



Observer

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Campus Conversations

INSIDE:



Dr. Norman Lamm spoke at SCW for Campus Conversations.

RACHEL ELBAUM
Staff Writer

Sixty students gathered with their friends in Koch Auditorium on the night of November 9 to participate in Campus Conversations, Stern College for Women's biannual forum led by YU President and Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm. Campus Conversations offers students the opportunity to meet with Dr. Lamm and discuss pre-selected issues. On this occasion, his wife accompanied him to SCW to meet with students. This semester's designated topic was "Authenticity in Judaism."

Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students, began the event by introducing both Dr. Lamm and the topic. Dr. Lamm addressed questions chosen by the SCWSC executive board, in conjunction with the TAC and SSSBSC boards.

Dr. Lamm, who interspersed his words of Torah and *hashkafa* with witty remarks and humorous tales, began by

addressing the first of three questions: "How can Orthodox people do inappropriate things and still claim to be religious?" He quoted a statement from the gemarah that everyone speaks *lashon hara*, the most common sin. A religious person, however, will feel guilt and/or shame for committing this or any other sin, and someone who does not experience this guilt is ultimately not religious. Dr. Lamm said the challenge for many Orthodox Jews is making actions consistent with beliefs.

Dr. Lamm then discussed appropriate reactions to people who act improperly. He said that while it is good to be judgmental, "judgement must be tempered with understanding."

The second question discussed was "Does what you wear signify your level of religiosity?" The first words out of Dr. Lamm's mouth in response to this question were "No way!" He said, "Orthodoxy is suffocated by externalities." He explained that people today are obsessed with externalities at

see conversations, page 12

Judith Miller's lecture about Islamic militancy
page 3

Con artist targets SCW students
page 4

Speech pathology gets certified
page 6

Cell phones in SCW classrooms
page 12

Cultural arts interview with Adam Sandler about his new movie
page 15

SCW Tennis team undefeated
page 16

Food Services Responds

Observer Article Leads to Improvements

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

Several changes have been instituted by the Department of Food Services in an effort to improve the overcrowding in the cafeteria since the Observer reported on this problem last month. Food Service workers said the some of these developments were in response to the Observer article.

Additional seating was added to the International Café eating area in Koch Auditorium, now offering seating for over 100 students. The tuna wraps are made before the Café opens so that students can choose a sandwich without delaying the students in line while a sandwich is made to order. According to a food service worker, this creates a little more pressure before the Café opens, but relieves some of it later in the day as the line moves faster. Students responded positively to the signs inviting them to "Come visit the newly expanded International Café." Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services said, "I was there twice this week, and every seat was taken, so fewer people are downstairs."

Besides encouraging students to take advantage of the International Café, efforts taken downstairs have lessened

crowding somewhat in the basement cafeteria. Signs posted at the cafeteria entrance remind students to have their dining cards ready before they reach the cashiers. The daily menu is posted there as well to enable students to make meal choices before reaching the front of the line. In addition, Shabbat tickets are now sold only between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., 12:00-12:45 p.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. These times were chosen because they are usually not very busy. During other times, Mr. Singer, SCW Manager of Food Services, is available to sell tickets or students may buy tickets directly from the cashiers if lines are short. Lieberman and Singer said that club hour, usually an especially busy time, was quiet during the first week after the changes were made.

In terms of general overcrowding, Lieberman is doing the best he can in "the confines that we have here. There is no way to move the walls." He will no longer reserve tables for faculty meetings because "to me, students are the priority. I hate to take up the space of students." Two stanchions (a type of post) have been placed in the ordering and paying area of the main cafeteria in order to divide the line into two and make things run more smoothly and efficiently. One cafeteria worker, however, stated that the stan-

see food, page 13

Library Inconveniences Students

CHANA ROSENBLATT
Staff Writer

In the Hedi Steinberg library, located on the second floor of the Midtown Center, several SCW students sat with frustrated looks on their faces. One student said that "all the girls sitting next to me are talking. It wouldn't bother me if they whispered," she said, "but their voices rise, and invariably, I lose my concentration."

Concern raised by students' in regard to this issue was directed not only at noisy peers, but also at several librarians. Sarah Cate, SCW '01, said that sometimes librarians speak so loudly that they distract students from being able to concentrate on their work. "The library staff speak loudly on the phone and disregard the fact that students are in the library in order to work in silence," she said.

Head Librarian, Professor Edith Lubetski, responded to these statements and explained that, "just as students need to be quiet, so do the librarians. There is no excuse for their behavior other than that they are human," she said, "and occasionally, they may forget to keep their voices down," she said.

Students have also voiced concerns about the difficulties involved in attaining assigned readings that professors put on reserve. Faculty members request that the library staff put books and articles of limited quantity on reserve for their students. Each student is allotted two hours to

make use of reserved material. Estee Sandler, SCW '01, said that often, "teachers assign readings to a class with dozens of girls, to be read for the next week. When there are so many girls and only two or three copies of the information, it's impossible to gain access to them," she said.

Replying to such charges, Lubetski asserted that members of the library staff try their best to prepare a sufficient number of copies, comparable to the number of students registered for each individual class. "If we realize that more copies are needed to serve students' needs," she said, "then we do our best to adjust that number and thereby correct the matter." Lubetski suggested that often an article may be missing from a reserve box as a result of a lack of cooperation on the part of students who use the material and don't return all of it.

Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies, said that the library should have multiple copies of reserve materials that are used by many students. "The number of copies should reflect the number of students making use of the material," he said.

Anita Silvers, SSSB '01, said that even when necessary materials are available, it often takes an incredible amount of time to photocopy the information, because "there are only two machines for over eight hundred girls."

Lubetski responded and said, "Students have two hours with the material."

see library, page 7

observer VIEWS

The Observer

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opinion

Shabbat at SCW: Complaint and Response

The Shabbat program at SCW has come a long way. In the past few years, the program has expanded from being a once or twice-a-month event to a weekly occurrence. In previous years, students would sign up for a Shabbaton, and if not enough other students stayed in, they would find themselves eating cold chicken in the Brookdale lounge because the Shabbaton was cancelled. Last year for the first time, a Shabbaton was held almost every single Shabbat of the school year. Students who stay in have created their own Shabbat

community, which grows every year and includes a broad spectrum of students.

But this success has also created its own problems. YC students who were brought in to make a minyan in previous years were given accommodations in nearby hotels at the expense of the school. This year, it has been much harder to accommodate these students, and often they are housed in unoccupied apartments that the school rents. In some cases, the male students must bring their own linens with them to stay in the apartments.

The school's administration has been responsive to this problem (by purchasing linens for guest to use) and others, but sometimes only after being spurred to action by constant student complaints. When Nir Salomon, the Shabbat intern rabbi, voiced concerns to administrators about Shabbat housing recently, there were misunderstandings on both sides about the nature of the Shabbat program. After several students spoke up in agreement with Salomon's complaints,

some changes were quickly instituted.

The new popularity of the Shabbat program does not mean that it is without flaws. Like any evolving entity, there are constantly new issues that must be addressed by the program's organizers.

The administration is advised not to forget that the Shabbat Enhancement Program is primarily for the benefit of SCW students. As complications arise in organizing Shabbatonim, they should remember that the point of the program is to create a Shabbat atmosphere on campus for SCW students. Both Salomon and the administration acted in good faith to correct the misunderstandings between them. In the future, the administration should understand the immediacy of student concerns about Shabbat and act on them before they provoke student frustration.

editorial

Mixed Response from Food Services

In reaction to a front-page article in the last issue of the Observer, the Food Services Department has instituted some changes. Some of the changes are positive, like the expansion of the International Café in Koch Auditorium to seat more students. The upcoming installation of a new cash register in the main cafeteria should also speed up the movement of lines. These changes aren't absolute solutions, but they are evidence that the Department of Food Services is responding to student needs.

Unfortunately, the most immediate

changes do more to aggravate the student body than to alleviate the long lines and overcrowding. New signs admonish students to have their dining cards ready when they approach the cash registers. When students sign up for Shabbat now, they must remember to do so only during certain hours, unless they approach Mr. Singer, the cafeteria manager, to buy a ticket from him. While this prevents some congestion, it is doubtful that the process of signing up for Shabbat makes that much of an impact on the lines. These measures only seem to shift blame from Food Services to the dissatisfied students.

If Food Services is unwilling to rescind this latest decree, it should instead provide more opportunities for students to sign up for Shabbat. Meal tickets could be sold in the International Café in Koch Auditorium when lines there are not too long, or students could purchase meal tickets from Milner's Mart or the Schottenstein Convenience Store.

The recent changes in food services have shown the student body that the administration is listening to their complaints. It is hoped that they will continue to listen to student needs without placing blame on the students themselves.

Students Upset About Shabbos Program

Several students responded in writing to the informal resignation of Shabbat Enhancement Rabbi Nir Salomon. On November 7, Salomon announced that he would not return to SCW for future Shabbatons, because of frustrations with the Shabbat program. Since then, some arrangements have been made with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Services and Salomon has continued serving the SCW community.

letter to the editor

I am writing regarding the Shabbos program at Stern. As someone who stays in almost every Shabbos, I want it to be known how dynamic Rabbi Nir Salomon and his wife Lee-at are, and how much they enhance the Shabbos program.

When listening to Rabbi Salomon's shiurim, it is obvious that much time and effort has gone into his preparations. Even though they are only here on Shabbos, their enthusiasm stays with us during the week.

Rabbi Salomon's interest in Stern is not limited to his Shabbos involvement. He takes a special interest in knowing the activities being held at Stern and the surrounding area during the week and he encourages students to attend. He

also adds little "extras" to Shabbos such as giving a 20 minute "chaburah b'tefila" before Mincha and reminds us after Havdalah not to miss the mitzvah of putting the siddurim away.

Lee-at Salomon's adds her own specialness to Shabbos at Stern. We at Stern relate to her as a former student, who we remember having spent her own countless Shabbasim here. Her vivacious personality and bright smile make her a great person to talk to.

Although I have stayed in many times in past years, this year is something special. It exceeds my expectations of how a great Shabbos program could be.

Abigail Sasnowitz, SSSB '99

letter to the editor

As an out of town student - and a Resident Assistant, I am of a minority group of students at Stern that frequently needs to stay in for Shabbat.

As I was in this past Shabbat, on RA duty, I heard the announcement that Rabbi Nir Salomon will not be returning for future Shabbatons as our Shabbat Rabbi. Rabbi Salomon has made the required Shabbat that I stay in for much more enjoyable by the fact that he really cares about what he does.

It is not OK to just let him slip away and make Shabbat at Stern an undesirable place to be. I think we should consider the out-of-town, the RA's and all the

others who stay at Stern for Shabbat. Not everyone in YU lives in the tri-state area and has the advantage of being able to go home every Shabbat.

By making Shabbat so enjoyable, Rabbi Salomon has shown that he realizes this fact. It is a real shame that he feels he is unable to keep doing the wonderful job he has been doing at Stern.

As an out-of-town student, I must speak up and say it is about time that out-of-town students are taken more into consideration, and things like this discontinue to happen in YU.

Alyssa Shulman, SCW '99

More letters on pages 6 & 15

Potential for Peace and Fear for the Future



susan jacobson

columnist

The Knesset voted last week to approve the Wye Plantation peace agreement which completes the cycle of peace negotiations begun more than five years ago in Oslo, Sweden under the leadership of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. It is the final step in an arduous process that at times seemed unlikely to end.

