



Things to do in NY

Union Employees Reach Settlement

AYELET GRUN
Executive Editor

Following negotiations that stretched until 3:30 a.m. October 19, the majority of union employees at Yeshiva University accepted the university's proposal for a new, 37 month work contract. The previous 36 month contract expired September 30, 1998. Union workers at YU had threatened to go on strike at the end of October if their demands for benefit and wage increases were not met by the university.

The workers, represented by the "1199" union are the university's painters, secretaries, librarians, maintenance, food services, fundraising and housekeeping personnel. Approximately 250 of the employees represented by 1199 work at the Main Campus,

about 50 work at SCW, and roughly another 50 work at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, said Berta Silva, 1199's union organizer for YU laborers.

Under the terms of the new contract, union employees will receive a three percent salary increase on October 1, 1999 and again on October 1, 2000. A two percent increase will follow on October 1, 2001 and October 31, 2001, said Juan Vasquez, Vice President of 1199.

1199 negotiators were able to secure four more sick days, up to 18 months for leave of absence and up to nine months for infant care in each union worker's contract, as well as greater pay for higher classification work assignments performed for over three days throughout a twelve month period, said

Vasquez. Union employees will be able to transfer their vacation time to members in need of extra days off as well.

YU agreed to establish a \$20,000 fund and committee that will review and settle problems in the cafeteria, production and payroll departments by 1999.

"The university is obviously pleased" that the contract negotiations were resolved, and that "university business will continue as usual without disruptions," said David Rosen, Director of Public Relations for YU and a member of the university's negotiating team.

The contract is "what people wanted and agreed to," said Gerald Bodner, the Labor Relations lawyer negotiating for YU.

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Cafeteria Problems Worsen with larger Student Body

MIRIAM ELIAS
Features Editor

The one o'clock lunch rush has left Midtown students angry and frustrated. With student populations at 860, higher than ever, shortcomings in the Food Services Department have become more apparent as their attempts to meet the needs of a growing student body fail.

"I don't use the cafeteria anymore,

because I don't have time to wait in a line that stretches all the way out to the door. It wasn't nearly this bad last year," explained Yochie Birnbaum, SCW '00.



Lines in the SCW cafeteria

According to the Associate Director of Food Services (there is no actual director), Mr. Jacob Lieberman, the space in the basement cafeteria is being used as efficiently as possible.

"There is only so much you can do in a limited space. It is a limited design and therefore we are trying to draw more students upstairs to the International Caf  in the Koch Auditorium," he explained.

Yet with only one employee serving food at the International Caf , it can typically take fifteen minutes to buy lunch.

Lieberman does not foresee a need to add another cashier. "The problem isn't the cashier but the response time among the students. Too often the line is held up because a student cannot find her cafeteria card. Everywhere you go there are lines.

We try to give the best possible service in a limited space."

It is in that limited space where students become irritated at the prices in the cafeteria. "When a can of tuna is \$1.29 and there are 20 girls ahead of you in line, you ask yourself, what am I doing here?" said Birnbaum.

According to Lieberman, there is a prescribed method for deciding the prices of the prepared foods in the cafeteria. "We

don't invent prices out of the clear blue sky," said Lieberman.

"There is a mathematical formula that we use to compute the prices for the dishes that we make. We enter every ingredient of the recipe, every cost involved, and then compute the price."

Retail prices for packaged foods, however, are computed differently. Lieberman explained that the price of a bottle of soda or container of rice pudding is decided through a number of factors.

"Students get upset when an item is particularly expensive. So for example, if veal is going to cost \$8.50 a plate, then we might take the price down a little and add that on to something less expensive, and raise it a dime or a nickel."

Lieberman explained that due to the economy some prices must go up, while others may be lowered. "Sometimes prices must be increased. The problem is that people expect supermarket prices, and

see Cafeteria, page 10

Honors program upgraded

SARA FLAMHOLZ
Staff Writer

Chemistry lab enhancements are not the only improvements around the SCW campus. As the science facilities are remodeled to meet student needs, the course selection at SCW is getting a facelift as well. Honors courses, part of an Honors Program, have been instituted in many different SCW departments to promote the various interests of young women attending the school. With the promise of funding from two major donors, the honors program at both YU undergraduate campuses is expected to grow in the next few years.

According to Dean Karen Bacon, the new honors courses are designed for students seeking more independence and challenge. Unlike advanced courses, these classes are tailored for students who seek an in-depth and study of their particular subject. Each honors course shares an underlying goal of providing students with the opportunity to fine-tune their individual talents.

Enrollment in an honors class requires Dean's List status or a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 90.

Many students, in registering for an honors course, were hoping for a weighted GPA to reflect the high academic level of their courses. However, according to Dean Bacon, a weighted GPA is unnecessary in view of honors students' academic records.

"As the students participating in the honors classes are of a high caliber, it's expected that they are...high achievers, interested in the class and in excelling," explained Dean Bacon. "Furthermore, those students that chose to take an honors course over a regular course, knew in advance that they would have their work cut out for them and have prepared accordingly. It is therefore assumed those who selected to take an honors class are

ready and willing to work hard. Such students, one can conclude, might not have a need for a weighted GPA."

Although at this time there are no plans to weigh honors students' GPA, Dean Bacon noted that those students' transcripts will indicate that they took honors courses.

Dean Bacon pointed out that there might be some students in the class that have had expectations for themselves that they now find they are unable to meet.

In addition, there are many girls who opted for an honors class for the simple reason of scheduling purposes, and may feel overwhelmed by their choice.

Rabbi Moshe Kahn, teacher of both advanced and honors halacha classes, explained that the differences between regular and honors courses is that although "the style of the class is basically the same, I give them [the students taking the honors class] more material to prepare. What they have to prepare for class is more than I would expect of the other halacha class that I teach."

Similarly, Honors Biology taught by Dr. Harvey Babich covers the same material as his regular Biology Essentials class, yet at a faster pace. Babich said he demands of his honors students that more effort and preparation be put in before class. He assigns outside readings pertinent to the subject at hand, as well as term reports.

Babich believes that the purpose of the honors courses is to develop each student's hidden potential. As such, he encourages his pupils to give model lessons to the class and to contribute articles for the science-based journal he hopes to see published.

Students had their own personal motivations for selecting an honors class. Some desired the thrill of a challenge, whereas others preferred the intimacy offered in a small class setting.

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VIEWS

The 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 SCWC, its student body, faculty or administration.

The Observer is published tri-weekly.

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Insensitivity to Out-of-Towners

Yeshiva University showed it was inconsiderate of "out-of-town" students by conducting classes between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Thursday, September 24 and Monday, September 28.

Students who could not afford to miss two days of school were forced to either return to New York City or stay over Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat Shuvah in the area. Those who did not return to SCW on those two days

of school were held accountable for the work that they had missed.

In most years, Yeshiva University opens its doors between the High Holidays. This year, however, the University should have realized that straddling two days of school over a weekend would make it difficult for students to both go home for the holidays and attend school.

Canceling school on September 24 and 28 and extending the semester by two days would have been a wiser choice.

Activism and the Lost Generation



susan jacobs
editor-in-chief

Beginning with the civil rights movement of the 1950s, college campuses were central territory for discussion, debate and demonstration. They were charged environments, where students were excited about the impact they could have by publicly demon-

strating their opinions.

For ideological and religious reasons, Yeshiva University was not intimately involved in these movements. But, as I learned recently, the idea of gathering publicly and peacefully demonstrating in favor of or against a cause also appealed to YU students. Beginning in the late 1960's, YU students were in the forefront of creating the movement to free Soviet Jewry. Inspired by the techniques of Martin Luther King, Jr. and others, thousands of young Jewish students devoted their time and energy to bringing the attention of major Jewish organizations to the reality of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union.

When the Soviet regime crumbled in

1990, Soviet Jewry was finally allowed to leave in large numbers to move to Israel or the United States. But in the intervening years, the plight of Soviet Jewry, as it was called, never left the attention of the American Jewish community.

For more than 20 years, the issue of freeing Soviet Jewry permeated the Jewish consciousness. In old issues of the Observer, articles reflect students' deep concern for their persecuted brethren. In our own lifetimes, we can recall symbolic gestures like attending Bar or Bat Mitzvah's where the boy or girl had a "twin" from the Soviet Union in order to identify their formal entrance into religious adulthood with a young person deprived of that privilege. All of that came abruptly to a close with the end of the Cold War and the restructuring of the former Soviet Union. For a few years the issue changed from freeing Jews to resettling them, until the majority of transplanted Jews acclimated themselves to their new surrounding and newfound freedom.

And now it's 1998. This last great unifying issue of the Jewish people is no longer there to take hold of our emotions and energies. It is hard to think of a single unifying issue for the American Jewish community in this decade. Much has been said and written recently about the issue of "pluralism," but it would be a stretch to call that a unifying issue. Most of the

Perplexed?

Students have been wondering for some time now where the student directory portion of the Guide to the Perplexed is. In previous years, this portion of the Guide was available soon after the fall holiday break. This year, with the institution of the computer registration to enter names and addresses, it was assumed that the Guide would be ready sooner than ever. But now, at the end of October, the Guide is nowhere to be found.

In fact, the Guide is ready to be printed, and has been for weeks.

The student council leadership has delayed publication of the Guide while they decide which printer will be most cost effective.

While it is admirable that the student leadership is trying to wisely spend the student body's money, it is a shame that it has to delay publication of one of YU's most popular undergraduate publications.

During midterms, students have a need to reach each other, to study for exams. At this time of year the Guide is more than a luxury, it is almost a necessity. Next time the student leadership should concern itself with saving time as well as money.

discussion on that topic has been divisive rather than unifying.

Even among the students of YU, there is no single driving issue about which most students are concerned. These days, some students devote themselves to kiruv as their mission or possibly their life's work. Others still see political activity related to Israel as their mission, but with the recent peace talks those issues aren't nearly as clear cut as they used to be.

But idealism, the essential quality inherent in the protests of old, is still at a premium in our generation. I think that many of the students of YU have directed their idealism into their zeal for learning Torah and for doing *gemilut chesed*. On the other hand, we should not forget how powerful we can be by asserting our collective voice. Rather than physically demonstrating, we can express our opinions on the editorial pages or in the voting booth.

This election year presents at least one interesting political contest in the form of the New York Senate race between incumbent Senator Alfonse D'Amato and his challenger Congressman Charles Schumer. This is an exciting time to realize what an impact our generation can have on the democratic process of this nation.

Standardized Students



ayelet grun

I remember a lot about the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) I took this past September. I know what the weather was like that day. I can picture the building and the room in which I took the exam. I can tell you with whom I took the test and exactly what I wore that day. But if you asked me to recall what was on the exam itself, I could not tell you.

It is not that I have a short memory; it is that standardized entrance exams, especially those that test you on insignificant information, are useless for me to maintain. Between my

studies, extra-curricular activities and jobs, standardized tests fall far on my brain's mental catalogue of worthy information.

I understand that colleges and graduate schools need a regulated standard by which to measure prospective students. And, yes, I acknowledge the fact that reading comprehension and basic mathematics are important for a student's success in higher education. Yet I do not agree with the importance placed on these examinations.

When a university denies entrance to a student primarily because of scores they received on a standardized test, they are cheating both themselves and the student by ignoring the student's other unique talents. A person applying to art school with an impressive portfolio documenting his/her capability, for example, would be cheated if he/she were not accepted because of an average or low GRE score.

Taking standardized tests is a talent. And like all other talents, the aptitude for scoring high on standardized examinations is distributed to a small, lucky number of people. I envy those who are fortunate enough to possess such a gift. Yet I believe that those of us who grapple with practice exams and expensive preparation courses should be viewed for our abilities beyond scantron. Graduate schools should see us for our potential success in our field, and not for our three hour examination.

I do not propose that college and graduate schools completely dispose of their standardized tests. They are necessary modes of measurement and do teach the student important techniques. I strongly suggest, however, that in their selection process these schools concentrate on what really comprises a good student: intelligence, motivation, originality and talent.

Construction Near SCW Hampers Classes, Concentration

SHIRA GRABER
Photography Editor

The incessant banging which plagued SCW students in the spring of '98 has ceased, but construction on the building for the Catholic group Opus Dei has continued.

