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Giuliani at Odds with Brooklyn Museum of Art

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

Pigs and fish in formaldehyde were not the only items that attracted over 9200 visitors to the Brooklyn Museum of Art on Oct. 2nd.

Tickets to a new exhibit of young British artists sold that Saturday surpassed all previous opening day attendance records in the museum's 175-year existence. The lines of people waiting to enter the museum stretched around the block while protesters shouted and waved placards.

The popularity of this exhibit is unusual, but so is the exhibit itself. It is called "Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection," and unlike other art exhibits, it features a sign advising museum patrons to enter at their own risk. "Health Warning: The contents of this exhibition may cause shock, vomiting, confusion, panic, euphoria, and anxiety. If you suffer from high blood pressure, a nervous disorder, or palpitations, you should consult your doctor before viewing."

The artworks that "may cause shock" include Chris Ofili's *The Holy Virgin Mary*, a depiction of Mary in a painting daubed with elephant dung and pornographic images. The exhibit also includes a tiger shark suspended in formaldehyde and a dissected pig similarly preserved. The latter presentations sparked protests from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), but it was



Preserved shark at Brooklyn Museum of Art

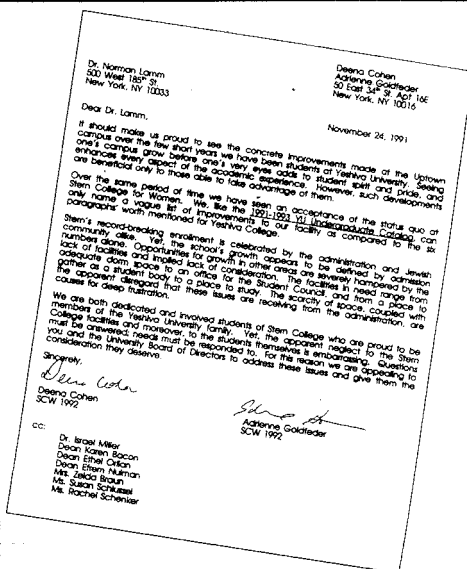
the exhibit of Ofili's painting that prompted Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to launch a legal attack against the museum.

Giuliani threatened on September 22 to end New York City's funding of the Brooklyn Museum of Art if it opened the "Sensation" exhibit. According to an Oct. 8 Associated Press article, Giuliani called the exhibit "sick stuff" and said that public funds should not support it.

The Mayor's vociferous attacks on the museum echo the sentiments of Catholic leaders in New York City who are dismayed by the Ofili painting, which they see as the desecration of a religious symbol. William Donahue, president of the Catholic League, lashed out at the art world in general. A "Sensation" press information website quotes him as saying, "I know of no other enterprise, profession or industry that allows as many frauds to perpetrate on it than the artistic community." According to *Art Newspaper.com*, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York City stated that "one must ask if it is not an attack on religion itself and in a special way on the Catholic church."

The Orthodox Union (OU) and Agudath Israel of America have also expressed support for Giuliani's censure

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Crawling Pace of Construction Highlighted by 1991 Petition

NEHAMA MILLER & RACHEL ELBAUM
News Editors

When an airline overbooks a flight, they usually compensate the bumped passengers with free round-trip tickets to keep them as valued customers. At Stern College, where overcrowding is the regular subject of hallway conversations and the cause for a petition sent to YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm at the end of last year, students feel that their needs are put on the back burner.

"We keep hearing rumors that they are being prepared," said Kinneret Cohen, an SCW senior. "I don't know what is holding things up."

On Nov. 24, 1991, two Stern students sent a petition to Dr. Lamm, signed by nearly 400 students, addressing nearly identical issues as a petition sent last May and published in the Sept. issue of *The Observer*. Namely, a lack of space for a burgeoning student population. Eight years ago, SCW students were grappling with the same dilemmas as the current student body - lack of space and lack of readiness on part of the administration to take immediate action.

Dr. Lamm had no comment.

"The petition that year did do something - things did improve but the contours of the problem have

changed," said SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "The problem has gotten bigger...If we had purchased Schottenstein in 1991, things would be different. But in the eight years, the needs became twice the size." In the time between the two petitions, the administration established the Schottenstein dormitory, began construction on the 34th St. theater, completed renovations on new chemistry labs, and purchased the 205 and 215 Lexington buildings.

"I am thrilled to have these new facilities," said Risa Solomon, an SCW senior. "But if the university would stop using the Band-Aid approach and instead plan ahead, these problems would have been solved 8 years ago. If the administration made our needs a priority, and did these changes when they should have been made a long time ago, then we wouldn't be having the same problems we have today. We're squeezed into classrooms and dormitories now because the administration didn't take action fast enough when that petition was sent 8 years ago."