The prospect of peace should be a happy time. But, as the New York Times reported on Wednesday, November 18, this is not a time of joy for Israel. At best, it is a time of resignation. With ongoing terrorist attacks, the Israeli people have

good reason to doubt that a real peace will be achieved in the immediate future. The reality of giving away land to the Palestinians, and the likely establishment of an autonomous Palestinian state, has long been a dreaded outcome of the process. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, despite campaign promises that he would not give land away, realized that he had to fulfill Israel's role in the Oslo agreement.

In the last several years there have been unceasing arguments both for and against the policy of "land for peace." Both sides claimed to be the only possible solution to the Israeli/Palestinian crisis. Both sides played heavily on the fears of Israelis and American Jewish supporters of Israel.

When New York Times reporter Judith Miller spoke recently at SCW, she shed some light on the political rhetoric of

the peace process. What she showed, above all else, is that the issues of land, security and peace cannot be reduced to mere slogans or demonstrations of patriotism and solidarity. The issues are much too complex for that. She emphasized that, in a region where Islamic militancy is increasing, most of the Arab population does not agree with terrorism. While terrorist attacks receive press coverage because of their danger and immediacy, the economic struggles of average Palestinians are rarely covered. She contends that most of the Palestinian population would be happier if a real peace could be achieved that would improve their quality of life.

Miller also recognized the inevitability of more terrorist attacks designed to destroy the peace process. "But it might be more dangerous to do nothing than to act," she said. The process

of establishing peace is painful, and it happens very slowly.

The Times quoted Netanyahu's reaction to the signing of the peace agreement. "As opposed to others, we don't have any illusions," he said. "We don't believe in a new Middle East, and we did not return from Wye with a promise that a new sun would shine or that there would be a sudden end to 100 years of conflict."

Years from now we will be able to look back with greater clarity on the events of these days. We will know then if it was truly for the best. Until then, we can only watch as these dramatic events unfold, hoping that the future will be better than the present.

Kristallnacht Revisited



ayelet grun

executive editor

Growing up, it amazed me when children my age informed me that none of their relatives died in the Holocaust. I gaped in wonder when Jews told me that their families never saw Europe during the Nazi heyday. For better or worse, I assumed that like me, everyone had a great uncle with numbers tattooed on his arm and a grandmother saved by Schindler.

Most of my family died in the

Holocaust. If it wasn't for the grace of G-D, some Polish Catholics and a lot of Jewish courage, I would not be here today. And neither my grandparents or my parents generation will let me forget that. They taught me and my sisters the importance of respecting and propagating the memories of those that perished.

Nevertheless, days such as Kristallnacht and *Yom HaShoah* that commemorate the Holocaust, do not have the desired effect on me. I find the programs made for those days repetitive and incessantly morbid. Personally, I am sick of hearing Holocaust stories, seeing the same ghastly images over and over in videos and reading "I Never Saw Another Butterfly". I know what happened between

1933 and 1945-there is no need to remind me. I live with it day after day.

I guess what really bothers me is the emphasis these days take. It scares me to think that to compensate for the fear of forgetting the dead, schools and museum benefactors get so caught up in their programs that they forget the living. They are right when they say that the Holocaust and its atrocities should be mentioned and commemorated. Their focus, however, should be on using the Holocaust to project a positive Jewish image for the future, rather than obsess over injustice and savagery committed in the past.

Today, there are too many children being raised in homes with little or no Jewish heritage. And while it is important for these children to realize the cruelty their ancestors faced, they should not get the impression that Judaism equals persecution. They should not feel that being a

Jew means being oppressed.

Unfortunately, our people did suffer. Yet it is the job of educators and patrons who care about remembering the Holocaust to emphasize that there is more to our heritage than blood. We are a unique people who persevere and achieve success, even in the face of adversity. We have an ideology and goals that make us proud to do what we do. Our beliefs, not our cemeteries, make us who we are.

I should like to think that my relatives did not give their lives so that fifty years later their nation can wallow in self pity twice or three times a year. I think they would prefer if the days of Kristallnacht and *Yom HaShoah* were used as a springboard to recall what they died for. That, as opposed to how they were murdered, merits a good program.

TAC Shiurim Reaching Out

Lectures Geared to Appeal to a Range of Backgrounds

RACHEL GENACK
Staff Writer

One program run by the Torah Activities Council (TAC) in SCW that draws a lot of attention is the Torah Lectures Program or, the Shiurim Committee. The walls and bulletin boards of both the Midtown Center and the residence halls are frequently dotted with colorful flyers announcing upcoming speakers and lectures. However, the *shiurim* run by TAC throughout the school year have traditionally been regarded as being directed to only a specified audience. Elishava Ginsburg, SCW '99, head of the TAC Shiurim Committee notices that due to textual skills necessary to understand and actively participate in a *shiur*, the main attendees have usually been from the advanced level Judaic Studies track in SCW.

Ginsburg and co-head Shoshana Klein, SCW '99, are trying to extend and diversify the Torah lectures this year. "There is a whole group of students that is not being addressed enough by

TAC *shiurim*," said Ginsburg. She and Klein are interested in changing the image that *shiurim* are only directed to one level.

"In the next two months," said Klein, "*Shiurim* will be geared towards beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels so everyone can enjoy. [The *shiurim*] will not be so textual, mostly cognitive and conceptual, but still on a high intellectual level."

One such featured speaker is Rabbi Asher Wade, a priest who converted to Judaism. Rabbi Daniel Mechanic will discuss and advance the "Discovery" program of Aish HaTorah, and Chava Willig Levy will speak about "a bucket full of miracles."

The idea to have Rabbi Wade come to SCW as a different type of speaker was initiated by SCW student Shiri Vardi, SCW '00. Vardi noticed that while there were a lot of *shiurim* presented by TAC, it was difficult for a student on the intermediate level to participate due to the lack of textual skills. "You don't need a yeshiva background to appreciate Rabbi Wade,"

said Vardi. "There should be more *shiurim* like this." Ginsburg and Klein hope that wider participation in the *shiurim* will encourage more student-initiated ideas that will help TAC *shiurim* reach all levels.

TAC President Zemira Baron, SCW '00, is excited about the new developments. "As an organization that represents the entire student body," said Baron, "I feel it is the responsibility of TAC to offer different types and levels of *shiurim*. I hope this will encourage all students to increase their Torah studies."

Ginsburg and Klein are extending the *shiurim* to a wider audience as well through presenting various different viewpoints and hashkafot. The combination of the non-textual *shiurim*, the current "Rosh Yeshiva Series" and addresses from various teachers from Israel are intended to capture a diversified audience. Klein explained, "the point of getting such a wide range of speakers is so that each person can attend a Torah lecture that appeals to them."

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Several SCW Students Victim to Manhattan Con Artist

AYELET GRUN
Executive Editor

In a series of separate incidents involving a middle aged man claiming to be an Israeli, several SCW students fell prey to a scam in which the man promised to repay the students for any money they would lend him. The amount given varied, in one case totalling \$300.

In most of the cases reported this year, the alleged swindler approached the student, telling her that he was in a desperate need for money. Showing an Israeli passport to prove his authenticity, the man insisted that he needed the money right away, and that, although he had an Israeli credit card, he could not use it in New York City. In one case, he claimed he needed the money to pay for his hotel room and in another he said that he needed cab fare. In a third incident the man said

he needed the money to pay for his overweight luggage.

If the students told the man they had no money on them, he directed them to an ATM machine so they could retrieve the money for him. He wrote down the students' names and addresses and promised to repay the money the next day via money order or Express Mail.

Students reported that the man looked like a tourist—dressed in jeans and an open shirt. He looked to be in his 30's or 40's, medium build, about 5'6 with brown hair and no glasses. He spoke to the students with both a heavy accented English and perfect Hebrew. He wore no *kippa*, but told the students that he observed Shabbat.

Although most of the students were wary of the man at first, they were convinced by his insistence for help. "I've been trained—when you walk on the street in New York, you don't talk to a stranger," said Rivka Gertler, SCW '99. Despite her suspicions, after talking to the man and

seeing his passport, she thought that he was "authentic."

"You're taught that if someone needs help, you help him," said Miriam, SCW '99, another victim. "How big of a *mitzvah* is that." Such people, who lie to get money, are "attacking your sense of good faith and moral upbringing," said John Gorman, Assistant Director of Security at Yeshiva University.

When, after several days or weeks, the students realized that they were scammed, they reported the incident to SCW security. Signs were posted throughout the Midtown Center and in the BH and SH dormitories to warn others. More students came forward after the signs were posted.

Security officials questioned the students as to the details of the incidents and brought them to New York City police to file an official report. While they said that they met the swindler in the Midtown area, Gorman noted that he probably hits

other areas in New York City as well. "He's a salesman, that's all he is, an opportunist," he said. Gorman added that these incidents are "one of many scams in the city" and that each con artist modifies his/her story to fit the area and victim he/she is working in.

Because the victims give the scammer the money out of their own will, the con artist can not be arrested on theft charges. Gorman noted that while the scammer can be prosecuted for "fraudulent accounting", it is "very difficult to prove."

Education and awareness is the key to avoiding incidents like this in the future, said Gorman. He urged students to take note of a potential scammer and report the details to New York City police and YU security.

New York City Detective Thomas Egan, the person assigned to this case, would not comment.

Judith Miller Delivers Epstein Lecture

DEE DEE LAX
Staff Writer

New York Times reporter Judith Miller addressed the audience in Koch Auditorium with an unexpected stand towards the militant Middle East. The November 11 lecture was the annual event for the Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts.

Miller opened her address by quoting from an article published in the New York Times about Iraq's failure to comply with United Nations inspections teams. The contents of the article resemble the present situation in the Middle East. However, Miller announced that in fact the article was printed in 1990 and not 1998. This demonstrated the persistence of crises in the Middle East. She humorously stated that "covering the Middle East is like being an extra in [the movie] Groundhog Day" because issues are so repetitive. However, she seriously remarked that the persistent crisis worries her not only as an American but also as a reporter.

Miller said that she believes some sort of military strike against Iraq will occur shortly. She referred to Iraq as emblematic of bad political leadership in the region, but said Saddam Hussein's leadership is a lesser threat than Islamic militancy. Miller emphasized that religion based Islam is one of the "most powerful emotional forces that stand for justice and human rights." The radical minority that wants to replace its countries' leaders in order to achieve power is a threat. She made a clear distinction between the religion of Islam and Islamic militancy which distorts the religion's guiding principles. Miller said these militants are not focused mainly on the destruction of Israel, but rather on changing the political leadership in various Arab countries.

Miller explained that in Middle Eastern countries, the mosque is a refuge, a place the government can not enter, which has contributed to the growth in political

movements rooted in Islam. Miller explained that the strongest force behind political change in the Middle East is economics. Sixty percent of the Middle East population is under twenty years of age, and this group is frustrated by economic stagnation. Its members want change, and want to replace those in power in their own countries.

However, Miller believes that the Islamic Holy War will not be successful due to discrimination among three groups: women, minorities and intellectuals. Women are discriminated against in some countries to the point where two women's court testimony is equal one man's testimony, said Miller. In some regions, women cannot work with men at all. In nations where Islamic militancy has prevailed, minorities are extremely oppressed. Intellectuals also suffer in these regions. They live in an intellectually stifling environment and are forced to move elsewhere.

Miller reminded her audience that if America were to bomb the Middle East, resentment would occur, stirring much controversy. As a reporter, Miller said Americans must remember that there are many casualties in war since force equals dead bodies. This must be a consideration when deciding how to confront the Middle East crisis. She concluded by wishing President Clinton well on making the complicated decision as to how to react to the Middle East. She assured students that she is glad to be a reporter and "stand on the sidelines, pack my bags, and take my visa."

