



Observer



Summer music
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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Midtown Campus Expands

Eileen Chudow
news editor

Along with a swelling student body, the Midtown campus is also expanding its real estate acquisitions. YU has acquired a controlling interest in a corporation that purchased two attached office buildings at 205-215 Lexington Avenue (between 32nd and 33rd Streets), in order to expand the Midtown facilities. The properties contain more than 300,000 square feet of space, and YU plans to eventually use up to 80,000 square feet on the buildings' lower levels. The remaining area will continue to operate as first class commercial office and retail space.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, said that it will take years before YU completely makes use of the new buildings, but he hopes to begin using them for certain programs as early as next year.

Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW, said that this addition to the Midtown Campus affects it "dramatically, since it provides much more space than the Midtown Center." She explained that space allocation will be fully discussed in the future. But the new buildings will contain lecture halls, classrooms and private faculty offices conducive to research and private conferences. Bacon said that SCW will only require part of the space in the 19- and 21- story buildings, but with a private YU

entrance, "it will be almost like a private building."

SCW's board of directors did investigate purchasing property next door to the Midtown Center, where construction on a Catholic seminary is in progress.

"The Stern board at all times advocated buying the lot next door to the Stern [academic] building, but it didn't work out," said Mrs. Lea Eisenberg, a member of the Stern College Board of Directors.

Bacon hopes that students will eventually utilize all three buildings during school hours, and use the current Midtown Center for social and evening activities as well. She envisions such facilities as cafeterias, music and computer rooms, an expanded library and student lounges in the current facility. She said that the labs will remain where they are but will be renovated, and additional labs will be constructed.

Bacon considers 1,200 students the ideal size for the SCW student body. "Large enough to offer diverse courses without taking away from the sense of community," she said.

Bacon noted that SCW is "expanding everyday," and explained that with this "acquisition of academic space, we will need housing space." She mentioned the possibility that a third property, acquired last year, at 150 East 35th Street could be converted into a dormitory for

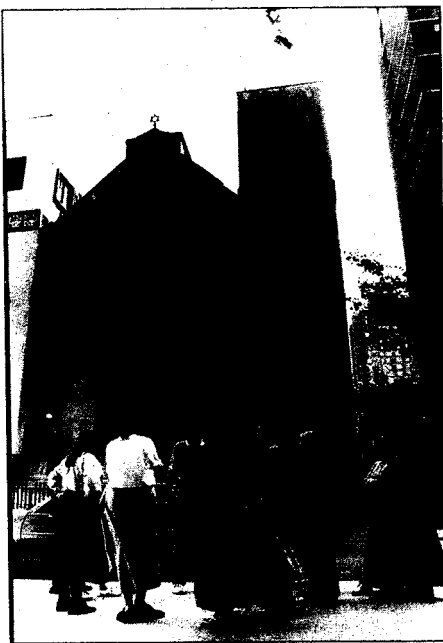


Photo by Shira Graber/ The new buildings purchased for SCW.

approximately 100 students.

"It is possible that the building will be turned into a dormitory similar to Schottenstein," said Eisenberg. "The building was gutted by the previous owner and is currently totally open. Nobody is sure what will be done with it since it needs to be worked on and it will take a long time to complete," she said.

This property was previously considered as a space
[see Expansion, page 14](#)



Dr. Jeffrey Gurock leads SCW students on a tour of the Lower East Side during Orientation. For more on Orientation '98, see page 11.

SCW Adds Housing

Stern College for Women and Yeshiva University continue to set new enrollment records. According to Dr. John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, although "some registration activity" is still occurring, approximately 860 students attend SCW and SSSB this

Enrollment at an all time high

Eileen Chudow
news editor

semester. This number is slightly larger than last year and over 125 more than five years ago. There has been a "fairly steady increase [in enrollment] over the

past few years," said Fisher. The only exception was a 54-student drop in the 1996-97 academic year. With more students in the Midtown

classrooms and dorms, Fisher said that University officials "met often due to a tremendous

[see New housing, page 14](#)

Einstein Sued

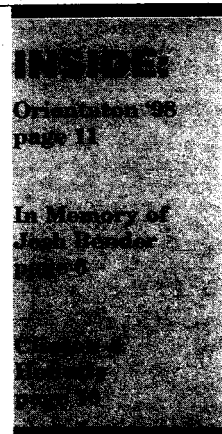
Sarah Cate
staff writer

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its Lesbian and Gay Rights Project recently filed a lawsuit against the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) and Yeshiva University for denying shared housing to gay and lesbian partners of students. The lawsuit was filed in the New York State Supreme Court.

Housing at AECOM's campus consists of low cost apartments, which are offered

only to students enrolled at the school and their spouses and children. Spouses are allowed to live in the apartments only after providing acceptable proof of marriage. Since New York State does not recognize homosexual marriages, so homosexual partners of students cannot share the low cost housing with their student partners.

In a June 24th statement released by AECOM, the institution declined to comment about the lawsuit, "on the advice of their attorneys." The statement explains, "We have just received
[see Einstein, page 15](#)



VIEWS

Observer

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Labor Day Shutdown

SCW's virtual shutdown for Labor Day weekend left several students wondering how they would complete their assignments in time for class on Tuesday. The Midtown Center was closed both Sunday and Monday, inconveniencing students who needed to type essays or lab reports.

Labor Day is often the first weekend of the school year for YU. Students normally have few if any assignments to complete over the weekend. It is a reasonable time to give security personnel reduced hours, assuming that the majority of students will be away for the weekend.

But this year, Labor Day weekend was the second week of school, when many professors had already begun giving assignments. Students who do not own personal computers were inconvenienced by the shutdown. The

new computer facilities in Brookdale helped the situation some, but that is not enough.

As a first tier university, YU should operate on the expectation that student life goes on beyond business hours. SCW is not just a school. For the proverbial "out of towners," it is also a home away from home and the center of their intellectual life. Despite the long weekend, about 80 students chose to spend Shabbat at SCW, and many others were present on Friday, Sunday and Monday. Many did not know the Midtown Center would be operating on reduced hours until signs were posted late Thursday and Friday.

In the future, when SCW decides to shut down for a secular holiday, students should be given prior warning.

editorial

Shabbat Enhancement at SCW

Students staying in SCW for Shabbat this year have noticed changes from previous years. From *Kabbalat Shabbat* to *Divrei Torah* to the *shuirim* by Intern Rabbi Nir Salomon, Shabbat has taken on a more serious atmosphere that is more like, well, Shabbat.

The intern rabbis and their wives have always contributed to the atmosphere of Shabbat at SCW, but they were often unable to overcome student attitudes, which often leaned more towards socializing than singing *zemirot*. Salomon and his wife, Liat, have made a concerted effort to attract serious students - male and female - to SCW for Shabbat. That has made the biggest differ-

ence in transforming the atmosphere from that of a "meet market" to one that is consistent with the holiness of Shabbat.

The Shabbat Enhancement Program at SCW, under the direction of Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services, has made great strides in the past few years, consistently improving *Shabbatonim*, and enticing students to stay in school for the weekend. "I want to stay in now," said Caroline Bitton, SCW 2000, who has spent many *Shabbatonim* at SCW in the past.

The Shabbat Enhancement Program existed in the last few years to provide a place for students on Shabbat if they didn't have anywhere else to go. Now it is not just

a last resort, but a place where students choose to stay.

Hait has devoted countless hours to helping clubs hold *Shabbatonim* and responding to student requests. She has made sure that Shabbat at SCW is not ignored by Student Services, but is given high priority.

It is hoped that even more students this year will take advantage of the Shabbat programs at SCW, instead of feeling they must travel elsewhere for a meaningful Shabbat experience.

Hire More Counselors

Beginning college is a daunting experience for any young woman. Attending college in New York City can be even more intimidating. Each year, hundreds of new students enter Stern College for Women, to be met with an intricate administrative network. There is little guidance in choosing a major, or in navigating the bureaucratic system of registrars, academic advisors and career counselors. Even upperclassmen are baffled by the system.

At the end of the last school year, the Student Life Committee of SCW submitted a proposal to the YU administration to hire two new counselors. The intent of the proposal was that these academic counselors would help students navigate through SCW, from freshman year until graduation, helping them stay on track academically. So far, there has been no official response to the proposal, and no

effort to hire new personnel.

Well-trained counselors who are people-friendly and knowledgeable about SCW requirements could ease students' fears. Students could be assigned to a counselor when they enter SCW, and that counselor would help them choose a major, inform them of requirements and guide their plans for after graduation. The counselors would also have a sense of what students like and dislike about the school's academic programs, allowing them to keep the administration more in touch with student sentiment.

Two additional academic advisors would also ease the workload placed upon current advisors. The huge lines in the registrar's office and dean's office during each semester's registration could be greatly improved by increasing the size of the staff.

