



Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

March 22, 1999

VOLUME XLII NUMBER 6

5 Nissan, 5759

Lamm Fires MSTA Principal Rabbi Taubes

School to Remain Open

SHIRA GRABER
Photography Editor

Rabbi Michael Taubes will leave his post as principal of the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy -Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MSTA), according to David Rosen, director of Yeshiva University Public Relations (YUPR). Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, YU President, reportedly called Rabbi Taubes on Monday, March 15 to tell him that his contract as principal of the school would not be renewed for next year. Rabbi Taubes will continue at his post for the remainder of the school year, according to Elliot Gibber, chairman of the high school board.

Gibber said that the board plans to announce the appointment of a replacement for Rabbi Taubes before Pesach, and that there are a few people they are considering for the job. With regard to Rabbi Taubes's dismissal, Gibber said, that "It's part of the plan of reconstructing Yeshiva University high schools."

The announcement comes on the heels of the university's announcement that the high school will remain open. Following a

March 9 meeting concerning the closing of MSTA, Rabbi Dr. Lamm, published an open letter in the Jewish Week stating that "MSTA will continue to operate on the University's main campus under the aegis of the Board of Trustees of YU's affiliated Rabbi Issac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS)," dated March 10th.

The decisive statement came after months of meetings and weeks of articles published in area newspapers proclaiming the closing of MSTA.

"This decision follows nearly a year of review and consultation that has involved many individuals from inside and outside YU and RIETS," continued Rabbi Dr. Lamm's letter. Plans for school enhancement programs are now underway.

However, though this announcement settles the location of the school and answers the circulating rumors for the students and community, the future of the staff still remains unclear. "We are very pleased the school is staying open, yet there will still be changes," said Rabbi Taubes in a telephone interview prior to his dismissal. "It is unclear what will be, who will be affected - that remains a question. There are uncertainties in the air, not

about staying open, but regarding faculty and administration and what changes will be made.

"The boys are very pleased - they are happy with their school," said Rabbi Taubes. "This has been like a cloud hanging over the school. There is now a sense of relief and school pride."

MSTA held a school-wide assembly the Wednesday morning after the decision was reached, before the school even had the actual press release, which they received that afternoon. Gibber announced the good news to the students, and was met with an enthusiastic unanimous standing ovation from both the male students at MSTA and the females at the Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls.

"In the past few months there has been a lot going on in the school, but now the school will remain a school of excellence for another 89 years," said Gibber to the students. "We apologize if any published articles might have offended or slighted anyone. We and Rabbi Dr. Lamm are very proud [of the high school students]. We owe a big *hakaras hatov* (Thank you) to Rabbi Dr. Lamm for seeing the situation to the end."

YU administration appeared optimistic and positive about the letter. "Everyone

see MSTA, page 12

Sociology Survey Angers Students

SHLOMIT ZAUDERER
Staff Writer

Cookies and smiles were not enough to assuage irate students who were asked to respond to a school survey. Dr. Susan Prager and her colleague, Dr. Miriam Grosf, set off a whirlwind of controversy in SCW when they handed out a survey, to gain insight into Orthodox women's attitudes about balancing careers with family. Some students discarded the surveys and commented on how much it had offended them. Some students interviewed for this article did not wish to disclose their names because of the nature of their statements.

Prager, professor of Sociology, and Grosf, professor of Statistics and head of the Writing Center, began circulating a 16-page survey to the SCW student body shortly after winter vacation. The

survey states two goals: To identify practices that characterize "observant/religious" women, and to identify the conflicts that might arise from juggling both a career and a family. Prager said that she and Grosf wished to discover how these two factors might affect a student's adherence to religion. Prager stressed that the topic has not been researched in over 20 years. She also said that the last survey most similar to this one was mostly based on men, and that since then, dramatic changes have occurred within Orthodox women's roles at home and in the office. At first, many questions stemmed from Prager's "Methods of Social Research" course, which devised the survey. When asked whether she thought the survey was complete, Prager said that "...good research could always be done better. There is always more you can do, it's never finished." The present questionnaire

is a revised edition of a similar one that was submitted for approval to a conference in San Francisco this summer.

On the cover page of the survey, the names of Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW, and Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies, are mentioned. Some students felt misled by the names of these two administrators. They thought that because Dean Bacon's and Rabbi Kanarfogel's names were mentioned, they were connected with the questions or had commissioned the survey. When students perceived that some of the questions in the survey were too personal, they approached the Deans instead of Prager and Grosf with their comments and criticisms. Prager said that Dean Bacon and Rabbi Kanarfogel's names were placed on the cover page because "...we would not do it [the survey] without their approval. We

felt that by using their names, students would be more responsive to it [the survey], not critical." In fact, Prager and Rabbi Kanarfogel mentioned that some questions had been removed from the survey for fear that they might offend some members of the student body. Rabbi Kanarfogel emphasized that although he had approved of the survey, it was for sociological research purposes only.

Caron Wolf, SCW '99, was somewhat offended by the survey and the lack of *hashkafic* questions. "You can't survey religion, it is internal, not external," she said. Wolf was also bothered by the questions in the survey dealing with television, movies and hair covering after marriage. "I'm engaged, and after I get married I will cover my hair. Does that make me more religious than the Rav's wife who didn't?" Both Wolf and Sorah Borenstein, SCW

see Survey, page 12



Shira Graber

An officer guards Schottenstein Hall. See related story on page 4.

Challenge Posed to Student Council Elections

CHANA ROSENBLATT
Staff Writer

Two candidates for Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC) president were disqualified from running for office after the Canvassing Committee deemed them ineligible to run for office. The decision, based on vague language in the SCWSC Constitution, has been challenged by the disqualified candidates, Leorah Bleiberg, SCW '00 and Nechama Maryles, SCW '00. Two students, April Simon, SCW '00

and Shira Tuchman, SCW '00, remain in the race.

The Canvassing Committee oversees elections for SCWSC and the Torah Activities Council (TAC).

On Thursday, March 4 election rules and regulations were released for students interested in running for SCWSC. Bleiberg, Maryles, Simon and Tuchman each followed the procedures to run for office.

Bleiberg and Maryles were informed March 15 that they could not run since they had not shown enough leadership involvement in SCW activities.

Maryles lists herself as co-

founder of SCW's intramural basketball league, member of the Student Life Committee, participant in Adopt-A-Bubbie programs, and member of the Education Club among her school activities. Bleiberg includes the Blood Drive Committee, the Zachor Club, the newly founded Machon Chevrutah Program, and the Education Club in her autobiography.

Alyssa Schulman, SCW '99, head of the Canvassing Committee, noted that while, "each candidate had certain service or leadership background, we felt that their involvement was not sufficient and

see Challenge, page 14

VIEWS

The

Observer

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

The Observer is published tri-weekly.

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The Unreachables

Certain offices of YU's administration such as the Facilities Management, Food Services and Safety and Security Departments, are notoriously difficult to reach. When students need to reach high level employees on the Main Campus, they are often put off for days or weeks by

secretaries who tell them that the administrators they need to reach are not available. If messages are left, they are often not returned. This demoralizes students, and it is unacceptable that these offices don't take the concerns of students seriously.

It is understood that

some of these employees may be very busy completing numerous tasks for the university. That is commendable, but administrators need to remember why they work for this school. The school's many departments were created to allow the academic environment to thrive and to serve the students. Administrators should ask themselves if they are fulfilling these

goals. And if they are really unable to return students' calls for days on end, they should have the courtesy to apologize for their delay in responding, or to ask a lower level employee to call the students to inform them of when the official will be available.

Let the Resident Assistants Speak

The Office of Student Services and the Office of Residence Life have established a policy that forbids Resident Assistants (RAs) from publishing opinion pieces in the Observer. The logic behind the policy, which has existed for at least a year, is that, as paid employees of the school, RAs should not publicly speak out against YU. That sounds reasonable in theory; most institutions don't like employees to air their grievances in public. But the situation is more complicated because the RAs are also students of YU. They are allowed to print some opinion pieces, but only after having their letters approved by administrators. Rules that require this are totalitarian

and contrary to the spirit of a university. As tuition-paying students, the RAs should have the right to express their uncensored opinions in the student newspaper.

The Office of Student Services should not be so concerned about the opinions that RAs express. When RAs write letters to the editor or opinion pieces, they do so as students of SCW, not as employees. They do not identify themselves as employees of the school, and most other students do not view them as employees representing the school. The "no comment" policy enforced upon RAs has created an atmosphere where these students are afraid to

express themselves or fear they will be reprimanded, or may even endanger their jobs as RAs.

Resident Assistants are sometimes privy to sensitive information about other students. It is understandable that the administration might be concerned about such information being spread around the school and damaging students' reputations. But if the administration is willing to trust RAs with the safety and privacy of students in the dormitories, can't it also invest a certain amount of trust that these students will know not to publicize confidential information to the student body? Before the policy was enacted, RAs were not forbidden to speak to Observer

reporters or to contribute articles, and they understood what was appropriate for public consumption and what was not.

If the administration is concerned that the RAs will use poor judgment in speaking to Observer reporters, then perhaps it should issue guidelines for information that should not be publicly expressed. The Observer is only one of the means by which students find out about the goings on of this institution. If the administration is truly concerned about sensitive information being leaked out, and not just about looking bad in front of potential donors, then it should rethink the logic behind this restrictive policy.

Stairs Made Safer, Elevators Still a Hazard

On a positive note, the Supporting Services Administration and the Department of Facilities Management responded very quickly to an editorial published in the Observer several weeks ago. Less than two days after the publication of an editorial that pointed out the dangers of the Midtown Center's slippery stairs, textured strips were placed on the most dangerous staircases in the Midtown Center. Other staircases have been sprayed with a textured

coating that makes them less slippery. The fast response of the departments shows that they are aware of students' concerns and are willing to respond quickly when they are able to.

But the second part of the editorial has not yet been answered. The Midtown Center's elevators still present a serious hazard to students. While security guards usually limit the number of students who can enter an elevator, the elevator cars still present dan-

gers, even when they are not overcrowded. The only way to make the elevators safer is to replace them.

The Department of Facilities Management should issue a statement about how it plans to deal with the elevators' hazards and then follow through. Students periodically notice that guards are more careful in controlling elevator crowds, and this is assumed to be in response to directives from the Safety and Security

Department. But students have not been informed that the administration has a serious plan for improving the safety of the elevators.

If replacing the elevators is not feasible at this point, then the administration has an obligation to inform the students of its plans for making the elevators safer and make these changes. The students deserve to know what action is being taken to make their school environment safer.

Overcoming Adversity on the Stage

Stern College Dramatics Society's (SCDS) last-minute production of "A Night of One Acts" drew small audiences and mixed reviews from a student body immersed in midterms. But the production showcased a willingness to pull together and make things work at the last minute.

Elizabeth Renna, who directed the play, did admirable work in her directing debut. The actresses each brought their characters to life, with only a month of rehearsal time to prepare for the production. While both plays were very short, the performance of two plays allowed more stu-

dents to participate. Small casts have often been a drawback to SCDS' performances.

Devorah Cenko, SCDS President, has been a strong leader this year for the society, and she dealt professionally with the cancellation of the society's previous production "Nobody's

Gilgul," which was cancelled when it was deemed inappropriate by cast members after weeks of rehearsal. Cenko was able to rally her board and the cast of the play to take on the burden of a new performance at the last minute. They should all be commended for their efforts.

letter

Intramural Basketball Captains Say Thanks

Before the last fouls are called and the final whistle is blown on the third season of Intramural Basketball, we would like to take this opportunity to let the student body know how all this got started.

There happens to be one special person who has dedicated a tremendous amount of time to answering these complaints. Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of the Athletic Department, has gone above and beyond his call of duty to help the students pursue their

athletic interests. Last year a group of students approached Jennie Horowitz, Basketball Instructor, about forming an intramural league. She advised the group in the initial stages of the establishing of the league. She referred the group to Dr. Zerneck for further assistance. From the moment the idea of starting a league was suggested, Dr. Zerneck took an immediate interest in helping in any way possible.

There were many things that we, the captains, never

thought of as necessary, that were provided for us without having to go through any trouble. From reserving the gym, to getting team T-shirts, to organizing an official dessert recognizing the winning team and those who were dedicated to the league, nothing is too much to ask.

Dr. Zerneck has also helped to improve the workout facilities in the dorms and has helped to find new places for swimming classes and for the Lady Maes to practice, just to

name a few. When speaking to him, he treats us with a tremendous amount of respect, as if we are his peers, not just another student. He has always said that he is a firm believer in giving recognition to those who deserve it. We as students feel that he deserves a tremendous amount of recognition for all that he has done for the student body.

-- Mechal Weiss and Shaunna Peters, SCW '99

Edah's Vision - After the Media Frenzy



susan jacobs

editor-in-chief

disapproval or ambivalence of members of YU's faculty and administration towards the conference. Along with them was a sizable contingency of YC students.

While the conference did include some controversial items, like the introduction of a different version of the *Bircat Hamazon* liturgy, most of the convention's speakers shied away from issues that would cast them in the pale of Orthodoxy.

Many of the topics examined in a series of concurrent sessions were similar to topics commonly taught and discussed within YU, causing some students to question why so much fuss had been raised about the conference in the first place.

In his opening remarks, Rabbi Saul Berman, director of Edah and Judaic Studies professor at SCW, said that some of the most critical issues facing Modern Orthodoxy stem from secular culture and include materialism, value relativity and self-centeredness, which he called the new paganism. He defined the role of Modern Orthodoxy as opposing these elements. "Jewish values have to be at the core of Judaism," said Rabbi Berman. He followed this statement by expressing the ideal of "maximum integration with society while affirming a passionate commitment to *halacha*."

Rabbi Berman drew a utopian picture of a give-and-take relationship

between Judaism and secular culture. He emphasized the importance of bringing spirituality and religious insight into the mundane tasks of everyday life.

As a participant in this conference, I was struck by the efforts of Rabbi Berman and others to deliberately avoid treading on controversial territory. The message I got was that the conference organizers were attempting to create a movement that would not offend anyone's Orthodox sensibilities, but would effectively address some of the issues that Orthodox Jews face when they interact with the secular world.