"The facilities in need range from adequate dorm space to an office for the Student Council, and from a place to gather as a student body and a place to study,"

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A Comparison of Funding: YC and SCW

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

Thousands of dollars were spent by the student councils on both campuses during orientation to ease incoming students into college life. A Circle Line tour of Manhattan, a three-hour evening cruise, a trip to Great Adventure, a Yankee game, the musical "Stomp," and a *chagiga* threatened to burst the SCWSC and YCSC accounts before budgets were even made.

But thanks to Student Services, the week after Orientation, the student councils of SCW and YC were still financially healthy. Student Services covered the entire expense of Orientation, according to Dr. Efraim Nulman, University Dean of Students. Although students were charged for the Great Adventure trip, Yankee Game, and the showing of "Stomp," Student Services heavily subsidized these events.

Financial help from Student Services is not unusual. This office often sponsors SCWSC and YCSC events that may be incompatible with the councils' budgets.

The Student Council Budget

Student councils' budgets are provided for by three different sources, according to Dr. Nulman. The student activities fee is the main component of these budgets. SCW and YC charge each student fifty dollars, which is then divided up among the various student organizations, such as SCWSC and TAC at Stern, and YCSC and Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) at YU.

"There's a formula for dividing up the money, which was made up by the student leaders themselves," explained Dr. Nulman. Jonathan Mell, President of the YCSC, said that he does not know the exact breakdown of money to the various student councils because he had never investigated it. "I'm happy with the amount we get," he said. "If it changed, and it wasn't enough, then maybe I would try to find out more. Why stir the pot if everything is fine? I haven't heard anyone complain."

This source of money is driven by enrollment, according to Dr. Nulman. When more students enroll in YC and SCW, their student councils will have more money to spend that year on activities. Dr. Nulman emphasized that YCSC does not have more money to spend per student than the SCWSC.

Since the budgets of the student councils

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NEWS BRIEFS

By Rachel Libman

Israel:

British Gas expects to find enough natural gas reserves in Israel's offshore waters to meet all of the country's industrial gas needs, said a senior company official in an interview with Oil and Gas Journal. If gas is found, British Gas and its three Israeli partners will be eligible to sign a 30-year production contract with the government.

Dozens of Israeli Arabs are protesting the planned development of the new Trans Israel Highway by two Canadian-based companies. The eight-to-ten-lane highway, which is planned to extend the length of the country, has been denounced by Israeli environmental groups. Recently, however, over 50 Israeli Knesset members have signed a petition calling for a re-evaluation of the massive road, and consideration of alternatives, particularly investment in Israel's long-neglected rail system.

35 percent more *kippot* were sold in the days before Rosh Hashanah than is custom-

ary throughout the year, reported the Israeli Manufacturers Association. Sales went up five percent when compared with sales from this time last year. *Tulleisim* sales have also increased compared to last year.

National:

A Coca-Cola salesman in Brazil was fired after his boss caught him drinking the rival soda. Salesman Webster Rivelino argued that he took a swig while on a sales trip at a local store that was out of bottled water and Coca-Cola. He sued the local Coca-Cola bottling company and was awarded \$5,300 in damages. "I don't even like Pepsi, but since I had spent the day facing the sweltering Amazon I decided to take a sip," he told a Sao Palo newspaper. The bottling company plans to appeal.

A Swaziland newspaper editor faces criminal charges from the country's criminal prosecutor for printing that the king's eighth and newest bride-to-be

has dropped out of high school, twice. Bekhi Makhubu has lost his job, been subject to public scorn and ridicule and could spend up to six years in prison.

Local:

Researchers from New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center say they have bred mice resistant to cancer. Dr. Robert Benezra and his colleagues have identified two genes responsible for the formation of the blood vessels which cancers need to grow and spread, according to an article the doctors published in the journal *Nature*. The authors warn this research is preliminary and only in mice. They are currently conducting further studies and expect results in about six months.

Pat Buchanan, the conservative politician whose third attempt at the Republican presidential nomination has all but failed, will switch to the Reform Party and seek its presidential nomination, according to CNN. Buchanan has scheduled a 10

a.m. news conference on October 25 in Falls Church, Virginia to announce his decision, informed sources said. The action comes after weeks of hints from Buchanan's campaign that he would leave the Republican party to join the Reform. Buchanan's campaign had no immediate comment on the report. Most national polls show Buchanan with less than 5 percent support among Republicans.

Local:

Many of the city's homeless go hungry because they are turned away from food pantries according to a report obtained by New York 1. The survey of New York City's Emergency Food Programs finds that pantries turned away 74,000 people in January of this year, of whom 59% or 1,400 are children. That's an increase from this time last year, when 59,000 people were turned away. The survey is the seventh of its kind by the Coalition Against Hunger.