The editorial staff of *The Yeshiva University Observer* invites new and returning students to attend a newswriting workshop led by

New York Times reporter

David Herszenhorn

September 14, at 8:00pm in Room 401

The workshop is mandatory for students interested in writing for the newspaper.

Journey to the Past



susan jacobs

MATEWAN, WEST VIRGINIA -- This small town in southern West Virginia is the stuff of legends. I was there this summer on a newspaper assignment for The Charleston Gazette, where I was an intern.

It was early July - a clear summer day after many days of rain. A photographer and I drove south from Charleston, traveling first on a major highway, then a smaller highway, and finally a narrow road that curved and dipped around a maze of mountains, shaded from above by arching tree branches. In all, the drive took only about two hours, but it was like being transported to a different world.

Matewan is a small coal town, population 650. That's right, 650 people. The town's main street was restored recently through a special historic preservation

law, which warranted my journey south. It might just be any small town with a struggling economy, based on a vanishing industry, but it's not, it's Matewan, WV.

In 1920, ten men were killed there in a shoot-out reminiscent of the Wild West. It was the settling of a burning fury. Townspeople - most of them coal miners or their families - took up arms against coal company executives who had exploited them and kept them poor. This was no friendly union negotiation. This was an explosion. It is called the Matewan Massacre.

It was not the first time this town had seen blood. Years before, in the long shadows of the Civil War, a member of the Hatfield family of West Virginia killed a member of the McCoy's, residents of Kentucky, just across the Tug Fork River. The McCoy's responded in kind, and so for several years - as the tales relate - bullets were exchanged back and forth until law officers could intervene.

The same fierceness that fueled Appalachia's most famous family feud was still burning strong in 1920. Sheriff Sid Hatfield and his townspeople faced off against the mighty coal companies, winning a bloody

victory for oppressed laborers.

Matewan is hoping its scandalous past will sustain it now. For many years, the massacre was not discussed. But in the last ten years, it has become a point of fascination for historians, organized labor and tourists.

The coal dust has settled there, and many of the mines have closed. Along the town's main street are stores that bear the proud names Hatfield and McCoy. The local phone book has three pages of Hatfields and two pages of McCoy's - impressive for a town of 650.

And so there I was in Matewan, misplaced for a short while into this town, so far away from any reality I've ever known. I stood where the coal miners stood, along the train tracks where trains still speed by countless times a day, never stopping. I stood on the street corner where ten men died, beside a building that is still scarred by bullet holes all these years later.

Maybe it was incongruous for me to be there, but it felt right. And I knew that I, a Jewish college student worlds away from this simpler life, was also an heir to the mettle and determination that built this town. This quiet little ghost town, lovingly preserved.

This Year, There Is Something New Under the Sun



ayelet grun

Change. It either comes with the speed of a Porsche or occurs as slowly as a butterfly emerging from its cocoon.

Change can be internal, visible to those mindful of their thoughts and feelings. It can take the form of physical transformation and intercommunication.

Change occurs to people, to organizations, to associations. And no matter how hard people try to maintain the status quo,

life will never be the way it was yesterday.

Here at Stern College for Women, each new semester brings a slew of faces, personalities and opportunities that impact the institution and challenge its ability to provide a good education and supportive environment to its Jewish women. Stern College administrators must realize that maintaining a quality school depends on their respect and support of these students just as much as new facilities and external amenities.

We are a small school, and as such, expect that the unique nature of the student body be recognized and appreciated. We are not asking that all of our whims be met at our beck and call. Rather, we are imploring Stern College's administration that they discern that this semester is unlike all others because we are a changed student body. We have new and returning students who

are different than the ones Stern College catered to last year.

A change in the very foundation of a school, namely the student body, requires that the upper administrative levels of school alter themselves as well. Systems such as financial aid allocation, career and academic counseling, food availability (or lack thereof), athletic facilities and registration opportunities that may have worked well in previous years, are insufficient for our current needs. It is time that the administration review its old policies and make appropriate amends.

An increase in enrollment should mean more than a larger university bank account. Now, more than ever, Stern College must change to accommodate the very individuals it claims to serve.

Some Friendly Advice: A Rosh Hashana Message

Dr. Norman Lamm
President and Rosh Yeshiva

On behalf of the faculties and administration, I am delighted to welcome you all - old students and new ones - to our undergraduate campuses. *Berukhim ha-ba'im!*

Your main function here is to grow - intellectually, Jewishly, academically, culturally. The

program of Torah Umadna is a most demanding one, especially because it insists upon the integrity of each of the two poles and expects that you will commit your every effort to excelling in your studies. If you are merely smart, you will figure out all kinds of ways, legal or devious, to get out as soon as you can. But if you are

wise, you will take full advantage of the remarkable resources of both Torah and Mada that you will find here at Yeshiva. There is no other place where you can have available for you such an array of distinguished *talmidei chakhamim* for your Jewish studies, and outstanding academic faculty for your college studies. Exploit this golden opportunity; do not neglect it!

But there is yet one other precious opportunity you have here for the next few years, and that is - the friends you will make, the networking of like-minded young Jews and Jewesses who are resolved to exploit the fantastic intellectual assets of Yeshiva and are determined to rebuild and enhance the Jewish world beyond the one they find before them now. Nourish these friendships well. In years to come you will reap the benefits of this kind of social and intellectual-ideological companionship.

Immediately before sounding the shofar, we recite the words of Tehillim (Ps. 47:6) - *Alah Elokim b'teruah*, which loosely translated means that God, as it were, is

exalted at the sound of the *teruah* or straight blast of the shofar. Hasidim have an interesting interpretation of that verse. They say that *teruah* is derived from the word *retz* - both words from the root of *resh* and *ayin* - which mean friend or friendship. (I have seen this in the name of R. Shelomo Leib of Lencho and, a bit earlier, R. Shneur Zalman of Liady.) The love and loyalty amongst friends is important to the Almighty, and He is exalted when those who serve Him do so in fellowship and mutual love and esteem.

I hope that you will succeed not only in your studies but also in finding and holding on to these deep and mutually fruitful friendships, and that the spirit of camaraderie will indeed assist you in growing from *ve'ahava le'raitakha kamokha* to *ve'ahava et Hashem Elokeikha*.

May you be inscribed *le'shanah tovah u'shenat chayim ve'shalom*.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm
President and Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshiva University

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Observer online at

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Yeshiva University

Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our returning and new students for the Fall 1998 semester.

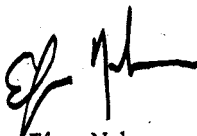
Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Office of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and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

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

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

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year

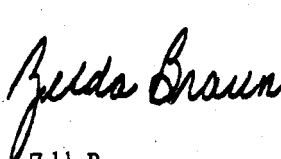
Hatzlachah Rabbah,



Efrem Nulman

University Dean of Students

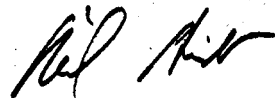
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Zelda Braun

Assistant Dean of Students

MID 114



David Himber

Associate Dean of Students

F419

Students Seek Academic Advisement

Aviva Laufer
news editor

Various anxieties and uncertainties flood the minds of students as they approach the new semester. While new students may have different questions from upperclassmen and require diversified assistance, they share a common concern. They need guidance.

"Our door is always open," said Academic Advisor Miriam Schechter. Still, many students are either hesitant to enter her office or simply have no idea where the academic advisor's offices are even located.

A SCW junior said, "they only tell you what you already know and simply refer you to information that's already available to you." However, Schechter said, "We're here to work with you and for you." Fellow students may help one

decide whether or not to take a particular class or pursue a certain major, but an academic advisor's role is to present a side that is completely objective.

Basic listings of necessary courses and credits for specific majors and minors are available to students. The job of academic advisors is to present the course offerings in a way that seems more manageable and individualized for each student. They present a block plan which gives students a broader sense of what their schedules will resemble for the next few semesters depending on which subject area they wish to place concentration.

Students complain that meetings with academic advisors to plan courses are not as personalized as they ought to be. If the academic advisors researched the students before they met with them, then the advisors would be prepared to offer more individualized advice and sug-

gestions. "For someone to assist me in choosing the appropriate classes and balancing my course schedule, they must have more background knowledge of my strengths, weaknesses and interests," said a SCW senior. "General information is not what I'm looking for when I seek help from an academic advisor. For that all I have to do is open a course catalogue."

Academic advisement is most popularly sought at the beginning of each semester, before deadlines for entering, dropping, or choosing to P/N a course and during the registration period. Freshmen and returnees from Israel make up the majority of the academic advisors' clientele. Juniors meet with academic advisors for their unofficial "junior check" and seniors, for their "senior check."

"Sometimes students go to academic advisors with hopes of having all their

decisions made for them, while in actuality, the only ones that can make their decisions are they, themselves," said Malka Strassberg, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We like to do our best to help you accomplish your goals," said one academic advisor. "If a student walks into our office feeling overwhelmed or confused, our goal is to enable them to leave feeling somewhat relieved and reassured."