Some students found Miller's stand on the Middle East to be courageous. Dina Gielchinsky, SCW '99, found Miller to be "tough enough to provide another side that makes a lot of sense." Miller's divergence from popular opinion was found to be refreshing. Noah Streit, YC '99, commented that she was "extremely eloquent, an amazing grasp of the issues and yet an optimism that isn't necessarily warranted."

Miller is currently a senior writer



Shifra Rothstein
Dean Karen Bacon, Judith Miller, and Professor Peninnah Schram

see Lecture, page 12



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Students Protest Finals Schedule

BONNIE NATHANSON
Staff Writer

SCW students circulated a petition in protest of the Spring 1999 final examination schedule. The current academic calendar schedules spring finals within two days of Shavuot, slating them before and after the holiday.

Three students, Rebecca Varnai, SCW '00, Orah Weberman, SSSB '00, and Hilary Schwesenski, SCW '00, have expressed their opposition through a petition calling for a revised schedule in which finals will end before Shavuot, which begins the night of Thursday, May 20. Over 500 signatures were collected on the petition circulating among students.

The three petitioners all live outside of New York. They claim that the current schedule discriminates against students who live beyond the New York-New Jersey area. Last year, Shavuot was later in the spring, allowing out-of-towners to return home for Shavuot unburdened by worries regarding finals and traveling

close to the holiday. Because Shavuot in the year 2000 will be in June, this year's problem will occur in the near future.

"Shavuot is a time you want to spend with your family and not be studying for finals," said Schwesenski.

"I could go home and then come back for what could be one final," Varnai added, "I especially feel badly for those people who missed sharing the holidays with their families last year while in Israel. It's not fair for the school to take that away from them."

Reactions to the petition varied. Certain students eagerly signed, even volunteering to become involved through collecting more signatures. Some students claimed that for them reading week is used as a time to have fun, not to prepare for exams. Therefore, making finals earlier would be

of benefit to them.

On the other hand, "Many New Yorkers refused to sign," said Weberman. "They said it wasn't their problem." When she asked if they were concerned about out-of-towners, "they said they just didn't care." Very few students refused to sign because they were opposed to the shortened reading week proposed by the petitioners.

Reading week can not be shortened in order to solve the problem. Mechal Weiss, SCW '99, Chairman of the Student Life Committee, explained that each semester must include fifteen sessions of each school day, Monday through Thursday. Eliminating of two days of reading week is only possible if the days are made up at another time. The petitioners rejected the possibility that these days be subtracted from winter break.

"Shavuot is a time
you want to spend
with your family
and not be
studying
for finals."

-Hilary Schwesenski

According to Schwesenski, "People have already bought non-refundable tickets so the option to cut winter break will once again discriminate against out-of-towners."

Weiss presented the issue on the Student Life Committee agenda for a meeting on October 30 that was attended by the SCW academic deans, student services administrators and University Registrar Melvin Davis. The university decided that it can not eliminate two days from finals week but is researching an alternate solution. Dr. Efreim Nulman, university Dean of Students, said that the school will try to create Shavuot programming on campus for students unable to go home for the holiday.

In the same meeting, plans for the Fall 1999-Spring 2000 calendar were discussed. Davis presented three possible versions of the academic calendar. The version that received the most approval from students and faculty calls for an August 29 orientation and a May 25 graduation.

Speech Department at SCW is Certified

ITA TARZIK
Staff Writer

Currently, close to 50 students at SCW major in speech pathology. Until recently though, no certified major existed; it functioned under the auspices of a shaped major. Dr. Joseph Danto, Chairman of the Speech Department, composed an application requesting certification from the State of New York; a step he felt was only logical.

As Danto explained, nearly three years ago, when he joined the SCW faculty as the head of the speech department,

his main concern was making the curriculum cohesive. Now that there is a uniform curriculum, providing progress from course A to course B, the next necessary stage was state certification.

On the application form, Dr. Danto indicated the structure of courses prescribed for students interested in entering the speech pathology field, as well as SCW students' acceptance rate into graduate schools. In addition, Danto was asked to assure the state that faculty members guide speech students and encourage them to work in the school system.

Now that SCW's speech program meets New York state criteria, credibility

will be ascribed to it outside of the university. In addition, titles and course numbering will eventually change. State certification will allow SCW students to be eligible for state funding. Furthermore, speech students will no longer face barriers preventing acceptance to certain jobs.

SCW Dean Karen Bacon added that certification will "smooth the way for those entering the public school system." Bacon also noted that YU is "very pleased that the [speech] department has received registration and recognition." She explained that given the fact that a lot of schools offer undergraduate programs and that all students are applying to the same

graduate schools, receiving state certification is no small feat.

Two speech students said in agreement, that they were not sure what all the certification meant, but they appreciate the fact that it gets them into graduate school.

When asked whether starting a graduate program for speech was a possibility for the near future of the university, Danto claimed, "That's an administrative decision." He did note however, that there is a desire for it and that the state had requested one as well. Bacon clarified that it is not in Yeshiva University's plans for the near future.

letter to the editor

Bad Business and Evasive Answers from Food Services

I have always found that the service at the Midtown cafeteria is efficient and friendly and I have no personal complaint about the way things are run. I'm sure that Jacob Lieberman, the Associate Director of Food Services, does good work in a difficult job. But his responses to student complaints, as quoted in the Observer (October 29th: Cafeteria Problems Worsen with Larger Student Body), are likely to cause cynicism and apathy among students. I ask him to make a more complete answer for the good of student morale.

When I was an undergraduate, my college Food Services raised prices by \$400 one year. I was appointed to a student committee to discuss this. The head of Food Services refused to meet with us but did issue a written statement. He claimed that the reason for the increase was the cost of replacing silverware (make that aluminum-ware) stolen by students for use in their dorm rooms.

A little investigation showed that the total cost of silverware was less than 25 cents per student per year so that even if the entire cost were due to stealing it could not justify a \$400 increase. Moreover Food Services offered neither documentation of the problem nor discussion of cheaper ways to deal with it. For example, students would have gladly agreed to provide their own silverware if the \$400 increase were rescinded.

We were left with the impression that Food Services was interested only in saying something nasty about students. Never mind that it was probably untrue,

certainly irrelevant and wildly out of proportion to the issue under discussion. Anything bad about students freed Food Services from obligations to do their job and explain their action.

Twenty-two years later, I read that Stern students are upset at the length of cafeteria lines. Food Services will not install an extra cashier because "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." Sound familiar? Probably untrue, certainly irrelevant and wildly out of proportion to the issue under discussion?

I say it is probably untrue because I have never seen it happen when the lines are long that a student cannot find her card. Most students have their cards in their hands long before they reach the cashier. Moreover two ten-minute samples during busy times in the cafeteria show that "student response time" is considerably faster than averages computed by McDonald's. If Stern students are faster than the fastest of fast-food operations it is not fair to blame them for delays.

In any case it is certainly irrelevant. It doesn't matter why the lines are long, the point is to shorten them. An extra cashier will speed things up whether students are fast or slow. By my quick calculation, using a model developed by McDonald's and parameters based on the two samples above, an extra cashier behind the one next to the wall (making a two-cashier, single-feed-line) would cost

about one penny per student minute saved. A larger sample and a more appropriate model might change this result, but I suspect it would still show that an extra cashier during busy periods is cost-effective (this would be a useful project for an Operations Management student).

Finally, the explanation is wildly out of proportion to the issue under discussion. Students are complaining of delays of five to ten minutes and the resulting overcrowding. The average time per student looking for her caf card cannot be more than a few seconds, given that the vast majority of students have a zero "student response time."

Students are left with the impression that Food Services does not care about the problem. I hope Mr. Lieberman has thought about the issue seriously and considered solutions such as an extra cashier, discounts for off-peak purchases, an express line and prepackaged specials. If so, I hope he will give a more complete response to the Observer with enough figures to convince intelligent students that none of these things will help.

Students who complained about high prices were not treated much better. They were told that "there is a mathematical formula" for the prices. So what? Charging ten times the fair value of meals is a formula but the meals would still be overpriced. When we are further told that the results of the formula are altered judgmentally and do not apply to all items it seems like more of a brush-off than an answer.

Another excuse for high prices is that "we buy nothing compared to the

quantities purchased by supermarkets." While this makes sense, I don't think it's true. For the retail items stocked by the cafeteria, my estimate of unit sales is higher than the national average supermarket on the same item. Moreover the total monthly revenue of the cafeteria is comparable to a small supermarket.

The important point is that some students believe that local stores and restaurants offer lower prices, more convenience and better quality. If this is true, there is no reason for the cafeteria to exist. Stern should subcontract food services. The reason doesn't matter, either Food Services delivers a net benefit to students or it should go out of business.

Some people may feel that I am making too much of a few cents overcharge and a few minutes wasted. My concern is not with those cents and minutes but with education. I cannot teach students to question and analyze in the classroom if they are treated this way when they try to do so after class. I tell them time spent on reading and assignments is not wasted. How will they trust me if the rest of the university wastes their time casually? For every class meeting I have to teach them to treat customers with respect they have five experiences with the cafeteria to mock that lesson.

Therefore, I ask Mr. Lieberman to make my job easier by giving complete and thoughtful answers to student questions. In return I promise to make his job easier by explaining to my students how hard it is to run a complex service and keep everyone reasonably happy.

Professor Aaron Brown, SSSB

OPCS Adds Career Counselor for Liberal Arts

TAMAR BRUGER
Staff Writer

In response to SCW's continued growth and the increasing demand for career guidance, the availability of career advisement and guidance services has increased. The advisors who currently make up the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS), including Naomi Kapp, Jennifer Berman, and Robert Bomersbach, have recently been joined by Robert Lubin. Lubin previously worked for the career guidance centers of Queensboro and Queens colleges. He will deal primarily with students majoring in the liberal arts.

The goal of the OPCS is to guide students in making crucial academic and career decisions. Through student response and observations made by the OPCS, it became apparent that additional help was needed. "We talked about it last spring because there was clear evidence that there were more liberal arts students than there had been," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW.

There had always been an emphasis placed on business placement because, as Dean Ira Jaskoll, Director of the OPCS said, "business is the logical place when you talk placement. Liberal arts," he noted, "are not as clearly defined."

Students often complain that it is very difficult to get appointments with the OPCS, and that there aren't enough advisors or appointments available to squeeze everyone in. "You have to make appointments two weeks in advance," said Beth Kessler, SCW '99. Sharon Hoffman, SCW '01, said, "I went to make an appointment with Naomi Kapp and every spot was filled. It's crazy!"

The addition of Lubin should help alleviate such difficulties. With time, and current adjustments underway, the OPCS expects students to find career guidance and advisement processes running much more smoothly. "If the need arises for further additions," said Jaskoll, "we will make further additions."

SCW Open House

MICHELLE FOGEL
Staff Writer

The annual SCW Open House on Sunday, November 15 gave prospective students the opportunity to see the full outlay of the college.

Michael Kranzler, Associate Director of Admissions, and Dr. Karen Bacon, SCW Dean, introduced students and their parents to the college. Additionally, a live interactive video link allowed hopeful students to view speakers from two separate rooms in the Midtown Center.

Representatives from each academic department answered questions, and students visited classrooms and other facilities.

The Open House was geared not only for prospective students, but

also for any student interested in checking out SCW. Kranzler said that while many students who attended the Open House have already decided to attend YU, others are still weighing their options and want to really see what the school offers. This method of holding a literally "open house" has been effective in the past.

The majority of students in attendance live either in the tri-state area or within a few hours' drive. Kranzler said that those who live too far to come to the Open House sometimes have the opportunity of attending "satellite" open houses, which take place in various cities throughout the country.