The New York City

Police Department has denied a permit request mid-October by the Ku Klux Klan to hold a rally in Manhattan. The group applied for a permit to demonstrate on Saturday, October 23rd in front of the Manhattan Criminal Court Building, downtown. Officials say the decision was made because of the Klan's refusal to assemble without wearing masks. According to New York State law, people who gather with masks are considered guilty of loitering. It is only legal in the case of a masquerade parade. KKK members are protesting the permit denial.

The United States is seeking to deport former SS member, Michael Gruber, who the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Justice Department say "participated in the persecution of persons because of race, religion, national origin or political opinion." Gruber, who lives in Rockland County, New York, has lived in the US since 1956 with permanent resident status. ♀



The Observer

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UPLINK

To the World of
Communications:
You have a major but do
you have a career?

Monday, November 1st
7:30 pm
Schottenstein Hall- Ivory
Student Center
Dinner will be served

CAMPUS NEWS

(By Debra Buchanfeld)

The Annual Dinner of Yeshiva College honored J. Philip Rosen and David and Simone Eshaghian on October 11 at The Plaza in Manhattan.

SCWSC Club Fair on October 12 in Koch Auditorium consisted of over twenty booths of SCWSC Clubs, Committees, Publications and Honor Societies. Many new clubs debuted and students signed up to participate in activities. In addition, SCWSC accepted submissions for a time capsule, to be opened in 2050.

TAC Fair, on October 13, was held in Koch Auditorium. Committee heads asked students to sign up and participate in various Jewish Community programs in the different areas of *Tzedukah*, *Chesed*, and *Torah Learning*.

The English Tea, on October 13, invited English and communications majors to hear about upcoming courses and give suggestions for new classes. All professors of English and communications provided descriptions to all classes in the department. 30 students attended.

David Herszenhorn, City Hall reporter for the *New York Times*, came to speak at an Observer meeting on October 13. He described his life and career at the *Times*, and entertained questions from the audience. Herszenhorn placed a special emphasis on the importance of writing for a school newspaper.

The Student Life Committee met on October 15 to discuss various topics to improve the quality of life for students. On the agenda were the computer lab, faculty absence notification service, and the status of the new buildings on Lexington Avenue

and 34th Street. Jerry Clark of the Shuman Lichtenstein Claman Efron architectural firm gave a presentation on the present situation of the SCW midtown properties. Several classrooms of the 205-215 Lexington building will be available by spring of 2000, according to Rosengarten and Clark.

Career fair, on October 18, 1999, attracted hundreds of YC and SCW students. Graduate schools and companies in many different fields including health care, liberal arts, computers and education were in attendance.

The Annual Dinner of Stern College for Women, on October 25 at the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan, honored Holocaust survivors Miriam Fisch and Gitta Nagel as part of the theme, "Women of Courage." Composer, Richard Nanes was also featured.

Rabbi Judah Washer and children, in memory of their late mother and wife, have established a scholarship for SCW students. The award, known as The Rabbani Helyne Washer Memorial Scholarship, will be granted annually to an SCW student that exhibits strong participation in Jewish, civic, and communal activities.

Dr. Manfred Weidhorn, Abraham S. and Irene Gutterman professor of English Literature at Yeshiva College and Stern College, has published a new book: "The Man of the Millennium." Dr. Weidhorn currently teaches Masterpieces of World Literature, as well as Composition and Rhetoric at SCW.

The Chess club, newly established by Adina Levine, attracted fifteen students during

the first week of the club's initiation announcement. The majority of the chess meets, bimonthly, will be intramural. Those interested should contact Adina Levine.

Dr. Lea Honigwachs joins the Registrar's office to serve as the new Assistant Registrar. Dr. Honigwachs remarked that she is "favorably impressed with the student body and colleagues." She will administer senior checks and assist with the services of the Office of the Registrar.

A Jewish History Chair endowed by Ms. E. Billi Ivry at SCW will be filled by Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel. "[I am] honored to have received this award and I hope that this will be the first of many new chairs among SCW faculty," said Dr. Kanarfogel. He has held the position of Chairman of Judaic Studies at SCW for over 15 years. Dr. Kanarfogel has published numerous works within the field of Jewish History, including piece that will be published this fall entitled "Peering through the Lattices: Mystical, Magical and Pietistic Dimensions in the Tosafist Period."

Benjamin Netanyahu, former Prime Minister of Israel, is scheduled to speak to SCW honors students in Ivry Student Center on Wednesday, November 17, and will address all Yeshiva University students at 8pm in Gloria and Jesse Weissberg Commons.

Recreational Swimming is offered every Monday night from 8 p.m. till 10 p.m. Vans leave Brookdale and Schottenstein at 7:30 p.m. and again at 8:45 p.m. Vans return at 9 p.m. and 10 p.m.

