help identify candidates to succeed Dr. Schwartz, and Dr. Lamm will soon name a committee to advise him in the selection process.

Commenting on Dr. Gelman's appointment as interim vice president, Dr. Lamm said, "Sheldon Gelman is an outstanding administrator as well as a respected scholar. Under his leadership, Wurweiler has grown and flourished. We are fortunate indeed that he has agreed to serve the broader university community during this time of transition."

Dr. Gelman said he welcomes the "new challenge" and plans to divide his time equally between

his duties as dean and his responsibilities as vice president. He said he will be able to do this because he can "rely upon our outstanding deans and dedicated administrators at Wurweiler and throughout the university to assure that business is conducted smoothly."

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Gelman earned his MSW at Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. at The Florence Heller Graduate School at Brandeis University. He also holds a master of law degree from Yale University.

Dr. Gelman has conducted extensive research and published articles in topics related to social policy, liability issues in nonprofit organizations, human service delivery systems, developmental disabilities, ethics and child abuse. He is a Fellow of the American Association on Mental Retardation and recently completed a three-year term on the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. He is vice president of the National Association of Social Work Deans.

Prior to coming to Wurweiler, Dr. Gelman directed the social work major program at Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Gelman and his wife, Ilene, live in Edgewater, New Jersey.

TURN

Dina Gielchinsky, cultural arts editor

Admit it: You went around imitating Saturday Night Live's "Jaktlemp" routine for weeks after it was funny. After hearing a juicy piece of gossip about how she went down to the lobby, and *nebach*, he was such a *schlimazel*, you cluck your tongue, shake your head and murmur a sympathetic "on vey." And after devouring a good steak at Abigail's, you've been known to sit back, sigh contentedly, and proclaim that it was "tukah a geshmake meal."

There's something about the Yiddish language that is irresistible to Jews and non-Jews alike. Billy Crystal exemplified the essence of Hollywood's obsession with Jewish humor with his Oscar's quip about Sylvester Stallion's limited conversations with his wife - "Yo, Adrienne." *Yuc*, and what if Rocky was a *yid*? "Oh, Adrienne."

Unbeknownst to most of our students, a Yiddish course is offered right here in SCW. Dr. Robert Moses Shapiro is our highly capable instructor who can speak Yiddish in a number of different dialects like Hungarian, Polish and Mexican. "*Ich veif Taco Bell*." He can also do a mean *Oyfn Preputchik*. Maybe it's the small number of students in the class. Maybe it's the subject matter. Or maybe it's the deliciousness of gossiping in Yiddish, but our class has formed a tightness that can only be illustrated by the fact that we knew when one of our classmates was going to get engaged before her own mother did. Possibly before her own boyfriend did. We even share our *kartuslen*. Don't know what that is? I'll give you a hint - Dougie's makes them curly or out of sweet potatoes. If you're still clueless, I suggest you sign up for next semester.

But don't get me wrong. If you think Yiddish is all about talking with a Williamsburg accent and adding some guttural prefixes and suffixes, you couldn't be more wrong. There is a grammar structure that is harder than that of the English language that my own grandmother doesn't even know about. Do you know what the accusative, nominative and dative cases are in English? Of course you don't - you barely weaseled your way past English Comp. 101. Well then, you certainly aren't going to know them in Yiddish. Dr. Shapiro can conjugate them all while juggling a Chasidic story with one side of his mouth and assessing the comparative value of "Beavis and Butthead" and "Southpark" with the other. In Yiddish, of course.

Although Yiddish requires the time and effort required to speak any language, plan on getting something back that you just won't get out of French or Spanish. Face it - your entire affiliation with the French culture is passing by Au Bon Pain and pronouncing it wrong. And Spanish? Don't pretend you know what the guards are talking about. I speak Spanish and I'll tell you. You. But Yiddish, ah, sure, your grandparents will laugh at you and tell you that your pronunciation sounds like an American guy choking on *grebinus*. But they'll have a lump in their throats while doing so.

I know, it's a toss up what with Latin and Yiddish next year. But it's going to feel a lot better yelling "*namzer!*" out your car window at some lane-dodging student driver than being able to proudly raise your hand in Shakespeare class when asked what *medias res* means. And no one really cares what *medias res* means, anyway.



