



# Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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## Dorms Will Remain Open for Shavuot

**SARAH CATE**  
Staff Writer

Members of the administration have agreed to keep the SCW dorms open for Shavuot and to arrange for special holiday programming. The Student Life Committee decided months ago that if at least 30 students expressed a strong interest in staying at SCW for Shavuot, the dorms would remain open. Members of the committee polled students and found more than the required number willing to stay.

Shavuot often falls out after the completion of the academic year, but this year it falls out in the midst of finals week. Because final examinations will be given after Shavuot, students who reside outside of the tri-state area as well as those who live locally have expressed an interest in staying in the dorms over the holiday in order to study.

No exams will be given on Erev Shavuot, or on the Sunday following Shavuot, in order to facilitate traveling for those students who live out of town. Elizabeth Kawior, SSSB '01, lives in Chicago and plans on spending Shavuot on the Upper West Side. "I

think that the dorms should be open on Shavuot, because it is so difficult to travel back and forth for the holidays. I am always so pleased when the dorms are open," she said, "because I can't always make it home for the holidays."

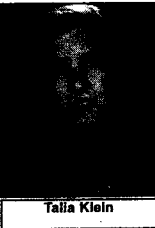
One anonymous SCW sophomore said that she felt it would only be fair for the dorms to remain open. "Other college communities such as Barnard and the University of Pennsylvania accommodate students from out of the area," she noted, "so why shouldn't Stern?"

## Valedictorians Chosen for Class of '99

**ESTHER DONATH**  
Staff Writer

The 1999 valedictorians for Stern College for Women, the Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies and the Sy Syms School of Business Midtown Center are Talia Klein, Aliza Koenigsberg and Lisa Schall, respectively.

Klein has a double major in psychology and Judaic studies, as well as a minor in biology. Koenigsberg is a Judaic studies major and business minor, is valedictorian of the Ivy Department of Judaic Studies.



Talia Klein

Schall is majoring in accounting.

Klein, who hails from Flatbush, attended Shulamith High School and Michlalah-Jerusalem College for Women before entering SCW, where she has studied for the past three years. A participant in the joint BA/MA program with the Bernard Revel Graduate School, she plans to continue her education there next year, and possibly follow her MA with studies in psychology or neuropsychology. She has participated in several extracurricular activities while at SCW, including serving as an editor for the psychology journal, head of the TAC learning committee and holding an internship at Einstein Medical School, where she participated in a cognitive study on infants.

SCW, she feels, has been "an incredible experience in terms of learning

opportunities," and has "allowed for tremendous growth. The teachers here are really incredible."



Aliza Koenigsberg

Koenigsberg attended Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls (Central) and Michlalah for one year after entering SCW as an early admissions student. She returned to SCW for her junior and senior years. She is from Kew Gardens Hills, Queens. Koenigsberg plans to earn an MA degree from Azrieli Graduate School, after which she intends to teach Judaic Studies on the high school level. She has been actively involved in the blood drive, and is Vice President of TAC.

Schall, a native of Edison, NJ, went to Bruria High School and spent a year in Midreshet

Lindenbaum in Israel preceding her entry into SCW. A blood drive captain, she has served on the Food Services Committee and is a member of the Accounting Society.

Next year Schall will begin working for PriceWaterhouseCoopers, one of the "Big Five" accounting firms. "Besides gaining a lot of knowledge, I feel Stern has helped me prepare for the business world, as well as my Judaic Studies," she said. "I hope to maintain the many valuable friendships I have made over the years at Stern."



Lisa Schall

Klein and Koenigsberg spoke at the senior awards assembly on April 28. Schall addressed her classmates at the Sy Syms dinner in March.

## New Buildings Will Not Be Ready for Fall '99

**EILEEN CHUDOW**  
News Editor

Stern College will continue to fill its classrooms to full capacity next year while space purchased for the school undergoes renovation. Despite SCW's approximately 870 students' continued battle against overcrowding on the Midtown Campus, YU administrators hope to expand the college's enrollment. Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler said SCW received a "robust number of applications" this year and that he is optimistic that 1999-2000 enrollment will top this year's. SCW Dean Karen Bacon explained that YU hopes that eventually SCW's enrollment will reach 1200 students.

SCW will accommodate a growing number of students by making use of the YU-owned buildings near the Midtown Center. Unfortunately, current construction projects are taking longer than was hoped.

The university plans to use up to 80,000 square feet on the lower levels of the two attached office buildings

at 205-215 Lexington. Although YU acquired a controlling interest in the corporation that purchased the buildings last August, construction has not yet begun.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, explained the status of this project as well as the Midtown Campus. He declined to offer an approximate date for completing the 205-215 Lexington project, saying he does not give "false assurances." But SCW's administration is unsatisfied with the vague promises made by the supporting services department. "Since we have more space, we should have a timetable for using it," Dean Bacon said. "It would be helpful to have some more information."

In September, Rosengarten said he hoped the university would be able to begin using the buildings during the 1999-2000 academic year, but this now appears extremely unlikely. Architects and engineers are drawing blueprints for the lobby and a number of other floors in order to develop classroom and office space. This step will

take at least a few weeks and then YU will hire a contractor to begin construction.

The office buildings top the long list of building projects that lag months or years behind their projected completion dates. Last year, YU acquired the former Cineplex Odeon movie theater at 51 East 34th Street which it plans to equip as a 300-seat auditorium with multi-media capability. To the disappointment of the Stern College Dramatics Society and other clubs' members, the scheduled January 1999 opening did not occur. Rosengarten is in the process of signing a contractor to the project and said that a major percentage of the construction should be completed by summer's end.

YU is giving top priority to these two projects as well as the renovations of the fifth floor chemistry laboratory, scheduled to open in time for the start of classes in the fall. The ongoing renovation has forced students and professors to travel Uptown

see Buildings, page 14



SCW's recent Women's Health Expo drew a large student turnout. See article on page 4.

# VIEWS

## The Observer

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## Renovate Buildings Now

Intolerable. That word most aptly describes the space situation SCW students have put up with for the past few years. As the student body has grown, and along with it the number of class offerings, the available space in the Midtown Center has become so inadequate that it is now intolerable. YU's administration seems to be aware of the space crisis SCW faces because it has taken the initiative in purchasing a handful of new buildings in which to expand the college. For at least the last nine months now, the school has boasted of the purchase of space in two adjoining buildings that will more than double the academic space available.

Students have waited patiently for progress on the renovation of these buildings, hoping that new classrooms would be available for the projected Fall '99 opening. They may continue to wait for another three or four years. Administrators have acknowledged that once work is begun on the buildings, it will be at least a full year before the new classrooms are available. Statements like this can be rather

misleading. SCW's theater was supposed to open in January. Renovations have not yet begun on that structure.

Another building, located on 35th street, stands vacant and boarded up while the university turns its attention to more pressing issues. Perhaps the administration does not think SCW is in a crisis situation. The fact that SCW now has more classes than available classrooms does not move them to act. The possibility that students would be turned away from attending SCW because of its severe lack of space would hardly seem to move them. Or perhaps they think that students simply do not care, and that they perceive no crisis situation in the reality of their physical existence at this school.

Maybe we as students have failed to communicate our angst and frustration at being packed into classrooms and squeezed through cafeteria lines on a daily basis. Perhaps we have led the administration to believe that we enjoy sitting inches away from fellow students in over-packed, stuffy classrooms.

Lest there be any doubt in the minds of administrators: The student body of SCW is extremely disheartened by the physical condition of the college. While most students choose to attend SCW for its unique religious environment and vast offering of Judaic Studies classes, their love for the school does not overcome the discomfort, both physical and emotional, that is a result of the severe lack of space.

In recent years, the administration has verbalized a concern for the welfare of SCW equal to that of the Main Campus. Countless times we have been assured that we are equal and that the university turns its attention to both undergraduate student bodies commensurately. That is a wonderful sentiment. But we have yet to see it instituted in practice. If SCW is truly an equal school, then the administration must make the timely expansion of the Midtown Campus a top priority.

There are many important issues for the university to attend to. SCW students and faculty have been more than patient in realizing that this campus is not

the end all and be all of the university's functioning. But our patience has been abused. The administration may have grandiose visions for the future campus of Stern College, but all of that means nothing if students are packed like sardines into tiny classrooms and expected to perform academically.

Most students spend approximately three years on this campus. With the time schedule likely to be implemented for the renovations of the purchased buildings, next year's incoming sophomore class will have graduated before the construction is complete. That is inexcusable.

It is insulting for students here to be told that we must continue to tolerate the inferior conditions that SCW now experiences. If the administration really takes us seriously and really cares about the quality of our academic experience, then it will make this expansion a top priority and have the buildings ready for use at the soonest possible moment. We deserve no less.

## A Jewish Response to Kosovo

The J.P. Dunner Political Science Society recently organized an information session to address NATO's decision to bomb Serbian forces to halt the mass murder and evacuation of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. Political science professors and students discussed the implications of the U.S. role in the bombings, and whether military action is an appropriate solution to the aggression spurred by Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. The event was notable for its intense

discussion and informed participation by more than 40 students.

The interest of students for this particular issue was high in part because of comparisons between Milosevic's ethnic cleansing and the Nazi genocide during the Holocaust. While many participants were offended by comparisons between the two disparate events, others were drawn to the discussion because of historical similarities in the means of killing used by soldiers. The event was an exam-

ple of the level of serious political discussion that should happen more often in this university. The presence of political science professors Dr. Ruth Bevan, Dr. Naomi Weinberger and Dr. Ross Zucker guided the discussion on political terms.

However, in spite of the passions raised, students did not leave the session with a concrete plan for student action. Reports on the Albanian refugee situation by the International Rescue Committee have emphasized a

need for humanitarian aid. Americans can best support this effort by donating money to the IRC, the Red Cross, or to a host of Jewish organizations aiding in the crisis, including the American Jewish World Service. As students attuned to the pain of ethnic refugees, we need to see beyond the murky political situation, and to fulfill our moral obligation by raising money to aid the international rescue effort.

## Student Outcry Heralds No Administrative Action

Shockwaves have rippled through the student body of both the Uptown and Midtown campuses of Yeshiva University because of the recent confirmation of rumors that beloved political science professor Dr. Ross Zucker has been denied tenure after six years of devotion to the university. We can only speculate as to why Dr. Zucker was not granted tenure, but the rumored excuse is that he has not published enough. This seems to pale in the face of his nine articles published in scholarly journals and his current negotiations with a publishing company. In addition to the reputation that Stern College is notorious for hiring professors who are unpublished, and that the political science department is looking to expand, it leads one to believe that there is more to this

decision than the unimpressive excuse given.

According to Dr. Sheldon Gelman, Vice President of Academic Affairs, several things factor into the recommendations given by the Faculty Committee on Tenure when determining whether or not to grant a professor tenure. Among them are teaching ability (which in this case is apparently more than satisfactory), scholarship, service and whether or not the professor fits in with the needs of the department. Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College for Women, stressed that although no one disputes that Dr. Zucker is an effective teacher, other factors are needed for a recommendation. Interestingly, she mentioned relationships between teachers. Curiously, both Dr. Gelman and Dean Bacon empha-

size that teaching ability and acceptance of a professor by the students is a key factor of a positive recommendation, but when asked what would happen in response to the student outcry, both Gelman and Bacon said the reaction would be taken into account. In the end, however, it proved futile. Dr. Gelman went so far as to mention that although students are entitled to their opinion, their reactions will not alter the matter.

This student is personally disappointed in the university for not recognizing the needs of its student body which - if anyone saw the pre-Pesach edition of the Commentator - is obviously impressed with Dr. Zucker's ability to teach. After having spoken to many of Dr. Zucker's students, I learned that many are not stimu-

lated by other classes or teachers and that Dr. Zucker is one professor who challenges and pushes his students to reach their potentials while, through generous office hours, shows obvious concern that the material is understood. Personally, I believe this is a great loss on the part of a university where a good teacher is difficult to come by, and I am embarrassed that the university would allow politics to interfere with such an important decision. One can only hope that with the controversy surrounding Dr. Zucker's termination, the Faculty Committee on Tenure will reevaluate their decision to better accommodate the needs of the students.

Batya Fredman

# VIEWS

## Parting Thoughts



susan jacobson

editor-in-chief

seeker of truth follow no path all paths lead where truth is here e.e. cummings

I came to Stern College four years ago because I wanted to be in a place of truth. I knew that

larger universities would give me broader opportunities in secular studies, but only Stern could give me the religious education and guidance I did not receive as a public school graduate. When I arrived at Stern, I was, like many first-year students, a bit bewildered by my first weeks at school. In addition to adjusting to life in New York City and the demands of a full academic schedule, I had to adjust to different attitudes about Jewish religious life. Although I had become religiously observant in high school, had spent time with Orthodox relatives and had attended NCSY Jews, I had never lived among Orthodox Jews. All of my life I had been a Jew among West Virginians. Suddenly I had become a West Virginian among Jews. In many ways, my experience here, especially my freshman year, was a fusing together of disjointed parts of my life.