Some observers may be correct when they say that by defining itself as a distinct entity within Orthodoxy, Edah further splinters the Orthodox community. However, as a participant in the conference, most of the people I met appeared to be mainstream Orthodox Jews who were not interested in creating a rift in Orthodox

life. The level of discussion in individual sessions promoted respect for the integrity of *halacha* and demonstrated participants' general fluency with the terminology of traditional Jewish learning.

Listening to Rabbi Berman, I felt his enthusiasm and idealism for the future of Modern Orthodoxy, not contempt or disrespect for other views within Orthodoxy. Rabbi Berman is a rare visionary who is capable of inspiring a multitude of people with his words. I might not agree with all his positions on certain matters, but I am moved by his passion for Judaism and his intense desire to reinvigorate Jewish life with spirituality. In spite of reports emphasizing isolated remarks out of context, I didn't find the Edah conference to be either controversial or divisive.

The Midsemester Crunch



ayelet grun

executive editor

The computer room is crowded with students typing away on the keyboard, hoping to finish their paper before it's due in two hours. The dormitory halls are littered with clusters of study groups, and the copying machines photocopy notes as if there was no tomorrow (there isn't - the test is today).

Welcome to midterms at SCW.

Midterms is a time of stress, a time of panic. It is the period in which students realize that their teachers really did teach something in the previous seven weeks of school. Every college student goes through this.

But do the exams have to stretch for an entire month?

My roommate began her midterms at the end of February. I didn't have my first one until the middle of March. And then there are those students who tell me they have midterms right before the Passover break. I have heard of cases where a student has three midterm exams in one day -- the like of which would not be allowed for a final exam schedule. Then, there are those students who have it easy - seven tests given over a

period of seven weeks.

What troubles me more than the fact that by the time I am finished with midterms, I have to start worrying about finals, is that we are forced to juggle our classes in addition to midterm exams. There were semesters where I was taking seven classes and a lab, while studying for the eight midterms those professors were kindly handing out. Many students like me are forced into such a predicament. Why is it, that before final exams, the university recognizes our need to study without the pressure of attending class, whereas for midterms they do not? Is the end of the semester so different than the middle of one?

For students, the perfect solution would be to cancel midterms altogether. But since that is not likely to occur any

time soon, I believe that the best remedy would be to set aside a week where no classes would be held, and midterm exams could be given. I understand that we would be losing five days of school, days that are needed to fill a federal quota. Therefore, I suggest that the university cut the number of days given for reading week and use them for midterm exams.

It would be wonderful if we could have two separate reading weeks and two exam weeks - one for midterms and one for finals. But considering the lengthy academic year we already have, I doubt students would opt for that solution.

Students will be stressed around midterms time no matter what. By setting aside one week exclusively for exams, the university can limit that stress to a week rather than a month.

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The Show Must Go On

SCDS Stages "A Night of One Acts"

IVA TARZIK
Staff Writer

The Stern College Dramatics Society (SCDS) presented "A Night of One Acts" March 15-18 in Koch Auditorium. After much turmoil, debate and last minute cancellations, SCDS performed two one-act plays, "Second Best Bed" by Tim Kelly and "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet" by Charles George.

SCDS originally scheduled performances of "Nobody's Gilgul" by Lois Roisman under the direction of SCW Speech professor Mark McGovern. Once rehearsals began, however, it became clear

that the play contained material inappropriate for a SCW presentation. "More than the sexual innuendoes it presents," said SCDS president Devorah Cenkler, SCW '99, "[its] view of women in Judaism is different from that of Stern." The club, along with McGovern and SCW Dean Karen Bacon, decided to replace the play because "Nobody's Gilgul" would be "too offensive."

With little over a month before its scheduled performances, SCDS chose to present "A Night of One Acts" instead. Due to personal time constraints, McGovern was unable to oversee the new plays. Instead, Elizabeth Renna, SCW '99, a speech and drama major, directed. The

performances were held on their originally scheduled dates, with one exception: SCDS cancelled the first two performances in order to provide for an extra night of rehearsal.

The cast consisted of 14 students, four more than "Nobody's Gilgul." "Everybody who is working on the play [was] very busy because of the time crunch," said Cenkler. "But everything is getting done, and getting done well, because everybody is committed."

"It will be awesome," said Renna before the performances. "We're dedicating it to Mr. McGovern—he's awesome." Renna explained that she agreed to direct because she hopes to become a movie director after graduation. "I kind of got elected. The project came on us really soon

and we wanted to have something." She explained that McGovern could not direct the play because he didn't have the requisite 24 hours per day to work on it. "I'm having fun," she said. "And I think the others are too."

"The drama society put in all," said Sorah Borenstein, SCW '00, an actress in "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet." "I think it will pay off." She added that although it was unfortunate that the original play had to be replaced, it is wonderful that Renna took the responsibility of directing upon herself. The play is "something to be proud about," she said. "It is totally student-directed. All the accomplishments go to us students...It is fantastic that we're pulling it off."

Faculty Absence Policy Frustrates Students

RACHEL ELBAUM
Staff Writer

"I woke up an hour early for nothing," said one SCW student, as she looked up at the index card announcing her professor's absence.

Recently, students have complained about the way they are informed of their professor's absence. Traditionally, if a professor is unable to come to class he/she calls the Office of the Dean, which then posts an index card with the name of the professor and the date he/she will be absent.

"What else can we do?" to inform the students, said Elaine Taub, who posts the cards. Some students call the Office of the Dean to find out if a professor is absent that day, according to Taub. If students call, "we answer their questions," she said.

"It is not fair for those of us who have to come to school specifically for one class, only to find out when we arrive that the professor is not there," said Elana Well, SCW '00.

The Student Life Committee also complained about the index cards being the sole way to inform students. According to Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian there was a solution proposed in a Student Life

Committee meeting for the secretaries to fax the information to the dorms and for the guards to post on the boards there. "I don't know whether or not they are doing it," she said.

Professors are given no personal days and any unexpected time off is usually due to extenuating personal circumstances or illness. They are sometimes asked to present papers or attend conventions and any days missed, as a result, are usually made up later in the semester, said Dean Orlian.

"Most professors don't know they aren't coming in until that morning," said Dr. Edward Levy, head of SCW's music department. "You can't ask the Dean's office to call all the students. I don't know what other alternative there is."

Other universities have 800 numbers to call that announce what professors will be absent that day. A solution similar to that in SCW would not be possible according to Dean Orlian, because it would be too hard to keep it updated.

Olga Pantukhova, SCW '00, has no objection to the current system. "It makes me happy to come in the school and see the note posted that there is no class."

NYPD Provides Extra Security

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

A few weeks ago YU began participating in a program with the New York Police Department (NYPD) in which non-police clients can hire uniformed police officers to provide additional security. Donald Sommers, Chief of YU Security, called the program a "positive boost" to YU security.

New York City police officers are stationed at the Brookdale and Schottenstein Residence Halls at night as well as at university functions to provide better security than the Burns security guards can offer alone.

Sommers explained that the police department's clients, which include

malls, jewelry stores and the like, pay the officers directly and the police department takes a percentage of that pay for coordinating the officers' schedules. According to him, this program is designed to "enhance" security and is not in response to any incident. "It's a great program," he said. "I hope we keep it."

Another administrator in the Office of Safety and Security said that this program was instituted in New York last year, but has successfully existed in New Jersey for at least 20 years. He said he believes approximately 10,000 officers participate, and that participants are chosen at random instead of by seniority.

Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of the Supporting Service Administration, could not be reached for comment.

The SCWSC Computer Science Club announces the following events:

"Make Your Own Website" - Learn HTML, imaging and advanced Web design. Starting April 12, 1999, at 9:00 p.m. in Room 418 of the Midtown Center.

Guest Speaker Eric Goldberg, renowned game developer, CEO of Crossover Technologies, speaking about career opportunities April 19, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. in the Ivy Garden Center in Schottenstein Hall.

(To find out more about him, check out his site at www.crossover.com)

For more information, contact Eileen Chudow at 212-693-7174

Wolf Returns Part-Time; Registrar Search Continues

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

A SCW Hebrew professor recently echoed many students' question when he asked University Registrar Melvin Davis whether Mrs. Hannah Wolf was working in the Midtown Registrar's Office after the Observer had reported that she resigned her position as Assistant Registrar.

Wolf is, in fact, working part-time in order to graduate the approximately 65 SCW students requesting a January 1999 degree. She explained that she volunteered to perform this task because she knew that "the folder [containing the information about January graduation] would just sit there and that was unfair to students because her resignation didn't concern them."

Although Wolf resigned because she believed she was inadequately paid and her requests for a salary raise were ignored, she is satisfied with the hourly rate she now receives. She did not begin working until the agreement was finalized in writing, thinking "it was a good idea" to wait, she said.

She plans to continue working at SCW until she finishes the January graduation material. She explained that a small number of students are denied their

request to graduate, usually because they failed the exit examination or lacked a necessary course, which often they were unaware they needed because they did not have a senior graduation check. Wolf sends letters to these students explaining the situation, and hopes they will be among the approximately 300 May graduates.

Wolf added her hope that the next Assistant Registrar will assist the May graduates. She said that although the position will be difficult for a new employee to enter, there are always places to go for help, such as the Office of the Deans.

Davis said he hopes YU will find a replacement for Wolf. "I hope it will be soon, but there are no guarantees in life," he said. YU placed a help-wanted advertisement in the February 21 Sunday New York Times. Although Davis had not seen any resumes at the time, he said applicants faxed their resumes to the Office of Human Resources by the next day and others made phone inquiries the day the ad appeared.

The advertisement reads: "Assistant/Associate Registrar. Yeshiva University, ranked in the top tier of national universities by U.S. News and World Report, seeks a professional to fill the above position at our Midtown Center.... Responsibilities include maintaining acad-

emic records, evaluating transfer credits, performing graduation checks, overseeing classroom assignments, and other related duties. Candidates should have at least three years related experience in higher education." The ad continues by requiring applicants to know certain computer programs and have a bachelor's degree. In return, YU promises "an excellent benefits package."

Mike Sperring, Human Resources Manager, refused to comment due to a "policy not to disclose information about recruitment efforts outside the department" with which Human Resources is working.

Meanwhile Davis has performed senior checks, as many as eight in one afternoon, although he said that workload was "too heavy," and hopes to begin junior checks soon. He explained that "usually two days have not passed" without his being on the Midtown Campus. He explained that meeting with a student is "the tip of the iceberg" because he performs review work in advance so he won't waste students' time. He also often meets with deans before performing a check, for example, in order to determine the best way to fulfill missing credits. He also indicated that changes may be made after a senior check, such as a student obtaining a course waiver.

Students sign up for junior or senior checks in the Registrar's Office by listing their name, phone number and junior or senior status in a notebook. A Registrar's Office worker then calls them to schedule an appointment when one becomes available. Seniors receive priority status.

Mechal Tesser, SCW '00, expressed many juniors' frustrations. She explained that during the fall semester she was a senior according to credits, but a junior according to graduation date. She made an appointment for a check with Wolf, but a friend then told her that checks were only offered to seniors at the time. When Tesser asked the Office of the Registrar if this was true, she was told that she would not be seen. "If I hadn't cancelled they would have seen me," she said. "A friend went as a junior, and Mrs. Wolf was annoyed but she had her appointment." She pointed out that no signs are posted informing juniors that they should sign up for junior checks. "I want to be on track," she added. "I would have liked to have known [my credit status] for this semester, and to know for registering for next semester."

Computers in Brookdale III- Equipped for Student Needs

SARAH CATE
Staff Writer

So you think that it wouldn't be a big deal to type that concluding paragraph to the term paper you've pushed off all semester in the computer lab in Brookdale Hall? Think again. Some of the computers are missing mice, and none of these computers have printers. Bella Friedman, SCW '01, expressed her frustration at the lack of computers in the lab. "Last night I needed to finish a paper that was due the next day, and I couldn't because there weren't any mice on the computers. Also, it's very difficult to get a computer at certain times of the semester." According to Betty Gordon, director of computer services at SCW, there are no plans for the installation of printers. "Printers require too much maintenance for them to be a feasible option in the dormitory computer lab," Gordon commented. She said that the computers were installed in order to help those students who do not own personal computers. "They are just intended for typing," she said.

Frank Del Vecchio, from the Management Information Systems (MIS) Department of Yeshiva College, said that

the computers were installed in Brookdale Hall as a result of a request that was filed by SCW's Student Life Committee at the end of the last school year. To his knowledge, a request for computers with word processing software was filed. There are no plans for e-mail access, unless a request is filed by the Student Life Committee. At the time that the request for computers was filed, the MIS Department at Yeshiva College suggested the installation of printers, but the Student Life Committee declined, saying that the students had access to printers elsewhere.

Students have complained that there is not a computer lab in the Schottenstein Residence Hall. According to Del Vecchio, however, if a request is filed, the MIS Department will consider installing computers, after further discussion with the computer department at SCW. Ilana Kasten, SCW '00, said that it was unfair that Brookdale Hall had a computer lab, while Schottenstein did not. "I've been having problems with my own computer, and I really begrudge the fact that Schottenstein has not been given the same opportunities that Brookdale has."

Senior and Junior Workshops Get Mixed Reviews

OBSERVER STAFF

Two workshops, one for current juniors and one for seniors, set out to answer questions students face at the end of their college experience. The workshops, sponsored by the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS) and the Office of Student Services, were led by OPCS Director Naomi Kapp and Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services.

Held on February 24, the Junior Workshop consisted of questions and answers relating to a student's senior year of college, preparation for graduate school applications and decisions surrounding one's major. The 12 students who attended were told about anxiety and

common concerns they might face as seniors.

Kapp and Hait were present at the Senior Workshop as well. The March 10 event was led by five SCW alumnae who addressed issues regarding religious observance in the workplace, financial obligations after graduation, adjusting to a social life outside of SCW and pre-graduation stress.

The 20 seniors who attended the workshop were relieved to hear that indecision and fear of an unsettled future are common and that these problems get resolved.

Some students were disappointed that no married graduates were part of the panel, while others were upset that no one working in a corporate setting participated.

Challenge

continued from page 1

did not coincide with what the constitution had intended for this position." She said that the election process necessitates full evaluation of the candidates and that no candidate is disqualified until the evaluation period has been completed.