Matthew Marino
Studied in a drunk driver
in September 20, 1992
in Courtroom 201
in New York City



Out with the Old...



hannah shonfield

SCWSC President

What can I say to sum up this year, except that it has been a smashing success? Stern College for Women Student Council achieved the goal it set out to do at the beginning of the year: to create quality programs that strive to unify the different personalities of the Stern College student body. The Fall '97 semester started with Club Fair and the momentum

stayed intact as the second semester closed with a two-day celebration of Israel's 50th birthday. And these are merely bookends to the myriad of events that happened in between.

However, it is necessary to emphasize that programs do not create themselves. Therefore, I want to dedicate this letter to thank each and every individual who made this year's success possible. You may have received a certificate at the Leadership Dessert publicly acknowledging your contribution to Student Council, and thus Stern College, but that is just a piece of paper, worthless without the words and feelings of thanks behind it. Whether you were a club or honor society president, a committee head, a class board member, a publication editor, or an active student, I take this time to personally and genuinely thank you. Any student council, after all, is a collaboration, and you all succeeded in making this concept a reality.

Finally, a special thank you to my Executive Board: Shira Hecht, Jennifer Weiss, Nava Bak, and Gila Silbiger. Your tireless effort and undaunted commitment

lie at the core of each and every student council accomplishment. You made this year what it was, and it would never have happened without you. Also, I would like to thank my co-presidents Mechal Weiss and Cheri Ochs for their endless support, patience, guidance, and friendship.

A friend once told me that only with endings may we have new beginnings. This theory applies every year when there is a turnover of leadership. Student Council 1996-97 completed their term to make way for Student Council 1997-98, and now it is time for us to step back and welcome Student Council 1998-99. As the torch of leadership is passed on to you, we wish you the best of luck in all that you aim to achieve!

Hannah Shonfield
SCWSC President '97-'98



mechal weiss

When I was listening recently to the song "Seasons of Love" from the Broadway musical "Rent", the words of the song affected me tremendously. Although I have heard this song numerous times before, for some reason when I sat down to write my final letter as the TAC president, it dawned on me that in a way the message of the song could be applied to this past year. The

song starts out with the words, "five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, how do you measure a year?" This, truthfully, is a very important question. I know that right now all most people are thinking of calculating is the hours that are left before a paper is due or the amount of sleep they have gotten during a week. As I listened to the words this time my mind seemed to drift to the events that have occurred over the past year.

TAC has truly become an integral part of student life on campus, which is an amazing accomplishment in itself. This year with the help of both my board and the

TAC committee heads various new programs were put together. More chess projects were started, a *chevrusa* learning club was established - working with various people in our community, the President's Circle helped us buy new *seforim* for the three *batei midrash*, there was a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., *chagigor* for Yom Ha Atzmaut, brand new t-shirt sales, an 80's night/*Chametz* party, a new *Shmirat haLashon* club, *Rosh Chodesh minyan* and many other activities. It seems as though there was always something to look forward to.

This was a year when it was possible for anything to happen. We had the privilege of meeting and working with various new and old students on various projects. This diverse group learned a great deal about each other's different ways of life which was amazing. However, the most ironic thing that sticks out in my mind is the fact that once again there was a tie for TAC president. All in all it has been an amazing year.

It has often been said that behind every good leader there are a special group of people that helps him or her be a success. This statement is definitely one that can be applied to my experience as president this year. I would like to thank Michal, Shira, Tamar, Alisa and Yael for all their help over this year. In addition, I would like to thank the other behind the scenes people, my friends, who truly supported TAC this year. Without the help of

my friends and of course, Hannah and Cheri, this year would never have been as successful as it was. The Office of Student Services and the Office of the Dean of Students have also been extremely helpful and I want to thank them for taking the time to listen to us and to work together with us to help enhance life on campus.

At the Orientation *chagiga*, I told a story about a man who took it upon himself to help others by creating a life for them outside of the nursing home that they were living in. It was not until after the man died that people realized that he had created this imaginary world from merely peering out a window and seeing a brick wall. From this man we can learn that it is all a matter of perspective. If we look for the good in people we will find it. I found it this year and I am confident that Zemira, Tammy, Rebecca, Tova and Elisheva will do the same next year too. Always remember: impossible things are happening every day. This is a great motto to live by and the proof is in all that has been accomplished so far.