As I near the completion of my college career, there are many things to reflect upon: the pleasures and the pains of the last four years, and how much I've changed, and indeed, how little. It is amazing to me that I entered this school, almost identical in outward appearance to the young woman I have become here. But I

was much more frightened then, and considerably less secure.

I still have the same caf card that was made for me my first week here. The picture of me on the card was taken my very first day at Stern, when I knew almost no one. Now, as I sit comfortably at the culmination of my education here, it is instructive to gaze at that shell-shocked image of myself.

My experience here has exceeded my grandest expectations. I will always remember the late-night conversations I had with roommates and friends, ranging from idle prattle to profound reflection, and how these bonds with other young women taught me more than any course in history or philosophy, and how comforted I was to be among friends who understood me.

Over the years, I have accomplished many of the goals I set for myself here, especially in terms of acquiring Hebrew skills. But I was very naive in my estimation of how much I would learn here, and I still strive to expand the scope of my learning.

Now that the time has come for me to move on from Stern, I am well aware that I am leaving a place of truth. I have often been bothered that students rush through their education here, barely stopping to take it all in. Students of Yeshiva University have a closeness to truth that many college students do not. Many students spend years, or even lifetimes searching for the truth, without ever finding it. At this school, truth, at least of a certain sort, is easily within our grasp if we choose to take hold of it. We needn't follow wayward paths, because truth is here, within us and around us.

As I write this final column of mine, I am sitting in the *Observer* room on a late night, like so many other late nights, with the pressure of going to press weighing heavily upon me. But the task of writing this column has haunted me for a long time, because there are so many aspects of my term as editor that I want to encapsulate.

When the *Observer* was at its best this year, it was because of the devotion and motivation of its staff. At our weekly meetings, we sat around a table littered with newspapers and computer disks, Paske cookies and Pringles, and we discussed issues that really mattered to us as students. It is not always easy to live up to subjective ideals, but the *Observer's* numerous writers consistently produced articles that addressed the most pressing issues of this tiny student body. No one is more critical of this newspaper than me, and no one is more aware of what it lacks, but when I look I what we've produced this year, I am very proud.

I am grateful to many people for the time they invested in this newspaper. It would be impossible to mention everyone, but I want to recognize a handful of people who truly sacrificed themselves for the paper this year. First of all, my layout editors, Aviva and Lisa, have been wonderful in setting aside hours of their time on short notice to put this paper together. They have been with me when things were falling apart, and they have been calming forces, working with me into the early morning hours. I would also like to thank my copy editors Jasmin, Margalit and Miriam, who provided comedy relief and much-needed energy at stressful times. Their work has vastly improved the quality of this news-

paper, and each of them has come through for me. Ayelet, despite many competing obligations, is always pulled together when I'm falling apart, and in addition to being executive editor, has often been wise counsel on matters journalistic and personal.

I wish good luck to Miriam, Rachel and the entire staff of next year's paper. I know you will do a wonderful job.

Another important thank you: I would be ungrateful if I did not thank the Burns Security Guards who often escorted me back from Brookdale to Schottenstein at insane hours of the early morning. I'm on friendly terms with just about everyone on the midnight to 8:00a.m. shift.

To my fellow students and readers, I hope you will treasure your years here at Stern. It is easy to be distracted by the many shortcomings of this school, but there are wonderful people here to learn from and wonderful experiences to be had. I have loved being a student here, but much of that love stemmed from the energy I invested in my college life. I urge all of you to mold your own college experience and to be intimately involved in Stern College. It is the students who shape the experience of this school. To end with a favorite poem of mine:

"We are the music makers,  
And we are the dreamers of dreams...  
World losers and world forsakers,  
On whom the pale moon gleams.  
Yet we are the movers and shakers,  
Of the world forever it seems."  
--Arthur O'Shaughnessy

## A Lifelong Commitment



ayelet grun

My life is about to completely change. And its not because I am graduating- its because I am getting married in less than a month.

Am I excited? Yes. Am I nervous? No. Am I certain that

I am making the right choice? Absolutely.

I remember asking my parents and some close friends how I would know whether I met the right man, and their answers were all the same- you just do. Today, if someone came and asked me that same question, I have no other answer but the one they gave me. You just know.

Knowing is this feeling deep in your heart that there is no one else who you want to spend the rest of your life with. It is this emotion in your gut that just tells you that he's the one. You know that he has flaws and quirks (there is no perfect person), but you are certain that the two of you are perfect for each other. There is no other pair that complements one another like you and this man do. You wake up in the morning, go through the day and back to bed at night confident and serene that what you are about to do is right.

For some people, this knowledge comes pretty quickly, for others it develops over time. Like love, there is the initial attraction that he may be the one, and then there is the certainty you will carry for the rest of life, no matter where life may take both of you. Some people find each other right away, but others have to struggle a

little before they find their lifelong mate.

Engagement is not a race where the prize is a diamond ring and a date every Thursday night. It is a serious, lifelong commitment that two mature individuals make to one another. It requires time, self-sacrifice, patience and devotion. Complete trust, honesty and love are its integral components.

Sometimes, students at SCW get caught up with the social pressure and dazzle that an engagement brings. And yes, there is a lot of relief to know your searching is done; that you will never be on your own. Engagement carries with it a lot of excitement, a lot of wonderful expectations and new experiences. Yet there are added responsibilities, and different pressures that one must be mature enough to handle.

I guess I fall into that stereotype

that people outside and inside of SCW joke about. I am the girl who will get her Mrs. alongside the B.A., the student who carries a diamond ring in one hand and a diploma in the other. This stereotype is neither an embarrassment nor source of pride for me. It's just a fact.

In Stern, I accomplished a lot, and learned about life and living. And when I walk down the aisle in Madison Square Garden, there will be a college experience behind me that I will never forget. Five days later I will march down another aisle- this time, in a white wedding gown instead of a black robe. That day, I will celebrate not what's behind me, but what lies ahead- a life of happiness, promise and hope with my exact match.

I love you Yaron.

## Observer Announces Appointment of New Editors

### OBSERVER STAFF

The editorial board of the Yeshiva University *Observer* has chosen Miriam Eljas to serve as editor-in-chief for the 1999-2000 academic year. Rachel Salamon will assume the position of executive editor.

Eljas, a native Californian, is a

junior majoring in journalism with a minor in art history. Last year Eljas worked for Paramount Pictures and last summer for the Los Gatos Weekly Times. She has published articles in *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tennessee and in *The Jewish Community News* of San Jose, CA. This year Eljas held the position of features editor and worked for a publishing company. "I hope to expand the *Observer's* coverage

of worldwide, national and local events," said Eljas. "We have an incredible staff for the coming year and I hope to follow in Susan's footsteps."

Salamon, a junior from Cleveland, is a journalism major, minoring in biology. She was a contributing writer to the *Observer* this year, and along with Eljas, was a member of the junior class board. This summer she will be interning

for The Cleveland Jewish News. "I am looking forward to working with the *Observer's* qualified and dedicated staff to maintain the paper's standards of excellence," said Salamon.

Eljas and Salamon will publish the first issue of volume XLIII in the fall of 1999.

# Women's Health Expo Draws Crowd

**MICHELLE MULLER**  
Staff Writer

The Junior Class Women's Health Exposition drew hundreds of SCW women to Koch Auditorium last Tuesday, enticing students with free samples, prizes and refreshments. Fourteen booths provided students with information regarding pertinent health issues.

"I don't think that there is enough awareness of health issues on campus," said April Simon, SCW '00, Junior Class President and SCWSC president-elect. "With the Health Expo we tried to inform and educate the students."

A few of the health topics covered at the Expo included dental care, eye health, breast care, skin and hair care as well as genetic diseases screening.

"We tried to put together different topics which we thought would apply to the students," Simon said. "We hope that the students found them informative and enjoyed them."

Informative brochures were also distributed among students at the Expo, covering widespread issues such as OB/GYN services, stress management, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, calcium needs, eating disorders, exercise and nutrition.

Both SCW students and profes-

sional representatives manned the various booths, including a Shalom Task Force representative who informed students about spousal abuse, and Judy Sharken, assistant to Dr. Gould of the Laser Eye Surgery Center who advised students on eye care. Other professionals included a genetics disease counselor, Marianna Gould, SCW's physician's assistant, a registered dietitian, and a representative from the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

Participating students received bonuses including raffles for prizes such as beauty packages, gym memberships and gift certificates for nail and hair care. Additionally, Clinique representatives performed makeovers and many booths

offered free samples such as skin and hair care products and health food. Perks for attending the event included free t-shirts and stationery.

Assisting Simon in the Expo were her Junior Class board members, Miriam Eljas, SCW '00, Rachel Salamon, SCW '00, and Lauren Hamburger, SCW '00. Other Expo planners included Erica Feldschreiber, SCW '00, and Shira Stein, SCW '00, who helped Simon organize the event.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Rebecca Samson, SCW '99, who attended the event. "It's very important for college age women to be well informed about health issues that concern them."

# New Requirements for Incoming Students

**MELLISA ROTHENBERG**  
Staff Writer

The average SCW student calculates her courses and credits so that she will attend SCW no longer than necessary. While not every student tries to shorten her residence in college, many students spend as little time as undergraduates as possible, graduating at age 20 instead of 22.

But prospective SCW students planning on an early graduation beware: Any student entering SCW beginning in Fall '99 will be required to take a minimum of 84 credits while residing in SCW, forcing most students to remain on campus for a full three years.

This will disappoint many future students who are set on finishing college earlier than their peers in most other universities. For many students, however, the new requirement will not affect their planned futures.

In addition to the new attendance stringency, SCW women are grappling with opposition from the administration to accept credits obtained in summer school. Refusal to approve summer course credit can cause havoc for a senior facing graduation requirements. Academic advisors are still able to help students plan their schedules to allow graduation only two and half years after they enter SCW, but the new requirements will force every student to take a full course load every semester.

Students question why administrators decided to institute these new regulations, and hypotheses point to a growing awareness that many students do not obtain a full education.

Esther Donath, SCW '01, said she is relieved that the new requirement will not affect her because she entered SCW before the cut off. Although Donath will probably stay for a full three years, she recognizes the dilemma many career

and/or home-minded SCW students face, namely, why they should stay in SCW longer than necessary when they have goals beyond college.

Like Donath, many students have voiced similar complaints. However, academic advisors warn SCW students of the negative consequences of "rushing" through college, such as poor graduate school performance.

Students entering SCW after studying in Israel will have to deal with the dilemma of staying in Israel an additional year, as the extra semesters in Israel will bring extra semesters on the Midtown Campus. Students entering SCW after high school will no longer be able to graduate in two years after spending two years in Israel.

Atara Gutfreund, SCW '01, said this new requirement might hinder the spiritual growth of many students who would spend more time in Israel if it were not for the newly prescribed time limit.

She does, however, admit that as a university, YU has the right to request that its students take advantage of the complete college experience.

TAC president Zemira Baron, SCW '00, plans to graduate this January. "Had I been given no option, I would have enjoyed the right to remain for an extra semester, without feeling guilty about paying for credits that I already acquired," she said. "With this new requirement, I would have stayed with the knowledge that I am not spending more time than necessary, for I'd still be fulfilling my required stay in Stern."

Other students such as Chana Rosenblatt, SCW, '01, believe the new requirement to be a great achievement for the college. "The added credit requirement will allow for students to remain in Stern longer than in past years, thereby granting all students the opportunity to avail themselves of the benefits to the exciting college life," she said.

The administration has registered both complaints and compliments in regard to this new policy.

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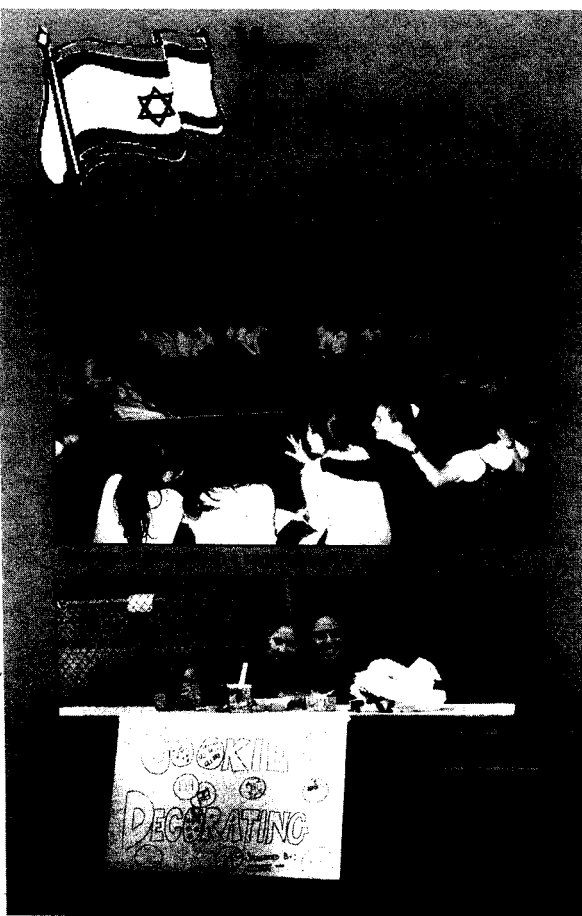
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## Yom HaShoah commemorated at SCW

**AVIVA LAUFER**  
News Editor

This year's Yom HaShoah commemoration at SCW extended beyond a 24-hour day of remembrance. The Zachor Club focused on the importance of reflecting on the Holocaust throughout the year. "It is important to realize that this is not just a one or two day a year thought process," Shira Tuchman, Zachor Club President, said. On this note, the speaker and video presentations on this year's Yom HaShoah served as a culmination of Holocaust memorial programs throughout the past few months.