Schechter stressed that even if a student is unsure whether their issue of concern should be directed toward their office or to another student services department, they should not hesitate to approach an academic advisor. All student service departments are "in close contact" and they refer students back and forth in order so that "nobody's needs fall through the cracks."

Changes in SCW

Aviva Laufer
news editor

"**W**ow, computers in Brookdale!"

said Lisa Halberstam, SCW 2000, when she noticed the latest innovation in Brookdale Hall's first floor study hall. This is but one of several changes that SCW students and faculty were greeted with at the Midtown Campus at the outset of this semester. The developments are part of a broader program referred to in *Yeshiva University Today* as "Paving the Way to the 21st Century."

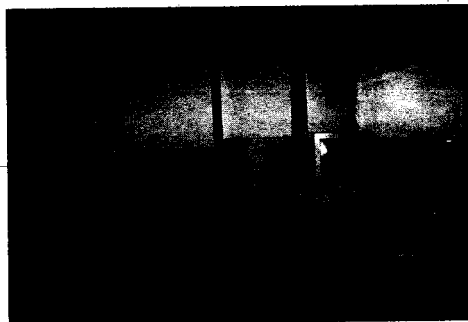
More computers and computer labs are available for SCW students now than ever before. "The addition of computers and labs creates an environment more conducive to the enhancement of computer skills and Internet research," said Shira Graber, SCW 2000. "However, it's unfortunate that it is at the expense of sacrificing classroom space."

Cooking facilities at the main dining hall are being renovated and upgraded, and food prices have continued to rise. SCW students are complaining that since prices have been raised while they have the same \$650 on their cafeteria cards as

in the past, it is almost impossible for their cafeteria cards to pay their eating expenses for a full semester.

Students in anatomy lab

in both the Brookdale and Schottenstein dorms have been refurbished with new windows, furniture and carpeting. Schottenstein has a kitchen facil-



Computers in the first floor study lounge in Brookdale Hall. Just one of many innovations for the Fall '98 semester.

were also confronted with changes this semester. Monkeys, which have always been used as specimens in the past, have now been substituted with cats. Yael Kabasso, SCW 2000, takes the anatomy lab. Her first reaction was, "Um... I'm allergic to them, so I hope that's not a problem."

Selected rooms and floors

ity still under construction and a recently completed convenience store that is scheduled to open soon.

Other developments and renovations include a new air conditioning cooling tower at the Midtown Center and a new physics lab and construction plans for the entire floor of labs in the chemistry department.

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IN THE NEWS

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 502 points, or 6.4% on August 31, creating jitters on Wall Street. The drop is the 25th largest in the Dow Jones' history. The Nasdaq Composite Index plunged a record 140.43 points the same day.

DNA testing confirmed that three year-old Rebecca Grace Chittum of Virginia is really the daughter of Paula Johnson, of Virginia. Chittum was allegedly switched at birth with Johnson's current daughter, Callie Marie Johnson, at the University of Virginia's Medical Center.

Terrible flooding has submerged 2/3 of Bangladesh, killing over 600 people and leaving thousands homeless. Flooding in China has destroyed countless villages as well.

Swiss Air Flight 111 crashed September 2 off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada killing all 215 passengers and 14 crew members on board. The plane leaving John F. Kennedy airport in New York City for Geneva, Switzerland contained 137 Americans and several

United Nations officials.

Israel Watch

A small bomb hidden in a trash can exploded August 27 in Tel Aviv's central business district, injuring twenty people. There were no reported fatalities resulting from the blast. Israeli police blamed Palestinian militants for the attack.

Two Israeli Apache helicopters fired a missile in southern Lebanon August 25, killing Hassam El-Amin, a prominent leader in the terrorist Amal organization. Amal and Hezbollah retaliated that night by firing Katusha rockets on the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shemona. Israeli Defense Forces announced that El-Amin's murder was a planned attack.

Israel's Central Institute for Statistics reported the highest level of unemployment in five years for 1998's second quarter. There are currently 213,200, or 9.4%, unemployed people in the state.

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In Memory of Joshua Bender, A"H

Miriam Eljas
features editor

Some prayed, others wept. Not every YU student knew Fair Lawn resident Joshua Bender, but all of Yeshiva University, faculty and students alike, were deeply saddened over the death of the quiet and serious Sy Syms student who was found floating in the Hudson River on May 24. Those who knew 19-year-old Bender said he was not only dedicated to his religious activities, but to helping others as well. "There are no words," his mother, Gitty Bender, told the *New York Times*. "We cry."

"Joshie," as he was called by his parents, spent many of his free hours volunteering for the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Gail Cebular, spokeswoman for the ambulance corps, told the *New York Post* that "He exemplified the volunteer calling through his devotion to duty in high school. He will be deeply missed. Joshua's memory will be in our hearts."

Bender's disappearance shook the entire Jewish community, prompting searches and student-organized *Tefillin* groups. Friends became worried when Bender did not appear to take his finance exam on May 14. Bender last spoke to his roommate, saying that he was looking forward to reviewing the material for an upcoming exam. Other details that stood out during Bender's disappearance were the presence of his *tefillin* in his dorm room and his unchecked America On Line account.

After twelve days of press conferences and weary searches, Bender was found in the waters off 138th street a little after 5 a.m. wearing jeans and a plaid button-down shirt. His wallet and identification were intact in his pocket.

While the search for Bender was still on, YU

President and Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm spoke about Bender's disappearance and asked for a moment of silence during graduation at Madison Square Garden, May 21. At that same time, 300 police officers, students, and friends were searching for Bender throughout the region. Rabbi Lamm also attended the funeral May 25 in Fair Lawn and addressed the throng of friends, neighbors and fellow students who had gathered from far to pay their respects.



Joshua Bender, A"H

the name Yehoshua, for that name signifies a very warrior-like person who fights," he said. "Josh was very peaceful and quiet, the opposite of a Yehoshua."

Not only was Josh involved with the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Corps, but he was also active in a community-wide program that delivered meals to underprivileged families. In addition, every Shabbat morning he was up at wee hours attending the early minyan at his shul, Shomrei Torah, in order to work with young children on Shabbat groups.

Zemira Baron, SCW '2000, TAC president, worked

with Josh to manage the three year-olds' group. "We would work together every Shabbos morning. I remember that though I too worked in the ambulance corps, I quit early on, but Josh was so dedicated that he continued even while in college. He was even scheduled to work the week they found him."

Bender was also lined up as an intern for Prudential Securities this fall as an honors finance student. His parents were encouraging him to ease his summer load by not working and taking classes at a New Jersey College instead.

The tragedy of Bender's disappearance brought City Councilman Noah Dear to the YU Main Campus to demonstrate his support during the twelve days of searching and rapidly diminishing hope. Both Bender's parents and the Jewish community of Fair Lawn offered rewards to anyone who could provide information on Bender's whereabouts. Worldwide efforts were taken to promote awareness of Bender's disappearance through both the Internet and printed material.

During the days that Bender was missing, University Dean of Students Efreim Nulman made himself available to concerned students who might have needed someone to talk to. "Around the campus there was a strong reaction," he explained. "It was a tragic loss and a painful situation for the entire university community. I was here to speak to students and offer my help to them."

Students remember Joshua Bender as the type of person who made YU what is today. It is because of the warm-hearted, Torah-loving Jews like Josh who strive for excellence in both the secular and Judaic that the university continues to thrive. His memory will forever be with us.

"All he wanted to do was to become a big corporate financier," his mother told the *New York Times*, "and be able to give away a lot of money to charity."

Eichler's of Manhattan

To the Student Body,

Eichler's of Manhattan invites you to our full line Judaica store in Midtown Manhattan. We are happy to extend a special discount to Stern students upon presentation of your Stern ID card prior to the purchase.

The Management

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YU ranked in top tier of national universities for third year

For the third consecutive year, YU has been ranked one of America's top universities in the annual *US News and World Report* survey. The 1999 survey, published August 21, ranked YU 42nd out of 228 schools, up six places from last year's ranking.

The survey divides colleges and universities in America into four categories -- national universities, national liberal arts colleges, regional universities, and regional liberal arts colleges. Schools within each group are then compared using a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria, including academic reputation, faculty resources and retention, designed to measure the quality of undergraduate programs. Graduate and professional programs are rated in separate surveys.

YU is included with the national university category along with 227 other schools. These 228 schools, in turn, are divided into tiers based on their overall quality scores. YU's rank of 42nd places it

among the top 50 schools that comprise "tier one" in the 1999 survey. This year YU tied with the University of Illinois--Urbana-Champaign. Other schools in tier one include: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, and New York University.