Good luck on finals,
Have a great summer
Mechal Weiss,
TAC President '97-'98

We apologize for any errors in last month's published election results.

The correct Student Council 1998 - 1999 winners are as follows:

SCWSC

Pres: Shandy Kahn
V. Pres: Charna Schwartz
Corr. Sec: Bracha Schiffmiller
Rec. Sec: Dassi Zeidel
Tres: Melanie Keller

Senior Class

Pres: Jennie Weiss
V. Pres: Naama Dinewitz
Corr. Sec: Adina Weinstein
Tres: Sara Berkowitz

TAC

Pres: Zemira Baron
V. Pres: Tammy Cohen - Rebecca Feldman
Corr. Sec: Tova Rhein
Tres: Elisheva Langner

Junior Class

Pres: April Simon
V. Pres: Miriam Eljas
Corr. Sec: Rachel Salamon
Tres: Lauren Hamburger

SSSBSC

Pres: Adina Loberfeld
V. Pres: Marina Klochan
Corr. Sec: Carla Shron
Tres: Susan Wohlgelemer

Sophomore Class

Pres: Estee Sandler
V. Pres: Sarah Monchar
Corr. Sec: Bella Friedman
Tres: Michelle Rothberg

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...In with the New



shaindy kahn

SCWSC President-Elect

It is an honor and a privilege to be talking to you from the pages of this newspaper as your new SCWSC President-Elect. I would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting me.

First of all, a big *yashar-koch* to Hannah Shonfield and the rest of her board for the great job they did this year in bringing fun and meaning to student activities. Hannah, your support and leadership will

enable me to continue your work.

I would also like to welcome and introduce you to my Executive Board for the upcoming '98-'99 academic year: Vice President Charna Schwartz, Recording Secretary Dassi Zeidel, Corresponding Secretary Bracha Schiffmiller, and Treasurer Melanie Keller. These are all incredible people and we will be working very hard to make it an exciting and successful year. In fact, we have already had meetings to formulate ideas for the upcoming year, and it looks like we have a productive and stimulating year ahead of us.

However, the success of next year depends on you, the students. I realize that the days are long and our

schedules are not the typical college schedule. But this campus and our events will only be as good as the effort you put in. There are many clubs for almost every interest, and there is room to get involved in what interests you. I am always available for your ideas and suggestions.

Congratulations to all those who are graduating. For those who aren't, have a great summer, and I look forward to working for you next year.

Shaindy Kahn
President-Elect
SCWSC '98-'99



zemira baron

TAC President-Elect

Greetings everyone! I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the student body. My name is Zemira Baron and I'm your future TAC president. I'm really excited about the upcoming year. The new board has tons of ideas and we can't wait to try them out. But no project can be successful without widespread student participation. I hope that...

UCHHHHHHHHHHH!!! I can't believe that the previous paragraph came out of my mouth (or the keyboard - to be exact)!!! I don't write boring columns of that sort, the kind that are so typical, so trite that people don't even bother to glance at them. I hate those blah articles, in fact, I'm morally opposed to them. That type of letter is a necessary evil in life and I certainly don't hold anything against those who have succumbed to the social pressure of proper student-leader etiquette. But I'm just not personally ready for that stage of life yet. Sitting at a

Student Life Committee meeting one morning among other student leaders and deans, I had to laugh at myself. What was I doing among such company, in such a formal setting? As I crossed my legs and sipped a cup of coffee in an attempt to camouflage my youth, I wondered if anyone else noticed how out of place I was.

Ahh, if I could only return to the days of my youth. Back to the days when I could devote my column to those really pressing issues, like hairballs and plaster. Back to the good old days in which I didn't have to create a false façade, to disguise myself as an intellectual university student. But it's too late - those days of non-restrictive innocence, of straightforward sincerity are now over. If only I would have appreciated what I had....

But before I get too dramatic, guess I should get back to the point. The truth is that while I enjoyed writing my column this past year, I felt there was more to be accomplished than mere entertainment (though that's important too). Hence the transformation of Zemira-the-Columnist into Zemira-the-TAC-President.