Simon has been class president for her freshman, sophomore and junior classes, while Tuchman headed the Zachor Club this year.

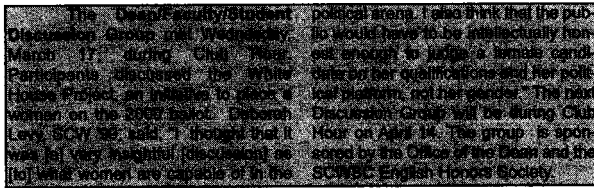
The Canvassing Committee reviews submitted applications in conjunction with SCWSC's executive board. Without looking at the applicants' names, they determine who is qualified to run, and then notify the applicants. They contend

that it takes a certain amount of experience to properly fill the position of president. A student cannot become president without having leadership qualities and the know-how of how to deal with that position.

The Canvassing Committee and executive board base their judgments and final conclusions on SCW's constitution and attempt to follow its articles to the letter of the law, Schulman said.

Article 10 Section 3C of the constitution states that, "All prospective candidates for office in the Student Council must have and some record of service or leadership, e.g. officer of chartered club, resident advisor, editor of The Observer."

see Challenge, page 14



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ISSUES

Dress Code at Stern is Applauded and Criticized

Most Agree that "Status Quo" be Maintained

SARA KOSTANT
Associate Features Editor

In a memo dated July 14, 1998, incoming SCW students were given information about Orientation schedules and Jewish Studies placement procedures for the 1998-99 academic year. At the bottom of the memo, sent by SCW Assistant Dean Ethel Orlan and Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies, students were informed that they "will not be permitted to enter the classroom building in pants, short skirts or sleeveless garb."

"Each one of us has a contribution to make to the maintenance of the academic standards and the Jewish environment of the College," the memo notes. "It is our expectation that observance of the dress code by all students will be but one of the ways in which we sustain the distinctive character of the Stern College community."

The dress code is a controversial issue in SCW, and mentioning it can sometimes open up a Pandora's box of bitter feelings, whether the person in question agrees with its institution or thinks it should be banned. Some students complain that teachers and administration do not censure those who do not follow the code, while other students complain that they have been upbraided several times for wearing "inappropriate" dress.

Administrators at SCW agree that the dress code is an important part of SCW's regulations, but they are not certain that taking greater measures to enforce the dress code would be feasible. First of all, "there is not a flagrant and wholesale violation" of the code, according to Rabbi Kanarfogel. Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani of SCW, agreed. "The percent of girls who follow it [the dress code] is extremely high," said Rabbi Hochberg. "The percent that don't are small, and they stand out."

Another concern of administrators is over the issue of who would be put in charge of mentioning dress code violations to SCW students. Orlan stated that "we [the administration] do not ask faculty to be enforcers of the dress code. They view themselves as scholars of information to impart, not as enforcers of the dress code." Although faculty members are not charged with the responsibility of upholding the code, for fear that it might detract from their academic responsibilities, Dean Orlan and Rabbi Kanarfogel noted that some faculty and administration members have chosen to inform students of their infractions.

Rabbi Hochberg added that greater enforcement might engender a negative attitude toward the goals of the dress code, especially if carried out by a professor. "If a professor takes attendance and then enforces the policy, it's not a constructive educational technique," he said. Rabbi Hochberg differentiated between "enforcement" and "encouragement," saying that the latter would be much more effective in influencing people to follow the dress code. Students who defy the code are more likely to change their minds based on a "positive transmission of ideals and the goals of *tzniut*," and not by what they might perceive as "adversarial" methods.

A "positive transmission," as defined by Rabbi Hochberg, is especially important because of the diverse commu-

nity at SCW. Dean Orlan mentioned that the student body consists of Jewish women from all over the world, who grew up with various levels of religious observance in their homes. Some students come to SCW unused to following such a dress code, unlike their counterparts who attended yeshivot and are used to restrictions on their garb. If the dress code is transmitted without acrimony, it is more likely to be understood by these students.

The reluctance expressed by the administration in instituting stricter enforcement of the code does not reflect any doubts on their part that the dress code

is necessary component of SCW life. Rabbi Kanarfogel noted that the dress code does not just answer any *halachic* issues regarding modesty; rather, it also emphasizes the ideal of "*kavod haMakom* (honor of G-d)," especially in a place of Jewish learning. "Most conducive to the atmosphere at Stern is this type of dress," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. Dean Orlan mentioned that students at SCW do not understand how much they are on display to the outside world, and that when they do not follow the dress code in SCW, they may send out the wrong message to visitors.

"People come to visit from various institutions, including parents and students...Some have expectations of what they might find appropriate for Yeshiva University students."

Student attitudes toward the dress code are mixed. Sharon Saltzman, SCW '00, agreed that the dress code should exist. She said that besides any religious issues involved, "we're in a place of education which has a certain formality to it."

Saltzman, however, is not sure that implementing an active enforcement of the code would benefit SCW, because she fears it may create a rift between various segments of students. "Part of the beauty of Stern is that [each person] feels she has a niche. If this [enforcement] means that there is going to be a 'them' and an 'us,' then it's not worth it." The tension created by further enforcement of the code would not only "polarize" the student body, according to Saltzman, but could also turn students off the dress code completely as a possible way of life. "People who are bothered by seeing students wearing pants in Stern should, instead of focusing on getting skirts on people, focus on creating an environment where people are inspired by substance and will want to wear skirts." The best way to "enforce" the dress code, according to Saltzman, is to transmit the code's ideals to the student so that she will observe it by choice. Penalizing students for infractions will breed resentment and further infractions.

Ilana Sperling, SCW '99, agrees that further enforcement may "scare off some girls who want to grow religiously but have not yet made a commitment to only wear skirts." Sperling noted that even

if turning off students was not a possibility, she would still be wary of actively enforcing the dress code. "Since Stern is a college, there should be a certain element of independence," she said. "College life fosters independence of thought and action." SCW is limited in the amount of freedom it can grant because of its Orthodox status, but active enforcement of the dress code -- besides during Judaic studies classes -- should not be one of the ways students are limited, according to Sperling.

Atara Gewirtz, SCW '00, believes that the dress code should be enforced in Judaic studies classes. At that point, she said, "it's not just a personal decision, it's not fair to the Rav" who might be teaching

the course, and who would feel uncomfortable viewing women who are not following the code. A couple of SCW students who said that they occasionally wear pants in the school building emphasized that they did not wear pants to their Judaic studies classes, out of respect for these teachers.

Enforcement of the Code

Another student who also does not always follow the dress code agreed that students should choose to wear skirts to their Judaic studies courses, but did not believe that any "policing action" should be implemented for these classes. Her main complaint about the dress code was that it takes away from the academic atmosphere at SCW. "I find it hard to take my studies seriously when I find others trying to enforce their views on me," she said. She also did not believe that the dress code in its current form is the best way to foster an earnest attitude in the students toward their studies. She remarked that an emphasis on more conservative clothing in general, rather than a dress code calling only for skirts, would also help create an environment

where students take their studies seriously. This student added that she did not think that the dress code should exist at all, because students come to SCW for a college education, which by its very nature grants students a certain level of independence. She said that she had not been aware of the dress code when she enrolled in SCW.

Dean Orlan did not feel that personal opinion is relevant in arguing over the dress code. "Whether or not they agree is not the point, rather...the university has a code and...we hope that they would abide by the rules of [the] community that they have chosen to be a part of." Even students who disagree with the code, according to Dean Orlan, should follow it while within the school building, because it is a regulation with the same importance as any other. An SCW senior who wears pants in the school building admitted that she is irritated when, on occasion, she is asked to put on a skirt. She noted however, that "I can't be mad at them if they do enforce it,

if it's a written rule...but I wish they wouldn't."

This student also wanted to emphasize that the belief that the dress code is never enforced is erroneous. "They draw the line in the office and during finals," she said. "In the Dean's office you won't be helped if you wear pants, and you can't take the final if you wear pants [to the final exam room]." She and another student mentioned that each of them has been turned away from the Dean's office by secretaries and has been told not to return unless dressed appropriately. This student also added, however, that there is inconsistency in the code's enforcement. "It bothers me that some girls wear pants every day, while I wear occasionally and get caught."

Modesty in College Sports

SCW participates in intercollegiate athletics, just like many other women's colleges. The uniforms for these sports--basketball, tennis, and fencing--usually involve wearing shorts, or in the case of fencing, knickers which end below the knee, with long socks. Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics at Yeshiva University, said that it is not always possible to substitute skirts for shorts in the typical athletic uniform. Certain sports, he said, have very strict rules about the type of uniform allowed, while others sports are more amenable to changes in the uniform. In tennis, for example, "there is no rule requiring any particular outfit. Girls wear long skirts, sweatpants." Zerneck noted that during a recent match, the SCW students who were playing in skirts "moved as gracefully and easily" as those wearing shorts. Gewirtz, who is a member of the tennis team, agreed with Zerneck's observation. "It's not a sport where what you wear is an inhibition...I don't ever think that I lost a point because of it [wearing skirts]."

Zerneck mentioned that "the typical uniform that an intercollegiate basketball team would wear is shorts. Some members [of the SCW team] chose to wear sweatpants." Rifky Gantz, SCW '99, is one of those basketball players who chose to wear sweatpants instead of shorts when she played on the team last year. She said that she did not think the sweatpants were ideal, but "they covered more than the shorts." Within tennis and basketball, there is more room for exceptions in dress, but members of the fencing team have no choice but to wear the knickers and long socks.

For safety reasons, the regulations requiring knickers for fencers cannot be bent, according to Zerneck. "There is a certain amount of self-policing on this issue" he said. "Women who will only wear skirts [during games] will not go out for the team." Yael Harris, SCW '00, a member of the fencing team, said that she felt the Athletic Department was doing its best to ensure that men do not come to the games on behalf of the SCW team. "The athletic director and coach are understanding about our needs," she said.

Female athletes at other colleges do not often discuss the issues faced by the athletic teams at SCW, nor do many other universities possess similar dress codes. In these respects SCW is different from other schools, but the goals of its students creates a common thread between SCW and other colleges.

"Whether or not they agree is not the point, rather...the university has a code and...we hope that they would abide by the rules of community that they have chosen to be a part of."

- Dean Ethel Orlan

"Part of the beauty of Stern is that [each person] feels she has a niche. If this [enforcement] means that there is going to be a 'them' and an 'us,' then it's not worth it."

- Sharon Saltzman, SCW '00

Prayer Rally on Wall Street Draws Thousands

AVIVA LAUFER
News Editor

A sea of umbrellas filled Wall Street as 40-50,000 Orthodox Jews gathered in prayer on Sunday, February 28 in the pouring rain, in efforts to reenact a prayer gathering in Jerusalem several weeks earlier. In Israel, Ultra-Orthodox groups had gathered in response to recent Israeli Supreme Court rulings which they viewed as upsetting the delicate balance of Orthodox practices and politics in Israel. The Wall Street prayer vigil in New York, paralleled the Israeli gathering in numbers and promoted a similar agenda. Without a word of politics uttered, prayers were sounded in unison to beseech G-d's intervention in Israel's political affairs.

While many called the rally "a momentous event" and "a great sanctification of G-d's name," such reactions seem to be mostly concentrated amongst the ultra-Orthodox community. In the days leading up to the rally, some leaders of Modern Orthodoxy were said to have publicly downplayed participation, claiming that the rally organizers excluded certain segments of Modern Orthodoxy. Rabbi

Sidney Green of Brooklyn, New York is one such individual who did not attend the gathering due to the lack of publicity in Modern Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities in New York. "It would have been more meaningful to call for Jewish unity on a far greater scale," he said, "there was an opportunity to invite so many more Jews to join in."

Rabbi Kenneth Auman, leader of the Young Israel of Flatbush Synagogue in Brooklyn and professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, urged his congregation to attend. "At first I was hesitant," he said, "but after finding out more about what precisely it entailed, I changed my mind." He explained that although the event's coordinators and the mass majority of attendants may have clashing political viewpoints, the gathering was intended to

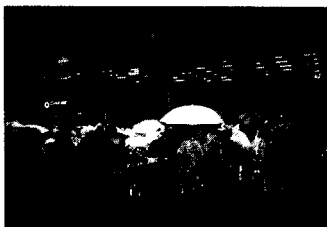
be solely a prayer gathering with no political statements made. "While everyone may have different notions in their hearts of what they are praying for," Rabbi Auman said, "all Jews should be encouraged to join together in prayer." Rabbi Auman also noted that he received three separate phone calls inviting his congregation to attend.

Such tensions came at the heels of strife in Israel caused when the mass gathering of Ultra-Orthodox Jews was counteracted with a mass gathering of opposing non-Orthodox Jews nearby. They gathered in opposition to the Ultra-Orthodox prayer vigil in support of the Israeli Court's decisions, claiming that ruling the country religiously is undemocratic. Some have speculated that impressions of the prayer services on Wall Street were predisposed

with knowledge of these tensions that arose in Israel.

When asked if he was planning a counter-demonstration, Reform's Union of American Hebrew Congregations of America President Eric Yoffie said, "there would be no reason to do so. An overwhelming percentage of American Jews support the independence of the (Israeli) Supreme Court as well as the substantive rulings the court has made. We don't need to demonstrate what is self-evident."

For those present at the rally, the intensity of prayer rang loud from amongst the heavy downpour of rain. Voices reverberated from loudspeakers and thousands of Jews repeated psalms verbatim from the mouths of renowned Torah scholars and leaders. Hands shivered while grasping the rain sodden pages containing selected prayers to be recited. As noted by Debra Horowitz, a young mother who prayed while holding her daughter's hand tightly, "It's a wonderful thing to see Jews unite, especially for Israel's welfare...I only pray for an even greater unification of Jews in the future."