Now, instead of constant pounding, students find cranes swinging near classroom windows and new pedestrian traffic patterns on the sidewalk.

According to Teamster foreman, Mike Digiovanna, a quarter of the 17-story building, which includes chapels and a resident auditorium, is done.

The projected finish date of December 1999 was altered slightly due to design plan changes that required a little extra time.

"Regarding construction work, all areas of Manhattan are busy," explained Safety Engineer Frank Schuelia. "Here it's

just a different type of crowd; there are a lot of community people and students here. Whereas work on another part of town may have more tourists and ordinary citizens, it's the same volume of crowds, just different. We made sure to have the proper signs directing people to the pedestrian walkway we opened [on 34th Street], and it'll just take a little while for people to get used to the shift in traffic," he said.

Pedestrians are routed to a temporary covered sidewalk parallel to the old sidewalk, but several feet away from the street. A sign along the temporary sidewalk reads "Sinatra Walkway." Construction workers often play Frank Sinatra's tunes on a sound system during their lunch break.

Carpenter Shop Steward, Lee Williams, said that "it's a bit more difficult working here because there are more people walking through. We're concerned for their safety; people are afraid so we have to make sure the barriers offer proper pro-

tection. Plus we have to try to get the pedestrians to walk the right way, as they aren't accustomed to walking that way."

Access to SCW is sometimes impeded by construction company vehicles entering or exiting the construction site.

Some upbeat SCW students said that

classroom activity. "I think it's very chutzpadik that my teacher was interrupted during our class discussion," she said. "In the middle of a heated discussion about happiness, the teacher had to stop because of the hammering, and lost his train of thought due to the banging. This disturbance was

all due to the noisy hammering and banging outside."

The wood and concrete structure next door to the Midtown Center almost adjoins the school.

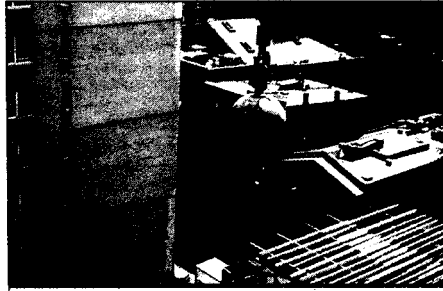
The buildings' proximity confused several pedestrians, and became annoying to students.

"A relative of mine passing by Stern assumed that since the buildings are practically glued together,

that Stern was finally doing some construction - it's easy for one to assume that," said Nehama Miller, SCW '00. "I'm so used to it all already - there's already a Japanese Sushi restaurant next door to us, why not be attached to a church? We're surrounded by so many non-yeshiva buildings already - we don't even have a campus and now when people look at Stern, there can be even more confusion."



Workers on the construction site beside the Midtown Center.



The wrecking ball at work beside SCW.

they did not mind the overhead walkways and disturbances, claiming to gain the "full New York experience." Most, however, expressed their annoyance with the fumes and noise resulting from the construction.

"The lack of ventilation really hampers study habits; it's very difficult to study in a closed environment," said Elana Sturm, SCW '00.

Tami Dalkoff, SCW '01, pointed out the interference construction noise has on

hang around here chatting."

Rene Steinberg, SCW '01, said that many of her current classes are too crowded because they are held in smaller rooms. Wolf said that over the summer she matched the classes to their rooms based on the registration at that time. However, as more students join a class, the room sizes become insufficient. "It's like working out a jigsaw puzzle," said Wolf. "We don't waste any space here."

Dr. Fisher hopes SCW's full classrooms will cease to be a problem in the near future. "This will be a crowded year," he said, "but help is on the way. We have purchased a new building which will be ready in a year, giving Stern students more space." The buildings at 205 and 215 Lexington Ave., between 32nd and 33rd Streets, were purchased by Yeshiva University to provide more academic space for the students at the Midtown campus, according to Dean Karen Bacon.

Bacon also stressed that the expansion of the chemistry labs in-

SCW is not responsible for the overcrowding. This should allay the fears of those students who believe that class sizes will increase due to the imagined decrease in classrooms. "No classroom space in Stern has been cannibalized by the remodeling of these labs," said Bacon, "and even if this were true, it would not be a concern because by next year there would be more classrooms in the new buildings."

Overcrowding At SCW

SARA KOSTANT
Staff Writer

Despite the peak-hour system utilized by the elevators in SCW, students find themselves more squeezed and squished than ever. Yael Harris, SCW '00, finds that just getting to class has become a struggle. "I can never stuff myself into the elevators," she said. "I usually just end up running up the stairs to my classes on the ninth and tenth floors so I won't be late. I didn't realize Stern was such a squishy school!"

"Elevators here are wild," said Tali Bregman, SCW '01. "You're glued to the wall. It's like a mosh pit that you can't escape from."

According to Dr. John B. Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, "There has been a general trend of increasing enrollment, with this semester's enrollment being the highest ever." Dr. Fisher said that 860 students are currently registered at the Midtown Center, though this number is likely to increase. Late arrivals for the fall semester and transfer students for the spring semester will significantly influence the student population.

Every division of SCW will be affected by this student increase, some more than others. Prof. Edith Lubetski, Head Librarian at the Hedi Steinberg Library in SCW, explained that the overcrowding of the Midtown campus would become more of a concern later in the year. "We haven't felt the impact yet. When the assignments and term papers start, we'll utilize every librarian to help the students," Lubetski said. "More students creates a need for more reference assistance." Since, as Lubetski

explained, the reference librarians "drop everything to focus on helping the students," the work that they have behind the scenes gets pushed off. Such work includes cataloging and purchasing new books. The Dean's Office alleviates the overcrowding in the library by providing classroom space and designating areas for studying.

The large student body at SCW also provides the administration with a formidable workload. Hannah Wolf, Assistant Registrar at SCW, pointed to a tall pile of green add/drop forms waiting to be typed into the computer. "These are all just from this week," she said. Besides sched-

ule changes, the Registrar's Office must organize summer school transcripts, approve directed studies applications, and answer miscellaneous requests from students. The long lines at the Registrar's Office are a result of scheduled intervals designated for student inquiries. To cope with the overflow of tasks, Wolf explained, "The Office has established four hours a day for schedule changes, so that they can do all of the other work we have. We don't



SCW classes are tightly packed this year.

Public Service Announcement:

Between January 1991 and December 1996, there may have been problems with the way the New York Blood Center performed testing of blood for viral infections. As a result, recipients of donated blood products during that period may face a potential risk of transfusion-transmitted infections, such as HIV and hepatitis.

The amount of increased risk to transfusion recipients is unknown. However, the risk is believed to be remote because of multiple safeguards that were and remain in place.

If you are concerned, please call 1-800-688-0900 to ask questions or arrange for free testing.

Items Stolen from Brookdale Hall Rooms

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

The Yeshiva University Safety and Security Department is currently investigating thefts that took place at Brookdale Residence Hall on Saturday, October 17.

According to Miriam Eljas, SCW '00, one of the theft victims, cash and items were taken from approximately four dorm rooms during Shabbos. Although some of those doors were locked, they could have been opened using something as simple as a YU identification card.

On the night of October 17, Eljas's roommate, Yoche

Birnbaum, SCW '00, discovered that a large sum of cash was missing from the wallet she had left in a desk drawer. Eljas found that the \$2 she had left on her desk with a note designating it as "toilet paper money" was gone. Birnbaum, an R.A., had left her door unlocked while she was in the school building for approximately two hours, and said she thought it would have been fine. Another resident found that several items of her clothing were taken.

"It is unbelievably sad that such a thing could happen at

Stern," said Eljas. "I thought that as a Jewish school we'd be immune, but of course, we're not.

Now we always lock our door but we used to be lax." Birnbaum said she felt very vulnerable and violated. "They went through my drawers and that's a gross feeling," said Birnbaum. She also said she was pleased that her jewelry and camera had not been taken.

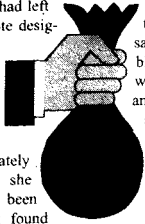
Miriam Gold, Residence supervisor, said she supports the students who have had things stolen. "YU provides a great deal of security," she said,

"a security person or maintenance worker always has a second security officer along when entering a student room, to prevent theft." She pointed out that with over 500 people living in one residence, instances of theft occur despite tight security.

Gold said that as a Stern student, money was stolen from her room. She strongly urged students to take precautions, such as hiding or locking away jewelry, laptop computers and cash since this may protect students from thefts committed by other students, including roommates. "If you leave a \$50 bill out anyone could take it even though we don't want to think that," she said.

She instructed her staff of residential assistants to remind students to double lock their doors when out of their rooms in order to make them more secure. It is easy for any student to enter an unlocked dorm room.

She said security officials are speaking to each individual who reported an incident. "I assure you," said Gold, "they'll pursue the investigation whether students see it openly or not and do everything in their power to try to solve it." Mr. Donald Sommers, Chief of Security, said he is investigating but would not comment further until the matter is resolved.



Finance Difficulties Burden Students

RASHKA BALARSKY
Staff Writer

Many students experienced delays moving into the dormitories at the onset of the 1998-1999 school year because they were not financially clear. Students also incurred problems involving funds missing from cafeteria cards and difficulties arranging work study positions as well.

Neil Harris, Acting Director of Student Aid, said many of these problems could be attributed to "students who had not made arrangements for payment for the '98-'99 school year or who had a previous balance from another school year."

Harris added that "late applications" caused delays in processing aid.

Some students did not realize that their bills had arrived in plain Yeshiva University envelopes not marked "dated material enclosed" as in previous years, said Harris. They neglected to pay the fees, did not receive financial clearance and, therefore, could not move into

their dorm rooms.

Jean Belmont, University Bursar, indicated that letters had been mailed and phone calls made to inform students not financially clear of their status before moving day. She added that before the spring semester, letters will be mailed to students who are not financially cleared at both their home and dorm addresses to insure that they receive notification.

Beth Kessler, SCW '99, tried to get her key during Orientation and discovered that she was not financially clear because of a small balance that remained on her tuition bill. "It would have been nice had YU mailed a letter a week in advance," said Kessler. "In past years, they refunded or billed my family if the amount we paid was off."

Kessler began the school year with \$150 on her cafeteria card, instead of the \$650 she had paid. "The extra \$500 wasn't put on my card until after Rosh Hashanah and I was down to \$18," said Kessler. "I didn't want to spend cash on food and I wasn't sure they'd add

the money."

According to Belmont, once students were financially clear the entire sum was added onto the cafeteria cards. She admitted, though, that there may have been delays. "We try to be of help to students so we gave them \$150 for the week, we have more staff than in previous years, and we try to be of service," said Belmont.

The delay in receiving full funds on cafeteria cards after students were financially cleared was due to the fact that YU now uses two computer systems. The meal plan bill must be manually entered into YU's Banner system before the money can appear on students' cafeteria cards.

In addition to cafeteria problems, students on work study found their allotments taken away without notice. Miriam Grossman, SCW '00, said that, "one reason I came to Stern was because they have good work programs. They are better in that area than other private colleges."

Students depend on the work study positions as a source of income during the school year.

Modern, State-Of-Art Kitchen Facility To Be Opened

ITA TARZIK
Staff Writer

In Yeshiva University's pursuit to expand and modernize its Midtown Campus, a new kitchen facility is under construction on the first floor of Schottenstein Residence Hall. The kitchen will service the Midtown Campus cafeteria. Once completed, a special refrigerated van will be used in order to transport the food cooked in Schottenstein directly to the SCW cafeteria.

Until now, the kitchen crew has been working in a cramped kitchen with old equipment. Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration, said that due to lack of space, YU had been struggling for some time with the problem of upgrading and modernizing its current kitchen facilities. The space in Schottenstein proved a viable solution.

Construction on the SRH kitchen began at

the end of August 1998 and is near completion. YU is waiting for permits from various agencies, such as The Department of Health and the Building Department, before it can open the facility.

Although unwilling to promise, Rosengarten hopes the new kitchen will be operating in a matter of weeks.

The new, modern cooking facility does not necessarily mean a larger selection of food for SCW faculty and students, said Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services.