The new TAC board has a lot of goals for next year. We'd like to establish a new *Chessed* Network in which students will be matched up with different

Chessed Opportunities (visiting the elderly, "adopting" special needs children, *bikur cholim*, etc.) based on their interests and schedules.

We also want to reach out to the community at large, involving ourselves in *kivun* in neighboring shuls and Hebrew schools, perhaps creating a big sister-little sister program with non-religious youth. Within SCW itself, there's a lot to be done - a school-wide *Nach Yomi* program wherein *divrei Torah* and brief summaries on the daily *perek* will be posted everywhere with a *Rosh Chodesh Sivan* to complete the monthly *sefer*, improved *Shabbatonim*, enhanced pre-holiday spirit (decorations, *chagigot*, speakers, etc.) and much more. Although TAC committees are already being chosen, we could always use more help, so feel free to contact me.

I know this sounds like a conventional, insincere conclusion, but I'm truly looking forward to hearing your suggestions and working together next year.

Zemira Baron,
TAC President-Elect



adina loberfeld

SSSBC President-Elect

Hi! My name is Adina Loberfeld and I'm the new Sy Syms President for next year. I'm looking forward to a very exciting year working with all of you.

Sy Syms not only consists of classes but it is also a place where one can have fun. There are a number of clubs which hold programs during the

year relating to the different majors. One of my major goals for next year is to try and stimulate interest in clubs so more people will become involved. If anyone would like to see something happen that has not already taken place, please inform me of your ideas. We want to hold events that interest you. It is important for all Sy Syms students to participate in all clubs and activities. We want to have events that are fun, exciting, and meaningful. So when next fall comes along, please remember to join one of the clubs and be a part of the great programming that is ahead in the Sy Syms future.

I would like to thank Cheri Ochs, this year's SSSBC

President, for all the hard work she devoted to this successful year. I wish her the best luck at her new job. Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in August. If you have any questions, comments, or just want talk, please feel free to call me or email me anytime over the summer.

Adina Loberfeld
SSSBC
President-Elect
35 Prentice Rd.
Newton Centre, MA 02159
(617)527-8588 asl41@aol.com

The editorial staff of *The Observer* is pleased announces that Susan Jacobs and *The Observer* are recipients of the Anti-Defamation League's annual Bess Myerson Award for Excellence in Campus Journalism.

Jacobs' article *We Are Not Immune: AIDS in the Orthodox Jewish Community* was one of eight recipients of the award.

She and *The Observer* will share a monetary prize.



A recent blood drive on had more than 100 participants. Jackie Shimon-comforted Ruth Kentor at a blood drive earlier this year.

ARTS

"Road Rules" At Your Local Bookstore



Dassi Zeidel
Cultural Arts Editor

If you've ever found yourself channel surfing on a Sunday afternoon you've probably come across re-runs of MTV's "Road Rules," the non-rehearsed-come-as-you-are-show where five people drive around in a Winnebago cruising for clues and completing exciting missions. If you've seen it once, you're probably hooked.

So, there I was tuning in to Michelle, Chris and the rest of the gang trail-blazing through exotic places in Europe from

Carcassonne in Southern France to Venice and Amsterdam. I watched the cast running with the bulls in Pamplona, the explosive fights between Antoine and Belou and the wild yacht party in Cannes.

The next season brought a new cast; this time it was fun in the Islands for five new road rulers as they drove around the now famous Winnebago in search of clues.

Who can forget the budding romance between Jake and Kalle, amateur comedy night on Balboa Island, the cast's stunt on "All My Children" and the last night of the trip where they conquered their fears and walked on fire?

MTV Books along with Pocket

Books and Melcher Media recently published a book tracking the adventures of the Season Three and Season Four casts called "Road Rules: Passport Abroad" by Allison Pollet and Leif Ueland. Filled with pictures and first person accounts, this book is a great way to relive your favorite moments of the show.

I must admit I laughed when I first heard about it, but the book has provided me and my roommates with lots of entertainment.

The book takes readers on a step by step account of the "Road Rules" procedure. You can read everyone's applications, personal histories and "travel diaries."

Check out the packing list and get the behind the scenes scoop. Find out what really happened between Antoine and Belou and all the other juicy extras that were left on the cutting room floor.

Don't forget to check out the "Where Are They Now" section to find out what your favorite road rulers have been up to.