From the Editors

Eight Years Too Late

MIRIAM ELIAS
Editor-in-Chief

Eight years ago, SCW students banded together to make the administration aware of the dire situation of the college facilities. Their petition was a mirror image of the petition sent last semester, published in the Sept. issue of *The Observer*. But it would be a mistake to say that the university has not made improvements. In fact, the actions taken by the administration are admirable. It is the pace of their actions that is not.

Had this been any other competitive university vying for student attendance, the administration would have immediately made changes to better suit the student body.

But at Yeshiva University, that is not the case. It would appear that the university has dawdled along, making changes here and there as time goes on. If the administration had taken both immediate and active steps, other than the traditional say-

ing, "We'll have a meeting," many of the problems that SCW faces would have been solved 8 years ago.

Listen to the student body. If not for them, then for whom? The faculty? It would appear that they are just as dissatisfied as the students - see the faculty letter published on page 24.

If this were any other institution, students would pick up and leave, and the faculty would go elsewhere to the salaries that they deserve.

But Yeshiva University holds a nearly unrivalled position in the Jewish world

because it has a captive audience: Many Jewish students who want an orthodox environment are not going to pick up and leave to attend secular university.

We need get rid of the last minute fix-it-glue and start to prepare for the future, not eight years too late. ρ

Suffering Without Suffrage

RACHEL S. SALAMON
Executive Editor

Al Gore, in his book, *Earth in the Balance*, compared human mistreatment of the environment to the atrocities of the Holocaust. Pat Buchanan, who will most likely run for president on the Reform Party ticket in 2000, is a xenophobe and an isolationist, and has been identified by his peers as an anti-Semite. Disturbing? I certainly think so.

With either of the above candidates as president of our great nation, imagine what this country would be like for the Jews: potentially a frightening image. But that election is a year from now, so there is time to contemplate the ups and downs of each of the presidential wannabes, whether they are dangerous or simply intellectual dwarfs. Classically, though, more than half of us do not even bother to "exercise the right" when the time arrives, and we allow Election Day to pass as any other.

Perhaps our particular generation maintains an apathetic view of voting because it has never seen a war wherein Americans fought against tyrannical governments in the name of democracy. That Americans overall remain disinterested in politics is painfully evident in our low voting percentage. In Israel, well over 80% of the population votes regularly,

while the U.S. turnout is dwindling below a mere 50%. Chances are that the Israelis care more about their government than Americans because they feel the consequences of their vote directly. But nevertheless, we should take an active role where possible to insure that our democratic rights are preserved as Americans, and more importantly, as Jews.

And as students of an all-women's college, we should be aware of the turbulent struggle at the beginning of this century for women's suffrage. We should appreciate this privilege and view voting not as a burden, but as an obligation to preserve the right to choose our own political policy. In fact, Czechoslovakia used to consider it such a valued privilege that citizens were fined for neglecting to vote.

It only takes about fifteen minutes to vote, plus you get a free sticker. On Tuesday, November 2nd, SCW classes will not be in session. Many students will probably use this day to study for midterms or just to relax - but remember why the administration gave us the day off, and start to think about what this country would look like if only Buchanan-supporters showed up at the voting booths. ρ

Roving around the midtown campus, the Observer interviewed various SCW students on the following question. Below are a sampling of the answers:

If you could be any fictional character in a book, movie, play or TV show, who would you be and why?



Rebecca Varnal
SCW Senior

I loved Nancy Drew as a kid, I would run to the library to get the newest book. She had so much courage and was never scared of anything. She always knew which way to go, which way to turn and never listened to anyone. Her priorities were all worked out, she had time for her friends, family and her job, and she always showered a lot. The endings were always happy and she always followed her heart and intuition. I want my kids to grow up reading her books.



Resli Hirsch
SCW Senior

I would love to be Alex Trebek from Jeopardy. He always knows what he is talking about and doesn't just read it off a card, plus he always pronounces it correctly. When he shmoozes it with the contestants he makes them feel comfortable and doesn't make fun of them when they give a stupid answer. And he wears great ties.