Lieberman clarified that "right now, it will be strictly a dairy production kitchen." He said, however, the kitchen may be used for Shabbat programs held in Schottenstein.

The kitchen's opening follows the debut of a new convenience store in Schottenstein that opened right before the holiday recess.



Kitchen facilities for Schottenstein Hall. The kitchen will supplement cooking facilities in the Midtown Center.

Election Day is November 3. Don't Forget to Vote.

Reaching Out, Just Around the Corner

Jewish Enrichment Center Opens Its Doors

RACHEL GENACK
Staff Writer

New York City life couched between gourmet restaurants and high-powered office buildings lies the Jewish Enrichment Center (JEC), at 176 Madison Avenue between 33rd and 34th streets, around the corner from Brookdale Hall. The JEC targets Jews from all backgrounds that wish to "reconnect" with themselves through exploring their Jewish roots. The Center seems to have opened its doors to a virtually untapped market of over 74,000 mostly unaffiliated Jews living and working in the East Side of Manhattan.

"Our goal," explains Rabbi Daniel Green, YC '92, RIETS '95, spiritual leader and founder of the two-month-old JEC, "is to provide Midtown Manhattan with a vibrant Jewish center to allow people to grow at their own pace in an open environment."

The close proximity to SCW makes the JEC an ideal place for SCW students to become involved with the com-

opening of the JEC presents to the students of SCW. "People always want to do outreach but are saying 'I don't know how,' here's an opportunity to reach out."

SCW's connection to the JEC began with a *Selichot* program in the weeks preceding Yom Kippur. Greenspan plans to increase student participation. A native of Teaneck, NJ, Greenspan feels that the presence of SCW students at the Center makes the JEC vibrant. She said that the fear of being the only one at a program inhibits people from attending, therefore the mere presence of SCW women attending the programs makes the place lively and active and encourages people to come.

Green said that the role of the SCW students extends beyond mere participants to being examples of Orthodox women living in today's world. "People are lonely," said Green. They are looking to connect to God, but also to other people, which is why the presence of Stern students serving as role models is so important. The Study Buddy program to be run on Monday nights plans to involve both SCW and YC students to learn one on one

community. Chaya Greenspan, SCW '01, TAC liaison with the Center, explained the possibilities that the

with members of the community. Plans are underway as well for a Shabbat program, which will utilize the students to help give Shabbat an exciting atmosphere both during the services and the Friday night meal.

In addition to the regular morning Shacharit minyan, other programs include a Friday night dinner, a "Roshei Yeshiva Lecture Series" featuring Rav Herschel Schechter and Rav Heshy Reichman, and a women's parsha class. According to Robin Fisher, the outreach director of the JEC, the class is designed to clear up misconceptions about Judaism and for people who are "tired of hearing about Moses." Over six educational programs are offered each week, geared towards all levels of education. Rabbi Zev Reichman, assistant rabbi, YC '98, Wexner Kollel, heads both the beginner's minyan and outreach programs for teenagers in the area.

Phyllis Blackman, an executive recruiter for an employment firm and resident of the East Side of Manhattan began attending services at the center when she sprained her ankle and couldn't walk across town to her regular synagogue. Now she has been attending the center for two months and loves the quiet davening, the comfortable facility, and the diversified programming. "I'm just so thrilled that they're in the neighborhood!" said Blackman.

Judith Miller to Lecture on Middle East Terrorism

Judith Miller, author, distinguished journalist and expert on Middle Eastern affairs, will deliver the 1998 Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts lecture at SCW on Wednesday, November 11. Her talk will be on "Reporting on the Militant Middle East" beginning at 8:00pm in Koch Auditorium. She will discuss experiences with terrorist groups and leaders of the Middle East and their impact on Americans.

Miller is a senior writer on the culture desk at The New York Times and currently its "Ideas and Issues" correspondent. She joined the paper in 1977 as a member of the Washington Bureau, where she covered the banking and securities industry, the House and Senate, national politics, foreign affairs - with special emphasis

on the Middle East - and nuclear proliferation issues.

In 1983, she became the first woman to be named chief of the Times Cairo bureau, where she was responsible for covering the Arab world. In 1986, she became the Times special correspondent in Paris. In 1987 and 1988, she returned to Washington to serve as news editor and deputy bureau chief of the Washington bureau. She covered the Persian Gulf during the war in 1990 as a special correspondent and, subsequently was the Times Sunday Magazine's special correspondent, writing on domestic and foreign affairs, including the Middle East.

Miller is the author of *God Has Ninety Nine Names*, *Reporting From a Militant Middle East*, and *One By One*,

By One, a highly praised account of how people in six nations distorted the memory of the Holocaust, and co-author of *Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf*.

An expert on Middle Eastern affairs, Miller is a sought-after guest on many national television news and public affairs shows and frequently lectures at universities throughout the country.

The Morris Epstein Forum is named in honor of the long-time Stern College professor of English who died in 1973. Epstein also authored several children's books and edited *World Over Magazine*, published by the NY Board of Jewish Education. In addition, he was drama and book critic for WEVD radio in New York.



Israel Watch

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Chairman Yasir Arafat, signed a peace agreement October 23 that addressed issues of security, Palestinian independence, land, and jailed Palestinian suspects. The negotiations, held in Maryland, are the first attempt at reaching a peace settlement in nineteen months.

67 people were injured Monday, October 19 following a grenade attack in Be'er Sheva. The alleged perpetrator, Salem Rajab al-Sarsour, 29, was immediately arrested by Israeli police. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Israeli shekel depreciated in value to 4.3 shekels to the dollar. Last time Israeli currency was so low, the Israeli government solved the problem by creating a new currency.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed Ariel Sharon as the country's new Foreign Minister in early October. Sharon, 70, is known for his leadership in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and is a proponent of ending Israel's West Bank Bank.

National News

The New York Yankees won the 1998 World Series October 21 in a four game sweep against the San Diego Padres. The win is the 24th World Series victory for the team. Scott Brosius was named Most Valuable Player.

Matthew Shepard died October 12 after being beaten by two men and two women in Wyoming for being a homosexual. Shepard's death sparked pro-gay rallies all over the country.

Congress signed the budget for the new fiscal year mid October after numerous negotiations between Democrats and Republicans. The budget agreement was sent to the White House for final approval.

The House of Representatives voted 256 to 178 early October to conduct impeachment hearings for President Bill Clinton regarding his testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit. Only two other presidents, Andrew Johnson and Richard Nixon, have ever faced impeachment proceedings.

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Club Fair Offers Prospects for Student Involvement

AVIVA LAUFER
News Editor

Every college, there are clubs, activities and publications in which students are encouraged to participate.

In SCW, Club Fair serves as an annual forum for students to survey what SCWSC and TAC can offer them.

The annual event occurred on September 8 and 9 this year, filling Koch Auditorium with tables, signs and students.

Tovah Silberman, SCW '99, and Beth Wolfson, SCW '00, members of the Psychology Club, said "joining a club in the area that you're interested in gives you an opportunity to become familiar with future career opportunities in that field. It also gives you the opportunity to meet other students with similar interests."

Golda Fleischman, SCW '00, head of the Debate Team, noted that certain clubs can help you develop important skills that can be implemented in any subject area. The Debate Team, "can teach you how to win every argument," said Fleishman.

The TAC clubs present at Club Fair advocated community service, outreach, and Torah learning opportunities. "One of my favorites of the evening is definitely the e-mail chavruta club," said Nava Barber, SCW '01.

This year, the Karate Club, headed by SCW's karate instructor, Sarah Cohn made its debut. Cohn will teach a one-hour self-defense class given once each semester.

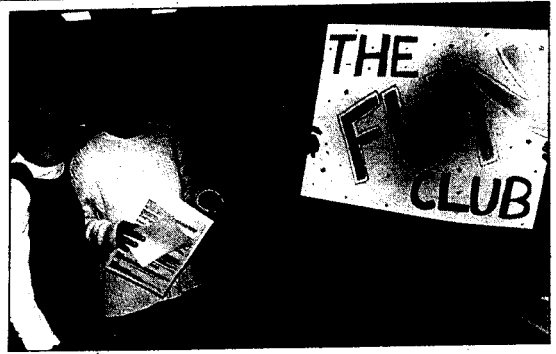
Publications including The Observer, In Motion, Besamim and the weekly parsha newsletter, Bina-Yeteira, are open to students' literary, and artistic contributions.

Shani Hollander, SCW '00, attended Club Fair in hopes of "really getting involved in extra-curricular activities."

"I want to find out about ways that I can spend my free time doing things that are constructive," she said.

The first night of Club Fair ended with a performance given by The Belles, SCW's a capella group.

After listening to them perform, Rachel Schostak, SCW '00, said "Sign me up, baby!"



Courtesy of YUPR

Rachel Katz, President of the Fun Club, recruited new members.



Courtesy YUPR

Students survey the scene at Club Fair '98

Career Fair Presents Students with Options

RACHEL ELBAUM
Staff Writer

With representatives from approximately 100 graduate schools, organizations and companies, the 1998 Career Fair in Belfer Hall allowed students to gather information regarding employment opportunities and graduate schools.

"This is the best way for students to learn about the companies and ask questions without being in an interview situation," said Jennifer Berman, Assistant Director of the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS).

The Fair is geared for both business and liberal arts students in SCW, YC and SSSB.

"Many companies seek liberal arts stu-

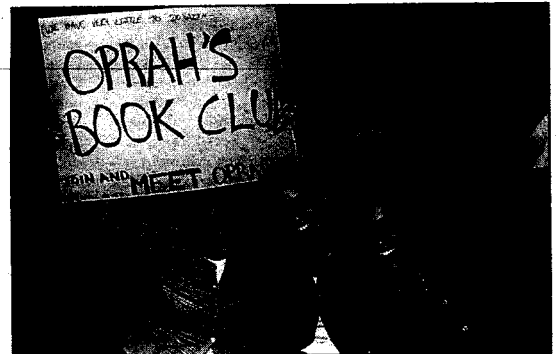
dents because they are more well rounded," Berman said.

The HASC Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bloomberg L.P., The Educational Alliance, Goldman Sachs and Syms Corporation were among the organizations representing their respective institutions.

The attending organizations use career fairs such as the one Monday, October 26 in YU, as a public relations tool to tell students about their programs and any employment positions that they have available.

Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of OPCS added that "the companies get a positive response about our students," through Career Fair.

Roughly 600 students attended the event.



Courtesy of YUPR

SCW's new Book Club debuted at Club Fair.

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Impeachment Hearings Recall Watergate

SARA KOSTANT
Staff Writer

In the November 2, 1972 issue of *The Observer*, Lawrence Grossman, a History instructor at Stern College for Women, voiced a strong objection to the candidates vying for the Presidency that year. He wrote that, "Despite my fears about McGovern [the Democratic nominee] I sometimes consider voting for him when I think about Nixon. The Republican convention and subsequent campaign have been so smug and self-righteous that one can only call them Nixonian. Each day the newspapers unearth further revelations of administration scandals. Rather than attempting to uncover the truth about the Watergate bugging and kindred activities, the President and his advisors seem to think all the dirt will go away if they ignore them."

Grossman's statement was written almost two years before Richard Nixon actually resigned, yet his disillusionment in the President was already established. Most of the country did not agree with Grossman. While Grossman was writing this article, over 60% of the American population thought Nixon was doing a wonderful job as President, according to the October 19, 1998 issue of *Newsweek*. In fact, America approved of Nixon so much that a few days after Mr. Grossman's article appeared in *The Observer*, Nixon was reelected in what *Newsweek* calls a "landslide victory."

Two years later, however, Grossman's attitude seemed prophetic of the collective disgust which gripped America when Nixon released tapes incriminating him in the Watergate burglaries. By the time the House had voted 410-4 in February of 1974 to launch an impeachment investigation, *Newsweek* reports that Nixon's once-stellar approval ratings had plummeted to about 25%.