So read up on all your favorite missions as each cast takes off on the adventure of a lifetime. Bon Voyage!

"Road Rules: Passport Abroad" costs \$18 and is available at most bookstores.

Krich's Latest Novel: A Great Summer Read

Dassi Zeidel
Cultural Arts Editor

A young woman is murdered on her way home from work one evening, spawning a myriad of questions for homicide detective John Barone. At the onset of his investigation, he encounters a prestigious fertility clinic where Chelsea Wright, the book's murder victim, had donated eggs. Almost immediately after his visit, the clinic is accused of switching patients' eggs. Dr. Matthew Gordon, the clinic's founder and director dis-

appears.

Against Barone's advice, Lisa Brockman, Gordon's fiancée and a doctor at the clinic, embarks on her own investigation to find Gordon and to find out how, if at all, the clinic is connected to Wright's murder.

At the same time, she is struggling to come to terms with her past and planning her future.

This becomes more complicated when there is no word from Gordon, and Brockman begins to worry that whoever killed Wright got to Gordon as well.

When she finds disturbing

data in the clinic's file concerning one of her patients, Brockman realizes that someone close to her could be involved in a cover up operation. She questions everybody who has any possible connection to Wright, Gordon and the clinic. Yet the more she learns, the more questions she has. To Lisa, everyone is a suspect and she feels more alone than ever.

The reader cheers Brockman on as she plays detective, dodging a masked assailant in the clinic's lab and narrowly missing a car intent on running her down. Rochelle Krich mag-

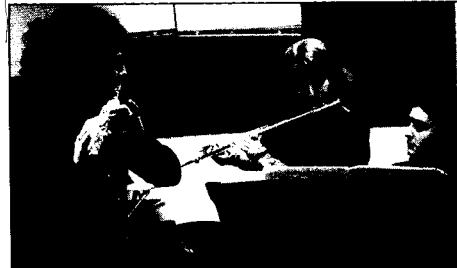
nificently centers the action on Brockman and, as civilians, we identify with her as she racks her brain and follows her instinct in this role she has taken upon herself.

Krich's "Fertile Ground" is exciting and fast paced from the get go. The plot takes many twists and turns, and manages to keep the reader interested and alert throughout. The characters are surprisingly complex in a genre where character development is generally glossed over in lieu of adventure.

However, Krich makes the mistake of telling us too much

without letting the characters tell their own story. As a narrator, she is too involved at times.

Krich explores many nuances of human behavior and immerses them in the battle between good and evil, throwing in the controversy of genetics and fertility procedures. The characters are believable and the plot is engrossing with some romance thrown in to the general excitement of murder and suspense. Once you pick it up you won't be able to put it down.



Left: Members of the Jazz Ensemble perform at SCW in a spring concert.

Above: Aliza Fox, Deborah Roth, and Molly Kantar perform in a Chamber Ensemble concert at SCW.

Dr. Levy Retires from Ensemble-And All That Jazz

Tova Katz
Observer Staff Writer

After founding Yeshiva University's Jazz Ensemble 27 years ago, Dr. Edward Levy is handing over his position as director to Dr. Noyes Bartholomew.

Bartholomew was acted as co-director for the past eight years.

Levy's impending resignation is a result of his desire to dedicate more of his time and efforts to other SCW Music Department activities. He will continue to educate students through his music history and music appreciation classes.

Levy will also maintain his role as Chamber Music Ensemble Director.

Until Bartholomew joined the faculty, Levy was the only one arranging pieces

for the Ensemble, as he has been doing for the first fifteen years of the Ensemble's existence. Currently, the two co-directors share the responsibility of arranging six pieces a year for the annual Jazz Ensemble Concert. Said Levy, "This is a life's work."

Levy began to study music at the age of 14, putting a strong emphasis on jazz. Even at that young age, he felt jazz to be immeasurably superior to popular music. He claims that his early appreciation for this particular genre contributed to his creativity.

Levy received his B.A. from New York City College. He continued his basic training at Princeton, where he received a Master of Fine Arts. He then attended the Teachers College at Columbia, where he received his doctorate in music education.

Levy stressed the influence of his teacher, Stefan Wolpe, who led him into composition. Others who have inspired Levy are jazz hero Dizzy Gillespie and pianist Lenny Trastano. Levy describes his work as a combination of late swing, inspired by Woody Herman, Benny Goodman, and Stan Kenton.