Thousands gather in prayer

RESERVE THE DATE

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Author of *The Politics of Rescue*

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mkatz2@ymail.yu.edu

SIEBEN COLLEGE/SSSB FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE SPRING 1999

FRIDAY MAY 14

8:00-11:00		
BIB	3409	J Five Megillo/ Bernstein
BIOL	1012C	J Biology P/n Burdowski
CHEM	1048H	JLM General Chv Rapp
ECO	3501	J Economics - Kanovsky
ENG	2612	J American Lit Hendrick
HIS	2401	J Hist of the A Schrecker
JHI	1233	J Early Jewish Reiner
JPH	1813	J Modern Jew Ackerman
JPH	1214A	J Theories Of Carmy
MAN	1020	J Principles of Pernay
MUS	1111	J Sense Of M Gleaser
PHI	1100	J Logic Levin
PSYC	2414	J Abnormal P Perlman
PSYC	2414	J2 Abnormal P Schachter
SOC	1001	J Introduction Langer

12:00-2:00

BLW	2112	M Business La Greenberg
ENG	2329	M Shakespeare Nochimson
ENG	2612	M American Lit Hendrick
FIN	1408	M Corporate F Andreacis
FRE	1202	M Intermediate Kra
INF	2228	M Adv C++ Fo Zibbert
JUD	1485	M The Festival Palmer
JUD	1402A	M Basic Jewish Berner
MAR	1001	M Principles of Belman
MAR	3345	M Int'l Export F Palumbo
MATH	2105	M Linear Algebr Dalezman
PHI	1010	M Great Ideas Levin
PHY	1032R	M Intro Physics Pormont
SOC	1504	M Methods Of Prager
SPA	1202	M Intermediate Issacharoff
STA	1021	M Intro to Stoll Groszof

SUNDAY MAY 16

10:00-12:00		
BIB	1120	A Pentateuch Metzger
BIB	1208	A Book Of G Weiss
BIB	1304	A Book Of Es Fleisner
BIB	1309	A Book Of E Cohen
BIB	1610	A Book Of Di Oratz
BIB	2107	A Early Prop Lichtenman
BIB	2508	A Grunhaus
BIB	1308A	A Book Of E Shulman
HEB	1102	A Seginer's Cohen
HEB	1104	A Elementary Dublitsky
HEB	1204	A Intermediate Barzel
JHI	1327	A The Tosefta Karsztogel
JUD	1583	A Medical Et Berman
JUD	1846B	AJ Advanced Kahn

1:00-3:00

ACC	1002	F Principles - Morrow
ACC	3601	F Principles - Hochman
BIB	4021	F Biblical Po Havazzelet
BIOL	3221	FGM Nutrition March
COMP	3544	F Data Struc Breban
ENG	4201	F Masters V. Schwebel
ENG	4471H	F Literature - Neaman
JPH	1204	F Jewish Eth Shatz
JUD	1581A	FW Modern Je Hochberg
MAN	2110	F Organizati- Capela
PSYC	1010	F Introductor Schwartz
SPE	3000	F Survey of Goldstein
SPE	3024	FGW Spe Patho Josephson
STA	1021	F Intro to Sts Lemberas

MONDAY MAY 17

8:30-11:30		
ART	1302	D1 The 15th C Cohen
BIB	1161	D2 Topics: My Metzger
BIB	1206	D2 Book Of G Schechter
BIB	2555	D2 Jeremiah Oratz
BIB	2805	D2 Shvat Zlor Grunhaus
CHEM	1049C	D2 General Cl Dobin
CHEM	1214C	JDV Organic Cl Blau
ENG	2004	D1 Survey En Schwebel
ENG	2916	D1 Lit of Rura Jacobson
FIN	1001	D1 Principles - Brown
HEB	1208	D2 Intermediate Dublitsky
INF	1020	D1 Management: Zalkheim
JHI	1415A	DW History of: Gurock
JUD	1445	D2 Women & Palmer
JUD	1572	D2 The Individ Berman
MAR	1001	D1 Principles - Cohn
PHI	2420	D2 Modern Pt Shatz
POL	1040	D1 Amer Govt Zucker
PSYC	3804	D1 Psychobio Bacon
SOC	1748	D1 Ethnic Gro Eisenberg

1:00-3:00

ACC	1001	P Princ of Ac Hipscher
COMP	3640	PQ Program Roslyn
EDU	4081	P Special Ed Fried
INF	1020	P Management: Rau
JUD	1443A	PH Laws+Cos Fudis
JUD	1474S	PQH Sephardic Lieberman
MATH	2601	P Differential Dalezman
PSYC	3712	P Applied Be Fried
SPE	3011	PQ Speech Mi Horn
SPE	3015	P Intro Spee Danto

TUESDAY MAY 18

8:30-11:30		
ACC	1102	L Intern Acc Homung
COMP	1503	L Discrete S Groszof
ECO	1201	L Intermedia Hoover
FIN	2521	L Portfolio M Krausz
FRE	1102	L Elementar Kra
HEB	2740	L Topics in F Roshtwab
HIS	1002	L Western C Freedman
INF	3514	L Telecomm Zibbert
JPH	1843	L Contemp. Ackerman
JUD	1449	L Laws+Cos Kahn
JUD	1485	L Daily Life Auman
JUD	1490	L Interpersn I Cohen
JUD	1203A	LT Jewish Lit. Wildes
JUD	1822C	LH Mishnah - Shurin
POL	1210	L Media and Sevan
PSYC	1110	L Developm Fried
PSYC	3800	L Personality Perlman
RUS	1102	L Elementar Teybkina
SOC	2210	L The Family Prager
SPA	1102	L Elementar Issacharof
STA	1320	L Mathemat Dalezman
STB	1131	L Statistics I Prager
MAN	4435	L Sem Bus: IT: PZ Talor

1:00-3:00

ART	1052	N History Of Gardner
ART	1352	N The 18th C Denton
BIOL	3728C	N Animal P/n Burdowski
BLW	2021	N Legal&Eth Greenberg
COMP	1115C	N Intro to Co Palmer
COMP	1315C	N Intro Comp Kermaier
COMP	1336C	N Intro to Co Pommont-Maia
EDU	1124	N Learning C Fried
ENT	3780	N Entrepreneur Belman
HIS	1002H	N Western C Freedman
MAN	3780	N Entrepreneur Belman
MAR	1001	N Principles - Palumbo
MATH	2216	N Modern Al Dalezman
POL	1094	N War&Peace Weinberger
PSYC	1124	N Learning C Fried
PSYC	3105	N Social Psy Rice
PSYC	4931	N Problems I Perlman
SOC	1316	N Environme Nevezet
SPE	3033	N Audiology Danto
STB	1601	N Operations Friedman

MEET THE CANDIDATES: ELECTION



APRIL SIMON

SCWSC President

I am a junior with a political science major and a minor in psychology and Spanish, hoping to attend law school after graduation. Ever since my first day on the Stern campus, I can remember realizing the importance of school involvement. I served as my freshman class vice president, sophomore class president and junior class president and planned many events and programs that all of our students could enjoy. You might recall the Fashion Show, the Book Exchange, Rosh Hashanah Grams, and the upcoming Women's Health Expo where over \$1,000 was raised for Tzedakah. Each event that I have been responsible for has tried to target every member of the student body. I strongly believe each and every student is important and deserves the opportunity to participate in all her school offers. We should all feel that we are equal members of the Stern College family whose opinions, goals and interests are all different, yet equally meaningful. For every student additionally, to feel that they can and should be involved in their school is my greater desire. I hope you share my beliefs and realize that I am the candidate who has the experience and the drive to accomplish these goals for you.



SHIRA TUCHMAN

Did you ever pass by a flyer for a school journal and think to yourself, "Wow, I have never heard of that before! Oh, and look at that, the deadline was yesterday?" In an age where information is received in milliseconds via e-mail, fax and the Internet, it is a shame that any Stern College student should ever miss the train to Teaneck, the shiur that they would have loved to hear, the Dougie's party, or the movie the Zachor Club was going to see, all because they just didn't know about it. My name is Shira Tuchman, but you may know me as Saira Tuchman@ymail.com and I am running for SCW Student Council President. I am a junior, a political science major, pre-med and the president of the Zachor Club. I propose that just like all other college campuses, we have a student information desk open daily to answer every and any questions you may have about student life. Being Student Council President would give me the opportunity to help boost our school spirit. We are, after all, ranked 42nd in the country, and gosh darn it, we deserve it!!



CARLA SHRON

Hi, my name is Carla Shron. I am running for the position of Sy Syms Student Council President. I am currently a junior, majoring in marketing, and serving on the SSSC as secretary. I am also co-chairing the Sy Syms Recruiting Dinner this year. As President, I want to get all of you involved through new and exciting programs. I am open to all your suggestions, and interested in all your thoughts. So please introduce yourself to me so we can make the coming year a successful and prosperous one at the Sy Syms School of Business!



NICHELLE ROTTBERG

SSSBSC Treasurer

I am currently the Treasurer of the Sophomore Class. I love the experience of working with the student government. I am majoring in accounting. Next year will be my third year in Sy Syms, and I hope to work within the student government to make further improvements to SSSB.



SUZANNA KUPERMAN

SSSBSC Secretary

In high school I held positions of leadership in various clubs. I enjoyed working with people and coordinating various club events. I am dedicated, hard-working and a fun individual who has a serious interest in business and representing the views of SSSB students.



SHARON WIEDERKEHR

SSSBSC Secretary

Sharon's been a screaming ad of her love for SCW. Even in Midreshet Moriah she managed to convince a few girls to attend SCW. An active member of the Max Investment Club, a faithful devotee in the study of martial arts, a Shaarei Tzedek volunteer, while managing to juggle an MIS major.



SHLOMIT ZUDERER

WOW! This all came as a whirlwind, since last week I was planning on running for TAC treasurer. I hope I will do as good a job as Zemira, but the only way that can happen is if YOU give me your feedback!!!

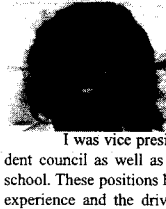
I am a junior, from Philadelphia, went to Darchei Binah, and am a psychology major. IY"TH, I plan on going into music and play therapy. Well I think that's about it for me. I really hope next year's TAC will rock the house 'n stuff. If all else fails, VOTE FOR SHLOMIT!



RACHEL SALAMON

Shopping List for the new millennium: Outreach Programs, Helping the Homeless, Shiurim, Bikur Cholim, Zachor Club, Israel Club. Overall, making Torah more prevalent in Stern

College. As head of Bnos Agudath Israel in high school, as well as secretary of SCWSC Junior Class this year, I have the experience and motivation to expand the current world of TAC and to implement new and diversified ideas for the coming school year. I look forward to helping TAC dress your spiritual resume for success as YOUR TAC PRESIDENT. Take advantage of your time in the Big City and get involved, because TAC has something for EVERYONE. And don't forget to vote March 24th - invest in your future by making my shopping list yours!



DEBBIE BENNEFELD

SCWSC VP

I was vice president of my high school student council as well as president of other clubs in school. These positions have given me the necessary experience and the drive to improve things in the school. I look forward to input and involvement from the entire student body.



DVASHA ALLEN

TAC Vice President

I am currently a junior, majoring in Judaic Studies. I plan to pursue a career in dentistry once I graduate from Stern. I am committed to maximizing the Torah atmosphere that surrounds us here at Stern. I want to develop and implement new programs that appeal to the entire spectrum of our community.



BETHANY BLEIER

TAC Vice President

Hailing from sunny Binghamton, NY, I attended Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim last year and loved it. I have been working with several members of TAC on a new Beit Midrash Program, which meets nightly for one hour. I have helped coordinate smaller weekly learning programs.



ELIZABETH STUB

TAC Vice President

Are you sick and tired of doing chessed in a routine fashion? Vote Liz for VP and not only can we make chessed fulfilling for the receiver, but also for you, the giver. I've shown I can do the job by being Vice President of Education and Treasurer of NCSY. I'm from Chicago and I'm a psychology major.



GILALOIKE

TAC Treasurer

I really enjoy doing chessed, and I think that being an active member of TAC is a great way to be involved in chessed in Stern. I live in Jamaica Estates, NY, for now. I aspire to live in Eretz Yisrael. I was in Israel for a year and a half in Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim.



ESTHER DONATH

TAC Secretary

I'm an upper sophomore. I'm from Hillcrest, Queens, and I went to Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim. I can think of no better way to channel my energies most effectively into Torah and Chessed than to help others do so (through TAC) as well.



ELANA NAIDER

TAC Secretary

I attended Michlalah last year, and have attended too many camps to name. I am an advisor in New York NCSY. I hope to initiate new programs such as a Shabbos set up/Hachnosos Orchim committee and a school-wide recycling campaign, with all proceeds going to Tzedakah.



CELIASPORER

SCWSC VP

I am officially a sophomore. I was editor of The Guide for the Perplexed. I work for the Office of Admissions and I am the manager of Milner's Mart. I am highly involved and dedicated to this school, and I know I will make a great executive vice president.



ZOYA MARDAKHEVA

SCWSC Treasurer

I am currently a Junior studying Business Management at Sy Syms School of Business. I have been co-managing the Schottenstein Convenience Store since the beginning of the school year. In addition, I am one of the Shabbat Head-waitresses. I promise to do a great job as your treasurer.



SHANI SPIRO

As treasurer I know I can do a proficient job at the tasks I am assigned. I similarly feel it will give me a chance to learn and experience the handling of various situations. It will also give me the opportunity to give back to the school, and offer input on how to improve student facilities.



CHANSCHUBERT

SCWSC Secretary

This past year in SCW I helped organize the Chanukah concert, and I was the stage manager for the Stern play. I was the layout editor of my high school yearbook. I enjoy organizing social events, and, more importantly, taking suggestions from others on planning them.



DAVID LAN

I am creative, energetic and eager to make SCW the most it can be. I am currently an intern for MTV. I was previous the activities director in my public high school. I was in charge of coordinating and executing all the activities in the school and overseeing 50 community service clubs.



DINA ADELSBERG

I am a junior majoring in accounting. I chose to run for SSSB Vice President because I want to make a difference. I am interested in helping Sy Syms reacher greater heights, and I am prepared to take that challenge. That means more speakers, more events, and more opportunities for you.