The October 9, 1998 vote by the House of Representatives to begin impeachment hearings for President Clinton places him in the same inglorious category as Richard Nixon and Andrew Johnson, the only two other Presidents to have received this same recognition from the House. Since Nixon is the most recent example of impeachment, political analysts cannot help but compare his experience to Clinton's current crisis. Although both Nixon's and Clinton's scandals involve impeachment hearings, President Clinton's approval rating remained a respectable 58% in the wake of his House impeachment vote, according to *Newsweek*, unlike Nixon's dismal percentages after his 1974 House vote.

Dr. Ruth Bevan, head of the Political Science department at SCW, pointed out that there are differences in the personalities of the two presidents which account for the contrasting responses to their scandals. When the Watergate scandal broke, Nixon was viewed as a "divisive force who pitted one American against another," said Bevan. She added that unlike Clinton, who "in his personal demeanor looks so innocent, looks wholesome, looks mom-

PRESIDENCY AT RISK AGAIN, BUT UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES

and-apple-pie Americanism," Nixon was "not a president that would ingratiate himself in any way...he was seen as a very ambitious, driving type of politician." The presidents' misdeeds also aroused different responses in the American public. According to Dr. Bevan, Nixon's offensive side was revealed when his tape-recorded conversations, containing anti-Semitic slurs and other abusive language, were released. "The public felt in the Nixon case that it [the Watergate scandal] was political war...dirty play in terms of the political process" she said. "I think most Americans see this [Clinton scandal] as just a personal weakness on the part of Clinton, more than something that has really impinged on the political process." Bevan said that America is currently enjoying a healthy economy, and is not involved in any kind of war, which makes people more eager to acquit Clinton in the court of public opinion and move on.

A comparison of the disparities between the "for" and "against" votes of 1974 and 1998 confirms that the Clinton presidency is not in as much danger as Nixon's was at this point. The House of Representatives voted 258-176 to start impeachment hearings against Clinton, while nearly the entire House voted in 1974 to begin the same process with Nixon. Nixon's crimes seemed so reprehensible to the House of Representatives that even Nixon's fellow Republicans voted for the hearings. Although 31 Democrats recently voted for an inquiry, the House vote remained mainly bi-partisan, with Democrats rallying by Clinton's side and Republicans firmly against him. Since Clinton's alleged crimes are not severe enough to swing his own party completely against him, the House vote was divided along party lines; Nixon, however, lost nearly all his party to the impeachment vote.

The Democrats in the 1998 House of Representatives did not condemn Clinton with the same vehemence as the 1974 House, perhaps because lies to cover up philandering are not considered as vile as lies to cover up outright burglary. The results of the House vote may cause some people to view the impeachment hearings as another opportunity for political mudslinging. In the October 19 issue of *Newsweek*, Jonathan Alter remarked in his article, "The Lewinsky Legacy" that "children are growing up thinking that impeachment is what one party does to another when it gets really mad at the president—just another partisan weapon."

One of the ironies of the current Washington scandal is that Hillary Rodham Clinton was involved in organizing the impeachment of Nixon in 1974. According to the October 19, 1998 issue of



Newsweek, Hillary Rodham was "among the 40-odd young lawyers recruited by Doar [John Doar, head counsel of the 1974 impeachment investigation] to prepare an impeachment case during the final months of the Watergate scandal. Like Hillary, Clinton had been offered a coveted job on the impeachment staff. But the Rhodes scholar and Yale Law grad had instead chosen to begin his own political career."

Little did Hillary Rodham and Bill Clinton realize that twenty-four years later, as First Lady and President of the United States, they would face the same crisis as Nixon. *Newsweek* added in the same issue that "The final irony, of course, is that Hillary Clinton played an important role in drafting the rules and procedures that may be used to impeach her husband." Her legal work for the 1974 House investigation may come back to haunt her.

What's Next for the President.

For the Clintons, the recent impeachment resolution was an echo of an earlier one, with an unpleasant touch: Clinton's name replaces Nixon's as the focus of the investigation. The resolution states that "the committee on the Judiciary...is authorized and directed to investigate fully and completely whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its constitutional power to impeach William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America."

The "sufficient grounds" mentioned in the resolution are a source of contention between Clinton defenders and foes. The Constitution, in Article II, Section 4, Clause 1 declares that "The President, Vice-President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high crimes and Misdemeanors." The purpose of the impeachment investigation is to decide whether or not Clinton's actions fit into any of the above categories. According to an Associated Press article, "Defining the Deliberately Undefined" by Walter Mears, Prosecutor Kenneth Starr revealed to the House of Representatives that he had sufficient evidence of criminal activity which could impeach Clinton, "centering on obstruction of justice and perjury, in the president's attempts to hide his conduct in the Lewinsky affair." The wording of the Constitution is so ambiguous that "every member of the committee [investigating Clinton] will make their own mind up as to what is an impeachable offense," said Representative Henry Hyde in the same AP article. While Starr and his allies believe Clinton's efforts to cover up his affair with Lewinsky fall into one of impeachment categories, *Newsweek*

reported in its September 21, 1998 issue that "the subtlety of the president's defense is that a cover-up of a sexual affair is not a 'high crime' even if Clinton did lie under oath and encourage others to lie." Clinton was lying to whitewash his personal life and avoid humiliation, according to his proponents, a wrongdoing that does not merit an impeachment process.

No one knows how long the Judiciary Committee will take to decide whether or not Clinton's offenses are impeachable. If the committee decides the offenses are impeachable, then the Committee will present their articles of impeachment to the House of Representatives. A majority of the House must vote for passing these articles before they can be tried by the Senate. A two-thirds majority of the Senate is needed to convict the president of the impeachment charges, and the Senate must also vote on whether or not the president should be taken out of office. The vice-president would then be sworn in to replace the president.

Nixon resigned before the House even voted on his articles of impeachment and was replaced by Gerald Ford.

One student at SCW who has kept up with the investigation against Clinton thinks that an actual impeachment is a far-fetched conclusion to the crisis. "They just want to scare Clinton and show him the severity of what could happen" said Golda Fleischman, SCW '01, a Political Science major. Fleischman doubts that an impeachment investigation would be in progress had Clinton committed perjury to cover up a mundane misdeed, and not a sexual one. Although Fleischman would not have voted for an impeachment inquiry, Political Science major Stephanie Sherman, '00, thinks it's a good idea. She is not convinced, however, that the House should actually impeach Clinton, and wonders if a Republican majority in the House will pass articles of impeachment. "The Founding Fathers made it very hard to impeach the president, so the offense must be a really big deal," said Sherman. "Not that what he did isn't a big deal—but is enough to remove him?" Sherman said the investigation would lower national morale, because "the American on the street is misinformed and doesn't know key issues here and abroad. She does not believe, however, that Clinton will resign or be impeached. "I just feel the whole thing is rather specious, I don't think they have a case," she said, adding that as a representative in the House she would have voted against the impeachment investigation, in favor of censuring the president. "The Republicans will need a face saving device to get out of this whole thing...they're trying to scare him, and it may backfire because he may not resign," said Sherman. "They may end up looking foolish-like the expression 'with egg on their face'."

Chemistry Club Tours Pfizer Pharmaceutical Plant

By Jennifer Feig

Chemistry students recently visited Pfizer's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Facility in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Dr. Blau and Mrs. Dobin accompanied a group of science majors on a tour of the facility where more than 40 prescription health care products are produced.

Students toured the manufacturing plant and learned the steps involved in producing various types of medications. The tour included the research laboratories where product safety testing is done.

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TURN

Yehudit Robinson

A Call For Tolerance

All Americans deserve legal and cultural protection against hate crimes. We Jews have thrived in an environment that mostly accepts us; the silent majority retroactively includes us in the vision of "one nation, under G-d." Jews now maintain influential positions in both local and national government, in businesses, and on the college campus. Among the groups who continue to be persecuted, however, are gay people: last week, fellow twenty-one year old student Matthew Shepard was murdered, simply because of his sexual orientation.

While *halacha* forbids homosexual activity, and we are not required to offer even tacit approval for such behavior, G-d made all of us - both those who identify themselves as gay, bisexual, and transgendered and those who do not. Judaism does not encourage hatred: does Judaism truly say that because of one's sexual orientation one should be lured into a secluded area, savagely beaten, burned, tied to a fence, and left to die? Judaism ultimately advocates self-growth and societal peace. As an issue of respecting all of G-d's creations, we have a moral responsibility, if not religious imperative, to enable all those who reside in America to live here safely.

Perhaps by supporting legislation that protects gay people, we, as Americans, can thank the country that has sheltered us, the country in which we now lead a stable, accepted, persecution-free life. Supporting legislation (and legislators) that protect gay people from hate crimes is not the same as endorsing laws that afford gay partners the same privileges as heterosexual spouses. Rather, strengthening anti-hate crimes legislation acknowledges gay people's humanity. These types of laws offer gay people the same basic rights and protections we enjoy. David Leavitt's poignant New York Times opinion portrays the fear of living in this country, feeling unsafe because of one's identity:

[The homosexual] is not immune - either from hatred or from the fear of hatred, which is in many ways even more destructive. No, gay killings are not everyday occurrences, any more than lynchings were ever a daily event in the South, but the fear colors everything - especially in a year when reported bias crimes against gay people in New York City have increased 81 percent" ("The Hate Epidemic", Sunday, week of October 15)

Matthew Shepard's life has ended at the same time as mine is about to begin. Part of defusing the cultural environment that makes crimes against gay people acceptable (in the same way that crimes against African-Americans used to be acceptable) involves our being able to appreciate that even though gay people are not behaving *halachically*, they are still people. Respect for others (even if not for all of their behaviors) can begin at home, in Stern's hallowed halls. If you wear skirts all the time, even on Sundays, how about finding someone who does not, and making a new friend? If your observance of *halacha* is marginal, how about visiting your local *batei midrash*, located conveniently in BRH 2C, SRH 2W, and SCW 6th floor? Predictions may be inappropriate; however, the person whose life changes for the better might be your own.

Rivkah Grossman

Students Effectively Barred from using Gym

10:00 p.m. My roommate and I decide to take a break from studying and go shoot some hoops. After changing into shorts, T-shirts and sneakers, we grab our basketballs and head for the school building. As we ride the elevator, we look forward to this reprieve from classes, schoolwork, and studying and the chance to unwind and get in some fun exercise. When we get to the gym however, we find the lights off.

Nonplussed, but undeterred, we head back downstairs to ask security to open up the lights for us. However, they firmly inform us that the gym is closed. Closed?!? "The lights are shut and the gym is closed every night at 9:00," we are told by an amused security guard. Disappointed, but having no choice, my roommate and I return to our dorm room.

We check our schedules to try and find an evening we can go use the gym for an hour or so once a week. Then my roommate remembers: "Wait! Tuesday night there's fencing until 9:00 and then the volleyball team practices until 11:00, Wednesday night the intramural team meets, and many of the other PE classes don't end until 7:30 or 8:00."

After a little research and some discussion with the administration, we discover that apparently without supervision no one can use the gym after 9 p.m. The reason the gym closes this early is that last semester a girl was hurt while using the gym unsupervised. And the only way that we can take advantage of our facilities is by creating an actual team that will make it worthwhile for the school to hire supervision for practice at a specific time each week.

It seems that what was just the two of us wanting an occasional break from studying at night, and some time alone playing one-on-one at the gym, has turned into a large group of Stern girls playing a game of supervised basketball at a scheduled time once a week. The idea sounds completely unappealing to either one of us. If I had wanted that, I would have signed up for a basketball class for PE, and at least gotten credit for it.

I understand that the school does not want to be liable for any accidents that may happen, but I don't understand why supervision would help. If anything were to happen to one of us, G-d forbid, the other could go for help the same way a supervisor from the athletics department would. We are not helpless children. We are capable adults living away from home unsupervised in our dorm rooms, unsupervised on the streets of Manhattan, and basically, unsupervised. We don't ask that the gym be open all night, only as long as the building is open, while there is still security available.

Also, there are workout rooms in both SRH and BRH that are open to Stern students from early morning until late at night, and they are usually unsupervised. Is it less likely for an accident to occur there than in the gym? Is it only because nothing has happened there yet that they are unsupervised? If G-d forbid, anything were to happen to someone using the workout rooms would they be closed too?