"Hopefully, our Open House event will only be the first step in a long and fruitful process for the prospective student here," Kranzler said, "and it's truly an exciting event."

The New Tanach Journal

LISA YOUNGER
Staff Writer

Seven YU students have designed a new publication, with goals of spreading awareness and appreciation for textual and thematic issues in *Tanach*. Ari Mermelstein, YC '99, the journal's editor-in-chief, said, "The orientation of the journal will be scholarly in terms of content, methodology employed, and style." By maintaining high standards and the notion of scholarship, Mermelstein said he hopes "to be mechabed (show reverence to) *Torah* to the greatest degree possible."

Inspiration for the journal originated with concern that in-depth studies and analyses of *Tanach* are not emphasized nearly as much as they ought to be.

"Modern scholarship has reintroduced the rigorous study of *Tanach*," said Mermelstein, "and we would be remiss if we were to ignore these advancements." Aviva Laufer, SCW '00, an editor of the journal, agreed and added that "all efforts must be directed toward at least paralleling, if not exceeding the implementation of these methodologies, while illuminating *Tanach* through a religious perspective."

With such high and broad expectations in mind, Mermelstein grouped several

YU faculty members to serve as an unofficial advisory board. Members include Rabbi Hayyim Angel, Dr. Moshe Bernstein, Rabbi Shalom Carmy, Rabbi Yakov Elman, and Rabbi Hillel Novetsky. The editorial board members, along with the advisory board, will collaborate to choose which entries meet the standards of the journal.

The deadline for entries is January 10, 1999. Editorial board members in both YC and SCW are available to assist and guide potential writers and to provide any additional information. Editorial board members include Mordy Friedman, YC '00, Shira Hecht, SCW '99, Aaron Koller, YC '00, Aviva Laufer, SCW '00, Ari Mermelstein, YC '99, Gavy Posner, YC '00, and Yehuda Sarna, YC '00.

The first edition of the journal is expected to arrive this coming March. It will be directed toward the YU community and to the Orthodox Jewish community at large. Editors of the journal also plan to distribute this publication to libraries at other universities.



Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies, talks with parents and prospective students at the SCW Open House.

Library

continued from page 1

al." She suggested that they can and should make use of the photocopy machine in the upstairs library as well. In addition, a new machine will soon be installed in the Beit Midrash located on the sixth floor of the school building, which will be accessible to students.

Working in the periodical room, located below the reserve library, has become a convenient study area for some students. While in general, there are very few students who frequent the periodical room at one time, noise there has also become a problem that affects student's concentration. Lauren Young, SCW '01, said that "very frequently, the quiet study in the periodical section of the reserve library is disturbed by raucous noise coming from university workers in an attached room."

Lubetski admits that this problem has been brought to her attention on previous occasions. "If students find that there is a lot of noise in the periodical room," said Lubetski, "they should come to us so that we can try to remedy the situation." Lubetski also mentioned that she, along with other library staff members, have raised this concern to workers numerous times and they have even put up signs. Lubetski also asked to have the door soundproofed for student convenience.

Concerns regarding computer trouble on library computers were raised as well. Melissa Rothenberg, SCW

'01, said, "It is often difficult to finish my work in the library because sometimes the printers are broken and the computers give me trouble."

Lubetski insists that the broken printers and

"Teachers assign readings to a class with dozens of girls, to be read for the next week. When there are so many girls and only two or three copies of the information, it's impossible to gain access to them." Estee Sandler, SCW '01

computers in the libraries are often a result of student's impatience. "When students cancel a print job in progress,

the printers have an adverse reaction," she explained. Lubetski attributed such technical breakdowns to heavy usage and poor treatment. She added that efforts are made to repair or replace broken systems as soon as the issue is reported. Lubetski emphasized that students should report whatever problems they encounter, because otherwise, repairs may be delayed.

Another issue which has disturbed SCW students, especially freshmen, Israel returnees and all other students who encounter the reference library for the first time, is unfamiliarity with preparing necessary call slips. Such students described the process of preparing them as a "maze" in which they easily get lost and confused. In order to get a book on reserve, a student must fill out a call slip; a number that identifies the book. Many students do not know how to prepare call slips and require assistance.

Lubetski explained, that every year during orientation, there is a session teaching students how to fully use the library and its systems. "If students would show up at these sessions," she said, "then they would learn how to use and take advantage of the many facilities we have for their use." However, for students who did not attend this session at the start of the year, the problem remains.

At a faculty member's request, librarians will provide information sessions for entire classes in order to help them with their assigned research papers. In sessions like these, librarians teach students necessary skills and distribute handouts which include information to assist their research.

see Library, page 12

The First Graduates of the New Millennium

Survey Reveals an Optimistic and Selfless Generation

SARA KOSTANT

Staff Writer

Everyone is familiar with the cliché of the disapproving parent staring sul-
lenly over his children's shoulders, mar-
veling at the "wild and crazy things these
kids are getting into these days." Each
new generation is subject to the criticism
of its predecessors, who are convinced that
their offspring are not as responsible as
they were in their own youth. "When I was
your age," is a phrase that has elicited
numerous eye-rollings from young adults
who are always reminded that their age
group lacks the morals and values of their
parent's time.

The Northwestern Mutual Life
Insurance Company set out to discover
what really goes on in the minds of the
next generation of Americans (and
Northwestern Mutual Life cus-
tomers). In a survey conduct-
ed for Northwestern Mutual
by Louis Harris and Associates,
Inc., a polling firm, issues such as
careers, marriage and family, and
society were explored during twenty-
minute telephone conversations with 2001
college students graduating in the year
2001. The base of students surveyed came
from over a hundred colleges spread out in
every part of the United States.

The survey opens by saying that
its results will be surprising to those who
believe that the "stereotypical image of a
member of a Generation 2001 student is
often that of a self-interested, lazy youth
with few goals beyond their plans for that
evening. In reality however, Generation
2001 students have many concerns and
interests beyond themselves...." The fol-
lowing examination of these "concerns and
interests" should appeal to the students at
SCW, who are considered part of this
generation.

Role Models

Mom and Dad may sometimes
doubt the truth of their children's words
and the virtue of their actions. Their kids,
however, look to their parents as examples
of integrity, with 68% of the Generation
2001 pollees stating that they trust their
parents' generation "a lot," and 79% giving
their grandparents the same compliment.
Generation X'ers are regarded as the least
trustworthy, with only 49% of their
younger brothers and sisters granting them
full honesty status. Generation 2001 stu-
dents also showed their regard for their
parents by voting them the people that they
look up to the most. Since the majority of
the students polled said that honesty is the
trait they admire the most, and they
believe that their parents epitomize this
trait, this result is not surprising.

Religion

If a similar survey was taken at
SCW today, nearly all of the students
would report that religion plays a signifi-
cant role in their lives. Devora Rubin,
SCW '01, remarked that she viewed her
"religious commitment" as the largest gap
between herself and the average Class of
2001 student. How spiritually oriented,
however, is the general college popula-
tion? The Generation 2001 poll did a lot to
dispel the belief that young adults today
are cynical about spirituality. Most of
Generation 2001 believes in G-d (89%),
while 75% also believe that there is another
existence after death. Atheists account-
ed for 9% of the students polled, and

agnostics were 1%. Students who did not
believe that humans possessed an immor-
tal soul accounted for 18% of students
polled.

A significant number of
Generation 2001 attend religious services
as well, showing that organized religion is
considered an important way to express
spirituality. Regular service attendance
is strongest among black students
of Generation 2001, with 73%
of black students saying that
they pray with a congre-
gation, compared to
56% of white stu-
dents who
make the
same

claim.
When asked
about the signifi-
cance of religion in
their future lives,
almost all Generation 2001
students claimed that religion
would be as significant or more
significant than it is now, with 3%
saying that it would be a less significant
part of their adulthood. Black students,
according to the poll, feel very strongly
that religion will be a substantial part of
their future (70%, compared to 42% of
white students who feel the same way.)

Goals and Careers

The Generation 2001 poll
crumbles the image of the root-
less youth, wandering aim-
lessly through life with
no set purpose.
Almost 90% of
Generation
2001 possess
goals they hope
to reach within the
next few years, and
nearly 100% responded
positively to the statement
"I am sure someday I will get to where I
want to be in life." Again, the optimism of
Generation 2001 contradicts stereotypical
youthful cynicism. This generation
believes that they will be able to enjoy the
same standard of living as adults that their
parents provided for them while they were
growing up. Since nearly 90% of
Generation 2001 is willing to work 40
hours a week or more at their job, there is
a strong likelihood that they will achieve
financial stability.

Over 80% of Generation 2001
believe that both parents must work in
order for them to achieve their ideal
financial state, causing the pollsters to
comment that "the era of the single-
income family appears to
be over....Combining this
with their family plans,
it seems that child care
will become an increasing
and significant social need."

Students at SCW can
relate to Generation 2001's desire
for a double-income household,
since most of them plan to work eventual-
ly. In fact, Johanna Bork, SSSB '01,
remarked that her greatest worry for the
future centered around her career. "My
greatest worry is not being able to find a
good job that I enjoy to support my fami-
ly," she said. "I don't think you can put
food on the table with one income in a
family." Despite their hopes for a comfort-

able lifestyle, only 24% of Generation
2001 thinks that "money buys happiness,"
and women are much less likely than men
to make this statement about themselves.

What types of careers
interest Generation 2001? The
majority replied that they
want their careers to give
them the opportunity to
help others, so it is
no wonder that
medicine and
teaching were voted
the most popular career
choices by the Class of 2001.

Generation 2001 already has
plenty of experience aiding others;
nine out of ten students responded posi-
tively to the statement that "helping others
is more important than helping oneself,"
and 73% said that they have done some
sort of chesed in the past. (Well, the actual
words used were "volunteer work", but it's
the same idea.) Students from more afflu-
ent backgrounds were more likely to vol-
unteer than those from lower income
brackets, who are more likely to work part
time and do not have as much free time.
Helping school children and working for
charitable organizations are the volunteer
jobs of choice among Generation 2001 stu-
dents.

"Family Values"

Dan Quayle's
infamous words still
reverberate to the
present day.

While these
words cover a
plethora of moral
ideas, here they refer to
Generation 2001's interest
in marriage and family.

Although the average American
2001 grad envisions marrying at a
later age than the average Orthodox
woman (80% opting to wait until after the
age of 25, and 10% aiming to marry after
30), 94% of Generation 2001 hopes to get
married eventually, with 2% of the stu-
dents polled reporting that they are mar-
ried already. In the Orthodox community,
getting married young is not considered
out of the ordinary, but among mainstream
college students such results
seem surprising. Children
will be a part of
Generation 2001's
future, with 89%
expecting to
start a fami-

ly
some-
day, and a
significant
42% wishing to
have three or more
children. The family unit
will be a high priority among
Generation 2001 students,
although their Orthodox counter-
parts may attain it earlier.

Despite the fact that 77% of the
students say that "having close family rela-
tionships is a key to happiness," Dan
Quayle might not be too happy with their
other beliefs on family values. A majority
of those polled (68%) agree that pre-mar-
ital sex is acceptable. (Remember Murphy
Brown? No questions, however, were
asked in this survey regarding the accept-
ability of having children out of wedlock.)

Divorce is much more common

nowadays than it was in a generation ago,
which is probably why the majority of
Generation 2001 (61%) believes that it is
an "acceptable" way to deal with an unsat-
isfactory marriage. Only 22% of the stu-
dents polled, however, "strongly agree"
that this is true, while 39% say that they
only "somewhat agree." Generation 2001
has probably witnessed the hardship of
divorce on family and friends and is not
that eager to fully accept it on a personal
level; however, they feel that it is accept-
able for those who want it.