Lauren Hamburger
SCW Senior

Hester Prinn epitomizes commitment and loyalty to what she believes in. Everything what she did was wrong and I don't believe in it or agree with it myself, but she believed in herself and love and did the best she could for her child. She wanted to make the best of a bad situation and wore her A proudly because she thought it was right.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have a somewhat utopian vision of college. This has been pointed out to me a number of times, and I admit that it is true. College, in and of itself, is to me a wondrous entity - a place devoted solely to the enrichment of minds and souls. At the time that we are spending our formative years rounding out our education and preparing to be introduced to the rest of our lives, it is only logical that as students immersed in this experience we would take steps to better our college experience. Since a university should be a house to much more than classes and professors, it is in the student's and administration's best interest to do everything in their power to positively expand and increase the performance of the university. Dean Bacon is an example of an administrator who enriches every aspect of the student's life by hearing our concerns and attempting to turn our desires into reality. But just as it takes a collective of student voices to be heard, it takes more than one administrator to begin the actual implementation of issues addressed. In this vein, I must respectfully question Rabbi Dr. Lamm's sadness at the expression of our dissatisfaction voiced in the petition circulated last semester concerning the lack of physical space felt in the school building. By taking a firm stand on issues important to us the students, are we not showing our commitment to the school itself? By taking time to voice concerns and to demand that our concerns be heard, are we not in essence pledging our allegiance to the school? In my opinion, this should be cause for celebration, not sadness. I am certain that the dedication to the enhancement and advancement of student life in Stern College for Women shown by leaders like Rabbi Dr. Lamm and Dean Bacon will come to visible fruition soon.

I would also like to add a note of congratulations to the editors and staff of this year's Observer. The first issue was comprehensive and entertaining and points to positive a future.

Esther Yehudis Zipris
SCW Junior

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter out of concern for fire safety and preparedness at Stern. Last week, in honor of Fire Safety Week, there were a few fire drills throughout the Midtown Campus buildings. The responses to these drills were disturbing. Firstly, it is an unfortunate fact that some students do not take the drills seriously. Perhaps it is because, Baruch Hashem, most have us have been fortunate enough never to have been in a fire. Or it could be the result of the many false alarms residents of Schottenstein Residence Hall have had to endure these past two years. In any case, some students choose not to respond because they "know" that it is just a drill. Incidentally, according to past issues of The Observer, responsiveness to drills has been an ongoing problem.

However, those who do take the drills seriously are not in much better shape. Last week, there was quite a bit of confusion during the Tuesday afternoon drill. For example, because Stairway A is normally inaccessible beyond the second floor, some people were unaware that they could take that stairway all the way to the street level. This resulted in Stairway B being extremely overcrowded. Additionally, as the elevators were operational, some people used them, even though elevators are not to be used in a real fire. Also, I am curious as to what provisions were made for those who are unable to walk down the stairs.

Anyone who rides in the Stern elevators during peak time or looks into some of the classrooms can see that the building is overcrowded and that we are sorely in need of the extra space that the new buildings will provide. However, until those buildings are ready, we all must take our safety seriously. To that end, perhaps more fire preparedness would provide us with the knowledge of what to do and where to go in the event of an evacuation. It is the responsibility of all the occupants of the Midtown Center to take all of the drills seriously and respond accordingly. Finally, it is the responsibility of the "Powers That Be" to see to it that the new buildings are completed in a timely fashion to improve the comfort and safety of everyone. If everyone does their part, we can make Stern a safer and more comfortable place to be.

Miriam C. Grossman
SCW Senior

Dear Editor,

Last March, thirteen Jews from the southern city of Shiraz were accused of spying for Israel. They are now awaiting trial in a revolutionary court. The last time Jews were convicted for spying for Israel in the middle east, they were hung from lampposts in a Baghdad square, in 1967.

My purpose here is not to keep you up to date with the latest details in the chase, (I urge everyone to read the Oct. 17 New York Times article, front page). I am simply asking, do we have to wait for the papers to remind us that our people are captured under false accusations? Obviously, that these Jews are waiting in prison, praying for their destiny, does not compel YU students to act. I have yet to read about this in "The Observer", I have not seen signs for tehillim readings especially for them, nor a tzadakah box fixed in the merit of these Iranian Jews.

It is very easy to live in a cocoon - between classes and shiurim, prime time television and dinner, who has the time to do worry about the plight of other people in another country. This attitude is WRONG! We must act - though political rallies may not be the answer in this case, that is not an excuse for indifference. By the same token, when a family member is hospitalized the whole family lives in the hospital. Our brothers and sisters are in prison - we cannot forget about them. We must read about them in our newspapers, we must make tehillim nights dedicated to them, I beg of you, keep them in your prayers, and DO SOMETHING.

Orly Elisha
SCW Sophomore

SCW Calendar

MICHELLE FOGEL

October:

27- SSSB Information Session with Merck, 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.

The Women's Tennis Team plays at Steven's Tech at 3 PM. See Coach Evan Goldstein for more details. Shiur given by Rabbi Hochberg, 8 PM. Flyers to follow. See Shlomit Zauderer for details.

International Club Food Fair - Please see Michelle Rothenberg for more details.

28- FGS and WSSW lecture - Spirituality, Health and Healing Conference: Belfer Hall Weissberg Commons, 9 AM. Moach Ve'Lev Shiur by various Roshei Yeshiva given. Flyers to follow. See Shlomit Zauderer for more details.