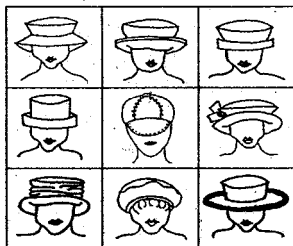
Only recently was occasional late-night supervision instituted at the workout room in BRH. And this supervision is in the form of a SCW student. Is she any more capable of handling emergencies than my roommate or myself? And what about the rest of the day? Do bad things happen only at night?

Then there is the issue of double standards for SCW and YC students. The basketball court at the Uptown campus is open late at night for the students to take advantage of and enjoy on their own time. It seems the Athletics Department's policy on supervision is full of inconsistencies.

Many Stern students complain that it is upsetting how many recreational facilities this school is lacking, such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, outside playing fields, etc. What I find frustrating is that the facilities that we do have we can't even use.

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letter to the editor

Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the most recent issue "Yeshiva Today" yet. However, today someone pointed out something to me about the most recent issue that was disturbing.

On the last page there are two pictures. One is a lecture or symposium of some sort taking place Uptown on the men's campus. The picture shows YC students sitting at a table, listening to a speaker, and seeming deep in thought.

On the bottom of the same page is a picture from Stern College taken at Club Fair. Some students are looking at posters of different clubs offered or speaking to club representatives. Some are standing nearby, apparently socializing. The caption under the picture describes Stern College Club Fair as an event where students can "shop" for the clubs they would like to join.

Is there a discrepancy or bias here?
One may argue that people know that YC also has a Club Fair, and Stern also has many intellectually

stimulating lectures and programs. Fine. The discrepancy in the pictures presented of the respective colleges was probably accidental. But did PR have to emphasize this discrepancy by using the word "shop" for Stern's Club Fair? Ugh.

Deborah S. Roth
SCW '99

Letters to the editor and submissions for Your Turn

should be sent to the Observer's email address: observ@turn.yu.edu

Cafeteria

continued from page 1

we buy nothing compared to the quantities purchased by supermarkets," he explained. "You can't expect supermarket prices from the cafeteria because we don't buy like they do."

Occasionally Food Services is able to charge lower than the recommended price. "The Squeezer drinks are supposed to cost \$1.25. But we only charge \$1.00," said Lieberman.

Overall rising food prices, however, force students to use their cafeteria cards sparingly.

At \$650 a month, and approximately 15 weeks of meals at 10 meals a week, students would have to pay \$4.30 per meal to keep within their budgets.

Students are balking at paying more for less food. "It's extremely expensive, especially if you buy two meals a day," said Talia Keebler, SCW '01.

"Each year the Finance Department sends out letters to students and parents detailing budget plans," explained Lieberman. "The university tries to make parents budget the school year in coordination with what their children will spend."

According to Lieberman, students do have a say in the pricing system. Normally, Food Services meets with the Food Committee during the summer to plan for the upcoming school year. "This year was a little different. We did not meet with the Food Committee this summer but rather with other student leaders. Only one, Dror Barber (YCSA President) showed up."

Apparently not all student leaders were invited to this meeting. "I never received any notice about a meeting," said Shandy Kahn, SCWSC President.

The Food Committee, headed this year by Miriam Grossman, SCW '00, met about three times last year and very few prices were discussed, said Grossman, who was also a member of the committee last year. "We basically voice our complaints and give ideas," she added.

Last year the Food Committee had about twenty students in it, said Grossman. "But this year, we hope to meet much more often and do more things to help the student body. I think we do change things, and we do the best we can," she added.

She explained that due to the efforts of the Food Committee, cafeteria

hours were augmented to meet student needs, such as changing the closing time from 7:30 till 7:45 p.m. so that students with late classes could catch dinner on the run.

Warmed packaged food was designed specifically for those students who arrived after the traditional cafeteria hours were over.

But the already improved cafeteria hours may not be enough. For out-of-town students who are in dormitories on weekends or holidays, the cafeteria is not open at convenient hours that meet student needs.

On Labor Day, the only cafeteria service available was from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Even the morning service normally provided by Milner's Mart in Brookdale Hall on Sunday mornings was closed. On Sunday, October 18, four days after school reopened, Milner's Mart was closed as well. Many disgruntled students resorted to vending machines to find breakfast and lunch.

Out-of-towners often bear the brunt of the poor Food Services hours. Rivkah Grossman, SSSB '00, of Chicago, IL, said that "the question of profit versus meeting student needs is vital to this issue. Does the cafeteria have to make itself available to all students at all times, or does it limit itself to the hours where it can make the most money?"

Hours, prices, overcrowding and food quality have begun to be more than just an annoyance. This year students are taking action against what they have called inferior service. Nealy Klein, SCW '99, fed up with the poor taste of the bakery products at Stern, has attempted to broker a deal between Food Services and a nearby restaurant. "I have tried numerous times to get Stern to buy muffins or arrange for vouchers at this restaurant, but nobody here seems to listen," she said.

According to Lieberman, student concerns are heeded. "I've come down to the Midtown Campus," he explained, "and I've heard a lot of positive comments. People like the food, people seem to generally be happy."

Many students however, claim that they are not happy. "I don't eat lunch anymore because I can't wait in that line. The cafeteria is just plain squishy! So I go to the man who sells fruit outside of the school building. He's kinda my new cafeteria. The only downside is that I can't use my card. But he doesn't have a line, and he's cheaper!" said one student.

Honors

continued from page 1

The fact that the class was slated as an honors class, was a minor point to many who showed an interest in the subject.

Shira Resnick, SCW '00, a student in Rabbi Kahn's honors halacha class said that, "it wasn't that I really decided to take an honors class, it was just that I wanted to take that class and it happened to be honors. But many other classes are equally challenging."

An Honors English

Composition student, Shuli Gertel, SCW '01, explained that though the honors course fits her expectations, it was not necessarily more challenging than any other class she might have taken. "It [the Honors English Composition class] fits my expectations of an honors class although, I'm not sure if it's more of a challenge than any other class would have been."

"Truthfully," she added, "there were no other classes available, but I really did want the challenge of it. We have more time for revision than the other classes, which gives us an advantage. It helps us improve our writing even more."

Elana Schwartz, SCW '01, chose to take honors courses not only because she wanted to be challenged, but also because she desired a class where the students themselves would be on a higher level. "I feel that the people in the class make a big difference on how the class runs" she said.

Schwartz feels that the honors courses are more challenging because they demand more individual thought and less "spit-back."

She admits, though, to being just as pleased in her other classes. "The Honors Program is beneficial for the classes that tend to be large, such as psychology, which many people take, or English, which everyone has to take."

Dean Bacon explained that YU President and Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm has expressed an interest in an Honors Program for several years. In fact, since 1996, the faculty has been determining the content, structure and purpose of the Honors Program. Lamm's approval of the Honors Program, this past spring, allowed for its implementation in the fall of 1998.

Despite the benefits of the Honors Program, some individuals are concerned at potential detrimental effects of such an accelerated academic track. Rabbi Kahn voiced his concern that, "I think it's a great idea and it's good to have these kind of things. I just don't want students to feel that only the honor students are being thought of and people that are not in honors are being ignored. I don't believe that this is what is going on, but one has to be wary that that kind of message should not be sent out."

"I think a school needs to cater to all the needs of all its students. It shouldn't just be for the Honors and everyone else doesn't count. That would be a terrible message to be sending to the students," she added.

Bacon said that there is no harm in a segregated

program. Honors students would have a defined curriculum and yet still be a part of regular SCW classes. The majority of SCW courses would continue to accommodate a wide range of students with different talents and capabilities.

Students can look forward to new Honors courses in the spring semester, according to Bacon. In addition, some currently advanced courses, already on an honors level, will also be designated as honors in the coming semesters. Gradually, the current honors courses at SCW will be broadened to a full Honors Program.

Union settles, university will raise salaries

Continued from page 1

Union workers were not all pleased with the final settlement. Of the total 290 YU employees voting for the contract, over 140 voiced their dismay in the agreement. In SCW, an overwhelming majority of 33 union members voted against the contract, while only 13 agreed to ratify it.

"Yeshiva is being unfair to us," said Garfield Clark, one of the three union delegates for SCW. "We do a lot of work. We're getting way below pay," he added.

"Everybody should have a fair shake in the price market," said Clarence Barret, another SCW union delegate.

Silva estimated that Yeshiva University's 1199 members earn anywhere between \$22,000 and \$40,000 a year. With the costs of living and transportation rising, the economic aspect of the negotiations were the most prevalent this year, said Betty Knight, a Cardozo union delegate. "You have to work two jobs to make it - to live comfortably," said Charlene Wiggins, the other Cardozo dele-

gate.

"We need to improve on the lower-end rates" said Vasquez.

In a study conducted by YU, minimum weekly job rates in several New York metropolitan universities were compared to those of YU. "While every job rate at YU is certainly not ahead of that paid at every other college and university, YU's rates within its 'industry' are entirely competitive and in some instances higher than that paid elsewhere," wrote Bodner in a memo to the university community.

The union's negotiating officials, from a National Health and Human Service Employees Union, requested that YU bring its contract to par with those of the health care industry. "They [the health industry] have established comparable rates," said Silva. "We are raising the standards," she added.

"The University continues to maintain that the standard measurement should be colleges and universities in the Metropolitan New York area," wrote Bodner.

In August 1998, 1199 requested that YU increase its members' salaries by 10% every year for three years and then decreased their demands to a 5% increase per year. In a vote on October 8, union members agreed to ask for 4% salary increases every year until 2001.

Yeshiva University offered its workers a 3% salary increase the first and third contract years with a \$600 addition and \$1,200 bonus in the contract's second year. Silva estimated the second year's gain as a 2% salary increase.

When 1199 and YU negotiators could not agree on a contract three years ago, union members went on strike for four hours. Prepared for possible disruptions this year, Sheldon Gelman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, wrote that "all academic classes and programs will be continued" and that "it is expected and required that all faculty will continue to meet their responsibilities to their students and to the Institution and continue to schedule and hold classes."

Bodner and Gelman admitted that YU has a contin-

see Union, page 14

The Race for Governor: Pataki vs. Valone

AVIVA LAUFER
News Editor

On Wednesday, November 3, in the election for New York State governor, voters will have the option to reelect incumbent New York State Governor, Republican George Pataki, or vote for New York City Speaker, Democrat Peter Valone. Zogby International, in a poll with an error of plus or minus four percentage points, shows Pataki leading Valone 54% to 21%. As noted by WPIX TV NY, "Recent polls have indicated Pataki could be headed toward a lopsided victory in his bid for a second term against New York City Speaker, Peter Valone."

Among Pataki's strengths that have aided in his vastly popular ratings, are not only his incumbency as New York State governor, but also the strides he has made in this capacity. During the course of his term as governor, New York State citizens have experienced a reduction in income tax rates, an improvement in the state economy, and a reduction in crime. In addition, the three to four million dollars Pataki has collected in his campaign chest have enabled enhanced advertisement and greatly increased publicity for his platforms. Pataki's greatest ties are in upstate NY.

Valone's ties are relatively concentrated downstate. As councilman, NYC Speaker, and winner of the democ-

cratic primary, Valone's achievements have not gone unnoticed. Simultaneously however, he has a very minimal amount of money left to spend on his campaign for governor. Especially in these few weeks before the election, wherein the impressions left on voters' minds through press exposure are crucial, Valone's campaign is greatly lacking.

Whatever press exposure Valone can afford, he attempts to maximize by engaging in unusual campaign ads. He bashes republicans for starting impeachment proceedings against President Clinton, with hopes of catering to the interests of NYC voters' dissatisfaction. Valone is also attempting to capitalize on refuting Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's plan to move Yankee stadium from its present location in the Bronx, to Manhattan. Through developing an image as "the guy who wants to keep Yankee Stadium in the Bronx," Valone is attempting to appeal to the interests of voters in the Bronx community. Although Giuliani had the appeal courts resist Valone's request to use this issue on referendum, Valone is still hoping that his stand on this issue will help him get votes.