"We are pleased that *US News* has again rated Yeshiva University as one of the top universities in the country," said President Norman Lamm. "We have an outstanding faculty and a dedicated group of deans and administrators. Their hard work is reflected in this continuing recognition of the excellence of our academic programs. The rating also reflects the enhancements we have made and the scholarships we are able to provide thanks to the strong support we continue to receive from so many alumni and friends."

The complete rankings are available on *US News Online* at <http://www.usnews.com>.

Chemistry moves Uptown

Sarah Cate
staff writer

This semester, chemistry students at SCW have to travel to the Main Campus for laboratory and lecture sessions. Due to renovations in the Midtown Center's chemistry department, which will be completed in August 1999, the laboratory sections of SCW chemistry courses have been forced to convene in Belfer Hall. Honors chemistry lectures are also held there.

Students expressed dismay about the situation, but according to Estee Sandler, SCW '01, her classes are well worth the

inconvenience. As a student in the honors course, she spends a total of seven hours on the Main Campus, attending the lectures twice a week and the lab session once a week. "It really kills my Tuesdays and Thursdays, but I am really satisfied with the class, and the professor is wonderful," she said.

Bella Friedman, SCW 2000, a fellow honors student, was enthusiastic about the course. "Chemistry is great," she said. "It is a little inconvenient to travel up to YU, but it is definitely worth it."

Buses transport SCW students from Brookdale Hall to the Main Campus, departing at 8:00 a.m.

Jewish Atmosphere Draws Foreign Students to SCW

Sara Kostant
staff writer

Imagine you are thousands of miles from home, in a foreign country. You don't know any of the people around you, and you can't even speak the language.

Now put yourself in the SCW Registrar's Office. For the small group of foreign students who come to SCW each year, this scene becomes a reality.

When Michelle Rothenberg arrived in New York City early last year, she was a sophomore with limited English skills. "I had to take ESL (English as a Second Language) courses, and in the end I even went to Hunter College and took a course there," the Caracas, Venezuela native said. Her English rapidly improved over the last year, and this year Rothenberg is taking science classes toward a Biology degree. She still remembers the hardship the language barrier caused for her during her first weeks at SCW. "I could only take the Judaic classes the first semester, because there were Hebrew ones that I could understand. It was hard at first to make friends...socially, things became so much better when my English got better," she said.

Fluency in English (or lack thereof) can make the difference between a relatively easy or excruciating adjustment to SCW. Kimberley Jenkins came to SCW from London, England this year. Unlike

Rothenberg, she had an easier transition into American life. "I just love it here in Stern because everyone is so welcoming and happy. I thought I'd be extremely homesick and crying all the time when I first came here, but I haven't cried once!" said Jenkins, a freshman majoring in finance.

Jenkins had no cultural adjustments either. "I've been in America on holiday before, so I knew what the atmosphere was like and was used to it already when I came."

Malka Skiba was culturally attuned to American life by the time she reached SCW three years ago. As a ninth-grader, she left her family

behind in her native Poland to attend Frisch High School in New Jersey. "The language was very difficult when I came here for high school. Each year I decided whether or not I was going back, because I was very homesick," she said. Skiba, now a Biology major, hopes to attend medical school after she graduates from SCW. "I feel that I am more independent than most girls my age here because I've had to live on my own since the age of 15. I lived with a family in Fair Lawn, New Jersey during this time, but I was still not with my family. I think I grew up faster because of it," she said.

Judith Ritsma speaks English fluently, yet she admits that there are still some things about New York City that she

has not gotten used to. "Holland, which is where I'm from, is a very clean country, and it is hard for me here because the air in New York is so polluted compared to there" the sophomore art major said. "Also, I have trouble navigating around

England, convinced Jenkins to study at SCW. Rothenberg's aunt and mother studied at SCW, and some Venezuelan students had shown her around SCW when she visited New York a few years ago.

Even if they have not been to

check with each food. Here, the OU is on practically everything!" said Jenkins.

Ritsma said that kosher food is readily available in Holland, "except that there you'll have one brand of kosher biscuits instead of the 600 you have here."

Ritsma likes America overall, but she finds the naivete of some Americans disconcerting. "One time a girl asked me if we had cellular phones in Holland. We are just as technologically advanced as anywhere else."

For Rothenberg, braving New York winters is a small disadvantage in an otherwise excellent educational experience. "I love the educational system in America, because it is very individualistic and flexible. In Venezuela, you have to know from the start what you want to study." Rothenberg said she feels safer walking the streets of New York City than those in Caracas, which she says has one of the highest crime rates in the world.

Jenkins described what she loves about America most in one word: shopping. "Clothes are so cheap here, I'm out buying things a lot," she said. She has paid triple the price in England for the same products available here.

Skiba has always liked the multiculturalism of America, which she says does not exist in Poland. "There are so many different nationalities and religions here, and each one has its place. There's also a general tolerance here for people with different customs—people feel safe walking around in their religious dress."

Skiba appreciates this more, she says, because anti-Semitism is very strong in Poland. "People there really still think that Jews put blood in the

matzah."

The students praised the special attention they received from the faculty. Each international student said that her instructors take an interest in her well-being and are approachable. Skiba said that her Judaic studies teachers have helped her with her Hebrew, her weakest subject when she first came to SCW. Rothenberg had the opposite problem; her Hebrew is at a very high level, and she wishes that there were more Judaic studies classes available in Hebrew for students who can't understand the English courses. This is her only complaint about the curriculum at SCW. Besides the time and expense spent traveling, which limits the vacations spent with family and friends, there were no other regrets among the students about enrolling at SCW. "I would encourage anyone from Poland who asked me to come here and study," said Skiba. "I'm happy here."



Photos by Shira Graber: Michelle Rothenberg and Judith Ritsma socialize in SCW's cafeteria. Rothenberg is from Venezuela and Ritsma is from Holland.

the city." Ritsma seldom feels lonely since she came to SCW this year with friends from Israel. "When I was in Israel, I kept on hearing that everyone was going to Stern. Now it's really nice that I know so many people because they always ask me to come for Shabbos. If someone came here from another country and didn't know anyone here, it would be really hard for her."

The experiences of the SCW students from abroad are as unique as the students themselves. All of the students interviewed for this article expressed similar reasons for choosing SCW over colleges from their home countries: the opportunity to take Judaic studies classes alongside their secular requirements, and a desire to attend a school with a Jewish atmosphere. "There are no university-level Judaic studies available in Venezuela," said Rothenberg, who attended a Jewish school back home and wanted to continue learning in a Jewish atmosphere.

For Skiba, coming to SCW was not a difficult choice after leaving Frisch. "I still wanted to be in a Jewish environment just like I had been in high school," she said. Some of her friends from Frisch also enrolled in SCW, making the transition easier.

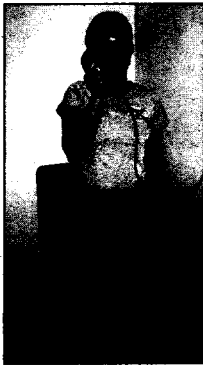
Some foreign students are encouraged to attend SCW by relatives and friends who studied in other YU institutions. Ritsma's brother graduated from Yeshiva University. He decided to attend YU because of its Jewish environment. "Since my brother had already gone to school here, I thought I probably would too" she said. Jenkins's cousin also went to YU. That and SCW's high reputation in

America before, most foreign students come with an idea of the difficulties they might encounter here from their relatives and friends.

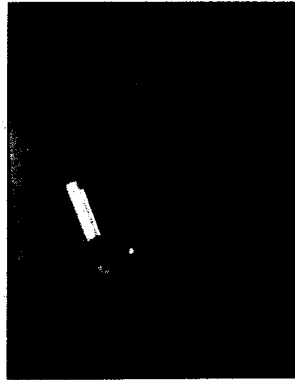
If its Jewish atmosphere lures foreign students to SCW, then the chance to live in the largest Jewish community in America is an even bigger magnet. Skiba said that the Jewish community here concentrates much more on details of Jewish observance, while her community at home in Poland is traditional, but not Orthodox. "It's a post-war community, and many people do not know the laws very well. The community here used to be the most religious, but there's nothing left of that," she said.

Another difference Skiba noted is the close, tight-knit community in Poland versus the large communities in the United States. "Because there are so many Jews here, there are so many different communities and they are all large, compared to mine back home. In Poland, the Jewish community is everything, and people focus on the community as much as they do on their observance." For Rothenberg, not having to walk miles to the nearest shul is just one of the benefits of being Jewish in New York City.

All of the students interviewed for this article raved about the variety of kosher foods available here, an amenity most American Jews take for granted. "In London, some people put kosher certification on their foods and it's not real, and you always have to check and double-



Kimberley Jenkins, a native of England, enjoys life in New York City.



Malka Skiba, from Poland, has been a student in the US since high school.