Monday Evening, April 12, Dr. Henry L. Feingold, Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Resource Center at Baruch College, lectured in Belfer Hall on the issue of American intervention during World War II. Tuchman explained that the lecture was intended to promote intellectual discussions of issues that concern students, primarily the American stance during the mass execution of Jews in Nazi Germany.

Some SCW students said that the

lecture was very different than what they expected or what they were accustomed to. Leah Lubelski, SCW '00, "expected to hear a moving testimony of a Holocaust survivor," she said, "or even just a historical overview that would trigger thoughts and emotions regarding what occurred. Instead, we were presented with very brief mention of a very wide variety of issues from a very objective point of view." Tuchman explained that the purpose of this lecture was to address historical concerns that would unlikely be addressed at other commemoration ceremonies.

Feingold emphasized that genocide is tragically becoming more common, and that there are many fascist dictators in this world who must be stopped. "Our ordeal has worked well for the rest of the world," Feingold said, because Holocaust study can help people reflect on and cope with modern day calamities. Feingold also focused on the importance of studying history within a broader spectrum of circumstances and events. "Contextualization is to history what location is to real estate," he stated.

Feingold said that while the involvement of the United States in the

war undoubtedly saved Jews, "it's unfortunate...that it didn't happen fast enough."

"The Holocaust is unique because the Jews are a unique people," Feingold said, and in terms of the historical role they played in Europe, "the Jews were the first transnational people." He also suggested that the horrors of the concentration camps were a metaphor of industrialism and not only a manifestation of ethnic hatred.

In conclusion, Feingold drew attention to the silent civil war among the Jews, whom he referred to as "a politically hot people." He explained that Jews did not come together to help one another at a time when fellow Jews were being tortured and murdered by Nazi hordes in Europe. It is really shameful, he noted, since despite our differences "in our enemies eyes, we're all Jews!"

On Tuesday, April 13, SCW students were issued pamphlets containing images of thriving European Jewish communities prior to the Holocaust. In conjunction with the English Honors Society, headed by Yehudit Robinson, SCW '99, the Zachor Club also organized a film presentation in one of the SCW classrooms.

Entitled "Au Pevon Les Enfants," which means "Goodbye Children," it is a French film with English subtitles. Robinson said that she had seen the film in High School and that "it left a lasting impression" on her. Since she knew that the Zachor club had planned to show a Holocaust film, she combined her efforts with theirs to present this one in particular. The film depicted a school in France, which was caught for taking in Jewish children during the Holocaust. The school was shut down, the administrators were punished, and the Jewish students were given into the murderous hands of their Nazi persecutors.

Other Shoah commemorative programs this past semester included a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park and a showing of "The Last Days," which was produced by the Shoah Foundation in conjunction with Steven Spielberg. Tuchman said that she was hoping for a larger turnout for the trip to the museum, but only 15 SCW students participated. The presentation of "The Last Days," however, drew a more impressive attendance of about 50 SCW students.

## Yad Vashem puts out worldwide call to record victims of Holocaust

**NEHAMA MILLER**  
Staff Writer

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) - As the generation of Holocaust survivors dwindles, Jewish community leaders are making a worldwide appeal to gather the names of those whose perished in the Shoah before it is too late.

On April 13 - Holocaust Remembrance Day - the American Society for Yad Vashem, relaunched its campaign to complete the Pages of Testimony, a doc-

ument that records basic information on the victims of the Shoah.

They have put out a call for synagogues and schools around the world to alert friends and family about the project.

"Shuls are distributing them, schools are receiving them, children are getting them as homework assignments," said American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski. The United States is "electrified now by this appeal."

The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem has collected the Pages of Testimony from relatives of

Holocaust victims since the early 1950s.

It acts as a death certificate for the victims by asking questions like family status, places and activities during the war, and the circumstances of their death.

Said Rochel Berman, from Berman Associates, of the society, "These people died without a tahara," using the Hebrew word for pre-funeral purification rites, "or anyone to say Kaddish for them."

"In many ways, the Pages of Testimony are a ceremonial gravestone for each person who perished."

Last Friday, leaders of the

American Jewish community, along with Holocaust survivors and their children, gathered at the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to emphasize the need to complete the document.

"The victims deserve to be remembered not as cold, anonymous numbers, but as individual human beings," Zborowski said.

"The Pages of Testimony will preserve the unique identity and personal dignity that the murderers tried so hard to

see **Yad**, page 10

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## Chemistry Students Win Trip to Conference

EILEEN CHUDOW  
News Editor

SCW honored contest winners Chaya Badrian, SCW '99, and Jennifer Feig, SCW '00, with a trip to the 217th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Anaheim, California, March 21-23. Chemistry professor Dr. Lea Blau accompanied them.

Badrian and Feig won the 1998 poster contest sponsored by SCW and Avon. Each contestant submitted a poster explaining the research she was involved with during the summer, which was then displayed in the Midtown Center cafeteria. Badrian decided to enter the contest after the Observer reported on last year's winners.

Blau, who conducted research in

collaboration with SCW biology professor Dr. Harvey Babich, attended the conference to view the accompanying exposition in which manufacturers introduced their latest chemistry equipment. This gave her the information she needed to participate in selecting appropriate equipment for the new SCW chemistry laboratory, scheduled to open for the fall semester.

Over 500 undergraduates presented research in poster form, as did Badrian and Feig, while graduate students and professionals delivered oral presentations.

Badrian had obtained a summer position, with Babich's help, at the labora-

tory of New York University researcher Dr. Marty Grumet, who is teaching an SCW course this semester. Badrian, working with a graduate student, researched spinal chord regeneration. Her research involved pinpointing the region of the L1



Feig, Dr. Blau and Badrian

molecule responsible for promoting the outgrowth of cell extensions, which will allow the development of a drug most effective in helping paralyzed patients regain motor control. "I like this in

particular because it has a practical effect of helping people," Badrian said. She added that it is very important for students

to participate in research if they hope to attend graduate school.

Badrian said attending the conference was a "great opportunity" for her, and she believes that winning the contest and presenting research at the conference helped her obtain admission to graduate school. She was also eager to make professional contacts at the conference.

Feig spent last summer as a Roth Scholar at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine researching the role of estrogen receptors in the disease lupus. She said that she enjoyed both her research and the conference. Feig found the conference to be a "good learning experience" because she learned about other students' research. She said she also appreciated the opportunity to interact with other college students.

## OPCS Helps Students Find Summer Jobs, Internships

RACHEL ELBAUM  
Staff Writer

Summer, for many SCW students, means a chance to gain hands on experience in a field they have previously only experienced in the classroom. To help students with this arduous process, the Office of Career and Placement Services (OCPS) assists with the application process, from resumes to interviews.

A summer job workshop was held in March to explain cover letter and resume writing, as well as different strategies for finding a job. They included

attending career fairs, networking, and browsing through job books.

"We encourage students to be creative," said Naomi Kapp, associate director for the OCPS. Since many positions are non-paying, she suggested working part-time at a position in one's field of interest without pay and maintaining a part-time paying job at the same time.

The OCPS is open daily to meet with students. "Naomi Kapp helped me write my resume so I could apply to summer jobs," said Dina Adelsburg SSSB '00, an accounting major who was offered a summer leadership with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

"The other day," said Kapp, "I held a mock interview with a student who was interviewing for a position in communications." Together, they reviewed possible questions that the student would be asked and discussed appropriate answers.

While on-campus recruiting for summer positions was not extensive, it was held specifically for information systems and accounting majors, and a resume referral packet was offered to people applying for positions in finance. The OCPS also provided information for students interested in the allied health professions for positions at the Rusk Institute and Bellevue Hospital.

"Our contacts [for jobs] are primarily in the New York area," said Kapp, "but we do work with all students." She added that "the Internet is so wonderful [for positions outside New York] because of its geo-centrality."

The OCPS helped Rebecca Varnai, SCW '00, prepare her resume so that she could find a summer job in Chicago. "I applied to two interior design firms with the resume the OCPS helped me prepare," said Varnai.

Adelsburg said her experience with the OCPS has been helpful. "Naomi Kapp looks out for you," she said. "You know she cares."

## Honors Program to Expand

SHIRA GRABER  
Staff Writer

As part of the growing effort to supplement SCW's curriculum, an honors program will be introduced for the upcoming fall semester.

"These courses give students the opportunity to do a lot more independent work," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW, regarding the benefits of the program. "Students will cultivate a new set of skills for graduate school and jobs, and it will be indicated on their transcripts."

Students holding an SAT score of 1300 or above are automatically eligible for the program. Other students may apply by submitting a statement listing their academic qualities and explaining why they are eligible. Incoming students holding a high school average of 90 or above are qualified, as are current students that meet Dean's List criteria.

The program has several components geared towards leadership training and cultural enrichment, supplementing the new and innovative courses. Course requirements include seven honors courses, three of which must be advanced and/or interdisciplinary, and a senior honors project. This project must be submitted in writing and presented orally to an Honors Committee, for which the student will receive credit.

"The project allows for many options for students," said Dean Bacon. "The topic can be in their major or not. It can be an outgrowth of a paper they already did in class that they can expand and embellish the topic, from work they already did. Or they can do new work, for example lab research for the thesis." There will also be a mentor and research component to the program.

Though the leadership-training segment of the program has not yet been fully defined, "we are hoping to have a session once per semester," said Dean Bacon. "Faculty or outsiders will run the

leadership training seminars." Topics will range from decision making, analyzing problems, to promoting ideas, convincing people, and obtaining government help. "These are things to empower women and give them the skills for speaking and convincing," Dean Bacon said.

Another component of the program will focus on cultural enrichment. According to Dean Bacon, this will include evenings of Dine and Dialogue - in which students will interact with faculty members, dinner with noted authors, and extended travel.

The faculty Honors Committee will work with the deans in selecting the honors course offerings each semester. The Curriculum Committee must approve all the new courses. Currently, the Honors Committee is composed of Professors Blau (Chair, Science Division); Grosfod (Chair, Social Sciences); Kanarfogel (Chair, Jewish Studies); Schrecker (Acting Chair, Humanities); Hatvary (Chair, Curriculum Committee); Nochimson; J. Bacon; Freedman; Babich; and Shatz (Mentor, Distinguished Scholars Program).

There are 12 honors courses presently offered this Spring semester at SCW, noted by an "H" in the remarks column of the course booklet. Ranging from Western Civilization to Abnormal Psychology to Art and Literature, these courses are taught on a higher level, give students more work and independent study, and foster more discussion.

"We were given a lot of independence with our required 15-minute oral report on an abstract living artist," said Marti Davidson, SCW '02, a student in the Art and Literature class. "Classes are heavily discussion based, and we gain more in-depth ideas than those that come solely out of the lecture."

Dr. Judith Neaman, the professor teaching Art and Literature,

see Honors, page 7

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## Testing the Limits of Torah Umadda- Teaching the New Testament

RACHEL GENACK  
Staff Writer

A quick glance at the syllabus of Masterpieces of World Literature yields a list of normal coursework - Shakespeare's The Tempest, Dante's Inferno and...The New Testament?

With its unique status of being both a yeshiva and a university, a course offered in SCW that includes the study of the New Testament might raise eyebrows in an Orthodox Jewish environment. This is compounded by the fact that some halachic authorities do not allow it to be read.

Students are divided over the issue. Some, like Yedida Goldman, SCW '99, are happy that the class is offered in SCW as a way of broadening the students' horizons. Avital Silber, SCW '00, agrees. "I think it's important to know for our own understanding of society and the world we know," said Silber. Others, like Shira Greenland, SCW '00, disagree. "Given the overabundance of literary works from the

classical period and the constant strain on class time," said Greenland, "it bothers me that there would even be impetus to turn to heresy for the broadening of young Jewish minds."

"There is a long tradition of courses in Western Literature which involves bodies of literature that may be problematic," said Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Judaic Studies. However, he said there are ways to present them that would not be halachically problematic.

Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani of YU, said that Rav Joseph Soloveitchik z"l felt that the study of the Christian Testament aids in understanding society and their literature. "The Rav was lenient about teaching the New Testament," said Rabbi Blau.

While Rav Soloveitchik was living, questions involving the study of controversial texts would be addressed to him. Today YU attempts to maintain the tradition of what was said and to retain continuity.

However, Rabbi Kanarfogel understands that this does not mean that

every student will be comfortable studying a work that her individual rabbi holds is unacceptable. "In an ideal world, every student should feel comfortable in every course," said Rabbi Kanarfogel, "but it's not really possible."

Drawing a line on what may or not be taught at SCW has become a delicate procedure. Rabbi Blau said that "policy is formed issue by issue rather than on a set, global scale."

Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW, said that "curriculum at SCW is designed to be mainstream and classical." Secular faculty members enjoy academic freedom. However, out of respect for the students' sensitivities, they refrain from teaching religious studies and from focusing on Eastern Civilization.

Academic freedom is an issue that is cherished by the educational community. Therefore there is no censorship in SCW, said Dean Bacon. SCW is in fact officially a secular university, not a yeshiva, according to its federal classification as an independent institution under Jewish auspices. However, there is a difference between telling a teacher what to teach, which would intrude on the professor's

academic freedom, and a suggestion that teachers be sensitive to the community.

Rabbi Kanarfogel emphasized that YU attempts to work within a system in which people are not forced to do anything that they would feel uncomfortable doing. Thus no course is mandatory, and students can substitute various courses to fulfill requirements.

"In a secular university, a professor has academic freedom," said Rabbi Blau. A set policy about what can be taught in individual classes therefore remains unseen.

Rabbi Kanarfogel believes that "if there would be set rules, there would be a price to be paid. There would have to be a change in the interpretation of Yeshiva University."

Torah U'Maddah emphasizes "critical thinking and breadth of understanding," said Dean Bacon. In a community as diverse as YU, with such a varied range of views, it is difficult to know where lines should be drawn. Therefore, as long as legitimate minds think that a particular study is permissible, it may be taught.

### Honors

continued from page 6

explained the course structure: "There was a great deal of course enrichment and outside work," she said. "We took four museum and gallery trips. It was a group of more intensely different works of modern art. The students had two papers instead of one, but this is an extremely bright group. There is more homogeneity in this class. I can expect more individual initiative and independence. There is a willingness [with] which the students approached the

work. The abstract work was new to them, but they did it."

For ten lucky Art majors meeting certain prerequisites, this June will mark the first overseas honors class in which they will participate. For 10 days in Florence, Italy, these students will have the opportunity to study works they have learned about first hand.

Honors courses for the full-fledged honors program beginning this fall have already been planned. They include an Introduction to Science class as well as an interdisciplinary literature and history class, which is entitled "Women, Culture

and Society in the Modern World." Both classes will be team taught - the Fundamentals class by Dr. Blau and Dr. Pommot-Maia, and the Literature/History class by Dr. Silver and Dr. Schrecker.

"This science class is for non-science majors who do not want to learn the Biology for biologists or the Chemistry for chemists," said Dean Bacon.

"Both Dr. Silver and I have taught courses about women's subjects before," Dr. Schrecker said regarding her course, "and we have been thinking about doing this for a few years now. We finally decided the time had come. As an interdiscipli-

nary course, we will combine the approaches of literature and history. This is common at a lot of colleges. Though the issues we wanted to look at are still very tentative, we chose works that question family relationships. We tried to see what kinds of readings would illustrate women's lives and how they have changed in Western civilization."

"The faculty and current honors students are enthusiastic about the program," said Dean Bacon. "We have sent letters to incoming students as well, inviting them to join and get involved."

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# W O M E N

## EATING DISORDERS

### When Food Becomes An Enemy

Eating Disorders Are Becoming More Common Among Orthodox Women

SARA KOSTANT  
Associate Features Editor

When a physician who specializes in eating disorders came to Dalia's Orthodox day school to speak about eating disorders, Dalia, who requested that her real name not be used, thought that people with anorexia were crazy.

"He showed a video about the disorder," she recalls, "and it showed a girl exercising like crazy. I turned to the girl next to me and said, 'She must be nuts!'"

The irony of this incident is not lost on Dalia, a New York resident who has recovered from anorexia and describes herself as yeshivish. During her illness, she looked back on her previous attitude and felt that if her anorexia became publicized, others would see her as she had seen the obsessed girl in the video. To this day, no one outside of her immediate family and one friend knows that she was once so sick she weighed 88 pounds and had to be hospitalized. No one realizes that at one point, her doctors feared she might die of a heart attack.

Dalia used to be one of the 5 to 10 million American women, according to an April 12 issue of People magazine, who suffer from some type of eating disorder each year. About 1 million men in the United States develop eating disorders every year as well. Eating disorders include anorexia (denying oneself food, sometimes to the point of emaciation) and

bulimia (eating extreme amounts of food, and then vomiting so that little or no weight is gained). Both conditions damage the body and can eventually become fatal.

"Bulimics may develop irregular heartbeats from vomiting and laxative use, and anorexics have a mortality rate of nearly 20 percent, the highest of any mental disorder," noted People magazine.

Dalia's anorexia began her senior year of high school. She says that she had been chubby as a child, and that as a teenager, "the baby fat had never left." Her parents and other family members made comments about her weight. She weighed

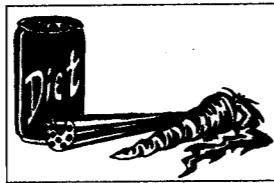
120 pounds, but she began to feel that she could afford to be a little slimmer. Once she began losing the weight, however, she could not stop doing so.

Describing her dieting as an "addiction," Dalia says that she rebuffed all of her parents' efforts to cook extra food for her. Her mother's sandwiches went straight to the garbage, but Dalia didn't recognize that she had a problem. "When you see that you are able to lose weight, it becomes a hobby...a challenge, to do as much as you possibly can," she says.

More often than not, the impetus to lose weight came from a comment casu-

ally tossed their way. The "just five pounds and you would look terrific" phrase can cause a teenage girl who is already unsure of her appearance to begin dieting, she explains.

The desire to control one's weight so strictly also comes from a need to control one's life in general. Women who do not have this need might not develop an eating disorder. However, those who are overly anxious and confused about their life's direction and interpersonal relationships may use comments like these as a form of "permission" to begin dieting, according to Drs. Ira M. Sacker and Marc A. Zimmer, authors of "Dying To Be Thin."



"You start to search for some sort of strategy that will make life more predictable and concrete for you, the way it was while you were in elementary school," Drs. Sacker and Zimmer write. "At

that point, you may decide to take control over the one territory you have to make safe: your own body." They note that although eating disorders can begin when a woman is in her twenties and thirties, most women develop this illness when they reach puberty and their teenage years. "By focusing on taking control over your body, you can ignore all those complex, conflicting and confusing changes that take place

when you become a teenager."

Dalia agrees that an eating disorder gives someone a way to avoid thinking about the turbulence in their lives. "The age where it happened...I realized I'm no longer a kid, and that there were so many decisions to make about school and marriage," she says. "When something becomes your one and only focus, it makes it so much safer...instead of dealing with issues, you focus on that one thing only [the eating disorder]."

Dr. Ira Sacker is the Director of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at the Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn. He is also the Founder and Director of the H.E.E.D Program (Helping End Eating Disorders). Although Dr. Sacker treats anorexic and bulimic patients from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, he has a growing clientele of young Orthodox women like Dalia. These women are not only struggling with distorted body images, but also with the stigma that comes with having an eating disorder in a world seemingly sheltered from many outside influences. The messages of the outside world, however, are coming through loud and clear. Women from more modern families are accustomed to watching television and movies, and the media message that "thin is beautiful" comes through to them just as loudly as to women from non-religious backgrounds. According to Dr. Sacker, this message also permeates more shel-

see Disorder, page 10

## CANCER

### Self-Exams Encouraged for Early Detection of Breast Cancer

ELANA FISHMAN  
Staff Writer

One of the most relevant women's health issues addressed at the Women's Health Exposition on April 27 is the topic of breast cancer. Even though women aged 20-29 account for only 0.3% of breast cancer cases, it is imperative that all young women practice preventative care by performing a breast self-examination to ensure supreme health. Getting into the habit of doing a monthly self-examination at a young age not only starts good health habits early on, but it may one day catch a deadly tumor.

Most types of cancer are named after the part of the body where the cancer first starts. Breast cancer, obviously, begins in the breast tissue. Since both men and women possess breast tissue, even men can develop breast cancer; however, cases like this are rare.

Many people think of cancer as one type of growth. There are several types of breast tumors. Most are benign - that is, they are not cancerous. These lumps are often caused by fibrocystic changes. Fibrocystic lumps may be caused by the fluid-filled sacs in the breast that form into scar tissue. These lumps make the breast feel lumpy and painful. Benign tumors are abnormal growths, but they do not spread outside of the breast, and they are not life-

threatening. However, some tumors are malignant - meaning, they are cancerous tumors. Cells from the tumor can break away and spread to other areas, where they will then begin to grow into separate tumors in other parts of the body as well.

Early detection of such tumors is the key to a woman's survival of breast cancer. All women over the age of 20 should do a breast self-examination. This examination should take place two weeks after the end of a woman's period, when there is the least amount of swelling. In addition, every three years, women should undergo a clinical breast examination at the office of a gynecologist or other physician. Together, these methods offer the best chance of detecting breast cancer early and preventing it from becoming fatal.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, other than skin cancer. Studies show that between 5%-10% of breast cancers appear to be linked to changes in certain genes. Researchers suggest that breast cancer is linked to mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. Normally, these genes suppress cancerous mutations in breast and ovarian tissue. When these genes are defective, the occurrence of cancerous mutations is more

likely. The defective genes are hereditary: If a woman has inherited a mutated gene from either parent, she is more likely to develop breast cancer than a woman without the mutated gene.

Researchers have yet to find out exactly what causes breast cancer, but they have found that women who possess certain risk factors are in greater danger of getting the disease. Women over the age of 50, women with a personal history of breast cancer, and women with a family history of breast cancer have a higher than normal risk. Lifestyle also plays a role; alcohol consumption, smoking, birth control pills, and a lack of exercise all contribute to a higher chance of developing breast cancer.

In an article titled, "Genetic Screening for Breast Cancer Susceptibility: A Torah

Perspective," Ari Mosenki discusses the potential halachic parameters associated with testing for breast cancer susceptibility genes. This article was published in the Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society. Mosenki states that the total estimated carrier frequency if the BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation in Ashkenazi Jews is greater than 2%. Furthermore, the estimated risk of breast cancer among Ashkenazi Jewish women with any of the BRCA mutations is an astonishing 56% by the age of 70. According to these statistics,

it is clear that Ashkenazi Jewish women need not only be aware, but also must be active participants in preventing breast cancer from occurring to them. Although genetic testing seems like an appealing option for women who want to know their personal risk for this disease, Mosenki remarks that it is not necessarily the wisest option. A woman who knows she has a genetic predisposition to breast cancer can begin various preventative procedures, but this woman could also suffer emotionally from the knowledge that it is only a matter of time before she becomes ill. "She may also fear—and suffer from—stigmatization of herself and her family," writes Mosenki, "including difficulty for herself and her daughters finding a mate, as well as discrimination from employers and insurance companies." In addition to these problems, the halachic ramifications of such testing must be considered for each individual.

At this time, there is no definite way to prevent breast cancer. The best strategy for conquering this disease is to catch tumors in the breast early. If women reduce their risk factors whenever possible, coupled with conducting self-examinations and visiting their physicians regularly, they will be more likely to enjoy a long and healthy life.

## SMOKING

RACHEL S. SALAMON  
Staff Writer

Though only a handful of students can be seen smoking in front of SCW buildings at a time, smoking represents one health problem that remains largely hidden at SCW.

"It's more than the 10 girls you see everyday," admitted an anonymous freshman smoker, "but thank G-d it's not as bad as I've seen at other schools. It's probably less than 10 percent."

Students at other colleges in the tri-state area say smoking is very prevalent at their campuses.

"I always see people with cigarettes," said Sherry Bergman, a junior at Rutgers College in New Jersey. "People don't really care; it's almost accepted, and it shouldn't be."

Jamie Mittleman, a junior at Barnard College in Manhattan, said that smoking is a serious issue at her all-female college. "If you walk on the Barnard campus," she said, "there probably wouldn't be a time that you would not see someone smoking."

Many of the SCW students who smoke try to hide their addiction. "I feel like people have respect for me, and if anyone ever saw me [smoking], I would be giving them a reason not to respect me as much," said an anonymous freshman smoker. Along with smoking comes a stigma: If she's smoking, then she probably does other things that are considered to be socially unacceptable in the Jewish community. "A lot of girls are like me," the

freshman continued, "and won't do it in front of school. I went to a bar on the Upper-West Side once, and I saw a lot more [Stern] girls smoking there that I didn't know of."

Unrelated to health, there are undesirable consequences if a person is known to be a smoker. "If a girl smokes," said the anonymous smoker, "it could ruin a lot of things for her, including dating. The reason many people are obsessed with their image is because of how our school works with being set up."



What these smokers fear most is not that their peers would condemn them. Rather, they would do anything to keep their parents from discovering their secret. "My mom's father died of lung cancer," explained an anonymous sophomore who smokes about a quarter of a pack per day. "I told my parents once that I tried a cigarette, and they were furious. Another smoker, an SCW junior, whose father has no idea that she smokes, said, "I'd die before he'd ever find out." According to Mittleman, many students at Barnard lie on housing applications about their smoking status to avoid discovery by their parents, and this becomes an uncomfortable living situation for the non-smoking students who live with them.