Society

Most of the Class of 2001 does
not feel that the relationships between var-
ious races are presently favorable, with a
breakdown along racial lines: 71% of
blacks versus 52% of whites agree with the
above statement. Generation 2001 is opti-
mistic that society will become closer to
racial harmony, with 43% predicting that
race relations will get better, and 41% say-
ing at worst, the situation will remain
unchanged. The majority of students
(72%) believe that it is likely that the
United States will eventually have a
President from a minority group, although
only 41% of the black students feel this is
possible, versus 78% of white respon-
dents. When asked if she worried about
racial issues, Johanna Bork replied that she
usually focuses on Jewish problems more
than societal problems, because she feels a
greater responsibility to her fellow Jews.
"Before we worry about racial problems,
we [Jews] have to learn to get along
amongst ourselves" she said, adding that
conflict within racial and religious groups
should not be ignored.

Will a woman ever be President?
According to the Class of 2001, this is a
strong possibility (64% answering that it is
"likely") but not as probable as the possi-
bility of a non-white President. These atti-
tudes in themselves are progress, because
a couple of generations ago, the idea of a
non-white serving in a public office was
considered preposterous.

Home on the Moon

Yep, you read it right.
Northwestern Mutual Life thought it might
be worthwhile to know whether or not
Generation 2001 would consider "living in
a space station." A solid 50% said they
would contemplate moving to a space sta-
tion if it became possible to do so, with
more men than women opting for a low-
gravity existence. Apparently, the other

50% who did not find space station life
palatable feared contact with some not-
so-friendly neighbors (like the aliens from
Independence Day). When asked if she
shared her counterparts' curiosity of the
higher galaxies, Devora Rubin replied,
"Um, I kind of like it here on Earth, if you
ask me."

2001 Special?

Both Bork and Rubin said that
they were pleasantly surprised by the
results of the survey. Bork said she had
thought not so many of her generation
believed in G-d, and that establishing a
successful career was a more important
priority for them than having a family.
Neither SCW student, however, thought
that they were unique because they are the
first graduating class of the millennium.
When asked how she felt about graduating
in 2001, Rubin said that she was "hoping
to graduate sooner, if I can!"

*Yeshiva College Student Council &
Stern College for Women Student Council*

T'02

present

THE 1998

CHANUKAH CONCERT

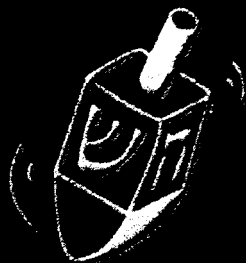
Extravaganza

starring:

AVRAHAM

FRIED &

YACHAD



featuring:

SHLOIME

DACHS

MENDY

WALD

YISROEL

WILLIGER

MUSIC BY
NESHOMA
ORCHESTRA

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 17th, 8:00PM
LAMPOR AUDITORIUM, AMSTERDAM AVE. & 187th ST.
TICKET PRICES: \$30, \$25, \$20 MIXED AND SEPARATE SEATING AVAILABLE

UPTOWN

Yehuda Burns: 740-3219 Mo. 226

Hillel Glazer: 543-4893 Mo. 713

Noam Parness: 927-2865 Ru. 427

Jonathan Walzman: 740-9611 Ru. 310

MIDTOWN

Yael Berger: 213-9306 Sh. 350 East

Elana Belizon: 685-0053 Br. 2E

Chani Schubert: 252-9367 Br. 10H

SCW Apathetic As Elections Go Unnoticed

NECHAMA MILLER
Staff Writer

November 3, Election Day, passed with virtually no public notice from the SCW student body.

Many students felt that there was a severe lack of publicity for Election Day. "It's ridiculous," said registered New York voter Celia Sporer, SCW '01. "In this school there should have been something about it, especially since the races were so close." Hilary Schwarsenski, SCW '00 said, "I find it upsetting that the only way I knew it was Election Day was because they were talking about it on the radio."

Students were not the only ones who noticed the absence of Election Day publicity. "We will have to become more avant-garde into bringing attention to the student body," said Dr. Ruth Bevan, professor of Political Science. "We hope to do a better job next time and talk to the [political science] society about it."

The J.P. Dunner Political Science Society did take pre-election action by calling "Rock the Vote," a group that specializes in raising the awareness of young people about voting, for posters and flyers. Unfortunately,

"Rock the Vote" never got back to the society and the political science society was forced to use whatever left-over bumper stickers and few applications they had from previous years.

Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY, 8th District) doesn't find this lack of material from "Rock the Vote" an excuse for not publicizing Election Day. "They

"Given the fervor of the Jewish community in this election and the issues at stake, I am surprised that more action wasn't taken."

— Congressman Jerrold Nadler

could have gone to the local Democratic and Republican clubs [for election materials]. It was clearly a foul up on the part of "Rock the Vote," but these things happen. They probably received thousands of calls," Nadler explained. "Given the fervor of the Jewish community in this election and the issues at stake, I am surprised that more action wasn't taken." The heated senate race between

incumbent Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Congressman Charles Schumer, which Schumer won, attracted interest from the broader Jewish community, but little attention from students.

Although many students were quick to put the blame on administrators, "Rock the Vote" and other factors, Bevan said that the blame should be more collectively placed within the SCW family. "What this election has shown is the level of interest," Bevan said. "We were too apathetic."

Students showed little public interest despite election issues of anti-Semitism, foreign aid to Israel, and counter terrorism legislation. "If you don't vote, your opinions don't count, and your interests are not looked after," said Congressman Nadler.

"Students have to learn how to vote," explained David Pollock, Associate Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "Because often politicians will take them for granted in issues such as student funding, loans, and resources for colleges and universities."

"As Stern College students, you are the future leaders of the Jewish Community," said Pollock. "Voting is the best opportunity to exercise your power as future leaders."

Yeshiva University

FINDING THE HOPE IN LOST KIDS' LIVES

Rabbi Fine will recount his tenacious efforts to help struggling street kids in New York City and the positive and often miraculous changes that took place in their lives.

Rabbi Yehudah Fine is the author of *Times Square Rabbi - Finding the Hope in Lost Kids' Lives* (Hazelden) and a member of the guidance staff at YU. He regularly appears live at AOL's Addiction and Recovery Forum.

Date: Monday, November 23, 1998

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: SCW Room 518

Sponsored by SCWSC PSI CHI Honor Society, SCWSC Psychology Club, and the Office of Student Services



TURN

Eileen Chudow, news editor

Silver Linings and Public Personas

We usually don't consider the way we affect other people, except sometimes, we're reminded by the most everyday things. I was recycling bottles the other day when the machine refused one. I waited my turn, and asked the woman behind the service counter, "Excuse me, am I able to return this bottle here?" Nothing extraordinary about that, right? Yet as the woman handed me my nickel, she mentioned that I was "so nice" and that she wished all her customers would be like me.

That felt good until I realized how pathetic the situation was. I wasn't that nice, and I certainly hadn't earned her remark. I hadn't bought her a drink, I hadn't even let her keep my five cents. It is easy then to imagine how incredibly insensitive and disrespectful many of the people that woman usually deals with are. In an extremely small way I recognized that her time was valuable and essentially that she is a person, something the people who degrade her on a daily basis don't do.

Of course, most people are nice most of the time. In fact, many are surprisingly kind, "even" in the city. I was once waiting on a corner, getting drenched by the pouring rain when a woman, a stranger, walked up and silently put

her umbrella over my head. She said I reminded her of her daughter, and offered to let me keep her umbrella. She didn't get anything for her kindness, but she gave me something to smile about for the rest of the day. Perhaps, having done something for someone else, she was a little happier than she was when she stepped out into the rain, thinking of her daughter.

We have many human interactions, some more positive than others. Someone recently pointed out for me the corner where a driver had slowed his jeep and spit, calling "dirty Jew" out his window. She told me her first reaction had been thanking God that she is immediately recognizable as a Jew even to this person. I was taken aback. I don't know what my reaction would have been, but that would not have been it! Regardless, if we are identifiable as Jews, that implies extra responsibility to take care with our actions and make sure their effects are positive.

Last month, my local paper printed a letter stating that my home school board violates the First Amendment by giving the schools off for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I disagree, which is why I wrote my own letter. Even if nobody read it, I had to in some way challenge this person's view. When it was published, my age, education and religion were irrelevant. What mattered was that, unlike most people, I was bothered enough to bother to write.



shaindy kahn

SCWSC president

Dear Fellow Students, I hope you are surviving midterms, don't worry the caffeine nights and stressful days will be over soon. (Just in time for finals.)

First of all, Congratulations to the World Champion Yankees and to all their loyal fans who got to watch their victory on the big screen in Koch Auditorium. For you girls from San Diego my deepest sympathy, you always have my shoulder to cry on. Thank you to the Office of Students Services for helping put this

event together and for sponsoring the official sustenance of Stern College for Women- Dougie's.

Now that Campus Conversations are over I would like to thank Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President and Rosh Yeshiva of YU, for sharing his knowledge and advice with our student body. Looking forward to seeing all of you at our future Campus Conversations.

I'm sure you all noticed the many events that the different clubs have held. But they are just getting started. Keep up the planning and the participation. As always, SCWSC is interested in hearing what you want or need on campus. To make it easier for you to tell us, I have set up a suggestion box outside the Student Council office on the 6th floor of the school building. Of course, you can always still find me in Brookdale Hall 2E, and my hours are 8:00am- 7:00am.



zemira baron

TAC president

Dear Student Body, Things are going well, here at TAC headquarters. Thanks to your participation, Shiurim, Nach Yomi, Bikur Cholim, Tzedaka campaigns and other Chesed and outreach projects are going strong. Throughout the week, Stern students participate in many programs which reach out to the Jewish community outside of Stern. We have one-on-one Chavruta programs with the congregants of four different shuls and we've just begun a big sister- little sister program with Hebrew school children.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in one of these programs. On the ride over to Livingston, I had ample time to consider the massive responsibility I was about to undertake. My palms began to sweat and I started to get a queasy feeling in my stomach. I was supposed to sit down with a woman of little background and just start learning Parsha with her. I had experience doing outreach with children, but why would an adult be interested in anything I had to say? Come to think of it, what was I going to say??? I began to rack my brain - Okay...good, so I knew what the Parsha was that week...that was a start. But I had barely even made it through with Rashi yet. What was I supposed to do with

this woman? I didn't have anything to offer to her!

We soon pulled up to our destination. I was introduced to the woman I was to learn with and we settled down in a corner. The moment of truth had arrived. But as I began speaking with her, I realized that I wasn't shaking. We opened a Hebrew-English Stone Chumash and began to learn Parshas Lech Lecha. Before I had a chance to even think about what I was going to say, words came pouring out of my mouth - I was suddenly quoting Midrashim, Rashis, Rambans. I had so much to say! And even more importantly, my Chavruta was interested in what I had to say.

Often, we become so used to our daily lives, that we begin to take what we have for granted. We forget that attending a Jewish college is not the norm. Only a small percent of the Jewish population has any Jewish education, at all. What a tremendous privilege we have! However little we think we know, it's immeasurable compared to what the rest of the Jewish population has the chance to be exposed to. And so along with the privilege comes the responsibility. If we are the most educated, then we're the ones who have to be the educators. I don't mean that we all have to become teachers in the formal sense of the word, but everyone should join one of the many programs available or else outreach in a less formal sense. We just have to make sure that we're giving back what we have received - it's our duty! And if we don't, who will?