Manhattan to receive a new area code

Brooke Klein
staff writer

New phone numbers in Manhattan will have a 646 area code beginning early 1999. Accelerated fax machines and modems purchases by both businesses and residents prompted the increased demand for 212 numbers, exhausting current combinations.

Local exchange phone services competing with Bell Atlantic are eating up 212 numbers as well. These companies request 10,000 numbers at a time, tripling the demand for 212 numbers the past four years.

"Once the 646 area code takes effect, every person receiving a new phone number will have a 646 number," explained Robert Stawarz, a Bell Atlantic consultant. "Even if someone had a 212 number in the past, once 30 days has passed, that number is disconnected and has no bearing on a new number for that person in the future," he said.

As soon as the new area code takes effect, individuals calling within Manhattan will have to dial the number's area code for both 212 and 646.

"New York State wanted to be fair to all customers. This way whether you have a 212 or 646 area code, everyone will have to dial eleven digits," explained Stawarz.

Bell Atlantic's published information explains that adding a new area code for all new phone lines, rather than dividing the borough by area, is the best way to alleviate the lack of phone numbers because current Manhattan residents will be able to keep their current telephone numbers and 212 area code. It is the least disruptive and

least confusing method for customers.

Stawarz anticipates that customers will be averse to the 646 area code in the beginning.

"People are very attached to 212. Instead of turning off their phones when they move, people are doing what's called a 'change of parties.' Customers change their billing addresses so they can keep the 212 area code. They're even willing to take on misdirected calls," said Stawarz. The 212 area code has a certain prestige about it, as opposed to the other borough area codes, such as 718, he explained. "There's just a difference between Brooklyn and Manhattan," he said.

The change may prove to be a nuisance in the SCW dormitories. Roommates may wind up having different area codes than each other. Calling a friend down the hall will involve not only knowing their number, but their area code as well. Yet Aliza Koenigsberg, SCW '99, said that she does not mind the change so much. "I feel this has to happen. It's the least intrusive way of adding phone numbers," she said.

Manhattan's need for a new area code is actually good news, according to Bell Atlantic, since it signifies a boom in economic activity throughout the borough.

The 212 area code was introduced in 1945 and served all of New York City. In 1985, the 718 area code was introduced in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. The Bronx was transferred to 718 in 1993. Bell Atlantic officials hope that adding the 646 area code will alleviate the number shortage problem for at least five years.

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Off the Cuff: Thoughts on Honesty and Presidential Allegations

Senator Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut

"The transgressions the president has admitted to are too consequential for us to walk away and leave the impression for our children and our posterity that what President Clinton acknowledges he did within the White House is acceptable behavior for our nation's leader."

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani, SCW

Referring to *Pirke Avos*: "There is a general acceptance of the reality that leaders are often not what they appear to be. One has to be respectful and one also has to be skeptical. There is a basic expectation that any leader should be honest. Honesty is a basic foundation of human relationships."

Is it ever halachically appropriate to lie?:

"Certainly not lying to the people. Lying for *shalom bayis* is generally not telling outright lies. You can cloud the truth under specific, limited circumstances. [Clinton's] lie is about betrayal. He's guilty of betrayal of his wife. He's trying to fix one sin with another sin. That's not the idea behind *shalom bayis*."

Ann DeLaney, former chair of the Indiana Democratic party

"I didn't elect him to be my husband. I only elected him to lead."

Hindy Garfinkle, SCW '01

"It's really pathetic that our country has gotten so involved [in the Clinton affair]. It's a private issue—it has nothing to do with [the country]. It's not the first time he has ever done this. It's a known fact that people have affairs. It's an overdone topic. Our country has wasted too much time on this."

Abigail Gersten, SCW '01

"I want a president that is a moral person. Someone who commits adultery is less than perfect in morality. Of course you can't lie."

"It's clear that he [Clinton] lied. He didn't save his family because the truth eventually did come out. He broke the law... from a moral and legal point of view. The fact that he's a president, we should judge him with harder rules—we should expect more from the president."

"I acknowledge the fact that many American presidents in history had affairs. He did something bad, betrayed his friends. [The country has spent] "A lot of money, energy, and time out in it."

"But he's a good president—he functions well. He knows how to run a country. He keeps the economy stable. If there was a minor depression, he'd be out of office right away."

"I see Clinton in different eyes now. Not a hero, role-model. A lot of people were disappointed in the White House."

President Clinton, Monday August 17, 1998

"I did have a relationship with Miss Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse in judgement and a personal failure on my part... I know that my public comments and my silence about this matter gave a false impression. I misled people, including even my wife. I deeply regret that."

Devorah Flaumenhaft, SCW '99

"Does his personal life affect the job he was doing? No."

"[Lying] is a subjective thing. There are certain times its appropriate to lie."

"I didn't approve of his behavior, but I don't think it affects the way he ran the country."

Shoshana Klein, SCW '99

"In an ideal world the president should be a respected figure, but we've all accepted that he's not. "Once a liar always a liar."

Orly Goldenthal, SCW '99

"This whole circus/fiasco the media helped create, it totally devalued the institution of the Presidency. We are the laughing stock of the world. Why are we becoming obsessed with a sex scandal when we have so many other problems in this country. I don't think anyone will ever look at the presidency the same way. I think the founding fathers are rolling over in their graves."

"I think he should be charged. I don't think he should be impeached because then other presidents should be. He should be tried later."

"I knew from the beginning that he was immoral, but he let it get out of control. Everybody has skeletons in the closet. That's the way of the world. We totally lost control of the real issues."

"Bombing Sudan? Why that day?"

"This is something that is private. He's right. It shouldn't be public. It's like the world is upside down. This is what we're teaching our children?"

"I blame the media. There is a certain line you have to draw. There should be some sort of line between public and private lives. We've become such an open society. All guards have been dropped. Nothing's private, nothing's sacred anymore."

Yehudit Robinson, SCW '99

"It's interesting how we Americans have this preoccupation with moral leadership. In Europe they're saying they expect leaders to provide them with economic or political leadership but not moral guidance. Was George Washington immoral? If we didn't know about Paula Jones, would we consider Clinton moral?"

"It's a little bit difficult the way we define morality. My father feels disappointed that this is the best his generation could produce. I don't think anyone in my generation has sought a leader [for moral guidance]. I don't really care what happens in Washington all the time."

"I'm tempted to say there are gradations of truths and gradations of lies. People thought it was much more treasonous that Nixon would lie about matters of national security than Clinton would lie about a sexual affair."

"People who work with him are saying, 'If we can't trust you in this matter, when can we trust you? Why should I want to work with someone who's admitted to inappropriate behavior.'"

"It's a question of the way he admitted it and when he admitted it. I don't think people would feel as disillusioned with him [if he had admitted it sooner]."



Orientation '98

Shira Graber
photography editor

The week of August 23 orientation exercises were held at SCW for all freshmen, Israel returnees, and new students. "It was really well organized and well planned out. I enjoyed it a lot," said Miriam

Every day of orientation, volunteer peer advisors manned an information booth in the lobby of the Midtown Center for the entire day, providing facts regarding events and advice in scheduling classes, and enthusiastically encouraging students to sign up for activities.

"Working on orientation was a great chance to meet people and helped me feel like an integral part of Stern and excited for the upcoming year," said Sharona Saltzman, SCW 2000, a peer advisor on the Orientation Committee.

Orientation included placement exams, informative sessions about the student councils, academics and Jewish studies, and workshops on security and succeeding in college. Sunday and Monday nights Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC) and Torah Activities-Council (TAC) hosted welcome parties.

"It was pretty well organized, but there was no time to get acquainted with the faculty aside from that rushed hour session with an overwhelming number of people," said one newcomer.

In keeping with tradition from past years, Thursday night students attended the theatrical production "Stomp" and Saturday night the women enjoyed an informative Big Apple Bus Tour around the city.

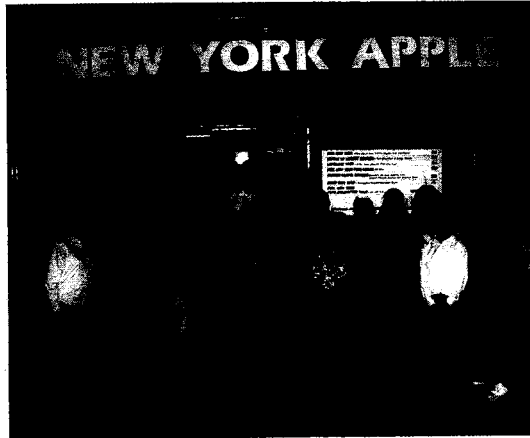
This year, Sunday's trip to the Yankee baseball game proved more successful than the past years' trip to Great Adventure. In the past the Great Adventure amusement park trip had an attendance of 30 students, but over 200 tickets were purchased for the game.

The first Shabbaton of the year was well-attended, using the Schottenstein Beit Medrash for services and requiring students to be split between Koch Auditorium and the cafeteria for meals.