Non-smoker Risa Solomon, SCW '00, offered one reason why SCW students might prefer to hide their smoking habit. "Smoking is taboo in the Jewish community because a lot of people say it is against halacha," she said. An anonymous sophomore at SCW, whose parents are still unaware of her smoking habit although

she became addicted during her freshman year in high school, commented that she understands that "people look down upon me for being a smoker. Look, I don't fit into the Stern mold," she said. "But it's hypocritical of these girls because there are many religious people who smoke also."

The most puzzling reality about smoking is that the United States Surgeon General warned the public years ago about the dangers associated with cigarette smoke. These include coronary heart disease, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, emphysema, oral cancer, cervical cancer - the list goes on. So why do people begin smoking or persist in their habits despite the obvious health risks?

"I can't fathom why someone would want to start," said Celia Sporer, SCW '00, whose mother is addicted to smoking. "The knowledge was much less publicized in our parents' generation than our own." According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), the major influences that encourage young people to begin smoking are peer pressure and plain

see Smoking, page 10

## EXERCISE

sole purpose of using my body to serve G-d. If I am not healthy, I cannot serve G-d to the best of my ability," she said.

Many students, and most people, exercise for physical benefit. Either they hope to lose weight or they feel a need to improve or maintain their fitness level.

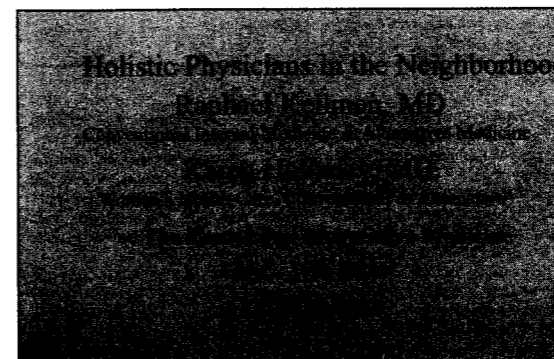
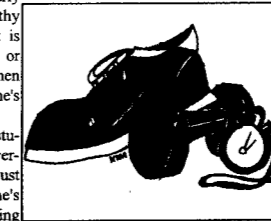
"Exercise is an extremely important component in keeping one's body healthy," said Chani Schubert, SCW '01, who exercises regularly to maintain a healthy body. "However, if it is done the wrong way or taken to an extreme, then it can be harmful to one's health."

Most SCW students believe that overworking one's body is just as detrimental to one's health as is not working out at all. Yet in practice, students often work their bodies to a dangerous extreme. It is easy to develop an obsession with exercise, especially with weight loss as a goal. And it becomes even easier when

friends pursue this kind of goal as a group. Hena Eisenstein, SCW '01, believes that the desire to be thin is widespread among SCW students. "Most girls are probably more concerned about being skinny than being fit. Their main concern lies in burning calories and minimizing their dress size," she said.

College life is a microcosm of society. If society prioritizes a particular issue, then that same issue finds its way into campus life. Society's obsession with weight translates itself into some females thinking that being skinny is necessary.

Girls and young women are led to believe, based on what society seems to demand, that thin is beautiful. One way girls know that they can lose weight is by imposing upon themselves a demanding exercise regiment. For this reason, exercise and working out takes



Students participating in the Women's Health Expo, April 27.



## Disorder

*continued from page 8*

ferred communities, whether it is via the media or a family's expectations of what their daughter's weight should be. He mentioned that in many religious communities, parents want to know how slim a girl is before she is set up with any of their sons. These attitudes put a premium on idealistic weights that some girls cannot obtain - unless they jeopardize their health.

Eating disorders, as mentioned above, are often used as ways for someone to push away the stress in her life by focusing only on what she allows herself to eat. Orthodox women have certain pressures that are not commonly found among the general population, according to Sacker, such as the pressure to get married at a young age. Whether this pressure comes from her family or peers, it may make a young woman wary of adulthood. An eating disorder will allow these young women to keep adulthood at bay, as Dalia felt she was doing during her senior year of high school.

The pressure to excel academically exists in many cultures, and Jews in general are known for being "high-achievers." Young women may turn to an eating disorder as a way of distracting themselves from this pressure.

For a child of a large family, or one undergoing stress, an eating disorder will win her the attention she craves. Sacker notes that in secular culture, women "have other routes to act out when they want to be somewhat rebellious, but eating disorders are one of the only routes for the Orthodox." Alcohol and drugs are

not as common in the Orthodox community as in the mainstream population, but food is always around. "You're surrounded by food. It's utilized in happy and sad events, so it's used as a mechanism for acting out," Sacker explained.

Sacker says that the Orthodox community overall has been eager to work with him to alleviate its eating disorder problem. Recently 700 people attended a conference on this topic, which Sacker conducted with Rabbi Abraham Twersky, M.D., and Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser of Congregation Bais Yitzchok in Brooklyn. Sacker gives presentations about eating disorders in Orthodox day schools, and he says the faculty at these schools is very helpful.

Unfortunately, the stigma of having an eating disorder in the Orthodox community prevents many young women from seeking professional help. "Marriageability is at risk - not just with you, but with the remainder of the family," said Sacker. Men and women may not want to date people who suffered from an eating disorder or who come from a family of someone who does.

To this day, Dalia's community remains in the dark about her ordeal, and she would like to keep it that way. Dalia is now an expert on recognizing eating disorders in others, and at one time pointed out to a co-worker that a mutual acquaintance was probably anorexic. However, she never mentioned her own experience along with her advice. "It's still a stigma. Realistically, it would be good [to go public with her past problem] to raise awareness, but I can't risk the stigma...I would be regarded as different." It's almost a miracle that she was able to hide her nearly 40

pound weight loss: when acquaintances mentioned that she looked thinner, she would deny losing weight or blame it on stress from her college work.

Dalia used this reasoning to justify her weight loss to herself as well, although underneath it all, she really didn't believe it. She wore baggy clothes every day that concealed her emaciated frame and continued living in denial, even during her hospitalization. In fact, she was planning to leave the hospital and stay at a friend's house, the only friend who knows about her bout with anorexia; but Dalia's mother warned her friend not to let her seek refuge there.

Dalia says that had she managed to run away from the hospital, she is not sure she would have survived. "I was at a point where I had to be cured or I would be dead." She had already developed heart problems; anorexics can weaken their hearts until they finally die of a heart attack. Her hospitalization and subsequent therapy with Sacker helped Dalia regain most of her lost health. She says that she is still not at her ideal weight, but her life is not in danger anymore.

Stern College for Women has a population of approximately 850 women, most of whom are between the ages of 17-22. This age range is a critical decision-making time full of stress and anxiety for the future. Women in Stern are trying to choose careers and garner enough credits and extracurricular activities to get into the graduate school of their choice. The societal pressures cannot be discounted, and neither can the media's emphasis on being thin.

Dr. Efreim Nulman, the University Dean of Students, said that in

the past, SCW has directed students with eating disorders to places where they can receive professional help. If students come to the Office of Student Services or the Medical Office for advice on their disorder, they can be referred to a program that specializes in eating disorders, he said. Depending on the student's preference, the student could be referred to a clinic environment or to a private practitioner.

"We need more staff to address this type of thing," said Dr. Nulman, who noted that the addition of staff members who specialize in eating disorders is being considered for the next academic year. Dr. Nulman believes that having counselors more available to students, and providing referral services are the most effective ways of dealing with this problem at the college level. "Education programs out there for younger people make a lot of sense, but now [at college age] one should question the efficacy of such programs. There's very little correlation between public relations schemes to educate people on a problem, and helping...solve that problem."

Dalia cannot emphasize enough the positives for anorexic women who finally realize they need medical attention. Although a fear of humiliation may prevent women, especially Orthodox women, from seeking help, the harm an eating disorder causes, she says, outweighs the benefits of bottling up their secret. "If the stigma is holding people back," she says, "they should realize that they can get help anonymously. There are so many wonderful things you miss out on if you make this your focus."

## Smoking

*continued from page 9*

old curiosity. "Coming from public school," said an anonymous sophomore smoker, "it was more peer pressure than anything else. All my friends were doing it." Most people who smoke begin doing so between the ages of 10 and 18, and studies show that cigarette smoking is more likely than alcohol and other drugs to become an established habit if one starts during this period.

But many people begin smoking because they discover that it relieves stress and anxiety. At Barnard College, "smoking is very prevalent," Mittleman commented. "You'd think that smart women aren't smoking. But school is very stressful, and they're highly academic. They need to relieve their tension."

The National Institute on Drug Addiction has shown through research that stress hormones reduce the effects of nicotine, and therefore more nicotine must be consumed to achieve the same effect. This increases the smoker's tolerance of nicotine and leads to increased dependence, which hastens the onset of smoking-related diseases.

There are a variety of reasons why a person would continue to smoke despite the obvious health risks. "It's habitual more than addictive, a function of bad behavior, of conforming," said Dr. Marcel Perlman, Professor of Psychology at SCW. An anonymous sophomore at

SCW explained that she is compelled to continue smoking in order to maintain the image of a tough smoker.

"I feel safer if I have a cigarette in my hand," she said. "I feel like I look tougher and nobody will bother me. It's sad, but it's a security feeling for me."

Many regular smokers structure their day around cigarettes, anticipating the next opportunity to smoke as though their day is incomplete without their nicotine fix. In some cases, depending on their level of addiction, they feel as though they cannot live without their cigarettes.

Nicotine is an addictive drug similar to heroine and cocaine for three main reasons, according to the ACS. First, when taken in small amounts, nicotine produces pleasurable feelings that make the smoker want to smoke more. Second, most smokers become dependent on nicotine and when they stop smoking, they suffer both physical and psychological withdrawal symptoms, including nervousness, headaches, irritability, and difficulty sleeping. Third, because nicotine affects the chemistry of the brain and central nervous system, it affects the mood and temperament of the smoker.

The ACS emphasizes that many people are unaware that nicotine is a poison which, when taken in large doses, could kill a person by paralyzing breathing muscles. Smokers usually take it in small amounts that the body can quickly break

down and get rid of, which is why the nicotine does not kill instantly and instead kills the smoker over a longer period of time.

"I'm quitting," said a junior who smokes. "It's the mature thing to do. It smells bad, it makes your teeth yellow, it kills you. And it doesn't coincide with my religious beliefs." Her friend, a senior retorted, "What am I supposed to do -- not be friends with her because she smokes? I'd love for her to quit, but it's not something that's going to change overnight."

The National Institute on Drug Addiction recommends nicotine gum and the nicotine patch for achieving abstinence from smoking, reducing withdrawal symptoms and preventing relapse. Mittleman explained that there is a Well Women's Clinic at Barnard that has an effective anti-smoking campaign.

"I don't think the problem should be ignored [at Stern]," said April Simon, SCW '00 and SCWSC President 1999-2000. "On the other hand they're grown women, and they have a choice to smoke."

Strange as it may sound, there was a time when professors would even smoke during class at Stern. "You could do that because it was part of the culture," said Professor Laurel Hatvary, Associate Professor of English and chair of the English Communications Department at SCW. "At faculty meetings, half the people smoked. Now, I don't know if I have a

colleague who smokes."

The Surgeon General, according to the ACS, has declared that the decision to quit or not to start smoking in 1985 will have postponed or prevented an additional two million smoking-related deaths between 1986 and 2000.

Talia, SCW '99, who prefers to omit her last name because her parents do not know that she smokes half a pack per day, said she has "tried many times to quit. I know all about the health risks and costs."

It seems that for some SCW students who smoke, while they know that they should quit smoking, they do not know precisely where to begin or where they can go to seek help. "I believe that the Office of Student Services would try to facilitate putting together a support group," Dean Karen Bacon suggested. "You just have to make the decision, I want to quit."

The ACS warns that people who smoke are willingly subjecting their bodies to cyanide, formaldehyde, ammonia, nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide each time they inhale, shortening their own lives with each puff.

"Buying a pack of cigarettes is the same thing as purchasing your own carton of coffin nails," said Shifra Rothstein, SCW '02. "I'd rather breathe, thank you."

## Yad

*continued from page 5*

obliterate," he added.

The endeavor, which has been compared to the biblical reference to Jews as stars that God counts and names even when they cease to shine, started almost 40 years ago.

Slowly, names and data were collected and stored in Yad Vashem - but the effort was eventually shelved.

"Nothing was done for many years," Zborowski said in an interview with JTA.

"But now we are launching it

with full force."

"These pages will be of great importance to historians and genealogists who wish to study the lives of the Holocaust victims," Berman said.

"But most of all, these Pages of Testimony are for the future generations who may not be able to learn about the Shoah from the actual eyewitnesses."

"In less than a generation, there may be no one living who personally remembers the victims," Selma Schiffer, director of the American Society for Yad

Vashem, said at the conference, where she urged anyone with information to fill out as many Pages of Testimony as possible.

Many survivors, however, are hesitant about filling out the form because it may trigger painful memories of their loved ones.

More than 3 million names are in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem, where some 1,200 data entry clerks and software technicians are storing them in a special computerized database.

Now, the goal is to collect the

names of the remaining 3 million Holocaust victims by the year 2000.

"The survivors of the Holocaust, who are the main repository of those that perished, are very quickly dying out," Berman said. "It's important that these Pages of Testimony are completed in order that they are not forgotten."