Directing the Jazz Ensemble requires much more than managing the musical productions. As the arranger, Levy takes a single melody and writes solos, to appoint to certain musicians, having assessed the students' ability. He thus changes a single tune into a complex performance.

Rachelle Milner, SCW '98, a third year Jazz Ensemble member, felt that Levy succeeded in encouraging students to become

disciplined musicians. She said that he took great effort in personalizing pieces for individual performers according to their abilities.

Aliza Fox, SCW '99, a member of the ensemble for almost two years, is grateful to Levy for bringing out the best in each musician.

Levy speaks of his students highly and explains that, had it not been for the high caliber of the students, he would have retired earlier. He is thankful for having had the opportunity to teach such a hard-working and dedicated group.

To publicly emphasize their appreciation of Levy's work, the Jazz Ensemble presented an award to their founder for his dedication.



Quentin Tarantino and Stephen Lang in a scene from Fredrick Knott's Broadway thriller, "Wait Until Dark."



Dina Gielchinsky
Cultural Arts Editor

IN THE DARK WITH "WAIT UNTIL DARK"

The famous lead actors alone are reason enough to see "Wait Until Dark." Halfway through, you'll realize that they were indeed the only reason to see it. And at the show's finish, you'll uncomfortably conclude that they weren't a very good reason at that.

Frederick Knott's 1966 thriller, "Wait Until Dark," stars Marisa Tomei, Quentin Tarantino and Stephen Lang in a sixteen-week limited engagement at Broadway's Brooks Atkinson's Theatre (256 West 47th Street).

It is the story of Susy Hendrix (Tomei), a blind woman who unwittingly becomes involved in the underworld dealings of a sinister drug trafficker, Harry Roat (Tarantino). Susy's husband, who makes her defrost the freezer to overcome her helplessness at being blind (what a guy), has somehow unknowingly gotten possession of a doll stuffed with heroine. He leaves it behind in their East Village apartment to go on a trip to deliver the same doll to someone - sorry, couldn't figure out who - and now Roat wants the doll back.

Don't understand? You're not alone. Murmurs of confusion were ever present during the performance as viewers constantly referred to their playbills like Cliffnotes for some hint as to what was going on.

The plot thickens. And thickens.

Two thugs accompany Roat on a quasi-stake-out of Susy's apartment and concoct some type of

elaborate, actually clichéd plan that involves pretending to be policemen, detectives, whoever, all to enable them to sneak peeks around the apartment to find the doll. They signal to each other by means of Venetian blinds-yes, you guessed it, flipping the blinds as a gesture that the coast is clear. Let's hear it for originality.

Tarantino makes his fall from paradise as he leaves behind his countless awards for the direction of "Pulp Fiction" to portray a bad guy who will kill a blind woman for a doll. Problem is, he's just not that bad, and if he were to kill Susy, he would have done it a long time ago, which would have saved us about an hour of fumbling in the dark.

Tomei is convincing as a blind woman, yet doesn't capture the dynamic character shift from weak to strong during the course of the play. Maybe we're expecting her to break out into her scathing "My Cousin Vinny" dialect, but whatever it is, we just can't buy her powerless-turned-puissant switcharoo.

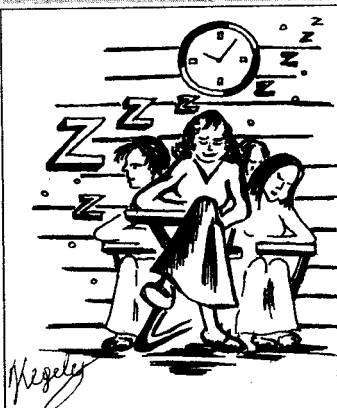
Perhaps the 90's audience calls for more action-packed excitement than the original 60's audience in the play's first premiere, which was popular enough to become a movie starring Audrey Hepburn, and considered one of the screen's most memorable thrillers. Leonard Foglia, as director, may have tried to make up for the dated dialogue and stale plot by costuming the thugs in Adidas-style sweat pants, one leg rolled up, and outfitting Tomei in a retro leather jacket. Didn't work.