STERN COLLEGE/SSSB FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE SPRING 1999

WEDNESDAY MAY 12

9:30-11:30			
BIB 1088	B	Parashat of Redak	Grunhaus
BIB 1202	B	Book of Genesis	Shulman
BIB 1304	B	Book of Exodus	Alter
BIB 1308	B	Book of Exodus	Oratz
BIB 3410	B	Five Megillot	Havazelet
BIB 1098H	B	Ramban & His Thoug	Cohen, M
HEB 1104	B	Elementary Hebrew II	Lowin
HEB 1204	B	Intermediate Hebrew I	Dubitsky
HEB 1206	B	Intermediate Hebrew I	Cohen, Z
HEB 1321	B	Biblical Hebrew	Moshevi
HEB 2568	B	Modern Hebrew Lit	Barzal
JHI 1344	B	Jewish-Chris Polemics	Karnarfogel
JHI 1573	B	American Jewish Hist	Kosak
JUD 1201	B	Jewish Liturgy	Metzger
JUD 1446	B	Women & Jewish Lav	Berman
JUD 1466	B	The Festivals II	Cohen, A
JUD 1842	B	Intro To Talmud	Weiss
JUD 1844	B	Intermediate Talmud	Kahn

1:00-3:00

COMP 3402	G	Intro to Computer Sys	Breban
MAR 2210	GH	Direct Marketing	Rothschild
JUD 1498A	GHW	The Land Of Israel	Goldvicht
SPE 3320	GHW	Aural Rehabilitation	Schur

4:00-6:00

JUD 1444A	GHM	Laws of Niddah	Safran
JUD 1458A	GHM	Topics in Sabbath	Sobotofski

SHAVUOTH

HOLIDAY

RECESS

MONDAY MAY 24

9:30-11:30			
ART 1050	C	Introductio Cohen	
BIB 1097	C	Ramban a Grunhaus	
BIB 1410	C	Book of Le Shulman	
BIB 2157	C	Samuel	Oratz
BIOL 3038R	C	Ecology Li De Santis	
BIOL 3521C	C	Molecular Loewy	
ENG 2346	C	Milton & th Weidhorn	
HEB 1204	C	Intermediate Hebrew I	Cohen
HEB 1206	C	Intermediate Dubitsky	
HEB 1208	C	Intermediate Barzal	
HEB 2525	C	Mediev He Havazelet	
HIS 2006	C	Survey of Kosak	
INF 3831	C	End-User	Zakheim
JUD 1002	C	Intro to Jux Alter	
JUD 1381	C	Musear	Metzger
JUD 1446	C	Women & Cohen	
JUD 1464	C	The Feastv Berman	
MAN 3730	C	Business I Capela	
POL 1825	C	Democrac Zucker	
PSYC 2100C	C	Experimen Bacon	
SOC 1001	C	Introductio Eisenberg	
SOC 1730	C	Soc Amer Farber	
STB 1456	C	Quant Anz Harpaz	
JHI 1809H	CDM	History of I Solovitch	
CLA 1102	CKT	Elementar Schwebel	

1:00-3:00

ART 1050	E	Introductio Cohen
BIB 1157	E	Topics:Wc Havazelet
BIOL 1012C	E	Biology Pri Loewy
BIOL 2206C	E	Invertebral De Santis
BIOL 4023C	E	Microbiolo; Babich
ENG 3742	E	Modern Pt Neerman
FIN 3603	E	Internation Brown
HEB 1208	E	Intermediate Cohen
HIS 1572	E	History of I Zimmerman
JUD 1483	E	Jewish Lift Pahmer
JUD 1489	E	Intrpranl R Hochberg
MAN 1020	E	Principles Capela
MAR 2501	E	Buyer Beh Cohn
MATH 1412	E	Calculus I Bunimovitz
MATH 1413	E	Calculus II Lobenberg
MUS 1111	E	Sense Of I Levy
PHI 2740H	E	Science at Shatz
PSYC 1010	E	Introductio Bacon
PSYC 4932	E	Problems I Schwartz
TAX 2502	E	Advanced Hochman
PHY 1042R	EF	General Pt Prince
SOC 1480	EM	Intro Socia Kahn

TUESDAY MAY 25

9:30-11:30			
ACC 1002	K	Principles Leibowitz	
BIB 4520	K	Targumim Bernstein	
COMP 4541	K	Numerical Pomrot-Maia	
ECO 1021	K	Intro Micro Hoover	
EDU 1210	K	Educations Fried	
ENG 4561	K	Literature I Hatvay	
FIN 1001	K	Principles Andreadis	
HIS 1461	K	Modern Gt Freedman	
INH 1020	K	Managem Presby	
JHI 1402	K	Modern Je Reiner	
JUD 1131	K	Intro Jewis Ackerman	
JUD 1484	K	Jewish Lift Cohen	
JUD 1491	K	Topics Jev Auman	
JUD 1456H	K	The Sabbe Kahn	
MAR 3321	K	Product St Teich	
MUS 1111	K	Sense Of I Glasser	
PHI 4930	K	Theories o Levin	
PSYC 1130	K	Developm Periman	
PSYC 3400	K	Educations Fried	
PSYC 3800	K	Personalth Schechter	
SOC 1116	K	Soc Of De Langer	
SPA 2411	K	Civilization Issacharoff	

1:00-3:00

BIOL 1002C	D1	Biology Es Babich
BIOL 1002C	K	Biology Es De Santis
BIOL 1002C	K	Biology Es Loewy
FIN 2943	QR	Principles Oliver
INF 2125	QR C++	Prog Siegfried

SCW Student Pursues Acting Ambition

CHANA ROSENBLATT
Associate Business Manager

Hollywood, FL native, Stephanie Goldglantz, SCW '01, hopes to continue her acting career here in New York where she hits the big screen in Hollywood, CA. As she strives toward her goal of achieving success in the competitive world of acting, Goldglantz recently recounted the ups and downs of her experience thus far.

Observer: When did you become interested in drama and acting?

Goldglantz: My very first role was in my school's fourth grade play. I really enjoyed it and since then my interest in drama has grown tremendously.

O. Were you involved with the drama/acting program in your high school?

G. Yes. In Hillel High School we had a drama club called the Thespian Society which I was president of for two years. I also played the main character in plays through high school. I was Maria in "The Sound of Music," Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker," Peter in "Peter Pan," and Alice in "You Can't Take It With You."

O. Did you do any acting outside of school when you were at Hillel?

G. I was part of a singing/dancing troupe run by a woman in North Miami Beach. I was a member for two years during which we performed at various hotels, at the Israeli Day Parade, and at old age homes. We opened for different shows, and performed at ceremonies, dedications and fairs. When I was in eighth and ninth grade, the troupe was supposed to go to perform at several parades and concerts in Israel, but unfortunately it didn't work out. I remember being very excited for that. It really is a shame we couldn't do it. Three years ago I was in a Miss Florida Pageant. I went as Miss Hollywood, 1997. It was fun, although I saw that pageants aren't so nice. I didn't really like the girls and the people gave me a pretty hard time about

Shabbos. I definitely would not do a pageant again.

O. Are any of your family members talented in drama or singing?

A. My 16 year-old sister and 13 year-old brother are both involved in shows and have great voices. I think the gene for our good voices comes from my grandfather who was a cantor. My mother doesn't sing or act, but she loves the arts and is a fashion designer.

O. What direction has your acting career taken since coming to school in New York?

G. Soon after I started Stern this year (I was in Israel last year), I signed with a marketing agency called Tomorrow Talent. They advise me on what agencies I should go for, how I should interview, what pictures are good to use, and other issues like these. I've worked with Tom Logan, a Big Ten director and Al Onorato, a manager from Handprint Entertainment, among others. He actually manages Katie Holmes (Joey, "Dawson's Creek") and Six from "Blossom." I love working with him. He does a great job. I've also worked with Tony Rossi who has starred on "Home Improvement" and the movie, "Just Shoot Me." He is one funny guy.

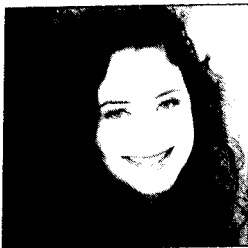
O. Have you done any real acting since signing with Tomorrow Talent?

G. A few months ago I was looking through Backstage, an actor's magazine, and saw an ad for an information session in the field. I went and it turned out to be an audition and not an information session. They gave me a cold reading (reading a script without preparation) to see if I was good. The next day they called me and said

that they liked me and would give me a partial scholarship to go to L.A. for an international model and talent conference being held in January. The entire trip cost \$4,700, but I only needed to raise \$2,200 since they offered to pay the rest. People sponsored me and I raised money through raffles arranged by my agency.

O. What did you do at this conference?

G. The conference consisted of four days of competitions where top agencies from around the world come to check out the talent. Casting directors, agencies, and managers hope to find fresh talent to recruit and sign. Over 1,000 hopefuls attended the conference. There were five categories of acting: soaps, sitcoms, television commercial,



Dancnis Graphics

Stephanie Goldglantz

theatrical headshots, and monologues. We were all given scripts to study beforehand and whoever won the competition would be given awards and would have the opportunity to interview with agencies interested in them. Altogether, I won four awards at this conference. I was second runner-up for drama monologue, television commercial, and all around female talent of the year for which I received \$200. I was especially happy about winning that one. I also placed [in the] top ten in the theatrical headshot category. After the competition I had interviews with agencies that expressed an interest in me and one of them actually wanted to sign me. In fact, they wanted me to move to L.A. immediately, but I chose to at least finish this semester at Stern.

G. Do you foresee your religious obligations as being problematic if you do choose to actively pursue a career in acting?

O. I know that acting is not an easy business, especially for a Jewish reli-

gious woman, but thank G-d, everything has really been falling into my lap. There's a guy, Steven Allen, from "L.A. Law" who is a religious Jew. He doesn't work on Shabbos, only eats Kosher, and is completely observant. He worked on the set of "Mission Impossible," and when he was needed for a particular scene and it was Saturday, everyone waited for him until after Shabbos. I explained to my scenes director that I wouldn't be able to work on Shabbos if they signed me. I told them I would only wear skirts and that there were things I just could not and would not do. From the over 1,000 people who attended the conference, I was the only religious one. Everyone kept on asking me questions about Shabbos and Judaism in general. No one knew anything, but everyone was very accommodating. I remember one incident in particular. I had told my director that I wouldn't be able to do certain things on Saturday, so she told everyone that I couldn't go near the light switch. However, one girl who didn't know the background of me not being able to turn on lights, came over to me and asked me what was wrong that I wasn't allowed to go near light switches. I explained it to her and then she laughed and said that she thought that I had something like metal in my brain and that the electricity was dangerous for me. I was happy she asked me, and that I was able to clear that up.

O. What are your plans now?

G. It almost seems *bashert* for me to go to L.A. and do what I can to make an acting career for myself. What I thought was an information session turned out to be an audition that sent me to Hollywood. I barely had to spend any money to get there. The conference took place from January 7-17, exactly when we had winter break. Had it been any other time, I would not have been able to go. And finally, I was offered to sign with an agency. Everything is falling into my lap and all I have to do is take it. Still, I haven't made any decisions yet. I have to really think everything through, and only then will I make my decision.

President, TAC '98-'99

Zemira Baron

"Kol" HaTorah Kula

Did you ever wonder why everybody learns their ABC's in song format...Why we have to sing *Kadesh Urchatz* before starting the Seder...Why every commercial invariably must come with some sort of jingle?

While I haven't actually done the research to be capable of intelligently informing you of the biological/psychological reasons behind this phenomenon, we all know from our own life experiences that it's true. Music sticks; monotone doesn't. You can repeat a sentence of your notes over and over again to yourself but it just goes in one ear and out the other. Yet if you sit in the YU van for just five minutes, without any effort you've got all the words of the newest song on the radio perfectly

memorized (and stuck in your head for the rest of the day).

This peculiarity is at times frustrating, but used to our advantage, it can be the key to amassing hoards of knowledge. Imagine if everything you ever learned was put to song - memorizing information for any test would be a cinch! If you put all your friends' phone numbers to a catchy tune, you'd never need The Guide again - you'd save yourself hours of time!

You're probably thinking...maybe she's right but how many songs can one person compose in one lifetime? Eventually all the tunes are going to blend into one, and when you try to take your history test, you'll start spilling out phone numbers! Not to mention the fact that you'll spend so much time making up songs, that it would've been easier to just

memorize everything straight.

So perhaps songs are not the end all and be all solution for across-the-board living, and maybe I'm just biased due to my namesake, but they definitely can be put to use. For example - what if I told you that you could memorize the whole Torah with barely any effort? You'd probably chortle and guffaw in my face. But using this sing & remember phenomenon, you can! And you don't even have to make up the song because the groundwork was all laid out for you - it's called *laining*. Anyone who has a brother over the age of thirteen knows all too well what I'm talking about. For years after my brother's Bar Mitzva, instead of singing *Zmirot* at the Shabbos table, my family would sit back and chant *Vayigash* in unison.

Now imagine you had 54 brothers

and miraculously enough, no two were born in the same week. You'd know the whole Torah by heart (you'd probably also go completely crazy!!!!). Now stop imagining and join Project *Baal Peh* brought to you by TAC. Every week, stop by the Beit Midrash either in the school building or in Brookdale and pick up your own personal cassette of that week's *laining* of the Parsha - only \$.25 to Tzedaka per tape. You'll become really familiar with the *psukim* and get hours of entertainment at the same time! Try it - you just might like it!

Oh, and have an amazing Pesach!!!!

President, SCWSC '98-'99

Shaindy Kahn

Tzadikkim and Leadership

Midrash Rabah Shmot Parsha Bet quotes the *posuk* in the Torah that says Moshe was a *Roh Shee*, a shepherd. It then immediately links this idea to a *posuk* in Tehilim, Perek 11. "Hashem *Tzadik Yivchan*," which means Hashem checks out a Tzadik.

What does it mean that Hashem checks out a Tzadik? He's checking to see

if they have the appropriate skills and abilities to be a leader of *Am Yisroel*. He looked out and saw that Dovid sustained each sheep according to its *kochot*. Hashem also saw the *rachamim* that Moshe had when he carried his little lamb back to the flock. You see from this that Moshe and Dovid were not just born with the leadership skills, they had to develop them, and only then could they move onto the bigger job.