Both Pataki and Valone display sensitivity to Jewish needs and causes. Pataki demonstrated this recently in regard to the issue of the funds of Holocaust victims in Swiss Banks. He instructed state agencies to make it almost impossible for Swiss banks to do business in New

York State until giving appropriate compensation to Holocaust victims.

It is somewhat difficult to directly contrast these two politicians, since we haven't had the opportunity to compare them on a face to face basis. Pataki's positions are more evident based on the role he has already played as New York State governor. Valone's positions remain somewhat obscure, since he utilizes his minimal exposure to launch his unusual campaign ads, rather than voice his own personal platforms. We have some inkling as to what Valone's political views are based on his campaign in the democratic primary.

Valone wants very much to debate Pataki. This would most definitely yield more exposure to his campaign. At the same time, however, Pataki is purposely avoiding any debate with Valone. Since he is already leading Valone in the polls by a significant margin, he doesn't feel that a debate with his opponent would help him at all. In addition, he doesn't want to grant Valone any additional press exposure or publicity.

There is talk that Pataki may be considering running for either US President or Vice President in 2000. Voters have expressed concerns that Pataki may devote some of his time as governor to concentrating on the presidential race. Regarding this concern, Pataki insists, "my focus is and has been on the state of N.Y."



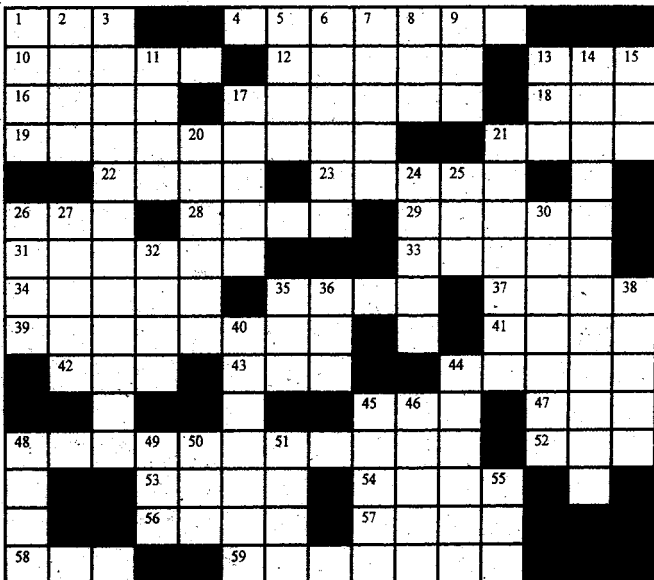
Students celebrated the Yankee victory on Wednesday, October 21 in an event sponsored by the Office of Student Services.



Student showing their enthusiasm for the World Series Victory.

Frankly Speaking

By Leah Lubetski and Elana Davis



ACROSS

1. Bow-wow
4. Observe speaker's mouth
10. Big
12. Toweled (off)
13. Insect repellent
16. Soap
17. NYT bestseller "Memoirs of a _____"
18. Anger
19. Attic girl
21. Happy
22. Lotion
23. Repeating pattern
26. "_____ to a Grecian Urn"
28. Opp. of 48 down
29. _____ on wood
31. "Carry on my wayward son" group
33. Fairytale antagonists
34. Ending for high or early
35. Paradise
37. Too pat
39. Painter's creativity
41. "Is not" in Spanish
42. Affirmative
43. Suffix for fel-, can-
44. Water brand
45. Automobile
47. Native American tribe
48. Lightning rod inventor
52. Sp. males
53. Steak sauce
54. Czechoslovakian river
56. 13 to Brutus
57. Immensely large
58. Sweet potato
59. Customers

DOWN

1. Actor Alan
2. Precipitation
3. Shelley's Masterpiece
5. Concept
6. Humperdink or Charming
7. Daring
8. Response to BOO!
9. Dentist's group
11. Happiness
13. Face secretion
14. Ol' Blue Eyes
15. Gave food
17. Graphs
20. Monks
21. 1948 English king
24. Fragrance
25. Liquefied natural gas (abbr.)
26. Gumbo vegetable
27. Milk
30. Centigrade
32. 6 to Pablo
35. Sea bird
36. Coloring
38. Skeletons
40. Gigantic movie?
44. Hemingway or Frye
45. Spice
46. Actor Quinn
48. "_____ as a bee"
49. Transmission of documents by phone
50. King to Henri
51. Simon or Diamond
55. Hwys.

ARTS

Exploring the City: Midtown

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

For those of you who are new to the city or have been here forever, you may find yourself looking for some varied forms of entertainment in this vast mecca of culture. There's so much to do here and it doesn't have to be expensive; in fact, in many instances entertainment in the Big Apple can be completely free. Some of the most exciting excursions and best-kept secrets in New York City are right here in Midtown.

The Empire State Building

Just down the block from Brookdale Hall (34th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues) it's one of, if not the closest tourist attractions to the Midtown campus. As the second tallest edifice in New York City, the Empire State Building isn't just an observation deck with a gorgeous view, (although that in itself is a draw to a myriad number of people each year). Perhaps the most exciting features of its 102 stories is the Sky Ride, a journey through the fast-paced life of the city in the comforts of your very own movie theater seat complete with a few surprises and mishaps in this very real Imax-like experience. The combined ticket price for the elevator ride up to the observation deck and the Sky Ride comes to \$14. The line may look daunting, but even during the busiest tourist season the wait probably will not exceed 15 minutes.

Leisure Time Bowling and Billiards

Conveniently located on the second floor of the Port Authority (8th Ave. and 40th St.), Leisure Time has 30 lanes and an extensive game room. Transportation is free if you go by foot or YU van, and playing only costs \$4.25 per game, per person. Shoe rental is \$2.50. Leisure Time is a great place to spend a couple of hours with friends. It's open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. during the week and until 2 a.m. on Saturday nights.

Times Square

In the world of entertainment, Times Square, the site of countless billboards, specialty stores and theaters, is the center of the city. At the heart of it - Broadway and 45th - lies TKTS, the home of discount theater tickets. You can't miss it, it's a huge red and white booth surrounded by a mob of tourists. During the afternoon the ticket wait can be excruciatingly long, but if you arrive between 7 and 7:30 p.m. you should be able to get tickets in only five or ten minutes. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. For more information call (212) 768-1818.

All Star Café

The All Star Café hosts a sports show at 4:45 weekday afternoons and if you'd like to be an audience member, that's the place to be. Tickets are given out on a first-come-first-serve basis to those who arrive between 4 and 4:30 p.m.

Late Night With David Letterman

The Great White Way is also home to the Sullivan Theater, where the Dave Letterman Show is filmed. If you send away for tickets the wait is over a year. However, if you show up at the theater -- 1697 Broadway - between the hours of 7 and 11 a.m., Monday through Thursday, you will get a standby ticket. Depending on how many ticket holders show up on the afternoon in which the show is taped, you may wind up with a seat. It is all based on luck,

but the earlier you get there the greater your chances of getting in. (Standby tickets are given out on a first-come first-serve basis. There are two tapings are Thursday.)

The Central Park Zoo

It may not be Midtown exactly but it's close enough. With lush greenery, a park and a reservoir, Central Park is a peaceful escape from the rush of the city. If you're looking for a place to rollerblade or bikeride, try the paths in the park. The park's zoo is located at 5th Avenue and 64th Street and showcases an impressive menagerie of monkeys, ducks, bears, penguins and dolphins. Admission is \$3.50 for adults. The zoo is open Monday through Friday,



Wonderbot, greets visitors at the when they enter the Sony wonder Technology Lab.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On weekends and holidays the zoo is opened from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MoMA

The Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues) is a fun and non-intimidating forum for both the artistically impaired and the avid museum buff. From Post-Impressionist to the most avant-garde, MoMA has an unparalleled variety of modern art in painting, sculpture, drawings, prints, illustrated books, photography, film, video, architecture and design. The second floor of the museum is home to a collection of works by highly talented and well-known artists such as Van Gogh, Matisse, Kandinsky, Picasso, de Chirico and Pollack, as well as a wonderfully imaginative photography section. An extraordinary exhibit on early Spanish migration told through a series of drawings is on this floor as well. Admission is \$6.50 with student ID. Museum hours are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The museum is closed on Wednesday. For more information call (212) 708-9696.

The People's Court

Court is in session on Tuesday and Wednesday at 401 5th Avenue. The People's Court is presided over by former New York City Mayor Ed Koch. Tickets should be booked two weeks in advance.

Shows are taped from 1:30 p.m. until the evening and once you have a ticket you can stay for as many shows as you want. If you have an affinity for expressing your opinion, you can drop by the lower level of the Manhattan Mall - 6th Avenue and 33rd Street, on Mondays, Thursdays and every other Friday at noon and 1:30 p.m. to view and give comments on court cases. April Simon, SCW '00, interned at the People's Court last year and guarantees that "the cases are real." For tickets or more information, call (212) 401-4900.

The Rent Raffle

Rent, the rock musical written by Jonathan Larson, is set in present-day New York City's Lower East Side. Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$75, yet due to the show's success and popularity (garnering a Tony Award for Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize), it has become increasingly more difficult to obtain tickets, especially at a decent price. Try the Rent raffle at the Nederlander Theatre - 208 West 41st Street. Just show up at the theatre two and a half hours before showtime and fill out a card with your name and the number of tickets (one or two) you wish to purchase. The drawing is two hours before showtime. For the Sunday showings, the drawing takes place at 5:30 p.m. Raffle winners must show ID at the box office and will receive \$20 "rush" tickets; there are likely to be "rush" seats available in the first few rows of the orchestra. Showtimes are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information call, (212) 307-4100.

Discount Sports Stores

In the area around the Port Authority and in some of the theaters (particularly the Nederlander Theatre) you will find some small little shops specializing in authentic sports apparel and paraphernalia. Go ahead and bargain down the price; don't be shy, you're in New York City.

Sony Wonder Technology Lab

Four floors of hands-on technology and science, all for free! Whether you like to act or take part in behind-the-scenes aspects of production, you can lend a hand on a TV show currently in production as an assistant director, technical director, camera operator or do some on-camera talent. There is a recording studio available at the Lab where participants can help a crew mix songs using Sony artists and professional audio equipment. The Lab also offers an environmental command center that lets participants track a simulated hurricane using the latest tools and technology.

Sony Wonder Technology Lab is located on 56th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. It is closed on Mondays and major holidays. The last entrance is 30 minutes before closing time. For more information call (212) 833-8100 or log on to wondertechlab.sony.com to take a virtual tour of the lab.

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November 13-14 Israel Club

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ARTS



BELOVED

DINA GIELCHINSKY
Cultural Arts Editor

As a character in the movie points out, "That which dies badly never sleeps peacefully." *Beloved* comes to haunt America with its portrayal of four characters during the period of African American slavery in their individual depths of sorrow. *Beloved* demands that the images of slavery will howl and rattle until they are acknowledged. Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, *Beloved* immerses viewers in the haunting, haunted landscape of this story.

Oprah Winfrey plays Sethe, a runaway slave struggling to carve out her own simple existence with her children in rural Ohio, 1873. Preventing her from achieving that, however, is the painful legacy of her former life, and the desperate measures to which she is driven to keep herself and her family from returning to it. Although Winfrey's daytime syndicated talk show audience may be accustomed to her easy tears and very apparent emotions, Winfrey displays the stern, rigid mannerism of the "iron eyed" Sethe, as her character is described in the book. Sethe's memories somehow stifle her movements, as if the passion and intensity she could seemingly possess is bridled by images of her past. She is seething with these repressed experiences and is constantly vulnerable to a reappearance of those demons. When she does experience a flashback, the movie's otherwise eerily sedate, almost tranquilized pace takes on a grainy, panicked image, consistent with the emotional instability of its characters.

Sethe's house rattles and glows with the ghost of *Beloved*, the child she killed in order to prevent the slave masters from kidnapping her. In a scene where Sethe's old friend Paul D (Danny Glover), returns after years of travelling and walks into Sethe's house for the first time, the foyer becomes a flaming inferno, replete with shuddering and groaning walls. Terrified, he demands of Sethe, "What kind of evil you got in there?" Sethe, unbothered, answers almost nonchalantly, "It ain't evil. It's just sad." The audience's introduction to the ghost of *Beloved* as an angry, revengeful spirit who throws mirrors off of walls and plates off of tables is disconcerting as we meet *Beloved*, or her reincarnation. *Beloved* (Thandie Newton) enters and exits the movie mysteriously and leaves an unsettling trail of terror and confusion following her. She is beautiful in an eerie way, with huge, expressionless black eyes and wild dark hair. She talks and moves spas-

modally, as if she were a child trapped inside of a young woman's body.