Pages of Testimony may be obtained by calling the American Society for Yad Vashem at (800) 310-7495 or accessing the Yad Vashem Web Site at <http://www.yadvashem.org.il>.

# To Everything...Turn, Turn, Turn

By: Leah Lubetski and Elana Davis

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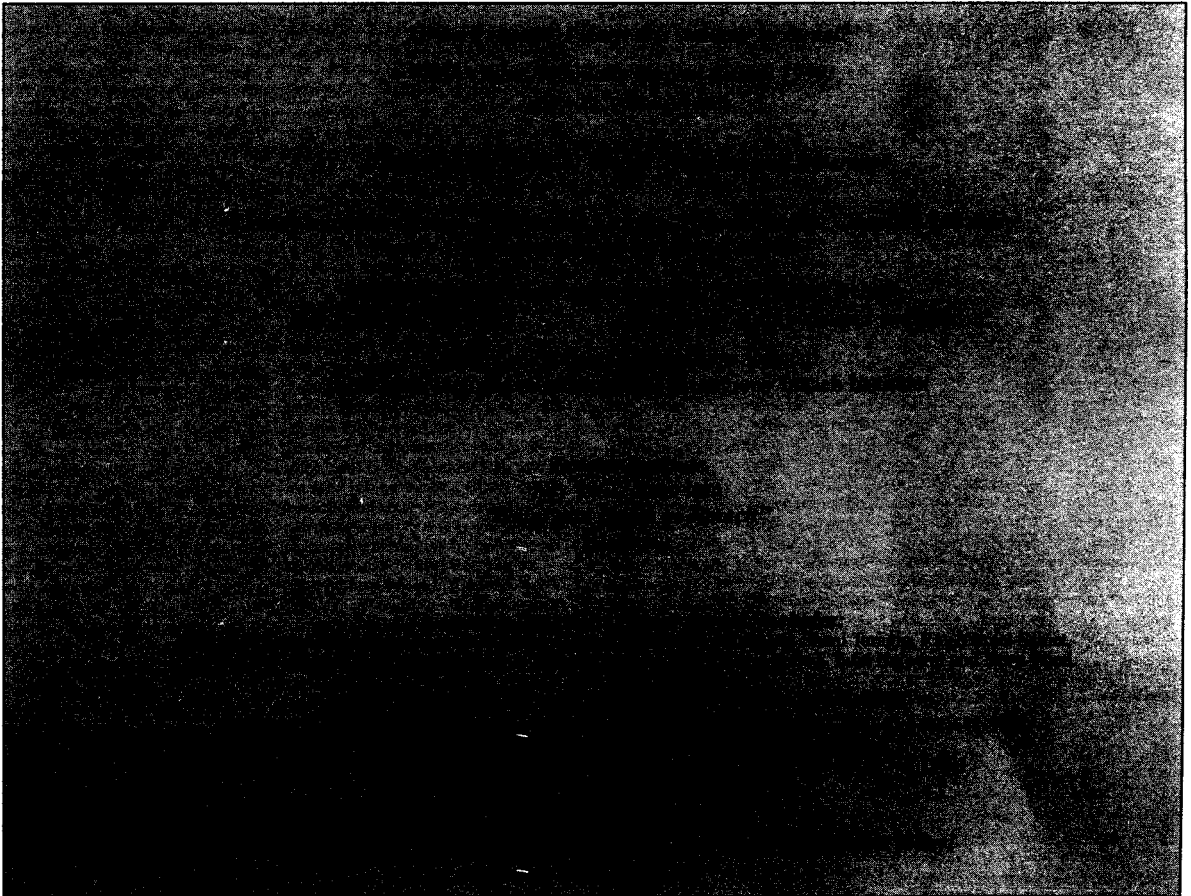
Answers on page 15

ACROSS

1. Fight
5. Writing handbook
8. Hungry \_\_ horse
11. Land measure
12. Moses' brother
15. Tarry
16. Shakespeare play
19. Seer
20. Louse
21. Paddle
22. Suffix i.e.
24. Parodies
27. Append
29. Copy
31. Before
34. Grate
35. Part
36. Demonstration
38. Sick
39. Smother
41. Espy
44. Blunder
46. Gasp
47. Apparition
49. Chinese gang
50. Coax
51. \_\_ Domini
52. Means (abbr.)
53. Highlander
54. Letter after 'M'
55. Snicker (hee)
56. About
58. Thurs. show
59. June-August activ  
ity
67. Mien
68. \_\_ of bricks
69. Aged
70. Alsos
71. Featured lecturer

DOWN

1. Little Man
2. Yucky
3. Tom Petty song
4. Several
5. Reckless
6. Coffee
7. Plural of is
8. carte
9. Spanish exit
10. Feds
13. Spanish gold
14. U.S. agency
17. Regarding
18. \_\_ la la
23. Reps.
25. Hole in one
26. Vacation
28. And
29. NY, NJ and CT
30. Dog command
32. Girder
33. Annex
37. Limb
39. Urge
40. Plant
41. Child
42. Serf
43. English school
45. Movie ratings
48. Funny
56. \_\_ no
57. 12 inches
59. Orb
60. Pyrol
61. Pas' mates
62. Hwy.
63. Teriyaki
64. News channel
65. Spanish cheer
66. ADD i.e.
67. 12 step prog.



# VIEWS



Sara Kostant, Associate Features Editor

## TURN

### Vacation Reminiscing

Before I went home for Pesach vacation, I promised myself that I would tackle a job that has hung over my head for years: I would clean out my closet. This, I knew, would be no simple task. Any out-of-town-er can attest to the fact that when one leaves home to attend yeshiva, seminary, or college, one's room becomes a communal storage area. That's a nice way of saying that your parents, brothers and sisters dump all of their unwanted stuff in your room while you are away. Each time I return home, the amount of "stuff" increases, sometimes even obscuring my room's furniture. Since the sister who normally shares my room with me is in Israel this year, my other siblings now have two beds onto which they can toss their unwanted clothes, books, and whatnot.

The closets, however, remain the prime targets for illegal storage. I must admit, my closet was pretty scary even before I began my nomadic existence. I have a tendency to save every piece of paper associated with my academic career—as if that absent slip signed by the secretary in tenth grade will bring me nachas some day. Loose-leaf notebooks line the one shelf in my closet, completely filling it (mind you, these notebooks have not seen the light of day since they were triumphantly slammed shut some long-ago June day). The few that did not make it into a place of honor on the shelf were shoved unceremoniously on top of the other notebooks, and the rest were stacked on the floor next to a pile of mismatched shoes. Two huge boxes of birthday cards, letters, notes passed in class, and other high-school paraphernalia sit patiently on the floor of my closet for the day when I will neatly organize their contents into scrapbooks. Remember when mini-backpacks were in? I have four or five stuffed into a corner. This isn't exactly an Ivana Trump-sized closet either.

I have always learned that I should set realistic goals for myself, because a daunting task can discourage me from completing it. Thus, I left the scrapbook-making for another date, and decided to see the floor of my closet. I figured that once I tossed out the shoes and extra wire hangers, the carpet would appear, and my morale would be strengthened.

My sister, however, had recently decided that R.L. Stine books were too "junior-highish" and had stashed her entire collection in my closet. "Stashed", in this case, would be a euphemism; copies of Prom Nightmare and The Devil Date were scattered haphazardly from one end of my closet to another. Once I collected the books, however, I could not bring myself to dispose of them. They brought back memories of a time when I was immature enough to be enthralled with the adventures of Jessie and Heidi as they fled their senior

prom because their dates had turned into vampires at the stroke of midnight (Prom Nightmare II, I think...don't they ever learn?). I put them all in a box and kind of left them in a corner of my room.

Next: Clothing. I found this a little easier. Within an hour or so after attacking my closet I had two bulging garbage bags filled with any garment that had not been touched in a year. Most of the clothes I packed away had not been worn since high school. This is where I almost slipped. You see, clothes bring back memories, too. I found the black dress I had worn to my high school graduation, and looking at it brought back a flood of memories about that day. That one I decided to keep; my heart kind of fell a bit when I originally placed it into one of the garbage bags. The metaphor was so obvious: discarding past memories to make room for the future...I know, it's dripping with sentimentality, but I can't help myself.

Even while I was giving away things that I did not need or use anymore, I realized that I was still accumulating new stuff. At the end of last year I brought home another stack of notebooks, copies of the Observer, and other scraps to add to the scrapbook pile in my closet. My memory-gathering continues in a never-ending vicious cycle: I become scared that I won't have any objects which will evoke memories of my carefree years, so I save anything connected to that time. Then I realize that I don't look at any of that stuff anyway, and I throw it away. Meanwhile, more scraps move to my in-box.

I think that cleaning out my closet was beneficial to me. First of all, it taught me that you don't need mountains of material things to recall your youth. Save your treasured photographs—you don't want to forget the faces of your friends and family who have changed so much in appearance over the years. Save your journals and diaries—especially the one from third grade with the lock on it. You'll want to remember what was going through your mind when you were so young. Save the clothes that hold special memories, like your high school, yeshiva, and seminary sweatshirts, your basketball uniform and that cute T-shirt you wore in Kiddie Camp the summer you turned four. But don't feel guilty about throwing out or giving away the things you know you won't be looking at twenty years from now. Secondly, cleaning out my closet made me a more confident person. If I could spur myself to complete a task that I had pushed off for years, then I could end my procrastination in other areas. Maybe next September I'll be writing a column about how I finally organized my scrapbook and put all of my baby pictures into albums...and maybe I'll learn to take things one step at a time!



Deborah Bienenfeld

## TURN

### A Dearth of Zionism

There is a surprising general sentiment toward Israel. The desire by Jews of this generation on the whole to make Aliyah does not hold true in SCW. Here is the assumption: students spend 10 months in Eretz Yisrael, the land of our forefathers which was designated for the Jews by G-d. They learn about and explore the land and the thousands of years of history imbedded in it. They experience the cultural bond to their brethren in their homeland and oftentimes build meaningful relationships with them. They learn the commandment to live in Israel and the prohibitions of leaving. So it is understandable that a strong desire to return to the Holy Land would haunt the minds and souls of the students of SCW upon their return, and this desire would foster in a pro-Aliyah environment until they actually make Aliyah upon graduation.

In fact, it would be expected that this desire would be so predominant within SCW that much of the university activity and general attitude would be focused on Zionism. But alas, there are not many classes on Israel and Zionism, and programs are scarce as well. In fact, most students do not feel a burning desire to return to Israel to live. Objectively and ideally, most know that all Jews should be in Israel. But practically and realistically, America is the homeland built for us by the founding fathers.

The comparison is understandable. Most sense the hardships of distance from family and worry about the threats from surrounding countries and nations. Perhaps these are not the real reasons. Coming from a different, yet equally important standpoint, Tamar Tuchman remarks, "I think it's really dirty and the people are rude. Plus, it's impossible to make a living there."

Financial hardship and diminished quality of life might be a prime motivation for most people to shy away from Israel, and Tuchman feels no shame in voicing her opinion on the issue. When asked how one can support Israel and be adamantly opposed to living there, she insists that there are other ways to help Israel. One should not underestimate the importance of sending money from America. In the same vein, Sara Lowe, contact for AIPAC, conveys the importance of Jewish presence in America. "It is important for Jews to be in Israel," she argues, "but it is also important for Jews to be in America and exert influence over politics." The goal of the national organization AIPAC is to provide information to university students and to encourage involvement with Israeli-American politics. Does involvement in politics supercede the importance of being in Israel? The question of priority is not the issue at hand, but it deserves some thought.

Despite the overwhelming lack

of Israel's vehemence, there is a handful of students with a desire to return. There are concrete plans forming for timeframe of Aliyah. But how do SCW and the student body cultivate this small, already present Zionist feeling? Yael Wiskowsky, a senior (and included in the handful), will be living in Israel starting this September. She claims that "SCW has no pervasive Zionist feeling. Do you see any Israeli flags? And when was the last time HaTikva was sung at a school function?"

But others, such as Julie Yanofsky of Tehilla Tzeira, claim that Zionist maintenance is both available and accessible to all students. Tehilla Tzeira, the daughter organization of Tehilla, is an Israeli-based organization for recent or prospective olim. Tehilla sets up interviews and provides information on jobs, contacts and other practical information one might need in making aliyah. Yanofsky, the contact for Tehilla Tzeira describes the goal of the organization as purely practical. "Although we do bring in inspirational speakers to keep the feeling alive, the purpose is really for advice for when you get there." Why does Tehilla not purport to inspire and convince students to live in Israel? Yanofsky explained that "people do not need a support group. If you're strong, you're strong, and if not, not. You will be able to maintain your feeling even without a group." And why, Julie, do you want to live there? "Israel is most conducive to Yiddushkeit." A sentiment shared by many.