Interesting events in which faculty members played an active role included a "Dine and Dialogue" evening with Dr. David Shatz, professor of philosophy, and a tour of the Lower East Side led by Dr. Jeffrey Gurock.

"Orientation was a great way to meet people and get to know students; the structure was very conducive for meeting other new students," said junior Jasmine Nof of Indiana.

"Coming from Phoenix Arizona, orientation activities really helped me get acquainted with the city and meet people," said Jillian Schreiber, SCW '02.

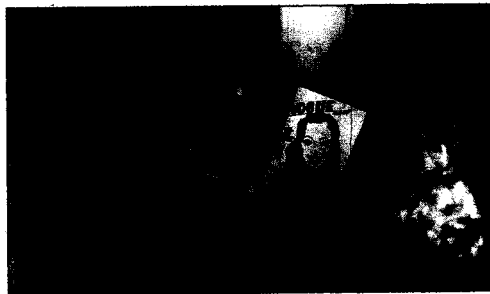


YUPR Photo

Students tour Manhattan on an Apple Bus trip.

Frank, a new sophomore from Ohio. "Coming as an early admissions student from high school, orientation was very helpful it acclimating me to college," said Suri Brenban, SCW '02. "The peer advisors were all quite helpful and outgoing, and made you feel at home."

The Orientation Committee was chaired by Linda Strauss and Naomi



YUPR Photo

Linda Strauss and April Simon aboard the Circle Line ship.

Storfer, with the help of Mrs. Zelda Braun, Associate Dean of Students. "We met in May last year to plan the schedule with the intention to make it a successful orientation," said Strauss.

Basing their choice of activities on past successful events and activities the students might find interesting, the committee filled up Sunday through Tuesday and went on to host a full lineup for the weekend as well, including an orientation Shabbat.

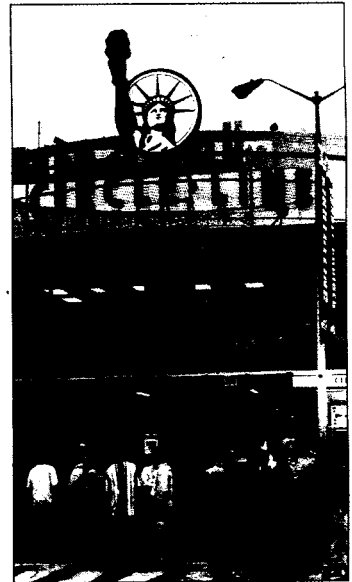
An orientation and welcome packet arrived in a mailing to all new students detailing the schedule and provided information.

"The whole thing was definitely helpful and made us feel wanted, and the wide variety of activities appealed to everyone," said Leah Sandhaus, SCW '02.



YUPR Photo

Dr. David Shatz (right) meeting new students.



YUPR Photo

Students sailed around Manhattan on a Circle Line cruise.



YUPR Photo

SCW and YC students cheering on the Yankees.

TURN

Gila Rosenthal, staff writer

Tales of Schottenstein

Greetings from a Schottenstein resident. I have not been a member of this race for long, and am still getting used to my new title. Only recently have I made the "Great Move" from 34th to 29th Street. My psyche has not adjusted yet.

Schottenstein. The word does not flow as freely from the tongue as the elegant Brookdale did. "Where do you live?" "Brookdale," I loved to reply, reveling in the name's poetry. Now I engage in a series of vocal tract gymnastics to inform others of my place of residence.

But the move to Schottenstein has involved much more than mere alterations in vocabulary. I have redefined my essence, re-evaluated myself as a person. As a former Brookdale woman, I find certain habits still haunting me. The sleeping habits of the "Old World" are with me still. My cluster-mates (roommates, in Brookdale days of yore) still

congregate in my room until the late hours of the night.

"Cluster-mates," I tell them. "You forget yourselves. We no longer live in the high-spirited halls of Brookdale. Here, we must keep to ourselves, sedate in our respective rooms."

Yet sometimes we can not restrain ourselves, and the walls of Schottenstein shake with our raucousness—even past 11:00 pm.

I had hoped to find my new dorm therapeutic for the spirit. In Schottenstein, I'd believed, one could not help but soak up its studious atmosphere, taking on a serious mien as one pondered lofty Schottenstein thoughts. In the solitude of one's room, alone with the self, one would be free to delve deeply into the quiet spots of the soul, uncovering areas which never see the fluorescent light of night in hyper-sensory places like Brookdale. Oh, the revelations that await-

ed me!

I spent my first night here moving furniture.

I did not have the most auspicious beginning, granted. The rooms are on the small side, and various dorm-mates commissioned me to help them rearrange their rooms. That first night, I went to sleep late.

The following evening, before I had a chance to exercise my Schottenstein privilege of locking the door, my room filled up with people. Again, I went to sleep late.

After the week went by, and I still found myself awake at 2:30 every morning, I began to suspect that something was wrong. Perhaps, I thought, the fault lies with me. Perhaps I am just not Schottenstein material. Panic gripped me as I struggled with the implications.

Fortunately, this year I decided to add on a major in Psychology. And not a

moment too soon. As a newly born student studying the mind, I was able to soothe myself: All beginnings are hard. Any change in life requires a corresponding internal change. Just because one does not feel adequate to handle life at the moment, does not mean one is condemned to spend the year a misfit.

Give yourself time, and change will be effected.

I have now made it my mission to handle Schottenstein gracefully, and someday achieve my metamorphosis. There are times when I still feel like a Brookdale soul trapped in a Schottenstein body. I have my work cut out for me, I know. And miles to go before I sleep.

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Prof. Smadar Rosensweig
Rabbi Mordechai Willig
Mrs. Marcy Stern
Rabbi Meir Goldwicht**

**Rabbi Hershel Schachter
Mrs. Debbie Greenblatt
Rabbi Mordechai Willig**

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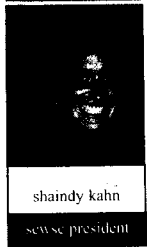
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shandy kahn
scwsc president

Dear Fellow Students,
In *Parshat Ki Teitze* 23:8, it says one must have *hukarat hatov* (gratitude) for everyone, even to an Egyptian who tortured you, made you throw your first born in the river, and made you a slave for hundreds of years. One must be nice to them because they let you live in their land. If you have to show *hukarat hatov* to an Egyptian, how much more so to a person who only did good things for you. And on that note I would like to thank those who made Orientation '98 as wonderful as it was. The week of events was made possible by the co-chairpeople, of Orientation '98, Linda Strauss and Naomi Storf, who put in many hours of

hard work and effort over their summer break to plan such a fun week. I would also like to thank the Peer Advisors who did a wonderful job "advising" all the new students. And our appreciation goes out to the Office of Student Services for sponsoring and assisting in all the orientation events.

Now as we delve into the new school year, Student Council is sponsoring a Club Fair where new and returning students have an opportunity to get involved in a vast array of clubs. These clubs are here to serve you, don't let this opportunity pass you by. As always the members of Student Council are on call 23 hours a day, (after all we need some sleep) to advise, assist, and represent the women of Stern College. We, along with the administration, are working to improve facilities, as evident by the recently installed computers in Brookdale Hall. A thanks goes out to the administration for the arrangements made

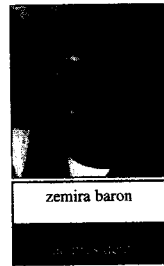
with Posman Books and for the transportation they provided, making the transition into the new semester as easy as possible.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas, and the people who will make these ideas work. All of us are looking forward to a very rewarding year.

Wishing all of you a *Shanah Tovah*, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!

Shandy Kahn
SCWSC President

P.S. Be on the lookout for our upcoming events... Sr. Class is sponsoring "Lost in New York".... Jr. Class send to your friend a "shanah tovah" gift...



zemira baron

To the frustrated, annoyed, wearied, confused, and immensely stressed-out student body,

Hopefully, by the time this newspaper comes out, the above descriptions will no longer apply to you. You will have become cool, calm, and collected and will have begun to live a life of relaxation (until midterms come around). However, at the moment, things at Stern are quite hectic. Switching in and out of classes, changing majors, meeting long-lost friends, trying to get phones hooked up....getting back into a routine.

I, too, have been going through the chaotic adjustments, but mine have been of a slightly different nature. Let me try to let you in on a day in the life of a TAC President. Picture the day you moved in to the dorm - lots of heavy luggage, sweltering heat, extremely long lines. Now, add to that - 40 Bentcher holders, 400 copies of the first issue of *Bina Yeteira*, 35 pounds of candy, 300 Torpedo ices, four 8x5 ft. billboards from the Elite candy factory, 1000 flyers, and a cardboard box. An odd combination, but let me explain. The theme of the TAC orientation Chagiga was candy - hence the candy, ices, billboards, and the box.