Now here's the time for you to take your skills and abilities and hone them to where you can fulfill your leadership potential. *Klal Yisroel* needs leaders, and it is the Student Body who should now step up. Elections will be held on Wednesday, March 24 in Koch Auditorium. I hope everyone will show your support by voting for TAC, Sy Syms and Student Council executive boards. Elections for class boards will also be held

then.

WYUR will be starting up after Pesach and we're looking for a station manager and some deejays to host shows. If any of you are interested please contact me.

SCWSC and YCSC will be sponsoring a Yom Ha'atzmaut carnival Uptown for all students on April 21.

Chag Kasher V'Sameach!
Keep Smiling!

Major Shifts and Major Trends

APRIL SIMON
Staff Writer

SCW students have a wide variety of fields of study to choose from, ranging from creative writing to chemistry, pre-dentistry to philosophy. Additionally, the endeavors students pursue after graduation differ tremendously. Of the 19 majors offered at SCW, an increasing percentage of students are interested in subjects that were uncommon in the past but are steadily growing.

Only a few decades ago, one would find the majority of SCW students studying English, psychology, or education and pursuing some type of teaching career. Thirty years ago, some departments at SCW, like Political Science, offered only three or four courses to students. Dr. Ruth Bevan, chair of the Political Science Department, said, "When I first came to SCW in 1979, there weren't any political science majors." Before the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) existed, there was a communications major through the English department with a marketing component for interested students. But in those years, it was unlikely that a SCW woman would choose a career path in the fields of business, medicine, or law because those job markets were not openly accepting to women.

But times have changed. "The business world has become much more accommodating to women and new fields have opened," said Dr. Ethel Orlian, Assistant Dean of SCW. This nationwide change affected SCW women, and they, with other women around the country, began majoring in more diverse and somewhat unconventional fields. "Stern College for Women reflects nationwide trends," said Dean Orlian, and as different opportunities become more receptive to women, SCW students will become more receptive to them. A major in psychology, for example, according to Dean Orlian, is much more popular in SCW now, than ever before because there are more positions available in the fields of therapy and advanced research.

"Psychology is the most popular major in SCW with a 150 majors, according to a tabulation of majors for the fall 1998 semester," said John Fisher, Director of the Office of Enrollment.

"Psychology is a central major that allows a student to do many different things with upon graduation," said Dr. Joshua Bacon, chair of the psychology department. "It is well-liked because it allows students to learn more about themselves." SCW students who complete their education with a psychology degree go

into a wide variety of health-related fields, whether in clinical or school psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or social work. Yael Wyszowski, SCW '99, a psychology major, plans to go to graduate school for development psychology and eventually do research on autism. Many students feel a psychology major can open many doors for them.

Majors in the physical sciences, especially biology, have increased significantly in recent years. "The biggest change has been in sciences and the field is now more receptive to women," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW. In fall '98, 118 women were declared biology majors at SCW. Like the psychology field, this may be attributed to the many purposes a biology major can serve. Pnina Birman, SCW '99, a biology major, will be entering a physician's assistant program upon graduation. "I love biology, I think it is interesting, and I am impressed with the faculty at SCW," said Birman. In fact, students with biology majors are taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them. Many biology majors are interested in nutrition, veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry, or therapy. Some students hope to do research and enter Ph.D. programs for intensive study. Forensic and DNA analysis at crime scenes is a popular field nationwide and in SCW there is a growing interest. A biology major at SCW realizes her course of study can open many doors for her.

Interest in other science-related fields at SCW is also steadily growing. While in the fall '98, there were no physics majors, interest is on an upswing. Chemistry "has sparked a renewed interest and its experiencing a kind of renaissance," said Dean Orlian. Several courses which have not been offered by the department in years because of insufficient student demand will be given in upcoming semesters. Students are finding that they can use a major in the physical sciences to serve many purposes.

There has been a renewed interest in education, with 83 majors declared in the fall of 1998. Upon graduation, students may go directly into early childhood or elementary education. Others may enroll

in master's programs and teach part-time. Becoming more popular is a career in school administration. Charna Schwartz, SCW '99 and SCWSC Vice President, is an education major who plans to begin teaching next year but "may move on to administration and curriculum planning in the future."

The English department, chaired by Professor Laurel Hatvary, offers students many different tracks and options. "There are a number of pure English Literature majors, but a growing number of people are leaning toward a communications major," said Hatvary. Advertising, public relations, and creative writing are becoming more and more popular each year. Journalism majors have increased tremendously and some students continue their studies at graduate school. There are students combining art with communications now because, according to Hatvary, "They realize it is the wave of the future." Hatvary said that more people than ever before are interested in film. Some students have shaped majors to suit their many interests, but generally students choose a major within the English literature or communications fields.

Because SCW offers both a liberal arts education and a Jewish studies education, there are a number of students who major or double major in Judaic studies. A Judaic Studies major can serve those who have an interest in furthering their knowledge, who believe it will be a good background for themselves for any career they go into, or need it for the fields they plan to pursue upon

graduation. Computer science is a growing field for SCW students because "they see computers as the wave of the future" according to Naomi Kapp, associate director of the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS). The number of students majoring in it is somewhat low, but Kapp expects it to rise in coming years.

Enrollment in SSSB has increased in recent years. "Of the 871 students on the Midtown campus, 186 of them are in the SSSB," said Fisher. Kapp attributes this increase to a growing cog-

nize among women that the best way to optimize one's earning potential is by being part of the business world. "Higher salaries can be achieved in other areas, but for a person who wants a job upon graduation from college, business is best."

Whereas 70% of SCW students continue their studies at graduate school immediately upon graduation, about 10% of SSSB students continue with graduate studies. Many SSSB students, like Karen Nissenbaum, SSSB '01, are in the SSSB because they believe any kind of business major can serve as a strong background for most careers. "[I hope to] open my own business one day with my management major which has allowed me to see all the different aspects of business," said Nissenbaum. As more women nationwide continue to enter the business world, SCW students are expected to follow the trend.

A number of majors at SCW are not quite as frequent among students, but do have considerable followings. The sociology department has almost two dozen majors, while political science has 20-25. Some of these students go on to graduate schools in social work, law, or public administration, and others obtain employment upon graduation.

The remaining majors draw very few students, but have shown some growth with the growth of the college. In fall '98 there were four philosophy majors, six economics majors, and two pre-engineering students. According to Dean Orlian, economics majors have decreased because of the opportunities in SSSB. Majors like math, computers, and chemistry are not as common at SCW because nationwide, women are still underrepresented in those fields. "We are right on target with the rest of the nation," said Dean Orlian. "There is a resurgence (of women in these fields) and it takes encouragement within society through different scholarships and grants and faculty and women will go in, in larger numbers."

In the fall of 1998, 193 students had not declared any major. Dean Orlian advises students not to feel pressured because choosing a major can take time. She recommends students "expose themselves to as many settings as possible and take a wide variety of courses, until the student realizes where her interests lie."

Some students choose majors, but are uncertain about plans for after graduation. "Few Students immediately know what they want," said Kapp. She said that students should explore many options through internships, career testing, informative interviews, and experimenting. Once a student does this, she understands more about herself and the professional world.

"Few students immediately know what they want,"
-Naomi Kapp, Assistant Director
OPCS

"The business world has become much more accommodating to women and new fields have opened."
-Dr. Ethel Orlian, Assistant Dean
of SCW

Metropolitan Experience Declared a Success

Program to be renewed each semester

EILEEN CHUDOW
News Editor

The Metropolitan Experience, a program initiated this semester to expose students to cultural events in New York City, is so successful that Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun said it will be offered each semester, and that a committee is already involved in planning for the fall. SCW's Office of Student Services and the Office of the Dean jointly sponsor the program.

Braun said that professors are already excited to participate in the fall series, including English professor Carole Silver who was away this semester on sabbatical and could not participate. She has already made Braun promise to include her in the fall.

Braun said that the Metropolitan Experience has achieved its goals: exposing students to the "richness of cultural activities" available in NYC and helping students and faculty bond outside the classroom. "If faculty and students get to know each other it will enhance the college community," she said. She hopes that the program will provide students with good feelings about their college experiences after they leave.

For this reason, the school is making the events as enjoyable as possible, such as by purchasing mezzanine or first row seats for most performances. Braun explained that the event planners are learning from the experience. From the ice-skating event, for example, they decided to include more food, such as a box dinner to take to Yankee Stadium or a brown bag lunch to eat at the zoo.

Another change will be that future event registrations will take place at the beginning of the semester for which the events are scheduled, instead of registering in the fall semester for events in the spring semester, as was done this year. This way, students will already have their class schedules and know their availability. Braun explained that this was not possible this year because the school could not commit to arrangements without knowing whether students would sign up. "Now we know it's a winner program," said Braun.

She explained that each student and faculty participant receives a letter providing details about the upcoming event and a list of the student participants.

Even when students cancel, according to Braun, there is little trouble finding students eager to fill their places.

One exception was the walking tour of Rockefeller Center with English professor Lana Schwebel which only one student attended. Although it was small, Braun did not cancel the event because the Metropolitan Experience is "committed to those who expressed interest." Braun explained that the people who programmed the activities knew that walking tours and museum trips are not popular because students feel they will do these things on their own, even when they don't. Two museum trips were cancelled due to lack of student interest.

Students and teachers who attended the events said they enjoyed them. Sorah Borenstein, SCW '00, attended the ice-skating at Chelsea Piers with Biology professor Allen Burdowski, dubbed "Burdowski on Ice" by students.

see Metropolitan, page 14

Survey

continued from page 1

"...believe that the survey should have included more essays instead of multiple-choice questions. 'I thought it was a good study, and I'm glad someone's doing it, however I felt the questions were not conducive for the goal," said Borenstein. Essay questions, according to Borenstein, would allow for more individual answers

"You can't survey religion, it is internal, not external,"

-Caron Wolf, SCW '99

not provided by the generalized multiple choice answers.

Prager and Dean Bacon both emphasized that each question did have a space after it allowing the students to expound on their responses. In addition to these spaces, the last three questions in the survey asked for an essay response. Wolf and Borenstein both commented that these questions were at the end of the survey, and by that time the student would probably be tired and not be in the mood to answer an essay question. Several students, however, said that they had added their opinions on the survey to the last questions. That is exactly what Prager and Grosfod wanted from the students. "We want comments and criticism on each question," said Prager. "We want suggestions in order to revise the survey for next year. Take it seriously, write down your feelings."

The survey can be divided into

three sections. The first is about the student's family history, religious background, Jewish education, level of observance, and commitment to such religious practices as daily *tefillah*. The second stage of the survey began at question twenty. This section began with the statement that students should answer the following questions "only if engaged (formally or informally) or married, otherwise skip to 39." The questions in this section dealt with such issues as how long a student had dated before becoming engaged, how she was introduced to her fiancée spouse, and the engaged/married student's plans after graduation. The third section asked students about their observance of sleeve and skirt lengths and whether or not they planned to cover their hair after marriage.

The survey also sought the student's attitude toward mixed swimming, television, movies, and dating, and asked whether or not the respondent's high school had discouraged platonic relationships with members of the opposite sex.

Most students who were offended remarked on the last part of the survey. Yael Harris, SCW '00, said that the questions in this section were "broad and vague. I felt that some of the questions were...silly," she added. Grosfod said that these questions are important because they are indicators that allow the researchers to measure religious observance. Prager said that "...these [questions] were the suggestions of last fall's 'Methods of Social

"We want to see the association between higher degrees of religious observance and the presence of conflicts,"

-Dr. Miriam Grosfod

Research" class...in fact, they did a lot of revisions before the final survey was distributed." Both Prager and Grosfod noted that the questions were personal, and this impingement on privacy is a possible source of irritation amongst students completing the survey (or choosing not to). They said that the identification sheets would be confidential in order to reassure students that their personal data would not be publicized. Without confidentiality, Prager and Grosfod would not be able to obtain data that the respondents would not normally share with the public.

Grosfod said that she and Prager plan to make this survey a longitudinal study. This means that in five years, they hope to send out a follow-up survey to its participants by using the codes on the surveys. "We want to see the association between higher degrees of religious observance and the presence of conflicts," said Grosfod. Prager and Grosfod hope to discover how Orthodox women resolve conflicts between family and career, and they plan to conduct a study at Yeshiva College, to gauge men's responses to women's careers and the care of children.

Several students mentioned that they felt this survey sought to define the "Orthodox Woman." "We're not Rabbis. We don't grade people on how religious they are. We are curious," said Prager and Grosfod.

Finally, when informed about the slight uproar the survey has caused in

Stern, both researchers insisted that the students should inform them of their concerns. Dean Bacon said that the survey had allowed room for the respondent's criticism of the survey. She pointed out that question eighty-five asked for general comments on the survey. Prager said that she "told girls who came over to me, that

"The Jewish Community has been in constant motion during the last twenty years. We want to see how this has impacted young Jewish women."

- Dr. Grosfod and Dr. Prager

if they were offended they should answer a question and write why." One Sociology major noted that "...since it's [the survey] a multiple choice test, many girls are afraid the comments will be taken out of context." Other students interviewed said that although they felt some of the questions were personal and even odd, they answered them in order to break the "Stern girl" stereotype that has haunted Lexington Avenue for years.

"The Jewish Community has been in constant motion during the last twenty years," said Grosfod and Prager. "We want to see how this has impacted young Jewish women."

MSTA

continued from page 1

is very pleased that the uncertainty and controversy is over," said Rosen. "Though the two schools are run as a unit, they are completely different schools in different locations. The decision is related to MST A in a merger or restructuring. However MST A will continue operating under the RIETS umbrella as is. We are looking at the curriculum, administration and acceptance rates - there may be changes there. We are looking forward to new developments in the MST A high school, and we are confident that MST A and the girls' school will be a resource for the community and everyone involved."

However, not all faculty and students echoed these sentiments. Rabbi Taubes had expressed concern for employees' future at the school. "The faculty is wondering about who is staying here," said Rabbi Taubes. "The fact that the RIETS board is taking over - what does that mean? The administration and staff are uncertain if they are staying in their jobs. The changes could be in finances, or they could not be; it is very unclear."