For those needing that extra push or motivation there is the Israel club. The club recently had a successful shabbaton in conjunction with Tehilla Tzeira. Elana Davis attended the shabbaton and is very impressed with the knowledge she gleaned there. Mostly informative about political parties and political systems, it allowed Zionists to come together and learn about their homeland. Davis, who attended the shabbaton, does not want to live in Israel. "I think I was the only one who doesn't want to live there," she said, laughing. And why not? "I would have to be so dependent on someone else because of the language barrier. I know most people say they can get over it, but I can't." Ideally, of course, she believes that Jews should live in Israel.

It is apparent, therefore, that there are means of involvement and maintenance if the desire exists. It is also evident, however, that the general desire is not there. Surprising is the passivity of the student body and leaders of these groups. If the love for Israel is not there, why not create it? No, there are no promotional activities to change the fact that Israel is not on the foreground of most students' minds. Zionism on campus is merely implicit. To echo Wiskowsky, "where are the Israeli flags?"

## BELLES

The Belles' new Album is finally here  
 (Stern's Original and Sensational A Cappella Group)

**"UNPLUGGED, REALLY"**

On CD. With Thanks to SCWSC

Observer Website at <http://>

**President, SCWSC '98-'99****Shandy Kahn**

What can I say to sum up this year except, what a success!!!!

We were able to end the year with a big bang, our Yom Ha'Atsmaut carnival, Women's Health Expo, and Sternbucks. These events show just a fraction of the different events that happen each week here at Stern College.

With the diverse personalities of the student body, Student Council set out to create programs for all, and with everyone's contribution, we were able to do it. All students who attended these fun and exciting events should realize that a lot of hard work and effort went into their planning. I would like to personally thank all club boards, club or honor society presidents, committee heads, publication edi-

tors, and all active students. I thank them because I know that the programs we've had came about only through their desire to work in making Stern College a meaningful and enjoyable place.

Mrs. Zelda Braun and Beth Hait are two very important liaisons to the administration of the school. I thank them for their support and for having an open door policy to shmooze with the students. I hope that it continues in the future. Thank you to Dean Bacon and Dean Orlian for their sensitivity to the academic needs of the students at Stern College.

To my Executive Board- Chara Schwartz, Melanie Keller, Bracha Schiffmiller, and Dassi Zeidel, you each brought your own unique quality and

incorporated them to help make a difference in this year's Student Council. All of you gave your all, your tireless effort and commitment did not go unnoticed, and it helped make this year what it was. Thank you!!!!

As we get towards the end of Sefirah, our countdown towards the day we receive the Torah, many of us are ending a countdown of our own, towards Graduation '99. If there's one thing that I learned during my time here it's that the more energy you put into your stay at Stern, the more you will get out of it. I feel that the way you get the most out of anything is when you give of yourself. Rav Dessler discusses this in Michtav MeEliyahu "With Loving Kindness". The

Given and Taken I got the most out of Stern College that I possibly can, both academics and extracurricular activities. I urge everyone who is around next year to get involved; it makes you feel part of everything around you.

My last thank you is to all my family and friends who have put up with my hectic schedule, lent many pairs of hands-and support.

As for the Student Council 1999-2000, I pass to you the torch of leadership, and wish you the best of luck in all that you hope to accomplish.

And everybody else- hazlachah and good luck wherever life takes you. Keep smiling.

**President, TAC '98-'99****Zemira Baron**

To my devoted readers:

Many of you may recall the early days of my career, when I entered the halls of Stern College as a timid semi-"freshman". It was shortly thereafter that I began my column in The Observer, "The Baron Review." At that time, I was struggling with the oft-asked interrogation of "How do you like Stern?" I figured that rather than go through the whole process each time someone decided to pop the question, I would just write it all out in my column, once and for all, and then when queried, all I would have to do would be to hand the questioner their very own copy of *The Observer*. Nice & simple, over and done with in one simple step, saving myself oodles of time and frustration.

And so, here I sit, a year and

seven months later, an old veteran of SCW, ready to write my last "Letter to the Student Body." And what better way to close than to come full circle and answer the newest, most popular question - "How do you feel about your term as TAC president coming to an end?" This question is thrown at me daily - perhaps just as a conversation starter, but perhaps in heartfelt earnest. And so, now, I present...the long-awaited reply.

I could simply respond that I toss and turn, hour upon hour, each night, as I lay in a flood of tears, but that would be a lie. The truth is that I did have a great year - hopefully, I contributed a little to the school. But much more importantly, I met so many people, and I really learned a lot about dealing with the world. But the

biggest benefit by far was having the yoke of responsibility hurled upon my shoulders.

Granted, in the heat of the moment, I may not have appreciated all the pressure. But sometimes, you need that little (or sometimes not quite so little) push to force you to actualize your potential. My mentality over the year slowly shifted from - "I'll work on myself, and if someone asks for help, I'll see if I could fit them into my schedule" to "What else could I possibly do help others, to increase their learning, chesed, and outreach?" I had no choice but to think that way because that was my job. The truth is, I should have had that attitude towards life regardless of my presidency, but unfortunately, sometimes it takes a title and a little ego-boost to make

one feel the areivus, the enormous responsibility we all have for each other.

So when people ask me how I feel about the completion of my term, the answer is- it's neither a feeling of nostalgia nor relief. What I feel is a sense of trepidation yet excitement- will I fade back into my old self upon removal of the title, or will I pass the test and continue to live with this newfound understanding of my role in life?

But before I get too deep, I just wanted to thank everyone for this amazing experience and for helping out in so many different ways and giving me the chizuk I desperately needed. Together, may we all work on ourselves to put this life-perspective into action (without relying on a crutch). Thanks so much, and good luck!

**President, SSSBSC '98-'99****Adina Loberfeld**

Believe it or not, this year is coming to a close. It is so hard to believe that four years can fly by so quickly. I would like to thank the members of my board for helping to make this year a great success. Marina, Susan, and Carla- thank you guys very much, you did a great job.

Over the past four years, I learned

a lot in Sy Syms. I received a wealth of knowledge within the classroom, and I was also prepared to enter the business world. But the experience I gained outside the classroom and boardroom was just as significant. College taught me a lot of valuable lessons; I think one of the most important lessons I learned a lot about was

friendship. The old saying, "actions speak louder than words," pertains to friends as well. It does not make a difference how many nice things a person says- what really matters is how that person behaves. So I would like to end the year by saying "thanks" to those friends who made my college years so special.

I would like to congratulate those of you who are graduating, and I wish all of you lots of luck. And for the rest of you, my one piece of advice is to enjoy school. The time here flies by so quickly, so try not to waste a single minute.

Have a wonderful summer!

**Kosovo: Abandoning our Ideals****By DEBORAH BIENEFELD**

It was recently Yom Hashoah. Did it make an impact? I doubt it. In fact, how much of an impact did years of learning and programs and the March of the Living and Heritage make? I'd venture to say not much of one. We incessantly harp on the ubiquitous phrase, "never forget," but alas, we have forgotten. We ask angrily where America was during World War II while millions were tortured and slaughtered. I ask angrily, where are we now? Where were we four years ago when millions were exterminated in Rwanda? Sure, we were young then, what could we have done? And sure, we're young now, what can we do?

The Jewish Federation has shipped hundreds of refugees from their homes to safety. The Israeli Defense Force has sent medics to Macedonia to aid those in need there. So collectively as Jews we're doing our part, covering our responsibility as a nation. But how many of us have tried to do our part, little that we may be able to contribute to Kosovo. "Never again." Maybe we meant "never again to U.S." Have we even considered that there might be a world out there, outside this little microcosm we call college?

Or are we so enveloped in our little bubble that we don't think about it, and we choose not to think about it?

Have we attempted to do our part in fulfilling the promise made for years that human extermination would never occur again? Maybe since the PC term 'ethnic cleansing' does not spark the same images that the words 'holocaust' or 'murder' or 'extermination,' we feel that it is not the same horror that Hitler demonstrated. Call it ethnic cleansing, make it sound like an antibacterial treatment, but I call it murder of an entire society of innocent people. And we as individuals have done nothing. I mentioned before how wonderful it is to be part of a culture that exhibits such care for human life. How proud we felt when the news showed Israel as the first country to coming to the aid of Kenya after the Embassy bombings in August. So we sit in our safe little worlds that we deserve to be in, and we revel in the fact that we participated in such a noble feat. Collectively as Jews, we are always there. But I ask you, as you sit back and watch live coverage of tortured refugees streaming from their homes, what have you really done?

**Election Results****SCWSC:**

**President- April Simon**  
**VP- Bari Rothstein**  
**Recording Secretary- Chani Schubert**  
**Corresponding Secretary- DeeDee Lax**  
**Treasurer- Shani Spiro**

**TAC:**

**President- Shlomit Zauderer**  
**VP- Dvasha Allen**  
**Bethany Blier**  
**Secretary- Elana Naider**  
**Treasurer- Gila Loike**

**SSSBSC:**

**President- Carla Shron**  
**VP- Dina Adelsberg**  
**Secretary- Sharon Wiederkor**  
**Treasurer- Michelle Rothberg**

# ARTS

## Midrash Ha-Hefes: An Ancient Yemenite Commentary on the Pentateuch

AVIVA LAUFFER  
News Editor

Determined to promote and celebrate the golden age of Yemenite Jewish Literature, Dr. Meir Havazelet, a Bible professor of Bible at SCW, spent the past 20 years collecting various manuscripts containing a work entitled "Midrash Ha-Hefes," authored in 1427 by Zekharyah Ben Shelomo Ha-Rofe, a renowned rabbi and physician of Yemen. Presently revered as one of the most important midrashic works on the Pentateuch because of its quality and quantity, Havazelet is responsible for translating, codifying and footnoting its content, as well as assembling a comprehensive series of indices to guide both scholars and laymen through its pages.

After publishing the commentary on Genesis in 1980 and the entire

Pentateuch with an introduction to the Midrash in 1990, Havazelet has devoted his efforts to compiling indices to make the work as accessible as possible to readers. The third of the series of indices was published this year by Afikim Publishing House of Tel Aviv, Israel.

In his introduction, Havazelet said that he hopes and prays "that this volume...will not be considered merely a book of indices, but a guide to the wonderworld of the Yemenite world of Aggadah almost unknown today." Havazelet said that his master and teacher, Professor Martin M. Buber, inspired this approach. Dr. Buber had introduced his biblical course by approaching the window of the classroom, pointing toward the outside and saying, "Give me your hand and come with me...I shall show you the whole world."

The indices consist of five components - Biblical references, Talmudic

and Midrashic references, Books and Authors, a General Index, and an Addenda and Correcta to the first two volumes. Havazelet noted that the General Index is of prime importance because it cites various subjects, legends and stories, language and epigrams, laws and customs, script, drawing, and other references.

Havazelet described the Midrash as "unique and incomparable," relative to any other on the Pentateuch, in that it cites quotations from the Koran as well as from philosophical and scientific literature from Yemen's natives and neighbors. It also contains open debates with Islamic sages and philosophers, which add to a wider and more dynamic scope of interpretation.

Modern scholars call Yemenite Jews "the authentic Jews," for they lived in the same area for thousands of years and created roots that run deep and strong. They are praised for their open-mindedness and for valuing a well-rounded edu-

cation. As the author of this midrashic work, Rabbi Zekharyah Ben Shelomo Ha-Rofe was well versed not only in Torah studies, but also in contemporary literature, philosophy, science, history, and religion, all of which he incorporated in his commentaries.

With a master's degree in Modern Hebrew Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Havazelet is a scholar of Talmud, Arabic, and Midrash and a native of Me'ah Shearim, Jerusalem. In addition to his recent accomplishment with "Midrash Ha-Hefes," Havazelet has also published a work entitled "Maimonides and the Gaonites," which has been credited as a bestseller. Havazelet is currently editing two more Yemenite Midrashic works, "Midrash HaBeur" and "Yalkut Teimanim." Subsequent volumes will appear throughout this year.

## Frick Collection, Museum in a Mansion

DASSI ZEIDEL  
Cultural Arts Editor

Once the private home of Henry Frick, the Frick Collection now houses remarkable treasures of art. Included in the collection are paintings by Jan Van Eyck, Hans Memling, Rembrandt, Manet, Monet, Degas, Renoir and Whistler, just to name a few. Walking through the museum

is like taking a tour of someone's home. Complete with plush chairs to sit in and carpet underfoot, the Frick is one of New York's most comfortable and inviting museums. In the center of the building is an atrium with a fountain, plants and benches.

The Frick Collection now offers ArtPhone, a random access digital audio guide that offers information about the masterpieces including anecdotes about

the artists. The system provides this device in English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish and is included in the price of admission.

There are two special exhibits opening in May. "The Medieval Housebook": A View of Fifteenth-Century Life, opens May 18th, and Manet's "The Dead Toreador" and "The Bullfight": Fragments of a Lost Salon Painting Reunited, opens on May 25th.

The Frick Collection is located at 1 East 70th Street, (across the street from Central Park), and is open from 10am-6pm Tuesday through Saturday and from 1pm-6pm on certain Sundays. The museum is closed on July 4, November 25 and December 24 and 25. Admission, with student ID, is \$5. For more information, call (212) 288-0700 or go to [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org).