29-30- Ivy Scholar-In-Residence Shabbaton. Sign up in the cafeteria. Bikur Cholim Shabbat afternoon to NYU Medical Center. See Shlomit Zauderer for more details.

November:

1- Shiur with Rav Mayer Twerski, 8 PM. Flyers to follow.

Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday night leaves at 7 PM to Beth Israel Hospital. See Leora Berkovitch for more details.

Parsha Shiur, see Judy Horn for details.

Uplink to the World of Communications at 7:30 PM in Schottenstein Hall dinner served. See DeeDee Lax for more details.

Swimming, women's only. Vans leave from Brookdale and Schottenstein at 7:30 and 8:45 PM, returning at 9 and 10 PM.

3-Health Awareness Program. Flyers to follow.

Metropolitan Experience La Boheme at the City Opera, 7:30 PM. See Zelda Braun for more details.

SSSB Workshop, OPCS-oriented, 2:30-3:25 PM at the Midtown Campus.

4-SSSB Workshop, OPCS-oriented, 2:45-3:45 PM at the Main Campus. Moach Ve'Lev Shiur by various Roshei-Yeshiva given. Flyers to follow. Please see Shlomit Zauderer for more details.

5-International Club Event, 9 AM. Flyers to follow. Please see Michelle Rothenberg for more details.

5-6- Stern College Dramatics Society and Stern College Historical Society Shabbaton. Sign up in the cafeteria.

6-11- SCW Dramatics Society Production of Nine Girls. Flyers to follow.

8- Rosh Chodesh Assembly. Flyers to follow.

SSSB Information Session with J.P. Morgan, 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.

Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday night leaves at 7 PM to Beth Israel Hospital. See Leora Berkovitch for more details.

Parsha Shiur, see Judy Horn for details.

10- SCW Opening and Dedication of the new Chemistry Department Laboratories, 5:30 PM on the Midtown Campus.

11- Moach Ve'Lev Shiur by various Roshei Yeshiva given. Flyers to follow. Please see Shlomit Zauderer for more details.

Metropolitan Experience trip to Levana Kosher Restaurant at 7:30 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

12-13- MMY Shabbaton with Guests Rabbis Haber and David. Sign up in the cafeteria.

14- YC and SSSB Uptown Open House, 9:30 AM

Metropolitan Experience- Seinfeld in New York, 12 PM. See Zelda Braun for more details.

15- Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday night leaves at 7 PM to Beth Israel Hospital. See Leora Berkovitch for more details.

Parsha Shiur, see Judy Horn for details.

WSSW Symposium: Social Work with Groups, Belfer Hall Weissberg Commons, 9 AM.

Swimming, women's only. Vans leave from Brookdale and Schottenstein at 7:30 and 8:45 PM, returning at 9 and 10 PM.

16- Goldman Sachs speaker Aaron Leiber, former YU alumnus, 8:30 PM in the Schottenstein Shul in Midtown. See Kinneret Cohen for details.

SSSB Information Session with Northwest Mutual, 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.

SSSB Workshop: Careers for Creative People, 8:15-10:15 PM, Midtown Campus.

"The Dura Europos Synagogue" lecture by Dr. Joseph Gutmann, 8 PM in Koch Auditorium.

Lecture by Former Prime Minister Netanyahu for honors SCW students at 2:35-3:25 PM at the Midtown Campus.

SSSB Information Session with Kwasha, 8-10 PM, Main Campus.

Metropolitan Experience- Ice Skating and Pizza at Chelsea Piers, 7:30 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

18- Former Prime Minister Netanyahu lecture to all YU students, 8 PM in Weissberg Commons.

Moach Ve'Lev Shiur by various Roshei Yeshiva given. Flyers to follow. Please see Shlomit Zauderer for more details.

19-20- Midreshet Lindenbaum Shabbaton with Rabbi Tuvia Kaplan. Sign up in the cafeteria.

21- SCW and SSSB Midtown Open House, 9:30 AM.

22- Metropolitan Experience- Dining at Dougie's, 7:30 PM. See Zelda Braun for more details.

Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday night leaves at 7 PM to Beth Israel Hospital. See Leora Berkovitch for more details.

Parsha Shiur, see Judy Horn for details.

If you would like your Student Council, SSSB, TAC, or Club events listed in the next Observer Calendar, please speak to Michelle Fogel at 686-4406 or m.fogel@gmail.yu.edu.

on campus

Israel Credit Discrepancy

MICHELLE FOGEL
Observer Staff

For YU students, going to a school in Israel for a year can be helpful or harmful. It just depends what campus you're on.

After finishing high school, young men and women often attend a religious school in Israel, under the auspices of Yeshiva University, and upon successful completion of their year can receive up to 36 Judaic Studies credits at Stern College and 32 credits for Yeshiva College. However, the difference between the amount of credits in the two schools is only the beginning.