"There is no long-term commitment in the letter," pointed out MST A senior Yoni Miller, of Teaneck, N.J. "The letter is everything Rabbi Dr. Lamm wanted it to be -- vague and confusing. The fact is they were not honest enough to come out with a statement saying that they will stay open for another four years, to say send your son here, or keep your son at this excellent school now -- that would have been OK. But Lamm wants his nationwide network of feeder schools, and right now we are subjecting ourselves to a bureaucracy where in a snap of the fingers, you can close a school," said Miller. "This letter merely affirms YU's commitment to the community, not to the school. The letter is not in clear plain English regarding the future of the school -- this is a problem because it doesn't give any long-term commitment."

Senior Naftali Eichen concurred: "Though we are very excited and happy

that the school will stay open next year, we are not happy with the letter. It gives no specifics, says nothing about the future or the proposed changes or merger. All the letter says is that the school will remain open for next year."

Three weeks prior to this announcement, in reaction to the potential closing of MST A, 300 students and numerous faculty members participated in protest on Wednesday, February 17. Held outside the YU administration building in Washington Heights at 9:30 a.m., the demonstrators called for a solid resolution regarding the future of their school.

The student run peaceful protest lasted for an hour, beginning with a

Tehillim recital led by R a b b i Y i t z h a k C o h e n , M S T A M a s h g i a c h R u c h a n i . The Chairman of S t u d e n t C o u n c i l , D r . A n d r e w K l e i n , and three students, including the student council president delivered speeches. The demonstration concluded with the playing of

"*Vinahafoch Hu*" in the spirit of Purim, and singing and dancing in the streets.

"We want YU to issue a statement [from YU President Rabbi Dr. Lamm] that the school is staying open next year, the requirements to the school will not change, and that the school will stay the way it is now," said Chaim Laufer of Brooklyn, a senior at MST A who spoke at the protest.

"We wanted a clear, unequivocal statement from Dr. Lamm stating that the

school has been here for 89 years and we want it to be here for another 89 years," said Danny Morris, Director of Student Affairs at MST A. The current letter was an attempt to meet with this request.

The initial announcement came from YU in January, stating that YU was "re-evaluating" the future of the 89-year-old, 350-student school and its sister school, the Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls in Queens. Succeeding this announcement rumors regarding the imminent shutdown began circulating throughout the school, local Jewish communities, and area newspapers. A conclusive resolution was assured by March 9.

However, MST A principal Rabbi Taubes wanted a confirmed statement of assurance sent out with the acceptance letters to boys in the incoming freshman class.

In accordance with the Board of Jewish Education, the letters had to be sent out by Wednesday, February 17th. This current letter was presumed to fulfill that purpose and settle all rumors.

"We feel the only thing that will stop all the rumors, reports and press releases and encourage parents to send -- or keep -- their sons in the school is a clear unequivocal statement by Dr. Lamm that the school is staying open," said Rabbi Taubes in an interview with the New Jersey Jewish Standard. "Until he makes such a statement, the doubts and rumors remain destructive for morale and recruitment. Many of us feel worn down by the constant questions. As people are making their decisions, there has got to be some

clarification."

Rabbi Taubes sent a letter to Rabbi Dr. Lamm requesting this verification announcement by Tuesday, February 16, signed by the school administration and faculty. This letter was ignored, said Rabbi Taubes.

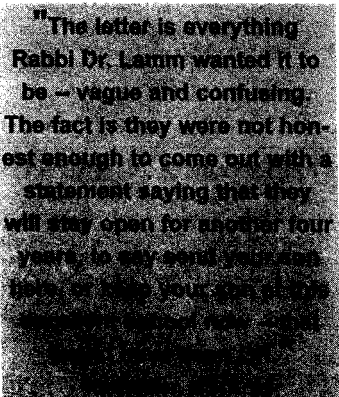
"Many kids were very agitated and felt no one should walk around wondering," said Seth Anziska of Teaneck, an MST A sophomore who was a speaker and one of the initiators of the protest in an interview with the New Jersey Jewish Standard.

The preceding week of February 8, several students unsuccessfully tried to make appointments to talk to Rabbi Dr. Lamm. A group of students from the debate team, including Anziska, went to Lamm's office, only to encounter three security guards there. "We got the impression that no one wanted to meet with us," said Anziska. "To be denied access to administration of our own institution was just terrible. We were very downcast."

After that, a meeting was held between the student leaders and teachers and administrator. After this meeting, the students, backed by a supportive administration, declared that if Dr. Lamm did not respond by Tuesday to Rabbi Taubes's message, they were planning a public protest. No one would confirm whether Rabbi Taubes's involvement with student demonstrations had contributed to his dismissal.

"That Thursday before, people wanted to protest, and spoke to the administration," said MST A senior Ariel Brandwein of Englewood, student council president and protest speaker. "We didn't take action to organize until we got administration support. That Tuesday night before the demonstration, students stayed up all night working on posters."

"The idea is to have some speeches, say some *Tehillim*, and go back to learning," said Rabbi Taubes on the Tuesday night preceding the rally. "As principal, I feel the current situation is a terrible distraction to the education that's going on right now, and I give tremendous *see MST A, page 14*



VIEWS



TURN

Dassi Zeidel, cultural arts editor

Perfecting the art of Complaining

There are no liberal art majors in this school. The food in the caf sucks. Stern has no classes for my major. How come when I need a computer to write a paper everyone is e-mailing and I have to wait forever?! Whine, whine, whine, blah, blah, blah. I just needed to get that out of my system.

I mean, sure I like to complain as much as the next guy. Actually, I probably complain a little more than your average college student does. Ask my roommates, my friends, my parents, anyone one within shouting distance of me, and they'll tell you I occasionally complain.

Sure I could bemoan the fact that graduation is less than three months

away and I don't have a job for next year. And everyone I know tells me, "Oh, why don't you go to law school?" That's all well and good but I have no interest whatsoever in becoming a lawyer. My roommates are driving me crazy (yes sometimes you guys get on my nerves) and I haven't even thought about my exit paper yet.

If you haven't noticed, I am completely overwhelmed about graduation and my plans for the hereafter. I've developed this new philosophy about it. Ignore it and it'll go away. It works until someone says, "So, what are you doing next year?" But, what I've figured out from talking to people and from my own past experiences is that everything works out in the end. And I'm counting on that.



TURN

Tami Dalkoff

The Shabbat Stigma

I am an out-of-towner. I know some may think that Jewish communities can only thrive in the New York - New Jersey area, but actually there are others out there around the world. I came to be a college student at Stern College. What that usually means is that your college dorm becomes your new home. Weekends in college are the best times. But somehow in Stern this doesn't apply. I know that Stern has tried its hardest to make the weekend experience as wonderful as possible, and I only blame the student body for any lack of a nice Shabbat experience. It saddens me that there is this idea out there that when it comes to Shabbat at Stern, one should run. Have any of these people actually spent Shabbat at Stern? I doubt it. Moreover, what is thought to be worse is for males to come to Midtown for the weekend. Why, I ask? What is wrong with a male who wishes to spend Shabbat with females in Midtown rather than Washington Heights?! I know that I can't convince anyone otherwise. I can't even convince my best friend to stay in for Shabbat. I guess for whatever reason this idea is embedded in people's minds... But I will say that it is highly nonsense. Try out Shabbat in Stern. Who knows? The worst that can happen is that you'll like it... Oh no. Does that mean that you can't run home to mommy and daddy with your laundry every weekend? Maybe then it could be true when you say that you are in college and it wouldn't be as if you are pretending to be.

Let me be honest, I hated Stern when I first got here. I hated the New York mentality of life. I felt that everyone was rushing through their days. Rushing through life. What are they running to? I believe in savoring every moment. I

believe in noticing every sunset, every child that passes by.

Stern's are always studying. Now I know that there is nothing wrong with being studious, but how much studying does one have to do? I once read that life can be seen as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them: work, family, health, friends and spirit, and you're keeping all of these in the air. What one must understand is that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will never be the same. What that means is that you have to strive for balance in your life. Work and studying shouldn't be your whole life because if it is, the glass balls will drop and break. Yes, the glass can be fixed, but remember they will never be the same.

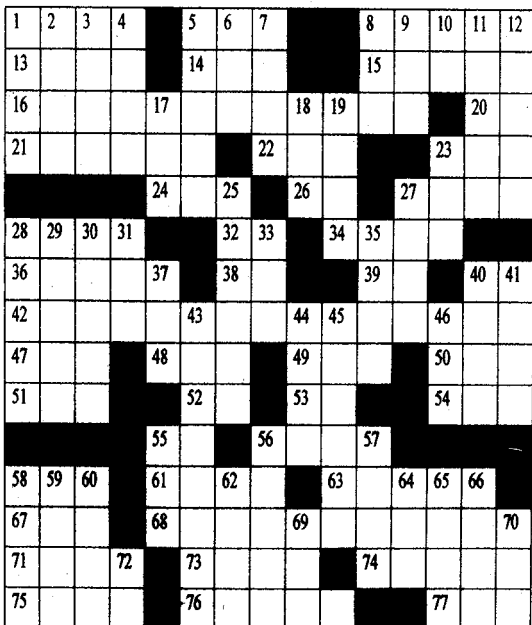
I have begun to appreciate Stern College. I have begun to attend the activities the school provides, and you know what? I am actually having fun. Shabbat is very inspirational and fun. The Rabbi at Stern, Rabbi Nir Salomon, is truly dynamic and every time he speaks, I am in awe at his great ability to really reach and touch every person through his words of wisdom. I am happy. And I know sadly that many here at Stern aren't, but you know that complaining doesn't get you anywhere and no one is holding a gun to your head to stay here. So, if you hate it that much then leave. And if you are staying, then learn to see the beauty of Stern. And join us for a Shabbat and help make the changes you see fit that would make you happier here. It only takes one voice.

We the student body can help make Stern the happening place to be on Shabbat.

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Either Ore

By: Elana Davis and Leah Lubetski



ACROSS

1. Disgusting
5. Trouble
8. French jewel
13. Operatic solo
14. Have
15. Arm
16. Every cloud has one
20. Gun
21. Revere
22. Mds.
23. Jordan's nick name
24. Harsh soap
26. D'Amato
27. Jacko's brother
28. Fish
32. Data entry
34. And others
36. Thoughts
38. Down's opposite
39. Lft.
40. Derek of "10"
42. Dog
47. Constellation
48. Golf start
49. Ump
50. Ventura
51. T.
52. Bone
53. Not the ego
54. Boxing finale
55. Windows

DOWN

1. Flower pot
2. Surrounds pupil
3. Melody
4. Roof edge
5. Maggoty
6. Nocturnal bird
7. Name of girl
8. Carton
9. Suffix
10. German yes
11. Planet cycle
12. Shorts brand name
17. Flotsam or Jetsam
18. Charlton
19. Vacation location
23. Be sickly
25. Hardens
27. Little Man
28. Cuban, e.g.
29. Idolize
30. Ease
31. Soften
33. Mimic
35. Voyage
37. Play scenery
40. and call
41. Cookie
43. Modern view
44. Threesome
45. Late night flight
46. Barrel
55. Catch
56. Michael Crichton novel
57. Moore
58. Chess piece
59. Spread
60. Magazine
62. Lion's sound
64. Berman or Deighton
65. Handheld computer orgs.
66. Without
69. Animal display
70. Shelter
72. bean

Answers on page 14

Metropolitan

continued from page 11

"Besides being a lot of fun, it was the opportunity to bond with my teacher, get close and more comfortable," said Borenstein. "It enables students to gain so much more from teachers and their life experiences, to relate to them as a friend not just a teacher."

Bracha Etengoff, SCW '00, and Sima Solaimanzadeh, SCW '00, attended the musical "The Fantasticks" with Professor Hadassah Kosak, who teaches secular and Jewish history. Etengoff said she enjoyed the musical because there was a lot of "artistic depth to it... because it was

a small theater you were drawn in." Solaimanzadeh enjoyed the event because "it was a chance to meet other students, and the play was excellent." Because the theater was small and the students had front row seats, she found the play almost "interactive." She explained that the director, a Jew, spoke to the students after the performance, telling them about an organization for Jews interested in drama and radio and giving tips about entering the field.

"With the growing student population and the anonymity of the large classes that are becoming a fact of life," said Kosak, "I certainly welcomed the idea of an informal evening with the group of

"Stern women." She called the outing "a truly fun and interesting experience. I hope that the project will become a permanent feature of the Stern experience," said Kosak.

Schwebel expressed disappointment that students signed up for events and didn't show up. "That was not cool," she said. Nonetheless, she said she had fun. She also attended "The Scarlet Pimpernel" with 19 students, most of whom have not been her students.

Coming up is "Lizzie Borden" with History professor Ellen Schrecker and an evening at a jazz club with political science professor Ruth Bevan. Other upcoming events are a Yankees game with

psychology professor Marcel Perlman, the Bronx Zoo with physics and computer science professor Marize Pommet-Mata and Italian cuisine with Jewish history professor Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel.

April Simon, head of the Metropolitan Experience Committee, explained that the four-person committee is already planning events for the fall Metropolitan Experience, including more outside activities than were held this semester. The same committee will later plan the spring events. Simon said it has approximately 17 events in mind, pending approval by Braun.

MSTA

continued from page 12

"credit to the faculty and students for continuing to function."

At a student assembly on Tuesday to announce the demonstration, Rabbi Taubes spoke to the students, reminding them to stay focused on their goal and behave respectfully. The goal was to represent the school properly and thus gain a response. Anziska explained:

"Nobody wants to be disrespectful, but we need assurance for the future. The school's reputation has already been tarnished by the rumors and YU's weak statements, and it is time to re-establish faith in the school."

The university has cited three reasons for the possible closing, stemming from the significant and concerning factor of the declining enrollment. Financially, the high school is losing money annually, a common and troublesome problem for yeshiva day schools across America.

Logistically, the university is severely lacking room for the university students, and could make use of the high school dorms and buildings for the college. Geographically, since the high school is in Manhattan, families living in the suburbs surrounding the city are not eager to send their sons to school hours away, when high schools nearby claim a parallel education closer to home.

Regarding the commute, a MSTA alumnus, currently a senior in YC, said, "Students that come in from New

Jersey show that they feel they get a better education in MSTA than in New Jersey.

Students and alumni spoke positively about their school, extolling the virtues of MSTA in the contribution it makes to the Jewish community at large, accommodating a wide range of religious attitudes among the students and providing Jewish leaders and teachers.