On the flip side, I was shocked at some of the questions my Chavruta asked. Not because they were such crazy questions, but because they were so obvious. Her simple questions were such glaring issues, yet I had never



TURN

Abigail Gersten

Do What You Have to Do

7:00 a.m. It is cold and dark outside. My alarm rings, interrupting my sweet dream. I get out of bed and dress as my roommates continue their slumber.

8:00 a.m. I join 75 other tired SCW students in the general and organic chemistry classes. We get on the van and drive to YC. We can't really study or eat on the van -- the ride is too bumpy. We just sleep and talk to one another. Several hours later we board the van once more, wasting another half an hour of our day driving between campuses. We have to do it, so we do.

I must say, that YC is a good host, and the problems the Chemistry faculty expected with the chemistry

labs were a lot fewer. Yet I wish that YU would hurry up and finish renovating the labs we have in SCW.

As far as I know there is no official deadline for finishing our labs. "Not much work has been done yet," on the labs, Dr. Blau, the organic professor said to me. "In order for students to use chemistry labs next year, renovations should be completed by June so teachers and technicians can prepare labs for next fall," she added. The Chemistry professors, as am I, are looking forward to the upgraded laboratories. Now, it's YU's turn to do all they can do to have those labs renovated by next fall so that I can spend more time studying and less time on the road.

Correction: In the last issue of the Observer, a quote was attributed to the wrong person. In the article titled "Impeachment Hearings Recall Watergate" by Sara Kostant, Stephanie Sherman was quoted as saying, "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. They may end up looking foolish-like the expression 'with egg on their face.'" The statement was made by Dr. Ruth Bevan. We regret the error.

The guide is here, sorry about the delay, enjoy the prank phone calls from Uptown. To all you seniors, get involved with the yearbook or else we won't be getting one. (That's no joke.) Now this message is for everybody, SCWSC is trying to arrange van service on inclement weather days during the winter. We need everyone's signature on the petition that is going around. Keep your pens ready and your eyes open, so we can all stay dry.

Finally, there are 24 days to the event of the year, the annual Chanukah concert, sponsored by SCWSC and YCSC.

Keep smiling.
Shaindy Kahn
SCWSC President, 1998-99

even considered them in the past. Why was it that the fact that Avraham allowed Sarah to be handed over to Paroh had never bothered me before? Why did I just accept Chazal's statement that Bnei Yisrael became slaves in Egypt as a result of Avraham's lack of faith ("baMeh Eidah") without questioning the fairness of it? These important questions she raised can all be answered, but the fact that for me, they were never even questions, is a problem. It's because we have had the privilege to be exposed to so many years of learning that we have become dulled to the issues. We accept every story in the Torah on the same level that we learned it in 2nd grade. But our Torah learning should have advanced since that point. Sometimes, it takes a fresh perspective to make this point clear. Learning with an adult who has never seen these stories before adds a whole new depth to the Torah. We can't let the Torah become stale - everyday should be like Matan Torah, everyday we should learn the Torah in a new light.

May we all have the koach to live up to this privilege and responsibility.

Sincerely,
Zemira Baron
TAC President, 1998-99

Cellular Phones Invade the Classroom

BROOKE KLEIN
Staff Writer

Has this ever happened to you? You're sitting in class and your attention has long drifted away from the subject at hand. "I hope there are good frozen yogurt combinations in the caf," you think. "What happens once I graduate?" While deep in thought on these existential questions, you are suddenly roused and rudely brought back to the here and now. The culprit: the ringing of a classmate's cellular phone. If this scenario hasn't happened to you yet, it inevitably will.

Bonnie Nathanson, SCW '00, has had a cell phone since she began driving at age 17. Her parents wanted her to be able to contact them if ever there was an emergency or problem. "This is how it started but I ended up using the phone all the time," said Nathanson. Originally she couldn't give her number out, but "now everyone has it," she said. Nathanson took the phone to camp for the past two summers because she and her sister wanted to be able to speak to their parents easily.

The use of cellular phones seems to be an economical advantage. "My dad pays a monthly fee, after that any additional minutes are an additional charge," said Nathanson. "When I call out of 212 or 516 my dad says to use the cell phone for long distance because it's cheaper. The phone works so well that when I was in Israel I reached my mom on a cell phone when she was in the Canadian Rockies."

How often does her cell phone get used? "I only use the cell phone when I'm out of school, in the

dorm I use the regular the phone," said Nathanson. "When I'm in class the phone is off, sometimes I'll turn it on in school to check my voice mail," she explained.

Most phones come equipped with voice mail, caller ID, speed dial and call waiting at no extra charge. Nathanson doesn't deliberately talk on her phone when she's in public.



nor does she feel her phone is any kind of status symbol. "When I first got the phone I was embarrassed because no one else had one and people thought I was a JAP, but now everyone has one and it's no big deal," she said.

Rivka Grossman, SSSB '00, also has a cell phone. She just got it recently. "I had a pager for two years. I got it because during the summer I was working and was never home and I wanted my friends to be able to get in touch with me," said Grossman. "I would get paged all the time and then I'd have to find a pay-

phone, sometimes I'd be on the street or in the subway and I couldn't call people back," she said. That's why she decided to purchase a cellular phone. It's cheaper to call long distance during the day through her cell phone on her calling plan rather than on her dorm phone. "I have a computer and I use the modem so I really needed another line," she said.

Grossman feels her cellular phone helps to utilize her time better. "If I have some free time during the day and I have calls to make I can make them in school instead of having to go back to the dorm. I don't have to wait until nighttime to make my calls," she said. Her plan works this way: she pays \$89.00 a month for 600 minutes, roughly ten hours of talking time. There are no roaming charges, which means the phone works anywhere. "I can use it when I'm here in New York or when I go home to Chicago," she said. Her phone comes loaded with special features as well.

Grossman's cell phone allows her to do many tasks at once. "When I'm in my room and on the computer I can talk to my friends on the cell phone," she said. "When I'm in school I put the phone on mute," she said. "I don't feel it's a status symbol, it's just very convenient," said Grossman. She has noticed students and teachers using phones in class. "Most of the time people turn their phones off but I have seen people get up and leave class to talk on the phone," she said. Most SCW professors interviewed had not experienced cell phone disruptions during class.

continued from page 1

the expense of internal religious commitments, and that one can "never judge a person's real value by chitzonius [externalities]," but should consider his or her actions alone.

"What type of dress do you think is appropriate for Judaic classes?" one student asked during the question and answer period. Dr. Lamm responded that he supports the SCW dress code. He added that one should always stand before Hashem in the proper way, explaining that males would be inappropriate if they wore only a bathing suit while learning Torah.

The last topic Dr. Lamm addressed was that of reconciling the contradictions between Orthodox Judaism and secular society. He said that secular society has produced much good, such as democracy, but that one must also be critical of the negative elements in society, and halacha is the clear boundary one may not cross. Dr. Lamm also emphasized that the impression one Orthodox Jew leaves is a reflection on all of Orthodoxy.

Before leaving, Dr. Lamm stressed that he enjoys speaking at SCW, and that he hopes to return as often as his schedule allows.

Students responded positively to the event. "I think people could have participated in the discussion more, which would have made it more interesting," said Eileen Chudov, SCW '00. Shandy Kahn, SCW '98, SCWSC President and organizer of Campus Conversations said, "This is a great opportunity to meet their Rosh Yeshiva, and see his views and philosophy."

Lecture

continued from page 4

on the culture desk at The New York Times, and the paper's "Ideas and Issues" correspondent. She has covered numerous stories since 1977, including the

Persian Gulf War, with emphasis on the Middle East and nuclear proliferation issues.

The Observer is looking for an assistant business manager to sell ads. If you are interested, contact Business Manager Sarah Balch at the Observer 683-4943.

Library

continued from page 7

Still, Chedva Adler, SCW '01, suggested that, "Posting written instructions near each computer, would make it a lot easier for students who may be in a rush, and librarians who are busy with other work."

Some students have criticized members of the library staff for being unaccommodating. One SCW sophomore, said, "The librarians in the reference library are very unhelpful and when you can't find the call number, and if you have any questions, they act like you are burdening them with extra work."

Jackie Shimon, SCW '01, a former member of the library staff, explained that the librarians have a lot of work to accomplish behind the scenes. "They are under a lot of deadline pressures just like the students," she said. Shimon also commented that students sometimes think that the library staff is there to do their work for them, and negative feelings may then develop for this reason.

Many students have also found just the opposite to be true about the SCW librarians. "I really appreciated the help that some of the librarians gave me when I did my marketing project," said Sara Balch, SSSB '01. Michelle Fogel, SCW '01, said, "Whenever I go to the [Hedi Steinberg] library, the librarians on duty are

always helpful and willing to assist me."

Lubetski also wished to clarify that "students should be aware that not all of the library staff are professional librarians." There are reference librarians on duty everyday until 9:00 P.M. "If, however, a student approaches a staff member who is not qualified to help her," noted Lubetski, "she will send her to one of the reference librarians. Although it may appear at times that we're on the phone, not available for help," she said, "really, we're probably on the phone helping students get information or material that they need from a different library."

Naomi Rappaport, SCW '01, said that in her opinion, "The library is a great place to study because it's nice and quiet and I can really get my work done." Lubetski said, "The whole orientation and purpose of the library staff is to help students; they always come first."

A student library committee is currently being formed. This committee will be dedicated to anticipating and resolving potential conflicts. Students who are interested in being involved should approach Professor Lubetski. Lubetski insisted that any student with suggestions or problems concerning the library and its resources, "are welcome in my office; my door is always open." Recognizing the large number of students who librarians have helped, Lubetski said, "Our job is to make sure that continues."

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Food

continued from page 1

chions just get in the way and have not improved the situation.

A second worker claimed to be confused with all the changes and overheard students complain about the limited times to sign up for Shabbat meals. Also, workers sometimes miss their breaks due to the difficulty of leaving while work needs to be done immediately because the cafeteria is so busy.

Lieberman said that he made improvements and is planning others. He changed recipes and kitchen staff over the summer to improve the taste and quality of food, such as by reducing the amount of oil in certain dishes. He explained that his staff engages in "forecasting," a study of how many items are produced and how many sold in order to know how many items to order. He said it is difficult to predict student consumption, because "people's eating habits always change" and "there is no consistency the weather can change it, or events."

Future improvements include adding a cappuccino machine to the Schottenstein convenience store. Lieberman is investigating the possibility of selling fresh fruit in the store as well. Food Services will issue a nutritional newsletter, which will include nutrition facts and eating tips. Additions to the menu are being planned, as well as additional reductions in the oil content of the food. Lieberman is investigating the possibility of rearranging the food serving area to increase space. He is also considering reestablishing a special of the month. "We can't lower the price, but we can give you something extra," he said.

Lieberman and Singer recently met with the Food Services Committee to discuss the problems in regard to food services at the Midtown Campus. Lieberman emphasized the importance of consistent student involvement, and said, "It's not always possible to solve the problems but we can focus in on them and bring them to people's attention." He also stressed that most problems have more than one cause so efforts in several different areas can improve the situation. For example, if

each student has her cafeteria card prepared by the time she reaches the cashiers and if students buy Shabbat meal tickets at the posted times, the entire line will move faster.

The largest issue on the agenda was the student perception that food prices are too high. Students say the

"It's very important to me that students are happy- we don't like when students complain.