In Stern College, the Joint Israel Program is set up to look as aesthetically-pleasing on a student's transcript as possible. As most women's schools in Israel have fairly regimented classes with expected attendance and required exams, it is easy for the SCW Registrar's Office to apply whatever grades a student received in her studies in Israel to her Stern College transcript.

"Although the student's grades aren't counted into her overall Stern GPA, we feel it looks better on a transcript to show the range of what a student has done [in Israel]," said Rabbi Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies at SCW.

Dr. Joyce Jesionowski, Assistant Dean at Yeshiva College, explained that for YC students, the credits they take in Israel under the Joint Israel Program are only counted for either 16 or 32 credits, depending on whether they complete a semester or whole academic year in Israel. Additionally, the credits from the approved YC Joint Israel Program yeshivot are translated into Pass/Fail type, and then put on to a YC transcript as block credits towards a liberal arts degree, Jesionowski continued. Unlike SCW, no grades are recorded.

The history of the Joint Israel Program credit system, as it appears today, was instituted about 12 years ago. Rabbi Daniel Rapp, Assistant to the Dean in the Judaic Studies Department in YC explained that in Yeshiva College, the 48 credits a student used to receive for attending a yeshiva in Israel was changed to a maximum of 32, in order to increase the amount of time a student spends at YC. He also explained that men's yeshivot, unlike women's schools, do not have as regimented schedules; a single class could last many hours and cover numerous subjects. Additionally, the men's yeshivot do not generally give tests like women's schools do, and any grade given to a student there would not be seen by the YU Joint Israel Program as substantiated enough to put on the student's transcript.

"It would be ridiculous to randomly raise a student's GPA based on no tests," Rabbi Rapp noted.

However, while YC students get such block credit on their transcript

because their yeshiva doesn't give tests, some SCW students who attend similar 'yeshiva-style' schools in Israel, do not get this same standard. Most women's religious schools in Israel administer regular exams. A few women's schools however, do not require tests.

Midreshet Lindenbaum is one such school. Students there attend long shiurim similar to men's yeshivot and also are not tested on material. With little or no academic basis to base grades on, Midreshet Lindenbaum students leave Israel with a maximum of 36 credits, all of which can later be put on their SCW transcript along with the grades they received in their courses there.

This apparent discrepancy is one that has existed for a long time but has never really been solved. Rabbi Kanarfogel emphasized that at SCW, it

is important for students to have one system for Joint Israel Program credits, as the Stern Judaic Studies Core Program also applies to everyone.

Additionally, he said there "is nothing wrong with a different policy [than YC]. It simply reflects the reality of the situation."

- Dr. Kanarfogel,

SCW Chairman of the
Rebecca Ivy Department of
Jewish Studies

best way.

"Women and men are essentially going to Israel for the same reasons, [both to] learn and be in Israel," said Chana Rosenblatt, an SCW junior who attended MMY 2 years ago. "There is not any reason why women should be monitored more closely [than men]. It is indicative of a different and unequal set of standards."

Rabbi Kanarfogel additionally explained that for SCW students applying to graduate schools, it looks better on a student's transcript when you show the courses taken under the Joint Israel Program with grades next to them, rather than a block of unmarked credits. Could men's yeshivot in Israel now be forced to give students tests toward grades for the sake of the YC transcript?

In response, Rabbi Rapp said that many yeshivot cover a broader range of students, besides those from YU. "It would be hard to dictate to a yeshiva...based on our needs," he stated.

Benny Rosenberg, a YC junior in the IBC program at YU, feels that perhaps both the women and men's school systems should be more alike. "It is completely unjust that girls get treated one way and guys another," Rosenberg responded. "I think that guys should have more defined classes like girls do it would make them more well-rounded." But he thinks that the Pass/Fail system should stay for both women and men because then they could have a better time and be more eager to learn. ☺

Students Revamp SCW Website

RIVKI BLEICH
Staff Writer

Deciding that the old SCW website needed a little cyber-tweaking, SCW seniors Valerie Schwartz and Tamar Bacon have revamped the Stern webpage. Chosen by Dean Bacon to make the website more student oriented, Bacon and Schwartz, both computer majors, have given the website a makeover. "The [old] Stern website wasn't so great," says Schwartz. "We wanted to make it more exciting."

The previous Stern website offered no information, according to Bacon and Schwartz, who recall that even the three links it did have were outdated. The two computer majors, gave the website a complete makeover, redoing and updating every section as well as adding a multitude of new web pages. Bacon and Schwartz were chosen for this position because they expressed an interest in working on the website and were both in the New York area in the summer, when plans for the new site were being put into action. They will be paid for their work.