### Buildings

*continued from page 1*

to use the Main Campus lab. According to Rosengarten, YU has signed a contractor and university crews have performed the time consuming demolition of the existing labs during the fall semester. "If we didn't do it then, the construction company would have to do it now," he said, and YU did not want to waste time. "We want very much for it to be ready for the beginning of classes."

Despite saving as much equipment as possible, the lab will be a showcase lab, fully modern with state-of-the-art equipment and access to computer technology. "We'll do for chemistry every bit that the new biology labs did for biology" when they were renovated two summers ago, he said.

He said the university has "no clear idea" how to use the building acquired last year at 150 East 35th Street, and plans for it are "very much on the back burner." According to Bacon, it was originally purchased to provide academic space but this is no longer necessary with the acquisition of the Lexington buildings. This space could be used as a dormitory for approximately 100 students. Currently, the building stands vacant with boarded up windows and doors, an eyesore on 35th Street. "At some point decisions will be made," Rosengarten said. "You must do your best within what you can afford to do."

Although Rosengarten termed the dining situation "less than ideal," he believes food services is "satisfactorily dealing with the issues of comfort and food" in the short-term. Although the basement cafeteria remains crowded, the introduction of expanded seating in the dining area in Koch Auditorium in November helped ease conditions. Ancillary improve-

ments helped in other ways. For example, some students prefer to purchase from the new Schottenstein convenience store than from the cafeterias, freeing space there. The new kitchen facility in the Midtown Center and the opening of the Schottenstein kitchen allow more efficient food production, which allows faster service to students resulting in a faster student turnaround in the dining areas. (Most meat meals are cooked on the Main Campus and most dairy meals in the Schottenstein kitchen.)

Rosengarten explained that the department may enhance its offerings in new ways in the future, such as by providing a snack bar in the 205-215 Lexington buildings.

The opening of the Lexington buildings is designed to add extra space to the current Midtown Center. Possibly that space will be used to add to the library, food service areas, student lounges and computer rooms, or to create locations for special activities. "There will be different functions in different buildings," Rosengarten said, adding that additional space should permit expanded activities. He called this an "exciting proposition," and he said a "coigent plan will be set up that will be convenient for students."

"I can never guarantee anything," he said. "Sometimes we have to stop jobs in the middle." One example of this was when a contractor working on the Main Campus discovered hundreds of plastic bags containing buried shemos material. "We never anticipated that."

"There are many, many issues relating to a multi-million dollar project," said Rosengarten in explanation of multiple construction delays. He said that the large sums involved make it worthwhile to take the time necessary to investigate the

questions that arise, despite resulting delays. "Much of the time taken along those lines was productive," he said.

Students consistently ask Dean Bacon about the new buildings' status, but she is reluctant to answer due to a fear of providing misinformation. She feels that buying the Lexington buildings acted as a "major shot in the arm" for SCW, but now there is a sense that the project is losing momentum.

While Dean Bacon believes it is legitimate to speak of Midtown Manhattan as SCW's campus, she pointed out that SCW needs adequate dorm, office and classroom space that the Midtown location can't provide. She feels it acceptable that SCW does not have a museum or even a substantial library because these things are available in the surrounding area. However, "classes can't meet on the sidewalk," she said.

She believes that SCW should be acceptable in terms of space and attractiveness, a goal the school has yet to meet. An example of this shortcoming is the small, unimpressive lobby all students, faculty members, administrators, workers and visitors use to enter the Midtown Center.

She pointed out that the Main Campus has multiple buildings, a substantial library and athletic facilities so it is viewed as a serious institution. "Facilities communicate something," she said.

Bacon finds it unacceptable that faculty members are forced to share offices, and do not have space in which to

meet privately with students. She explained that SCW faculty members enjoy excellent reputations but visitors easily draw erroneous conclusions from their unimpressive offices. In addition, the lack of privacy and space inhibits the close student-faculty relationships, a "joy of attending a small college." (SCW English professor Lana Schwebel has taken to meeting students in nearby coffee shops due to the lack of space on campus.)

A recent survey found that SCW students' first wish was for a greater number of faculty and course offerings. "I was gratified to see that students' main concern was not the facility," Dean Bacon said. She said that she takes the space issues seriously the same way she took the lack of academic options seriously, by hiring three full-time faculty members for the 1999-2000 academic year, in the chemistry, psychology and education departments. "No one from Upton is down here to perceive the problem," she said.

Although she feels academics should be first, Dean Bacon believes "it is unfair to speak about substance or glitz." One area where these two intersect is the chemistry labs. Bacon feels the lab renovations are worth their costs in time and money (which Rosengarten estimated at three million dollars). She said the existing labs were unacceptable despite chemistry students performing well when applying to and attending graduate school. The labs' lack of technology limited what the science faculty could do there.

Bacon said it is possible to make judgments based on degrees. Brookdale Hall, for example, is now merely crowded instead of unacceptable as it was when it contained bunk-beds to accommodate a fifth student in each room.

# ARTS

## Pizza Cave to Move in Near Brookdale

**MIRIAM ELJAS**  
Features Editor

Longing gazes at the non-kosher pizza pies in the window of Bella Pizza, located a couple of doors down from Brookdale Hall, will soon become a thing of the past. Good-bye Bella Pizza, and hello Pizza Cave.

Starting June first, the Pizza Cave at 62 East 34th Street will be fully operational, with a renovated store design, and most importantly, kosher supervision from the Midtown Board of Kashruth.

"We've signed contracts," said Pizza Cave franchise owner Reuven Kahane. "It's a done deal unless something happens."

Though the pizzeria will open but a few days after the academic year comes to a close, SCW students are thrilled at the prospect of having a dairy restaurant so close to home.

"I can't wait," said Yochie Birnbaum, SCW '00. "It will be incredibly convenient to have a pizza store so close to home."

Kahane is welcoming that excitement gladly by preparing for the 600 girls who live in Brookdale Hall.

"It's going to look like the other

beautiful Pizza Caves," said Kahane, a YU graduate. "There's also an outside garden which seats 40 people."

Kahane began his search for a Pizza Cave location in Midtown Manhattan over half a year ago. Finally, this spot popped up and Pizza Cave grabbed at the chance.

"I've owned the parent company, the franchise company, for one and a half years now," explained the 32 year-old business entrepreneur. "This is the fifth store- we have one in Cedarhurst, one in Teaneck, and now three in Manhattan... Everything is doing excellent but we expect this one to do the best."

The Midtown location will hopefully draw in a huge crowd from the business world, not to mention SCW. Kahane hopes to cater to Midtown customers by offering not just pizza, but frozen yogurt, Dunkin' Donuts, and on the healthier side, prepared salads. A Middle Eastern corner offering falafel and Israeli food will be another reason for SCW students to walk the few steps into the neighborhood store.

Kahane does not believe that his pizzeria will harm local kosher dairy restaurants.

"In the city, you just compete with yourself because there is so much business," said Kahane.

But Café Roma and Café 123, the most frequented local dairy restaurants by SCW students, better beware. Current Café Roma patrons may not feel like walking the extra couple blocks when Pizza Cave is right next door. "Why would I walk to Café Roma when Pizza Cave is right here?" quipped Esther Bronstein SCW '00.

Given the additional patronage of Brookdale Hall, the success of the 34th Street Pizza Cave will hopefully mirror that of Kahane's other branches. "It's sort of the same idea in every store- it is just an average idea implemented easily," said Kahane. He believes that the authentic brick pizza oven and the clean and pleasant atmosphere in every store bring customers in.

The booming business of Pizza Cave in New York and New Jersey has lead Kahane to explore the option of building branches in San Francisco and Washington D.C. He hopes to open Pizza Caves in both cities as soon as possible, making his chain a national franchise.

Though his lucrative pizza business has taken off, Kahane's main interest is in the bagel industry. "I was doing research on bagels and I saw how the pizza business is ten times bigger," he explained.

Kahane's main business is

Bonkers Bagels in Israel, the largest Middle Eastern restaurant chain. "It is the only bagel chain there," said Kahane proudly. He began Bonkers four years ago, a single store which has grown into 10 branches and a factory that supplies airlines and hotels.

Currently, his manager Dov Bergwerk, maintains Bonkers in Israel.

"He's really made it thrive," said Kahane. "I don't run it- I started it and put someone else in charge." Kahane travels between America and Israel, overseeing his enterprises to develop business opportunities and control quality.

A native New Yorker, Kahane knows his territory and his market. He attended MTA, YC, RIETS and Cardozo, ending up with both smicha and a law degree. He was a pulpit rabbi for two years at the Sutton Place synagogue.

After working as both a rabbi and a lawyer at the same time in New York, Kahane moved to Israel where he eventually started his bagel business. Returning a few years later to the United States, he started Pizza Cave with his brother-in-law, Bruce Taragin. Since then the business has exploded.

So while the local competition may be frowning, SCW students are waiting to welcome Pizza Cave with open arms.

## A Farewell to Cultural Arts Editing

I can't believe the year is almost over. That means my job as Cultural Arts Editor of *The Observer* is also coming to an end. I've had a great time these past two years, and I'll miss all the free movies I've gotten accustomed to seeing. I'll also miss being part of *The Observer*. But I know that Sarah Cate and Simone Rosenzweig, who will be taking over for me, will do an incredible job. I wish Sarah, Simone and the whole staff a lot of luck, and I can't wait to see *The Observer* next year.

Congratulations seniors.  
Have a great summer everybody.

Dassi Zeidel

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# STERNBUCKS

A miniature arts festival in a coffee shop atmosphere.

Sponsored by SCDS  
Monday, May 3  
7:00pm in Koch Auditorium

Students are invited to display their talents in the visual and performing arts.

To be followed by:

## "KING OF FOUR HEARTS"

Presented by SCDS at 9:00pm

Directed by: ERIC FARNESSE  
Produced/Stage Managed by: ELIZABETH RENNA  
Executive Produced by:  
DEVORAH CENKER & CELIA SPORER  
Written by: S. KIM GLASSMAN

**\*STARRING\***

Sarah Harris  
Marina Klochan  
Shifra Chana Rothstein  
Adrienne Segal  
Sipporah Weissman  
Susan Wohlgeleitner

# ARTS

## Awards Presented to Intramural Basketball Teams

ITA TARZIK  
Staff Writer

Yeshiva University sponsored its annual Intramural Awards Ceremony designed to recognize and honor students who have participated in various intramural sports teams on April 26. "We want to reward and thank those involved," said Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics and coordinator of the evening's event. Zerneck added that YU hopes that the awards ceremony will bolster student interest in campus sports.

In the past, the intramural award ceremony was held in conjunction with the Varsity Sports Award Banquet. As of last year, the events were split into two. "It did-

n't make any sense," Zerneck said of the past procedure. This is "part of our efforts to improve."

Varsity sports team members will receive awards on Tuesday, May 4.

Plaques and trophies were awarded for excellence, improvement and commitment to various teams. In addition to the awards given out for participation in intramural sports, physical education faculty at SCW distributed trophies to their students for excellence and effort in different dance and aerobics classes.

Karen Cogane, SCW ballet and jazz instructor, grew emotional as she commended her students on their excellence and perseverance.



Nava Fruchter, Michal Wolk, Sara Berkowitz, Yael Berger & Shaunna Peters

Devorah Klein, the first-time intramural basketball player who received the M.I.P. (Most Improved Player) Award, said that winning her trophy felt "fantastic." "I'm motivated to play again next year," she added. Students were excited to receive their awards. "The trophy is really cool because it reaches my waist and I'm 5'8", Klien said.

The ceremonial dinner was organized as an informal-deli-style smorgasbord catered by YU food services. "The free food was great," said Nachama Soloveitchik, SCW '00, a veteran intramural basketball player. A few SCW students admitted taking some leftovers from the dinner to share with "their friends."

SCW has only an intramural basketball team while Yeshiva College has four intramural teams-basketball, in both the fall and spring semester, touch football in the winter, softball in the spring, and table tennis. "Hopefully, volleyball will take off next semester," Zerneck said. He explained that next semester volleyball will be offered as an SCW physical education class. YU anticipates interest leading to the formation of a club, and eventually to a varsity team.

## Goodbye Seniors

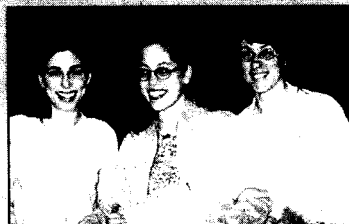
As the year comes to a close, the senior class is celebrating the completion of their college years.

Graduating seniors were honored at an awards assembly April 28 in Koch Auditorium. Awards were presented for academics and service to the college. SCW valedictorians Talia Klein and Aliza Koenigsberg addressed their classmates at the assembly.

Rabbi Saul Berman and Dr. Allen Burdowski were honored as senior class professors.



Elana Bellzon, Chama Schwartz and Karen Nadatz receive education awards



Yael Dotz, Elana Flahman and Alyssa Relebaum receive biology awards



Approximately 30 SCW seniors and a handful of alumnae attended a spring brunch at the home of Mrs. Erica Jesselson on Sunday, April 25. Mrs. Jesselson encouraged students to create alumnae boards for each class, beginning this year, to share in the achievements and growth of SCW. Students responded enthusiastically to the suggestion and some have volunteered to be members of the board.

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