How I got the Elite billboards is a story in and of

itself (let me just say that carrying rolled-up 5 ft. long posters though the *Machaneh Yehuda shuk* is quite a challenging task), but what I wanted to focus on in this article was the box.

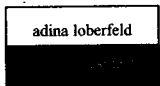
Preparing for the Chagiga the week before orientation, I took a little walk through my house and grabbed anything that had any connection to candy - a gumball machine my sister received as a Bat Mitzvah favor, a stuffed Hershey bar my brother won from one of those machines, an old Candy Land game, etc. When I got to the basement, I discovered a huge box which had been used to ship our dining room chairs and I was suddenly hit with an inspiration. We could transform this box into a gingerbread house!! My gracious father agreed to collapse the box - it should be no problem!

How wrong could we be? First, the box refused to collapse. When it finally collapsed, we discovered that it was too big to fit in through the car door. We pushed and we pulled, but it was all to no avail - that box was just too big. But you know how it is - once you start something, you can't just give up. Sweat was pouring down and we were red in the face, yet we continued to tug. I was about to give up when my father suddenly got the box in. There was just one problem - the box completely blocked his vision. So I ran to get a clothespin but it was too small to hold the box down. After scouring the house, I found a couple of big paperclips, which were able to successfully hold down the box. Finally, we were on our way.

Forty minutes later, my father and I arrived at 245 Lexington Ave., eager to dump out all my junk. Left with no other choice, we double-parked in front of the school building, hoping to drop everything off on the sidewalk in a matter of seconds. Unfortunately, this was not to be - that stubborn box refused to budge! We pushed and we pulled into oncoming traffic, risking our very lives to release that corrugated carton. After a fierce 10 minutes struggle, we finally emerged victorious - the box was set free!

The moral of my story is quite simple. The upcoming year in Stern will be full of challenges that will at first appear to be impossible hurdles. You'll push and you'll pull, trying to think of some solution but it will seem like nothing will help. But in the end, if you put in the effort, it will pay off - and you will (please G-d) emerge victorious! I wish everyone a great year and don't forget - look out for signs announcing TAC activities and please call me with any questions and suggestions.

Zemira Baron
TAC President



adina loberfeld

Hi! Welcome to all the new students and welcome back to all of those returning. The Sy Syms board is looking forward to a very exciting year working with all of you. The members of the board are Marina Klochan-Vice President, Carla Shron-Secretary, and Susan

Wohlgelemer-Treasurer. I would like to inform those of you who are not familiar with the clubs Sy Syms has to offer, that we do have many clubs which hold programs

during the year relating to the different business majors. There is the Accounting Society, the Joint Business Society, the American Marketing Association, the Investment Club, the MIS Club and the International Business Society.

We will be having a Sy Syms Student Reception on Tuesday, September 15th at 8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for all of you to learn about what each of the clubs has to offer during the year and how you can get involved. I urge all of you, whether you are new to Sy Syms or were here last year, to become involved. It is important for all Sy Syms majors to participate in the clubs and activities we have to offer. Our goal is to

sponsor events that are fun, exciting, and meaningful. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please don't hesitate to call me or any member of the board. We'd love to hear from all of you.

Adina Loberfeld
President SSSBSC

On August 26 there was a mandatory meeting in Belfer Hall for all seniors who needed the Department of Career Services assistance.

Quite a large number of students from both Stern College for Women (SCW) and Yeshiva College (YC) arrived.

As we piled into the large assembly room, I observed that hanging directly above the speaker's podium was a sign with the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) logo on it.

The speakers started off by saying that they are committed to all of Yeshiva University's undergraduate students.

A promising beginning, yet their message was misleading. As I continued listening, I realized that out of the three career service officers present at the meeting, all of them were there to assist SSSB majors.

It dawned on me why there the SSSB sign hung at the assembly. It occurred to me that the Career Service offices are located in the SSSB's Midtown Campus as well.

The Department of Career Services is notorious for zealously working to find jobs for SSSB students, and

that is commendable. But what about those 1,500 other students in SCW and YC studying disciplines in liberal arts?

Despite the Department's promise to commit themselves to liberal arts majors, nothing has changed this year. Liberal arts majors are still considered a lower priority for job placement and graduate admissions than SSSB students.

If the Department of Career Services really wanted to prove that they are committed YC and SCW's students, I suggest they hire extra personnel whose job it is to manage and assist liberal arts students only. SSSB has what it needs. Now it is our turn to get their assistance.

**Watch for the opening of the
Schottenstein convenience store**

E x p a n s i o n

continued from page 1 for new classrooms and offices before the two Lexington structures were purchased.

Mr. Richard P. Kasper, the building manager of the Lexington buildings, said that the building's current tenants will formally be notified about the August 18 closing and change of ownership at a future date, but the buildings are already officially considered part of the Midtown Center.

Last year, YU acquired the former

Cineplex Odeon movie theater at 251 East 34th Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues. The theater is currently being refurbished and is scheduled to open in January 1999. The theater will be equipped as a 300 seat auditorium and will serve as a state of the art lecture hall with multi-media capability.

According to workers at the site, last month YU maintenance workers provided the building with basic services and the actual renovations have since begun.

One worker explained that there are plans for new lighting, carpets, curtains, and audio-video equipment. He urged SCW students to petition the school "to maintain the marquis outside the building since it would continue to add to the ambience of the historical landmark." Jimmy Connelly, the on-site supervisor, said that the theater will be completely remodeled, such as by removing even the seats from the theater he approximated as 40 years old. Although he could not

guarantee an opening in time for the Spring semester, he agreed that it is a possibility.

New Housing

continued from page 1

amount of concern that housing be available for each student [who requested it]." He said that a higher percentage of accepted students now enroll at SCW and "a higher percentage of students who enrolled prefer to live in the dorms" than in the past.

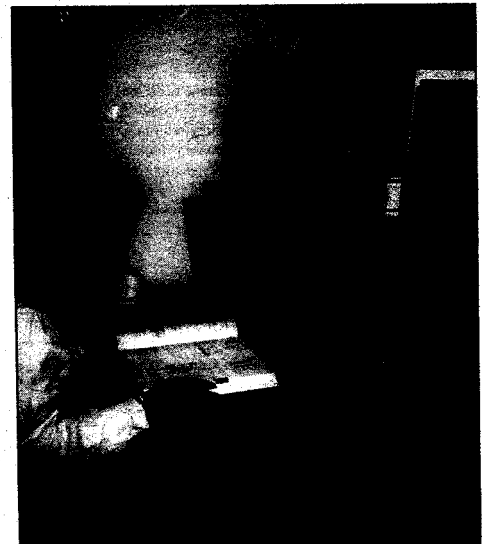
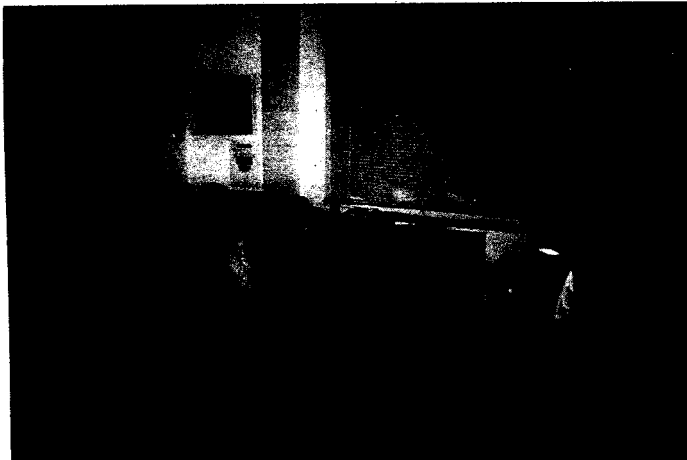
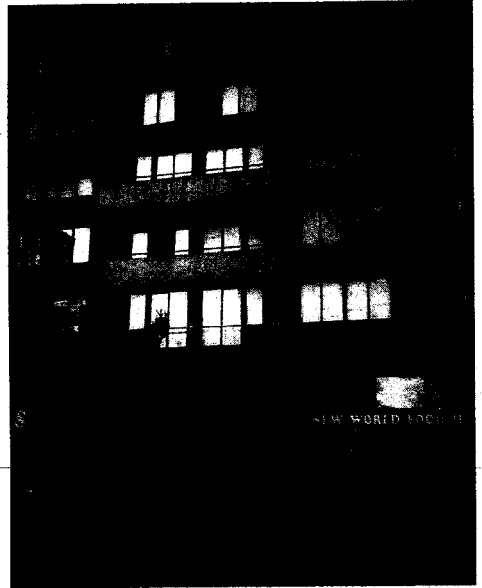
Miriam Gold, Residence Supervisor, explained that with SCW's increasing housing needs, YU is relying more heavily on independent housing. Brookdale Residence Hall is filled to capacity with approximately 535 students, following the removal of some 30 bunk beds during the summer. Schottenstein Residence Hall has eight new rooms on the second floor, built over the summer, and now houses approximately 180 students. In addition to the residences, YU rented sixteen apartments in Windsor Court, ten more than it rented last year. It also rented three Lexington Plaza apartments, as it had in the past although not last year. Each apartment accommodates four to six students.