**-Jacob Lieberman,
Associate Director of
Food Services**

food is too expensive because the \$650 on many students' cafeteria cards will be spent before the semester ends. "We came up with \$1,300 as a sum acceptable to the student body," said Lieberman, and said there is a misconception about this money. He explained that \$650 was never intended to cover students' total food expenses, but rather to help parents and students budget food expenditures. He pointed out that local students, who usually supplement cafeteria meals with food from home, may feel they have a lot of money on their cards. He added that students may be spending differently than in past years now that "there are more opportunities, such as the Schottenstein Convenience Store, to use the cafeteria cards more efficiently." The SCW meal plan is not expensive when compared to kosher meal plans at other universities. The committee is investigating the possibility of revising the letter sent to parents accompanying the cafe-

teria card bill. This will hopefully clarify to parents and students that most students will require money additional to the \$650 per semester on their cards to spend on food.

Lieberman pointed out that although prices for certain items are high, he did not raise prices on other items, including dairy products and Tropicana orange juice, although their prices have gone up significantly. "Market prices fluctuate during the year but we retain the prices -- we have to keep the student market happy. The quality of the food items is the same [as elsewhere]," said Lieberman. He added, "We try and we do bring in high quality food items. We'll try to keep prices lower on certain things and try to keep things within a [price] range-- we'll creep costs up by a nickel to cover costs."

In addition to high quality food, everything is *pat yisrael* (baked with Jewish supervision) and everything cooked is *chalah yisrael* (dairy products supervised by Jews), factors that drive up prices. Lieberman agrees with students that items at the convenience store are very expensive. He orders those items for the students' convenience but is unable to order in the quantities necessary to receive the discounts necessary to lower prices.

While Lieberman said he does not envision lowering prices, the Food Service Committee members are looking into the possibilities. According to Mechal Weiss, SCW '99, "Pricing is the number one issue. We need to get out to students a better understanding of the price for the meal plan."

Many students do not realize that the Food Service managers value student feedback. "If you feel you have a problem," said Lieberman, "see a manager." He also indicated that they appreciate hearing when students notice things they like. He explained that upon request Singer will provide a packaged vegetarian meal for vegetarian students to pick up after the International Café is closed.

"It's very important to me that students are happy- we don't like when students complain," said Lieberman. "We don't cut back on quality and try to accommodate with prices and give as much variety as possible."

ACROSS

1. Full of
5. Pale
10. Wedding vows
14. Foul smell
15. Make up for
16. Dang!
17. Morning mist on the Rockies?
20. Evening school function
21. ___ Degeneres
22. Duane ___
23. Time zone (abbr.)
24. Pig pen
26. Serpent
28. French Milk
31. Break ___
34. Country in the Himalayas
37. Tally
38. Division of the UK
40. Give away
41. Duo
43. Smug smile
44. Word after palm or family
45. Virtuous
47. Walter Raleigh and Arthur Conan Doyle
49. Prohibited
51. Negative
52. "Life ___ highway"
53. Mai ___
56. Dined
57. Us in Spanish
58. Barney and Betty
61. AT&T rival
62. Composer's work
63. Concur
64. Ex-Spice Girl's beer?
66. Paster
67. Iranian capital
68. Clms.
69. Skill

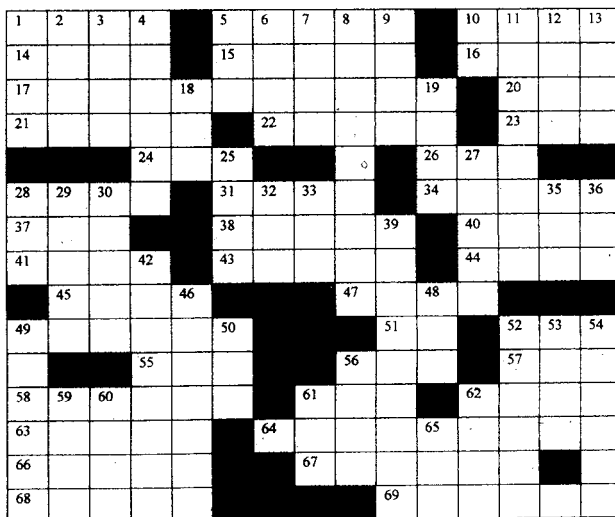
DOWN

1. Vatican site
2. Stone god
3. Referee call
4. Hemmingway or Frye
5. Car club
6. Ado
7. Sharpen
8. Imperils
9. Must have
10. Ego counterpart
11. Spicy MD?
12. Quaker ___
13. ER slang
18. Dynamite
19. Withdraw from habit
25. Tropical skin disease
27. Divisions
28. Lick (up)
29. Proverb
30. Moron
32. Flee
33. Yalie
35. Drink
36. Shelter
39. Clingy attire
42. Cheer for the lager?
46. Word following card or car
48. Fish eggs
49. Shrew
50. Expire
52. Hurting window?
53. Heart and ___
54. Consent
56. Teen scourge
59. Repulsive
60. Men's cologne
61. Boston College
62. Freud's phase
65. Detergent

Crossword Puzzle

On The Bubbly Side

-Leah Lubetski and Elana Davis



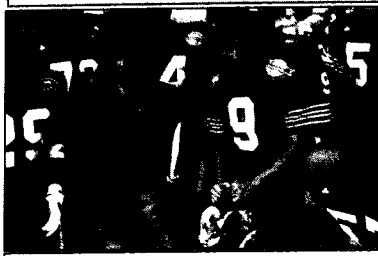
answers on page 15

CULTURAL ARTS

DROWN THE WATERBOY!

DINA GIELCHINSKY
Cultural Arts Editor

"The movie is designed to display as much Adam Sandler-ness as it possibly can"



Henry Winkler and Adam Sandler in *The Waterboy*.

Once again, Adam Sandler's annoying accent makes him nothing more than a drip in his comedy "The Waterboy." Sandler, as Bobby Boucher (pronounced Boo-SHAY), plays a socially inept thirty-one year old from Louisiana who goes from being a lowly waterboy to a star football player. His coach (Henry Winkler, far past his "Heyyyyy" day) convinces him to fight back against those jocks who make his life miserable. His mother (Academy Award winner Kathy Bates), an over-protective, over-bearing, over-weight battle-ax, is determined to keep her baby Bobby at home by convincing him that girls are devils, college is for fools, and the like. Bobby gets a college education and even procures himself a honey (Fairuza Balk).

The movie's saving grace is its Louisiana setting.

where the bayou folk give white trash a good name. There, the natives feast on a coiled rattlesnake and mini-alligators with as much relish as a YU student at Dougie's. More emphasis on the natives' bizarre customs and less on, oh, Adam Sandler, would have pushed this movie into a "I'll wait until it comes out on video" movie. However, the movie is designed to display as much Adam Sandler-ness as it possibly can since Sandler co-wrote the movie—not the greatest idea (Where, oh, where has the beloved Opera Man gone?). If you can manage to ignore Sandler's lisping, sputtering voice (subtitles wouldn't be a bad idea), you may find some of the lines funny. Then again, you've probably heard them all from all of his other movies. Pass this one over but show your support for Sandler by renting "The Wedding Singer" instead.

Adam Sandler: Making It in Hollywood

An interview with Sandler himself

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

At first glance Adam Sandler looks like a typical high school boy dressed in baggy pants with a short haircut and shy grin. He is so unassuming that when the 32-year-old actor comedian greets this college newspaper reporter with a casual, "Hey, how are you?", she does a doubletake.

Sandler greets everyone around him with an energetic "How ya doin'?" He chats about various New York schools and reminisces about the good old days hanging out with his buddies. He chats about the pizza place near his alma mater, NYU, "that was a big deal when me and buddies would go there...we'd save up for the pizza." Sandler has a way of making everyone feel comfortable. He praises someone for getting into Columbia. "Congratulations for getting into that fine school," he says. He jokes around with a rare camaraderie that makes him seem like the boy next door. Despite his successful career as an actor, comedian, singer, screenwriter and musician, he hasn't quite grown up yet. He talks about his mother getting "the boot" from college. "You want to know why she got the boot? She had a kid, she had to quit," he says.

In his new movie, "The Waterboy", Sandler stars as 31-year-old Bobby Boucher, a local college football team's socially challenged and habitually ridiculed waterboy. Academy Award winning actress Kathy Bates, who plays Bobby's over-protective "Mama," and Henry Winkler (from "Happy Days") co-star in this feel good, no brainer comedy about a likable nerd who learns to stand up for himself. In the process, he wins the hearts of bad girl Vicky Vallencourt (played by Fairuza Balk), and the entire town.

In "The Waterboy", Adam once again takes the nerdy character and elevates him to the status of cult hero. He feels that one of the reasons he is so successful doing this, is because of the kinship he feels with these characters. "What's the difference between me and Bobby Boucher? Mostly the hairdo...I've been Bobby Boucher in my life," Adam says. "I've been through the ringer before, people giving me a lot of crap. But I never really had the courage that Bobby [had]," he says.

"I like that Bobby Boucher guy. If I had the chance to hang out with me or Bobby Boucher I'd hang out with Bobby Boucher," Adam says with a laugh. "I like guys like Bobby Boucher because their comedy is not about them having a snappy comeback...I like writing about losers because I felt like a loser myself at times in my life and I think they're funny," Adam concedes.

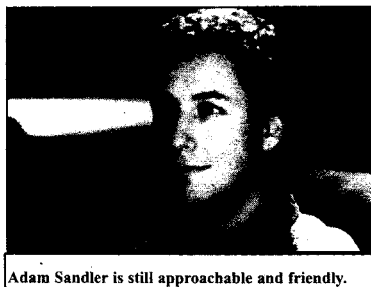
Adam's characters aren't exclusively losers. His next movie "Big Daddy," is about "a pretty popular smart guy...He's a real victory for us because he's a guy who could have been popular," Sandler explains.

Many of Sandler's characters are born out of his

collaborations with "The Waterboy" co-writer Tim Hurlihur. Creating new characters and movie ideas comes naturally to Sandler. "Mostly it's just hanging out while working on another project...you start getting bored with that project and you try to make your friends laugh and then all of a sudden you latch onto something," Sandler says.

The inspiration for *The Waterboy* came when Sandler was working on an album. "We were reading something about a waterboy...who missed a game and his team lost, he was like the good luck charm," Sandler recalls.

Sandler is known for the goofball roles he played both in movies and during his five-year stint on *Saturday Night Live* (SNL). His movie credits include



Adam Sandler is still approachable and friendly.

"Happy Gilmore," "Billy Madison" and "The Wedding Singer." On SNL he made Opera Man, the GAP Girl, Canteen Boy and Lucy part of mainstream culture.

Sandler maintains close ties to the people who work on his films; the writer, director and producer of "The Waterboy" were his roommates at NYU. These are the ones who start discussing certain movie nuances, such as selecting songs for the soundtrack. "The way we work is it's me, Hurlihur, Jack Giarraputo [the producer], and Coraci [the director], and my other buddies Loughran and Covert. We just sit and try to come up with tunes that we like that we want to put in the movie," Adam explains.

Sandler was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1966. He moved with his family to New Hampshire at the age of five. It was during his childhood that Adam developed a love of comedy. "When I was a little kid I loved Abbot and Costello, I loved Jerry Lewis. I got a lot of nice memories of those guys," Sandler reminisces. "When I was in high school I got obsessed with Rodney Dangerfield and Bill Murray and Steve Martin...I always liked comedy. [When] I was a kid my dad would say 'Hey come in here, you'd like this,' and there would be a Marx brothers movie...so it was sort of like my house taught me to...appreciate comedy."

As a career, comedy was something Adam just

fell into. "I started [doing stand-up] at 17," he says. "My brother told me, 'You should be a stand-up comedian,' so [I said] that's a great idea. I never even thought of that but it gave me something to think about and focus on," he explains. "I think my mother and my father were psyched that I had something to dream about. They were supportive, they wanted me to be happy."