"The education that MSTA has to offer is unparalleled. It is unlike any other yeshiva in the New York-New Jersey area," said senior Yoni Miller.

Challenge

continued from page 5

Schulman admitted that the constitutional article in question is vague, yet she added that the article clearly states the prerequisite of leadership qualifications as an integral and significant portion of the candidate's history.

The official handout for the election rules and regulations given to the candidates states that, "all people running for an executive board position should have had some involvement in student activities previously, i.e., president of a club, active member of a club/committee, or other

activities such as this."

Schulman believes that the decision she and her committee members agreed upon is most responsible and fair and in conjunction with the constitution. "Nothing," Schulman said, "is just made up."

Based upon an assessment of the candidate's credentials, the Canvassing Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Board, determined the appropriateness of each person's petition.

Maryles and Bleiberg believe that the actions of the Canvassing Committee have been blatantly unfair and unreasonable. They feel that "something is going on

that we don't know about. We feel as if we're being left in the dark in regard to some very important issue that we're not aware of."

"We are not doing this for our egos, we're doing it because we know we can get things done and improve student life," they said. Both students claim that the executive board had no basis for disqualifying them from the race. The constitution, they believe, does not say anything to the extent that lack of a student council leadership position should automatically render them unqualified for the position of president. Additionally, they claim, the board assumed that all of the candidates

would refer to the constitution for further guidelines and rules. No one was directed, however, to look in the constitution for additional applicable information and regulations. All that was distributed was the official election rules and regulations.

Both members of the executive board and the Canvassing Committee agree that the election rules and regulations, along with the constitution, need to be amended to prevent vagueness. Beginning next year, applicants will continue to campaign only after their qualifications have been approved.

Election day is Wednesday, March 24.

Outstanding members of the senior class:

Walter J. Kohn
Shmuel Kohn

Gitty Stern Award
Elishava Ginzburg

Lisa Wachtelheim Memorial Award
Adina Loberfeld

The Randle Kertzer Memorial Award
Susan Jacobs

The following professors were also elected for recognition by students:
Jewish Studies: Rabbi Saul Berman
Secular Studies: Dr. Allen Burdowski

V	I	L	E	W	O	E	B	I	J	O	U
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ARTS

Jewel, A Moving Account of a Mother's Love

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

Set in rural Mississippi in the 1940's, Jewel, by Bret Lott is a novel about a woman whose faith in G-d pulls her through life's difficult situations. Orphaned at 11, Jewel Chandler Hilburn hopes to give her children the love of a family she had never known. With five strong and healthy children Jewel and her husband, Leston, are happy to welcome their sixth and last child into the world.

Named after Leston's beautiful sister, Brenda Kay, who died during childbirth, the Hilburns have great dreams for their newest addition. The couple is therefore confused and upset when at five months Brenda Kay sleeps all the time and can't roll over. Upon visiting a prominent doctor in New Orleans, Jewel and Leston learn that Brenda Kay is mentally and physically retarded. This looks like the actualization of the prophecy made by Jewel's black servant, Cathedral. "I say unto you that the baby you are carrying be yo' hardship, be yo' test in this world."

Bret Lott has written an intensely moving and inspirational novel about a mother's love for her child. No matter what happens, Jewel decides that this hardship is G-d's way of "smiling" down on her. Every progress made by Brenda Kay is the most wonderful news in the world to her Momma.

The story of Jewel's life with her family is interwoven with scenes from her childhood. The reader learns not only who she is as a wife and mother, but also where she came from. Before she died, Jewel's mother tells her the history of her family and Jewel accepts these stories, "like stones on your pocket," to help navigate her way through the world. Jewel has come from a family built on love and hate and it is with love that she decides to guide herself and her family.

Jewel is a rare treasure. Lott has created a rich sense of time and place and they present themselves in every facet of the novel. Each phrase carries countless details and Lott makes the reader feel as though the events are unfolding right before our eyes.

Israeli Culture Comes to New York

DASSI ZEIDEL
Cultural Arts Editor

Recently I've been longing for the Holy Land and I must admit the Israel Film Festival made me feel right at home. Scheduled for the 5:15 pm showing on March 3 were two short films (shown in Israel as television dramas). The first film began and in less than five minutes the picture began to blur. It took a while but the valiant film festival representatives came to the rescue and replaced one of the films. And in the end, I was pleasantly surprised. Both films proved to be captivating and well-made.

The 15th Anniversary Israel Film Festival visited New York from February 23 until March 11 at Clearview Cinemas and presented a variety of feature films, television dramas, mini-series, documentaries and student short films.

In "Domino," directed by Ori Sivan, a 30-year old woman named Eliana (Sarit Larry) visits a supernatural therapist in the hopes of revisiting her past and correcting her mistakes in order to salvage her future. The therapist has the ability to show her patient events from her past. Eliana's problems stem from a childhood incident. At age 11 she set fire to a grocery store in an effort to show off to the boy she had a crush on. The boy, Yuval, moved away with his family shortly afterwards. Eliana met up with Yuval as an adult and the two fell in love. That night, however, Yuval, a navigator, died in a plane crash.

Desperate to go back to the past and rewrite history by fixing her mistakes, Eliana turns to the voodoo-practicing therapist, who offers to help if her patient agrees to give up 35 years of her life. The therapist transports Eliana back to her childhood where she attempts to

reshape her destiny.

The premise of "Domino" stipulates that, like dominoes, a person's actions and decisions affect each other. The film defies reality and convention, as well as the trite depths it could fall prey to.

"Hitchhikers" tells the story of four people who represent Israel's diverse society. An Israeli man from Haifa picks up three hitchhikers headed for Tel Aviv. The four passengers, a religious soldier, a gay Arab, a scantily clad girl and a husband and toy salesman, reveal their innermost secrets and insecurities with each other on what would otherwise be a routine car ride. The conversation reveals the prejudices, tensions and expectations that make up the conscience of Israeli culture.

Directed by Asher Talim, "Hitchhikers" is not afraid to depict the rudeness of these travelers to the driver, as when they cajole him to take a specific route that would be convenient to them even though it is out of his way, something completely normal and accepted in Israeli society. The chemistry between these four completely different people creates some very funny dialogue and situations.

When the car is stopped at a police checkpoint, loyalties and identities are questioned among this group who have started to break down the prejudicial barriers amongst themselves.

The film festival will be coming to Bergen County, New Jersey from March 14 until 24. Tickets will be available on the day of the film screening at the door or in advance by calling (201) 488-6800, ext. 381. Admission is \$5. Seating is limited.

They should have called it "Very Ordinary People"

DINA GIELCHINSKY
Cultural Arts Editor

Walk down Blecker and you're bound to start affecting a bounce and swagger in your hips that one would ordinarily associate with Sarah Michelle Gellar. Tramp through the Heights and you're likely to start rolling your R's and pronouncing "ask" as "ax." Stroll the Wall Street Promenade and you'll probably find yourself reaching for your non-existent cell phone. Everyone loves to imitate a stereotype. But not many would make a whole production about it. Apparently, the actors in "Public Places, Private Lives" think that mimicking Shannequa in a Martin-esque style does a play make. For two hours, the audience is invited to witness parodies of a gay man, a New Jersey

housewife, and a cornucopia of other personalities even more predictable than an episode of "Party of Five." "Ugly naked guy" would have been a refreshing depiction among this array of trite, overdone personalities.

The concept of the play was something along the lines of a collection of small scenes, each depicting a different group of people in a particular circumstance. But how many times have we seen the AIDS infected son yelling at his mother? This play attempted to nuance the idea by adding a

little kicker: the mother's clothes for drag purposes. The audience members looked uncomfortably at each other, not knowing if they were allowed to laugh at this absurdity or not.

Another segment depicted a group of high schoolers, each involved in his or her own dilemma: unwanted pregnancies, boyfriend stealing; the works. The characters then revealed the "private life" of each student; for example, one was applying to Julliard, while another received a full basketball scholarship to

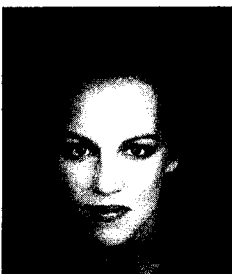
college with failing grades. But for reasons beyond this writer, the performance had an actress play the part of a Hispanic boy and an actor playing the part of Shannequa. This time, the audience was SURE they were allowed to laugh at the short blonde girl thumping her chest and adjusting her jeans and the tall skinny guy snapping his fingers and waving around his cornrow wig. But again, it wasn't supposed to be funny. Oops. This writer laughed anyway.

Although you might have missed this production, the Expanded Arts Theatre at 85 Ludlow on the Lower East Side puts on different performances very often. Call for information at (212) 253-1813.

"Apparently, the actors in 'Public Places, Private Lives' think that mimicking Shannequa in a Martin-esque style does a play make."



Peter Duncanson



Erin Pederson



Molly Purves



Dee Vicente



Sally Winters

ARTS

"The Last Days:" Documenting Misery

SIMA GOLDEN
Staff Writer

It seems there have been so many Holocaust movies to hit the Hollywood screens in recent years. It's no doubt that "Schindler's List" transported us all back to the ditches and ovens of death of Auschwitz. "Life Is Beautiful" also powerfully portrays the sickened horror of the Nazi death machine. So what can "The Last Days" offer to its audiences that "Schindler's List" or the recently-released "Life Is Beautiful" haven't? Executive producer, Steven Spielberg, and director James Moll, capture in "Last Days" the personal stories of the lives of five Hungarian Jews in this powerful documentary.

The film entangles the accounts of these eyewitnesses, whose lives were forever transformed when the Nazis invaded their country in 1944, with momentous footage that holds the truth to the brutalities not even "Schindler's List" could portray. It takes us back to the happy childhood they each relived in their visual narratives to the harrowing, individual, grie-

some details of their experiences in the infamous concentration camp, and finally to their journey out of hell and their courageous attempts to build new lives.

"Last

Days" is monumental in that it offers these survivors the freedom to give voice to the victims of Hitler's Final Solution. Each survivor shares his own personal story of courage, fear, and struggle in the face of death. Irene Zisblatt recounts how she repeatedly swallowed and purged the diamonds her mother gave her in order to hide the precious items from the hands of the Nazis. Bill Basch, now a successful businessman, remembers the agony of surrendering the pact he made with two best

friends to give their lives for each other. An SS guard gave the three boys thirty seconds to part from each other before he shot one of the friends who was too weak

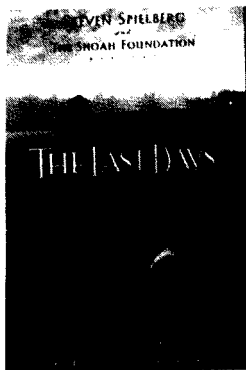
to continue on a march. Renee Firestone shares the heart-wrenching account when she had to choose what limited items she could take with her before her family was expelled from their town. In the end, all she cared to bring was a bathing suit that brought her happiness in fleeting memories of summer's past by the local pool. But tears are shed when she recounts how she was forced to give even this cherished item to the Nazis.

There are more stories including the gut-wrenching memoir of Dr. Hans Munch who proudly described the harmless experiments he performed with his

fellow colleagues in order to save inmates from certain death. For this, he lives in harmony today and shares the thoughts he recounts about the other doctors who were pleased at the prospect of having the opportunity to perform tests on humans for free. Also contained in the film is the experience shared by a former U.S. serviceman who shot a German soldier for spitting in his face.

The archival footage sparingly reveals some of the worst images representing the atrocities of Auschwitz. Thus, it creates an even stronger impact on the viewers. Perhaps the most chilling and gasp-inducing portrayal is the clip of the bare, skeletal men walking back-side away from the camera. The clip does not spare its audience from avoiding the scene by abridging it.

One of Spielberg's goals in creating this film achievement was to capture the stories of the Holocaust's dying generation. This footage and these stories will never be forgotten and it will no doubt enforce the legacy of carrying the memory of the Holocaust to future generations.



"A Night of One Acts"

OBSERVER STAFF

SCDS's performance of two Shakespeare parodies showcased genuine talent and devotion among its two casts.

The first play, "Second Best Bed," told the tale of Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife, to whom he bequeaths only his second best bed at his death. Valerie Schwartz portrayed a distraught Anne Hathaway with poise. Her supporting cast were an amusing brood, anxious to see her reaction to her minuscule inheritance. Many of the



Shira Graber
The cast of "Second Best Bed" Back (l-r): Michelle Fogel, Masha Lapina, Julia Raskin, Valerie Schwartz, Miriam Grossman. Front: Arona Schneider, Sorah Borenstein, Miriam Rabinowitz.

actresses in this play had little or no previous acting experience, but carried the production off well under the direction of Liz Renna, SCW '99.

The second play, "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet," was a much wittier play that highlighted six talented actresses.

Five of Shakespeare's leading ladies (Portia, Katherine, Cleopatra, Desdemona and Ophelia) was an advise the love-struck Juliet in this play. They play quotes heavily from Shakespeare's plays, often to the point of being cliché,

but the actresses gave faithful portrayals of their characters.

Dina Gielchinsky was a sultry and sarcastic Katherine, bringing spark to her role. As her foil, Kim Glassman was a staid and Portia, the executor of justice, on her way to the trial of "The Merchant of Venice." Adrienne Segal played a seductive and sassy Cleopatra, clashing at times



Shira Graber
The cast of "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet": Shifra Chana Rothstein, Dina Gielchinsky, Lisa Younger, Kim Glassman, Marina Kiochan and Adrienne Segal.

with Katherine. Marina Kiochan was a mournful Desdemona. Shifra Chana Rothstein was an enchanting Ophelia, roaming the stage in a state of distraction that captivated the audience. Finally, Lisa Younger was a headstrong and articulate Juliet, unshaken by her older contemporaries, masterfully bringing humor to her

role. Neither of these plays was especially well-written, but the students brought life and humor to them in their performances.

The scenery for the play was simple, but fitting for the topics. The smallness of the stage only emphasized the need for a new theatre. Hopefully this was the last SCDS production to be produced in Koch Auditorium. Next year in the remodeled Cineplex Odeon theatre, a.k.a.

Schottenstein Theatre.

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