Beloved is discovered propped up against a tree stump snoring loudly, and is adopted into Sethe's family by Sethe's daughter Denver (Kimberly Elise). Sethe and Paul D hesitatingly concede, curious about their mysterious boarder who questions Sethe about her past while seeming to know bits and pieces of it as well. Sethe discovers that *Beloved* is the reincarnation of her dead daughter, complete with the scar on her neck from when



courtesy of Touchstone Pictures
Nurtured by Denver, *Beloved* is soon back on her feet.

Sethe tried to saw her head off. After a period of tranquility that lends hope to the idea of Sethe's life retaining some order amidst her reunited family, ("She's not even mad at me!" whispers a thankful Sethe to Denver as she watches *Beloved* sleeping), the evil with which *Beloved*'s ghost had raged returns.

Beloved ravages the family's dynamics, and more importantly, brings the tough-as-nails Sethe to a mentally ill state from shame and grief over her murderous deed. Simultaneously, Paul D, who was previously unaware of Sethe's homicide, admonishes her. "Your love is too

thick," he whispers. The next day, he does not return. As the family falls into disarray, Denver becomes the head of the household and searches for a job among neighbors who lower their voices and speak in hushed tones about Sethe when she comes near.

Denver is the culmination of her mother's fierce determination to stay in the haunted house because of her desperate attempt to establish roots, and suffers from loneliness as a result of her mother's neglect. Vying for attention from Sethe requires her to compete with *Beloved* and Paul D, and Denver brims with jealousy and frustration.

Amid characters that move and talk slowly, burdened by their haunting memories and sadness, Denver proves to be the most dynamic in the film, as her character grows mature and confident by the end of the movie. Denver leaves her mother's house but still cares for her, thereby claiming her independence while adhering to her roots, an entirely impossible concept in a time when in order to escape the past, one ran away from the present. Denver's character epitomizes all that is hopeful about the film; that one can rise from the pain and still love.

Winfrey kept a journal about her experiences in bringing *Beloved* to the screen, to be published October 16 by Hyperion. In it, she describes her transition from the glamorous, popular Oprah to the stoic, burdened Sethe. Winfrey recounts how she felt when the prosthetic scars were implanted onto her back as wounds from a severe beating, to her own inability to perform simple motherly tasks due to her lack of experience as a mother and being loved by a mother. Toni Morrison watched as the film developed and stated, as quoted by TIME magazine, "They did something I thought they never could: to make the film represent not the abstraction of slavery but the individuals, the domestic qualities and consequences of it."

Those who watch *Beloved* and exit admiring the film have missed the point. Under the direction of Jonathan Demme, also credited with the direction of Philadelphia and The Silence of the Lambs, *Beloved* is meant to involve its viewers, causing them to emerge jolted, with a strange new awareness of sorrow. Otherwise, three hours is too long to watch a movie for its scenic merit or its highly acclaimed actors. *Beloved* reaches far past its era of slavery and grasps its viewers in an unrelenting grip of self-awareness. As Toni Morrison said, "*Beloved* is the You in you."



courtesy of Touchstone Pictures
Sethe's daughter Denver (Kimberly Elise, left), Sethe (Winfrey), and the mysterious young woman who calls herself *Beloved* (Thandie Newton).



Courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Oprah Winfrey, as Sethe, is an iron-willed former slave who must come to terms with her past and with her newly earned freedom.

Members of the Adopt a Bubbie club volunteered to deliver Rosh Hashana packages to homebound senior citizens on the Upper West Side. The holiday package deliveries are conducted several times a year by Dorot, an organization that encourages connections between Jewish senior citizens and younger people.



ARTS

Video Picks

Sima Golden
Staff Writer

The Man in the Iron Mask

The Man in the Iron Mask, a drama based on the novel of the same title, opens with the reign of young, cruel and arrogant King Louis XIV (Leonardo DiCaprio) of France. Louis' people are hungry, and he doesn't care.

The retired Royal Guards of King Louis XIII, the Musketeers, have long since united for combat. Four of the bravest Musketeers—Athos (John Malkovich), now raises his only son, Parthos (Gerard Depardieu) eats and lusts to his heart's content; Aramis (Jeremy Irons), is a priest; and finally D'Artagnon (Gabriel Byrne) still faithfully serves the king.

The "Musks" decide to rejoin as a team to save France from poverty. In order to do so they must free the royal family's dark secret: a mysterious man encased in an iron mask imprisoned for eight years in the Bastille.

The Musketeers journey on a dangerous mission to free the prisoner, the key to a better life for the kingdom.

The movie's story line is captivating, and includes aspects of loyalty, courage, determination and spirit.

The talented cast of actors brings a combination of chivalry and witty charm to the plot. And of course, for DiCaprio's female fans, nothing beats seeing him in double. DiCaprio plays both King Louis XIV and his twin brother, Philippe, the man in the iron mask.

DiCaprio's baby-face, however, does not quite make the cut for king, and he does not appear too comfortable in his men-in-tights costume. He betrays the arrogance of a king with unconvincing royal poses and gestures.

The film's lack of consistent, accurate accents is very evident and annoying throughout the movie. Each of the "Musks" speaks English in a different dialect—none of which is French-hinted. DiCaprio cannot seem to deliver a French brogue in his obviously Californian vernacular.

The unsatisfactory aspects of the movie, though, do not take away from the movie's mood. Our emotions are still jerked with the reincarnated "my hero" genre.

My Giant

My Giant promises Billy Crystal comedy, but turns out to be too mushy. The sentimentality in the movie is unappealing to an

audience that is expecting humor.

Crystal plays Sammy Kamin, a Hollywood talent agent with a mouth that gives Kamin more air than it does clients.

While visiting Romania, Kamin bonds with a seven-foot, shy and lonely boy-turned-monk named Max (George Muresan). Max becomes Sammy's next big talent hope.

Sammy persuades Max to try acting in America, assured that he can reunite monster Max with his long-lost love in California.

As the Of Mice and Men pair slowly and tenderly build a friendship, Sammy begins to realize what truly matters in life. He becomes aware of his strained marriage to his wife (Kathleen Quinlan) the emotionally distant attitude he has fostered towards his son (Zane Carney), and his ultimate desires to make amends. Directed by Michael Lehman, My Giant contains empathetic scenes that make it difficult to laugh for the fun of it. For what it's worth, Steven Seagal makes a surprising appearance as himself in the last twenty minutes of the movie.

All in all, this movie provides its viewers with a reluctant comedic approach to its semi-tasteful plot.

For Richer or Poorer

Unhappily ever after a decade of marriage, Manhattan millionaire couple, Brad and Caroline (Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley) are wanted by the IRS for tax fraud and are fleeing their crook accountant. In desperation, the runaway couple escapes in a stolen New York City cab.

Temporarily outrunning their predators, the snobbish, self-centered pair ends up in an isolated Amish community. Posing as cousins of one Amish family in order to hide from their pursuants and blend into the close-knit community, the sophisticated, wealth-pampered couple are forced to "dress down" and work simple, earth-endearing labors. Until their financial obstacles are settled, the duet must remain in hiding. Ironically enough, this simple, unmaterialistic life helps Brad and Caroline rediscover the chemistry that brought them together in the first place. There is nothing extraordinary about this story; the plot is predictable and the audience still sees Kirstie Alley and Tim Allen as Kirstie Alley and Tim Allen. Nonetheless, they bring their hilarious sitcom skills together and the two-some manages a cutesy-if slightly corny-comedy.

Symphonic Fantastique,

BASIL TWIST'S NEW SHOW



Sarah Cate
Staff Writer

As a filmy piece of white material swirls through the water, other pieces of cloth and glittering strands of tinsel join it, as they seemingly dance freely and in time to the music through the tank of water. Although this may not appear to be a puppet show in the traditional sense of the word, as in zoomorphic or anthropomorphic puppets, Symphonie Fantastique brilliantly uses the visual arts to complement the auditory splendors of Berlioz's symphony.

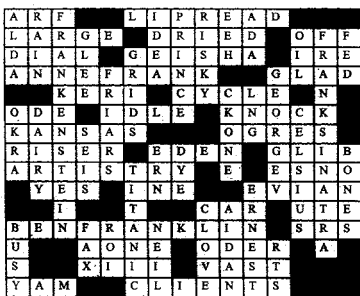
Symphonie Fantastique is the brainchild of master puppeteer Basil Twist, the son of puppeteers from California. He has interpreted Berlioz's work of the same name, using the abstract puppets as representations of the inspirational story behind the symphony. Berlioz wrote most of the symphony in three weeks, inspired by his love for a beautiful Irish actress, whom he had seen perform the role of Ophelia in *Othello*, at the *Odeon Theatre* in Paris.

With *Symphonie Fantastique*, Twist has taken the art of puppetry to a new plane, where the passion of music can be communicated through visual images. As the music increases in intensity, so do the images in the fish tank. A brilliant succession of feathers, polystyrene tubes, fabrics and lights combine to make the show an unforgettably rich visual experience. A particularly graceful scene in the show features three ostrich feathers that are reminiscent of angelfish in their grace as they flow and circle each other in the water, following the tranquil tone of the music.

Twist is a third generation puppeteer, a native of San Francisco, California. He graduated in 1993 from the elite *Ecole Supérieure Nationale de Arts de la Marionette*, in Charleville-Mameziers, France, and is the only American to have been accepted into its three year training program. One of his other shows, the *Araneidae Show* and *Other Pieces* was included in the 1996 International Festival of Puppetry at the *Papp Public Theatre*. He is also the recipient of a 1997 *Bessie Award* for the *Araneidae Show*, and a 1998 *Drama Desk* nominee for his collaboration on *Theater Couture's Tell Tale*.

"Here," the performance space showing Twist's work, was started in 1993, by *Barbara Busackino*, *Kristin Marting*, and *Randy Rollison*, in an attempt to pool their resources to support the work of a selection of resident companies and independent artists. Here hosts two performance spaces, a gallery, and a small cafe. A former mattress warehouse, Here has been transformed into a welcoming theatre for artists like *Basil Twist* and has presented a variety of theatrical works, among them *Kim Coles' Homework* and *Lucy Wang's Junk Bonds*.

Here is located at 145 Sixth Avenue, between Spring and Broome Streets, and on the corner of *Dominick Street*. Tickets, ranging from \$10 rush tickets to \$50 patron tickets, can be purchased by calling (212) 647-0202.



Union members not all pleased with settlement

continued from page 10 gency plan in the event of a strike, but would not comment as to what the plan entailed.

Knight speculated that the University has replacement workers ready if a strike should occur.

Union members on the YC, SCW and Cardozo campuses elected campus-specific union delegates to represent them throughout the contract period. These delegates, along with 1199 administrators, that include Vasquez, Silva, Laura Bylander, Contract Coordinator and George Gersham, Executive Vice President of Contracts, negotiate with YU's administration.

The three delegates elected by SCW union workers are Barret, Clark and Eddie Valle.

The delegates present the contract proposal to the

members and ask them to vote for or against ratification. This year, confusion ensued at the Main Campus when the delegates discovered that the non-English speaking Hispanic members thought they voted for a strike rather than for the contract, said Barret. The original 85 to 85 vote was discarded and a second, 117 to 48 tally was taken.

"I believe the votes were tampered with," said Josephine Isaac, a secretary at SCW's Dean's Office. The ballots were "supposed to be translated in both languages," she added.

An additional five votes from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine taken over the phone were disqualified after those members decided to change their vote, said Barret.

"We could've gotten more [no votes] if we were more unified," said Barret. "We did what we could."