Before landing a role on the ever-popular SNL, Sandler did stand-up comedy in Greenwich Village, NY. Shortly after graduating from NYU, Adam moved to Los Angeles. "I don't even know why. I knew nothing about it," he says.

The move proved very worthwhile. Once out on the West Coast, Sandler auditioned for various stints. By the time he was 23, Dennis Miller, of SNL, discovered him.

Sandler feels that being in the entertainment industry has its pros and cons. He describes his transition into stand-up comedy as a gradual adjustment. "I was doing comedy clubs...and on occasions someone would come up to me on the street," he says. "Most of the time they would say, 'We saw you, we thought it sucked.' But on occasion someone would say, hey that was pretty funny."

Sandler acknowledges his fame, but does not have a great fondness for the media. "I get jumpy...I don't do...much press...I don't like talking to too many people because...I work hard on these movies and I think these movies represent what I want," he explains. "But I like talking to you guys because I respect you guys," he clarifies. "You're at where I was when I was trying to figure out life and where you're gonna go." He grants his interviewers extra time. "Everyday I have ups and downs...I'm nuts...I got problems...and I'm trying to figure them all out."

As for the future, Sandler plans on expanding his movie repertoire and experiment with film genres other than comedy. "I'm sure," he says. "Some people give me scripts to do that aren't about comedy and I'm sure one day I'll try to do that. I'm waiting for it to be something I think I could be good at; most of the time I look at it and I go I can't [expletive] do that," Sandler says.

"I like comedy," he says. "We're doing this 'Big Daddy' movie...we're doing this other movie afterwards that's another comedy and then I think we might try to write something a little more dramatic but I don't know. We'll probably cop out and just have people squishing meatballs."

Sandler remains good-natured about the inevitable criticism in this business. "It was a slow rise for me, so I always had time to get adjusted to what it's [the movie business] really like and now...I feel like...I have a pretty good life," Adam says. "People don't treat me like you would think...people, they talk to me, they call me Adam, they walk up to me, 'Hey Adam you're the greatest, sit down and hang out with me.' And most of the time it's alright."

CULTURAL ARTS

Comedy Performance at Its Best

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

The oddball antics of the off-Broadway show, Blue Man Group "Tubes," remind me of some kids I knew back in elementary school. Long-time friends Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink have disregarded the sound advice of mothers everywhere and created a show where spitting food and paint is entertainment. The result: one of the best performance comedies around.

Goldman, Stanton and Wink are among the eleven blue men who alternately perform in this three-man variety show of ridiculous talents. The production features three men with cobalt blue heads catching paintball in their mouths and spraying them on canvases. Another segment has them pounding away on drumheads filled with paint, accompanied by loud, haunting music.

Blue Man Group is performed at the Astor Place Theatre, a warehouse with tubes running along the walls and hanging from the ceiling. Upon entering the theatre, audience members are given white ribbons to decorate themselves with. Those sitting in the first few rows wear plastic raincoats to deflect the paint. Towards the end of the performance, rolls of white ribbon cascade down from the balcony while disco lights illuminate the theatre.

Some of Blue Man's techniques, such as quickly flipping through three stacks of posters too quickly for anyone to read them all, are rather basic. They contain both mundane and humorous messages; one, written in Hebrew says, "Scream, if you understand this."

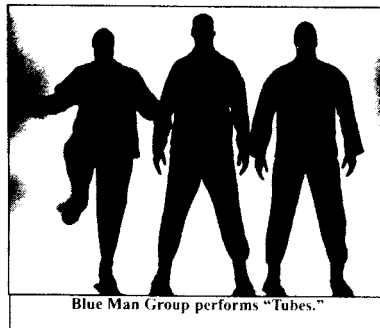
The performers express their opinions without

words but with comedic charades and props such as tubes, electronic displays and lots of paint. Their opinion of modern art is exhibited by spitting out a lump of gum and tacking a \$4,000 price tag on it.

The show encourages audience participation, as the blue men wade through the theatre seats at certain points during the show. They select volunteers to participate. For example, two audience members are asked to

Long-time friends
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watch the first fifteen minutes of the production upstairs from the sound booth and are then accompanied to their seats. Glaring lights greet them and their faces are projected onto a big screen for the audience to see. Another



Blue Man Group performs "Tubes."

lucky audience member is pulled onstage where he puts on a jumpsuit and is escorted backstage. The audience watches via video as he is suspended by his feet and painted blue.

Perhaps it is the sight of these blue headed men, so solemn in their tasks, that makes them so amusing. There is no need for the audience to think; it's a great time to relax and space out.

The show appeals to all types of people: both the MTV generation and their parents.

Blue Man Group performs Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m. and Sunday at 4 and 7 p.m. Admission is \$39 and \$49 for all performances. For those who volunteer to usher, seats are free. To make reservations or for more information call (212) 254-4370.

letter to the editor

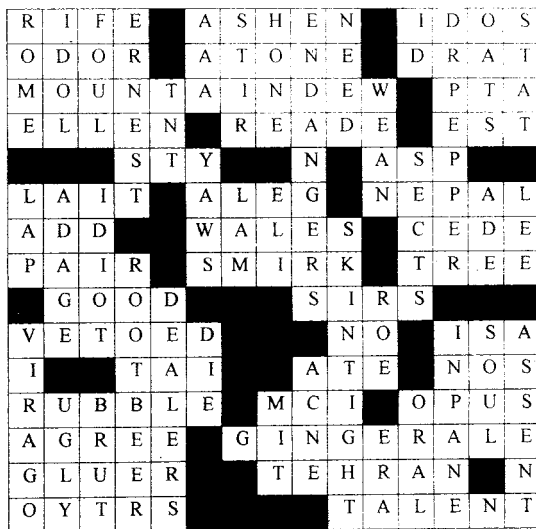
I am writing this letter as a postscript to my article in the last issue of The Observer entitled: "Students Effectively Barred from Using Gym." The day after The Observer was distributed my roommate spoke again with the administration of the athletics department, who now seemed eager to work out a compromise and a way for us to use the gym at night. Within three days, a satisfactory arrangement was made, and the

gym is now kept open late on Sun. nights for us to use. I was very impressed with the prompt response of the athletic department and the way in which they handled our complaint. I can now look forward to those one-on-one basketball sessions with my roommates.

Sincerely,
Rivka Grossman
SSSB '00

**Many thanks to
SCWSC and the Office
of Student Services for
their help in purchasing
new computer
equipment.**

**The staff of *The Yeshiva
University Observer***



answers to crossword from page 13

**The Observer website is being
redesigned. Check it out in the
coming weeks at:
www.geocities.com/collegepark/union/9516**

SPORTS

Varsity Tennis Team Ends Season Undefeated

ATARA GEWIRTZ
Staff Writer

The updating of the "Yeshiva Athletics" sweat uniforms was not the only improvement the SCW varsity tennis team had this year. The tennis team has always finished with a winning record, but this year the tennis season concluded with the strong sense of accomplishment that comes from remaining undefeated.

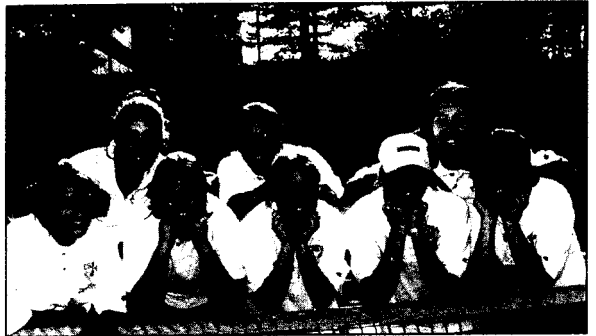
The team members faced an especially busy season this year as they competed in more matches than usual. The concentration of holidays throughout the fall season limited the

scheduling of practices and matches. Therefore, the SCW team competed against university tennis teams with double the amount of practice and playing experience. Despite this disadvantage, the tennis team not only succeeded in emerging victorious, but also won each match by a large margin. Stern's final record was 6-0.

With the help of Coach Evan Goldstein, the team learned proper strategies to conquer their opponents. The captains of the team are Heidi Baker and Shira Hecht. Returning members included Atara Gewirtz, Corinne Levy, Sheila Shirian and Shira

Stein. The new additions to the team, Aliza Kessel, Heidi Scharaga, Tamar Tuchman and Deena Weintraub, all greatly contributed to the winning season both in singles and doubles matches.

As the season progressed all of the players improved their skills and performance. The Stern athletes also say they experienced a strong camaraderie and learned the values of supporting and encouraging fellow team members. For them, the season highlight was playing the final match against Baruch College in Flushing Meadows, the site of the U.S. Open.



Members of the SCW Tennis Team.

YUPR photo

Intramural Basketball Returns for a Second Season

MIRAIM BRAM
Staff Writer

The SCW intramural basketball team has started its new season. The team began meeting on a weekly basis, on Wednesday, November 11th at 9 p.m. The team will meet in the gym on the 11th floor of the Midtown Center. According to Dr. Richard Zernack, Director of the Athletics and Physical Education Department of YU, the intramural program will consist of 4 teams.

Zernack is enthusiastic about the program. "The more recreational and athletic activities we can give to the women of Stern, the better off everyone is," said Zernack. "My job here is to make as many opportunities as possible available to the students. When they come to me for something, we try to oblige."

The team is student-run, with captains Mechal Weiss, SCW

'99, Rachel Martin, SCW '01, Shaunna Peters, SCW '00, and Nechama Maryles, SCW '00, at its head. The captains, along with Shira Greenland, SCW '00, were primarily responsible for starting the program last year. They

wanted to play basketball on a regular basis more than once a week when they met for their gym period. The team's faculty advisor is Jenny Sarason, the basketball instructor for SCW.

The intramural team has several advantages over SCW's inter-collegiate team, the Lady Macs. Players don't have to make as large of a time commitment to the intramural team and don't need to meet the competitive stan-

dard of the Lady Macs. The intramural games also avoid the problem of wearing pants for public games against other schools. Only women attend the intramural games.

When the women in SCW were asked their opinion of the intramural program, there were varied responses.

"What's the point?" asked Shani Spiro, SSSB '01, "There's no thrill in the game if it isn't a competitive one."

Ahuva Weinberger, SCW '01, had a different approach. She was very supportive of the team, and "can't wait to see them play."

The intramural team plans to meet through the end of the school year, and students can still try out to become a part of it next semester.

Lady Macs Basketball Schedule, 1998-99

November

Sun 22 Emerson College 1:00pm/Away
Mon 30 SUNY Old Westbury 8:00pm/HOME

December

Thu 3 Baruch College 8:00pm/HOME
Tue 8 Stevens Tech 7:30pm/HOME
Sun 13 SUNY Maritime 2:00pm/HOME
Thu 17 Mt. St. Vincent 8:00pm/HOME
Sun 20 Medger Evers 2:00pm/HOME

January

Sun 24 Marymount College 2:00pm/Away
Thu 28 College New Rochelle 8:00pm/Away
Sun 31 SUNY Purchase 2:00pm/HOME

February

Wed 3 SUNY Maritime 8:00pm/Away
Thu 4 Stevens Tech 7:30pm/Away
Mon 8 York College 8:30pm/Away
Thu 11 Marymount College 8:00pm/HOME
Sun 14 St. Joseph's (LI) 2:00pm/Away
Tue 16 College New Rochelle 8:00pm/HOME
Thu 18 Brooklyn College 7:30pm/Away
Sun 21 Bard College 2:00pm/Away
Tue 23 St. Joseph's (Bklyn) 8:00pm/HOME

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