According to Efrim Nulman, University Dean of Students, YU does not envision a housing problem for SCW as long as it maintains both the Brookdale and Schottenstein residences and the Independent Housing Project. He pointed out that between the three facilities,

there is adequate space although he would "contact the admissions department if a housing problem should arise."

Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, said that his "mandate is to get as many qualified students as possible." He also said that "we tightened admissions requirements over the past few years significantly [to the] benefit of the overwhelming majority of students."

SCW Dean Karen Bacon said that she is pleased that the "housing crisis that developed before Schottenstein opened" is over, but she believes SCW will require additional housing space in the future. She thinks there will eventually be a third permanent Midtown residence. Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, is less sure that will be necessary, since some students prefer to live in the independent apartments. Despite the increased student body, Fisher agreed with Gold that for the "most part check-in went really smoothly this year." Gold expressed her gratitude "for help from facilities [management] and housekeeping that smoothed the transitions for students." Gold added that she loved Stern dorm life when she was a student and her belief that current students will look back at their time living at Stern as the best in their lives.



Top right: Lexington apartments. Bottom right: A student studies in a new independent housing apartment. Left: Zviya Bornstein, SCW 2000, and Miriam Rosenblatt, SCW '99, study in their Windsor Court apartment.

Commonly-used abbreviations in the *Observer*:

SCW - Stern College for Women

SSSB - Sy Syms School of Business

SCWSC - Stern College for Women Student Council

SSSBSC - Sy Syms School of Business Student Council

YU - Yeshiva University

TAC - Torah Activities Council

YC - Yeshiva College

ARTS

There's Something Downright Hysterical About Mary

Diana Gielchinsky

cultural arts editor

There's Something About Mary is vulgar, inappropriate, lewd, crass, and yes, like everyone says, politically inappropriate. It's also the funniest movie of the summer.

Cameron Diaz plays Mary, pursued by three — no, four — well, a lot of guys that will go to unspeakable lengths to woo her. Diaz is at first in danger of being too irritatingly sweet — (remember *My Best Friend's*

Wedding?), but is saved by her refreshing sporadic outbursts of obscene language, not to mention her risqué wardrobe choices. Ben Stiller plays nice guy Ted, who has been in love with Mary since high school and resolves to hire Healy, a private eye, to track her down so they can continue their brief romantic encounter. Healy, played by Diaz's real life honey Matt Dillon, falls in love with Mary when he finds her. So begins a whole slew of antics and schemes designed by each contender to win Mary over.

Stiller rings true to his predictable portrayal of a slightly pathetic, slightly nerdy, largely clueless character

along with some very graphic and hysterical situations provided for us all to have a good laugh at his expense. Dillon, on the other hand, strays eagerly from his customary Adonis roles and dons black socks, golf shoes and false teeth to play the part of the overzealous, lying slickster hoping to snag Mary. The ever-cooing Diaz manages to display chemistry with both of them, resulting in a dynamic and enthusiastic trio of main characters. Throw in some unexpected old familiar faces like Markie Post and Chris Eliot (plus a Down Syndromed man I swore I wouldn't mention in this review) and this movie is this summer's must-see.

Einstein

continued from page 1

the complaint and have asked our attorneys to review it. It is the policy of Yeshiva University

and its Albert Einstein College of Medicine to comply with all laws applicable to student hous-

ing. Our housing policy is applied equally to all applicants for student housing without

regard to their sexual orientation." The Directors of Public

Affairs at both YU and AECOM declined to comment.

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES CALENDAR

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
September 8, 1998	8:00 p.m.	Midtown campus	Mid-Size Accounting Firm Night
September 9, 1998	2:30 p.m.	Midtown campus	Mock Interviews
September 10, 1998	2:45 p.m.	Uptown campus	Mock Interviews
September 11, 1998	10:00 a.m.	TBA	Accounting Field Trip
September 12, 1998	8:15 p.m.	Midtown campus	Finance Night
September 16, 1998	2:30 p.m.	Midtown Campus	Graduate School Workshop
September 17, 1998	2:45 p.m.	Uptown Campus	Graduate School Workshop

Please look for notices regarding these events on the Office of Placement & Career Services bulletin boards outside our offices.

**ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS LISTED
ABOVE.**

ARTS

The Music of Summer

Dassi Zeidel
cultural arts editor

Music that has come to typify the nineties prevailed this past summer. Everything from rap to rock, alternative, and even the resurrection of swing was showcased on MTV, VH-1 and radio stations throughout the country.

Although the summer is not quite over (despite the beginning of the fall semester), certain songs and artists will be associated with the summer of 1998.

The Old Artists

Madonna's new album *Ray of Light* performed well on the charts and was welcomed by her fans. Her dance hit "Ray of Light" and personal ballad "Little Star" show the Material Girl's softer, more sensitive side. Whether it is due to motherhood, yoga or her new found interest in *Kaballah*, the old angst in Madonna's songs has been replaced with a calm, spiritual aura.

Janet Jackson's new album *Velvet Rope* is fun. Her songs "Go Deep" and "Together Again" are especially upbeat.

Fleetwood Mac came back this summer with the tender, soul-searching ballad "Landslide." Stevie Nicks' soft warble was comforting in a motherly way as she took us on a touching journey through our own emotions the past few months.

Brian Setzer, formerly of the Stray Cats, returned with The Brian Setzer Orchestra's rendition of "Jump Jive An' Wail." Swing clubs have been springing up all over the country, spawning a fad that just may be worthwhile enough to last.

The New Artists

Mya stole the show in rapper Pras' hit "Ghetto Superstar" and shines in her solo video for "It's All About Me" as well. Not only can Mya sing, but the dancing lessons she took since she was a toddler have proven to be a worthwhile commodity in her music video.

Puff Daddy's protégé, Mase, and Australian born Natalie Imbruglia, were nominated for MTV's Best New Artist of the Year. But perhaps the spotlight should

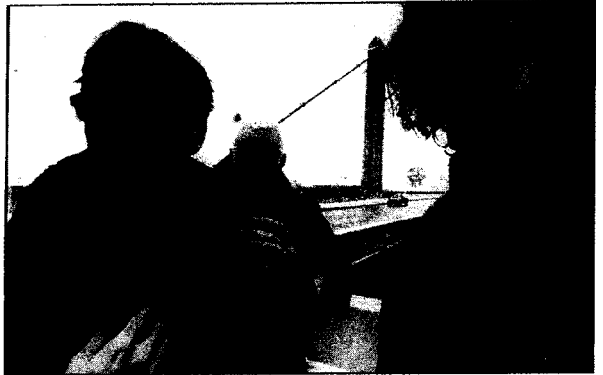
remain on 17-year-old Monica whose 1995 debut album *Miss Thang* went double platinum. Her latest album, *The Boy Is Mine* features a duet by the same name with rumored teen rival Brandy. The video was a hit with fans, and has remained on MTV's countdown show. *Total Request*, for over two months. Monica brings mature sound and subject matter to her new album. With such a soulful voice Monica is in line to become one of the next divas of R&B.

"Closing Time,"

Sémisonic's first hit off their second album, *Feeling Strangely Fine*, crept onto MTV's summer countdowns. The song, in keeping with most of the album, has a mellow soothing feel underscored by an edgy rock-and-roll beat. Many of the cuts on the album are reminiscent in tune to the Beatles music. Lead vocalist and guitar player, Dan Wilson, has a wonderful range and a great sense of emotion. "Feeling Strangely Fine" separates Sémisonic from the rest of the pack with its well-written songs, laced with humor and a sense of intimacy.

Rap saw a new face in the summer of '98, and her name is Missy Elliot. She was nominated last year for MTV's Best Rapper of the Year and is now featured in songs by Nicole and Melanie Brown (Seary) of the Spice Girls. Despite the threatening name Missy "Misdemeanor," Elliot is happy. It shows in her song lyrics and on her face.

Bringing the grace and unique styles of the forties and giving them a makeover for the nineties is just what



The Semisonics

the Cherry Popping Daddies (also nominated in MTV's Best New Artist category) did with their smash hit "Zoot Suit Riot."

Soundtracks can be great promos for movies and they really did the trick for *Armageddon* and *City of Angels*. Aerosmith's "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" sparked excitement for Jerry Bruckheimer's *Armageddon* before the film even hit theaters. The Goo Goo Dolls hit "Iris" and Alanis Morissette's "Uninvited" are two of the few redeeming factors in the well acted, slow moving *City of Angels*.

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The Observer

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