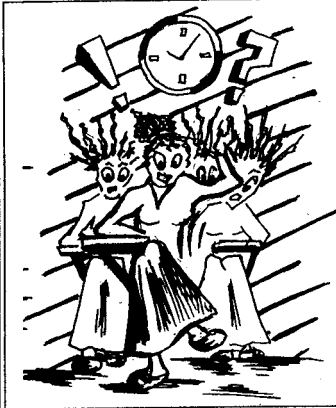
Marisa Tomei stars as Susy Hendrix, a blind woman in "Wait Until Dark."

Why You?

Charna Kegeles



January - April



May

Congratulations to Malka Skiba and Cheryl Younger who attended the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Salisbury, MD.

The prestigious annual competition is open to undergraduate students. Skiba and Younger were sponsored by a fellowship from the Avon Corporation.

SPORTS



Shira Graber
Photography
Editor

Intramural basketball teams conclude first season

Squeaking sneakers. Swishing baskets. An orange and black ball flying around the room as the score swings back and forth throughout the game.

These were the sounds and sights at the April 28th Stern College for Women intramural basketball championship game. By the end of the night, SCW's UCLA team (University on the Corner of Lexington Avenue), led by Nehama Maryles, SCW 2000, won the first cham-

pionship game by a score of 46 to 40.

This is the first intramural basketball league at SCW. The idea came to Shaunna Peters, SCW '99, early in the Fall '97 semester while speaking with Shira Greenland, SCW 2000, one night.

According to Peters, they started the basketball intramural teams because she and Greenland felt it was something lacking in SCW.

Greenland explained, "We decided to get it started now, so next year it can expand into a full program."

In February, fliers and sign-up sheets were hung around campus. Peters and Greenland contacted Dr. Richard Zerneck, YU's Director of Athletics. Ms. Jenny Sarason, the basketball instructor at SCW, agreed to be the team's assistant

coach. "Ms. Sarason was a driving force behind the team," said Zerneck.

Greenland agreed, "Ms. Sarason was quite instrumental in making phone calls and [creating] the teams. Zerneck was also very supportive, furthermore he invited us to the Intramurals Banquet."

Most colleges have intramurals for the students who are either not qualified to make the varsity teams, do not want to make the time commitment or want to be able to play the entire year, rather than a sport season.

At SCW, *tzniut*, modesty, was an additional reason for starting the league. The teams play at the Midtown Center gym in front of other women.

The four SCW intramural teams meet every Wednesday night and play two

twenty-minute halves. About 35-40 students participate each week.

"We are trying to do more given the limited facilities that Stern has; we are hoping to expand the activities at Stern," said Zerneck.

Zerneck hopes to add more intramural sports if enough interest is shown. "We are hopeful we can get a volleyball intramural if there is interest, and then perhaps start a team," he said.

Peters and Greenland have already inspired others to begin other intramural sports. "I think there may be a lot of in-the-closet hockey players," stated Nehama Miller SCW 2000.

Sports Banquet Honors Past Year's Varsity Teams

Sarah Cate
Observer Staff Writer

On Monday, April 27th, the 1997-1998 varsity teams were honored at the annual Sports Banquet.

According to Dr. Richard Zerneck, head of YU's Athletics Department, each varsity team has a Coach's Award, awarded to the most outstanding athlete of the year. There is also an award that goes to the most outstanding graduating athlete of the year.

This year's SCW award recipients include Shana May, SCW '98, and Sheila Weiner, SCW '98, for the Coach's Award in Basketball. May is also the recipient of the prestigious Eastern College Athletic Convention Merit Award issued to the

most outstanding athlete and scholar of the year.

The Coach's award in tennis went to Heidi Baker, SSSB 2000, and the Coach's Award in fencing went to Yedida Goldman, SCW '99.

Shaindy Frankel, SCW '98, former *Observer* Associate Sport's Editor, was honored with the Stern College Athletic Award for the Most Outstanding Graduating Athlete.

The banquet was held at Yeshiva University's Main Campus, in the Belfer Hall Commons, at 6:30 PM. Participation awards are also given at the banquet, ranging from a gray plaque for Second Year Participation in a Sport Award, to a watch for the Fourth Year Participating in a Sport Award.

A second Intramural Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 5.



Shaindy Frankel receives an athletic award from Dean Orlian.

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