Negotiators for the YU throughout the proceedings included Bodner; SCW Dean Karen Bacon; Sheldon Gelman, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Pearl Berger, Dean of Libraries; Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services; Mike Sperling, Human Resources Manager; John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management; Don Sommers, Chief of Security; Art Myers, Director of MIS and Academic Computing; Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services; and Rosen.

ARTS

One Truly Exceptional Film

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

The minute she appears, clad in a blue and white gingham dress a la Dorothy of The Wizard of Oz, complete with pigtailed braids and shiny red shoes, the audience is prepared to write off Kate Gulden (played by Meryl Streep) as the ditsy mother. Apparently so is her daughter, Ellen (Renee Zellweger), who can barely contain her eyes from rolling. It is only when Ellen is forced to take a hiatus from her glamorous job at a prestigious New York City magazine and move back home to care for her now ailing mother that Streep's true character emerges.

Ellen's father, George (William Hurt), the illustrious college professor of American Literature and aspiring novelist, is the one man whom she has always admired with devout reverence. Always her father's daughter, she longs to please him and seeks his criticism, which he doles out with a heavy hand. Ellen sees her mother as a somewhat shallow homemaker with no substantial ambitions. Following her father's orders she reluctantly takes on the position of primary caretaker to her mother who, though she deteriorates in body, shines in spirit.

as they are, without the disillusioning fantasies that protected her as a child. While George escapes in his inability to deal with the reality of the disease that is destroying his wife, Kate remains a staunch example of kindness and love and revels in life's simple pleasures. Some of the most beautiful moments in the film are seen through Kate's eyes even when she is encumbered by pain: a crisp autumn evening bordered by brightly colored leaves, a haunted house on Halloween. Kate struggles to stay one step ahead of the cancer that has invaded her body by doing the things that she loves; planning community events with her ladies club, visiting a lonely friend and running her household. Most importantly, she connects with her daughter on an adult level and for the first time Ellen is able to see her mother as a wise and strong woman whose abilities and actions far exceed her expectations.

Based on the novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anna Quindlen, *One True Thing* is a story that is very personal yet at the same time completely universal. Director, Carl Franklin has created a film that is so touching and emotionally charged, without being sappy, that crying is inevitable. Beautifully written with remarkably

Coming home challenges Ellen's notions about the nature and personalities of her parents. She now sees her parents

real dialogue and superb acting, *One True Thing* is a story for all mothers and daughters of this generation.

Two-time Academy Award winner Meryl Streep should make room on her shelf for a third. Her maternal portrayal of Kate Gulden is awe-inspiring. Streep has brought Kate to life both physically and emotionally as a multi-faceted and extremely interesting woman who is a loving wife, mother, friend and mentor to all. Renee Zellweger, personifying perhaps the most pivotal character in the film, plays Ellen as the caffeine guzzling, fiercely ambitious daughter with rare talent. William Hurt and Tom Everett Scott (who plays the Gulden's son, Brian) embody their roles brilliantly, merging with Streep's Kate and Zellweger's Ellen to create a family in crisis.



Courtesy of Universal Studios Productions
Ellen Gulden returns home to find out her parents aren't the people she thought they were.

Book Review: Bag of Bones

Stephanie Sherman
Staff Writer

Stephen King's newest novel, *Bag of Bones*, is intended to appeal to those people who have not yet read—or did not enjoy—his previous books. While most of King's earlier novels have been strictly defined as belonging to the horror genre, *Bag of Bones* is almost more of a love story. Similar to *The Shining* (1977) and *Misery* (1987), a writer is cast as the main character; this time, however, King uses this forum as an opportunity for refreshing introspection on the writer's part.

"Bag of Bones" is the fictional memoir of a writer, Michael Noonan. Since the sudden death of his wife Johanna four years ago, he has plunged into despair and self-doubt. Not only is he unable to shake his feelings of loss, but he also finds himself hampered by writer's block. Too ashamed to tell anyone what he is going through, he decides to escape to his summer house, having stayed away from there ever since Johanna's death. The summer house is in King's favorite location, Maine, and old fans may notice his mention of a recurring character or two.

When Noonan decides to return to the summer house called Sara Laughs, he becomes haunted by dreams of the old house. The house is named after a fictional folk singer, Sara Tidwell, whose music was popular in the small town of Maine in the early twentieth century. Noonan's dreams continue even as he is in the house, becoming more vivid and frightening. Other strange things begin happening as well: refrigerator magnets move around to spell words, voices call out in the night,

and words are being written in bags of flour that something—or someone—has spilled onto the kitchen counter. Noonan believes these messages are being left by the ghost of his wife, who apparently is trying to tell him something, although he cannot figure out what it may be.

As if that weren't enough, through a twist of fate, Noonan becomes involved in a custody battle between an aging millionaire, Max Devore, and his widowed daughter-in-law, Mattie. Through ghostly messages he is receiving from the house, Noonan becomes convinced that Johanna wants him to help the young woman keep her toddler, Kira, from the hands of the old man, a character who almost comically fills the stereotype of an evil old millionaire.

While these private battles are being fought, Noonan begins researching a larger issue, that of an incident that occurred almost a hundred years before: why does it seem that Sara Tidwell and her group were driven away from this small town? By asking probing questions which begin to anger the inhabitants of the town (who, incidentally, seem to have been bought off by Max Devore) Noonan discovers that Sara's son may have drowned in the lake near Sara Laughs, and another child from the Tidwell group may also have died unexpectedly. Noonan believes that it was these incidents which have led to the haunting of the house, and they are the cause of the strange noises he hears at night.

For reasons left unclear, Noonan is able to enter a trance-like state which he calls "the zone", enabling him to communicate telepathically with Mattie and Kira, and to discover the reason Sara and her group truly left the

area. Not surprisingly, Max Devore's great-grandfather—as well as many ancestors of the town's inhabitants—played a large part in it.

Noonan quotes a professor of his as saying that even the most well-written character in a novel is nothing but a 'bag of bones.' Unfortunately, the characters of Max Devore and of his 'partner in crime' Rogette Whitmore prove this, mainly because they are not drawn all that well. On the other hand Michael and Johanna Noonan are both very well-written and multi-faceted. This is a rather light criticism; however, because King's always remarkable storytelling ability rises above the characters, and the reader becomes engrossed in their lives almost immediately.

This is one of his best works, exploring a side of King more commonly seen in his short stories or novellas like Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption or Stand by Me. Much of the gore is foregone in favor of the telling of the story, and it is enshrouded by a sense of mystery rather than horror.

Bag of Bones is a definite "must-read" for King fans and a worthwhile attempt for anyone who has not yet experienced the genius in his writing.

Bag of Bones

By Stephen King

Scribner: 530 pp.,

\$27.50

Elections for Freshman class boards and Sophomore class Vice President were held before the holidays. The following students won:

FRESHMAN CLASS

Rashka Balarky - President

Susanne Goldstone - Vice President

Abby Weiss - Secretary

Ami Flatt - Treasurer

SOPHOMORE:

Shira Greenfest - Vice President

Congratulations to all the winners!

SPORTS

Last Minute Resignation Results in New Swimming Instructor

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

SCW's aquatic program has hired Ms. Mimi Schechter as its new instructor for the 1998-1999 academic year following the resignation of last year's coach, Dr. Judy Cohen.

"Dr. Judy Cohen resigned at the last minute, no more than a week or two before school started, for personal reasons," said Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics. "Luckily, we got Mimi Schechter, who has a world of experience and comes highly recommended."

Schechter is a certified lifeguard (LGT) as well as a water safety instructor (WSI) for both handicapped and non-handicapped students. She serves as SCW's academic advisor as well.

"This is my first year teaching here, but I've been teaching swimming for over 25 years, both privately and at Camp Moshava," said Schechter.

"When the previous swimming teacher left, I was asked if I was interested or if I knew someone who would be, since I am involved in the camp scene," said Schechter. "I love teaching adults to swim," she said. It is "just a fun thing to do."

A certified lifeguard in addition to Schechter is present at all swim times.

The current swim course meets

Monday evenings 6:30-8:00, and is followed by a two-hour recreational swim, open to all SCW and SSSB students. Classes are located at 5 West 93rd Street, in the Columbia Grammar and Prep School building.

YU avails transport students to and from Columbia Grammar and Prep school and the SCW dormitories.

This year's swim program differs from last year's in that "the class, listed as 'Learn to Swim' instead of 'Swimming' as it was last year, was intended for non-swimmers who wanted to learn," said Zerneck.

Approximately ten to fifteen beginning, intermediary and advanced swimmers currently comprise the class, although the advanced swimmers and potential swim team members are asked to come to recreational swim instead, said Zerneck.

Originally, the Department of Athletics designed the Fall '98 course exclusively for beginners. They intended to offer an advanced swimming class in the spring of '99, but "that didn't work, so we will be teaching both elementary swimming and stroke perfection at the same time," said Zerneck.

Schechter feels that her class "is an opportunity for people to learn to swim, and for us to help people overcome their fears of swimming." She finds the class to

be "a warm and supportive environment" in which to learn.

Yehudis Borenstein, SCW '99, is enrolled in the swimming class. "I am one of very few beginners in the class, but that's fine. I liked it and hope to learn to swim. I plan to stay in the class even though the majority of the class appears to be advanced and seemed to want recreational swim," she said.

Borenstein said that she found the individualized instruction "very helpful," and that she "learned to float at the first class, which was a milestone for me."

"There are not a lot of opportunities for girls to take classes with both separate swimming and individual attention," she said. Schechter is available to teach students during both sessions, and students have use of the facility's aquatic equipment.

Zerneck recognizes the inconveniences involved in SCW's swimming arrangement. "It is difficult that we don't have our own pool and it is difficult to find a closer pool, especially because we can't have a co-ed situation," he said.

Despite that, "our goal is to build aquatic programs as best we can with the limitations we have. In a perfect world every Stern woman would graduate having learned to swim; it's not a perfect world, so we'll teach as many as possible," he said.

Miriam Grossman, SCW 2000,

enrolled in the course late. "Under Judy the program was flexible in terms of making up class hours during recreational time, but some students took advantage" of the lessons, she said.

Schechter would like to "make a more serious class this year."

Grossman attends recreational swim this year as well, although she hopes that use of a closer facility will be arranged since "the [Columbia Grammar] pool is at least twenty minutes away." She points out that on Columbia Grammar school holidays, school workers "forget to turn on the lights in the locker room and bathroom and we can't turn them on either. There is only one changing and showering area so men have tried to come in after playing basketball in the gym. We need separate facilities due to these modesty problems."

Grossman added that she thinks that students are "interested in classes on more levels, including certification."

Zerneck proposed that SCW will "continue intramural competition during recreational time," and added that "several women are organizing a competitive swim club," as well.

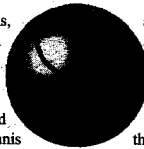
He himself is "hopeful that the swimming program will continue to grow" and is "excited that Mimi Schechter will bring a new perspective" to SCW swimming.

Varsity Teams Prepare for the New Season

SARAH CATE
Staff Writer

As the 1998-1999 academic year begins, SCW's three varsity teams begin their promising season as well. The three varsity teams are tennis, fencing, and basketball. The tennis team, which has twice as many matches scheduled for this year as last year, has already won 4 out of its 4 matches. The tennis team practices at the Midtown Tennis Club, and is coached by Evan Goldstein. Deena Weintraub, SCW '01, a member of the tennis team, said that "being part of the team is a great experience, and the coach really encourages team spirit."

The fencing team, coached by Josie Fusco, will have home matches for the first time this year. This is the only team to practice in the gym of the main SCW building. Yael Harris, SCW '00, who was on the team last semester, praised Ms. Fusco for encour-



aging the team members to do well for their own sake as well as for SCW.

Harris added that "Fencing is neat because it's not a common sport, and when people hear that you are a fencer, they think that it is really original." The team is currently looking for more athletes to join.

The basketball team, otherwise known as the Lady Macs, has a match scheduled for November 22. Practices are held at Basketball City, located in the Chelsea Piers Sports Complex on West 23rd Street. Dr. Karen Green coaches the Lady Macs.

Despite rumors to the contrary last year, there will not be a volleyball team this year. According to Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics at Yeshiva University, the volleyball class was canceled, due to the lack of an instructor.

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