"At the moment there are no faculty members who can be relieved of their duties to work on the website," Dean Karen Bacon adds. "I wanted our website to have information on it that was interesting to students and I felt that students are the ones who have the best understanding of what other students want to see and read."

While Bacon and Schwartz do not make any decisions concerning layout, they are fully responsible for coming up with the website's text. They say they have added between 75 and 90 new pages to the site, including sections on orientation schedules and activities, academic requirements and deadlines, course schedules with room numbers and times and course cata-

logs. They are also in the process of putting up course syllabi, faculty biographies and a "virtual tour" of SCW. This tour would guide the viewer through all areas of the SCW campus, including the dorm and school buildings, with pictures and explanations for each segment.

When students log on to the website they are greeted by a colorful menu and various pictures of students enjoying Stern activities. The site provides a wealth of information, such as bulletins with the latest campus news and events, things to do around campus, the Student Resident Life handbook, lists of all the RA's and GA's, and even van schedules. Bacon and Schwartz have also updated links to other areas of the YU web page, and have added a list of shuls in the area with their minyan schedules. The old site only listed Uptown minyanim, which a Midtown-based SCW student would not be likely to attend.

By using a scanner in the Psychology lab and a newly purchased digital camera, Bacon and Schwartz are able to change and add information to the site. "This equipment makes our lives a lot easier," Schwartz comments.

Students can access the SCW website with a click of the mouse, but updating it is slightly more difficult. The two web designers confess that working on the website is time consuming and requires a lot of preparation. "Any free time I have I want to spend working on the site," says Schwartz. "Every single day I do something to update the site," Bacon echoes.

There are other students who do the more tedious tasks of scanning pictures or images, but the bulk of the writing, composing and updating of the web pages is done

by Bacon and Schwartz.

Although they update the website on a monthly basis, Bacon and Schwartz say that there is a lot of red tape to go through before any added text and graphics actually go onto the site. When Bacon and Schwartz make a change or produce a page, they give it to Dean Bacon for approval. Dean Bacon then sends an authorization e-mail to George Sullivan, Associate Director of Management Information Science (MIS), who actually transfers the material to the website.

Since students can log on to the website from anywhere, it is a convenient way for them to find information that they need to know. "The goal is that whenever a Stern student needs information pertaining to the school, they'll be able to go to the website and find it with ease. We want to make it accessible," says Bacon. "It's important that everyone has access to the same information we've been given to put on the web," Schwartz adds.

Bacon and Schwartz say they are extremely appreciative of the support they have been given by the administration members. The administration, too, is pleased with the hard work and long hours the two students have put in to make the new website a success. "I'm very happy with what they produce," says Dean Bacon.

Bacon and Schwartz encourage students to check out the SCW website and contact them if they have any suggestions or want to get involved because "this is for the students, and two people can't just decide what everybody wants," says Bacon. ☺

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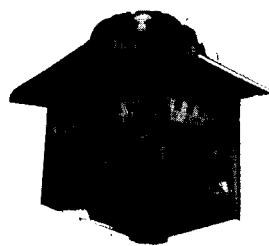
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on campus

Israeli Con Artist Resurfaces

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Staff Writer

An SCW junior avoided becoming another victim of the infamous "Israeli scammer," who became well-known last year for tricking several SCW students into giving him hundreds of dollars in cash. An Israeli man approached Jenny, who asked that her last name not be revealed, at Penn Station and told her a false tale of woe now familiar to SCW students. Jenny was not a student at SCW last year when incidents involving the con artist were publicized, so she did not immediately recognize his story as suspicious. In the end, common sense prevented an act of kindness from becoming a case of theft and deceit.

Jenny was standing near the telephones at the bottom of the escalators leading to the LIRR terminal on Friday, September 6. While waiting to catch a train she noticed a man waiting by the telephones and asked him if he wanted to use the phone before her. He refused. "Don't worry," he said, "I am an Israeli and I have patience."

As Jenny started to walk away from the phones, the man followed and asked her if she spoke Hebrew. He said that he possessed a Bank Leumi ATM card which did not work at any of the cash machines in New York City. The man asked Jenny to help him use the phone book, saying that he needed to find a place for Shabbat. He indicated that he wished to use the public phones outside of Penn Station.

Only when Jenny followed the man towards the escalators to help him did he begin to ask her for money. He explained that his entire family was with him visiting New York from Israel, and he even invited Jenny to go upstairs to meet his fam-

ily. "He didn't ask for a specific amount at the time," Jenny recalls, but he did say he would give her a receipt for the money he borrowed and mail her a check from Israel. At that point, Jenny walked away, claiming that she had a train to catch.

She said that the man did not continue to bother her once she told him her train was arriving soon.

When Jenny returned to school Saturday night, she noticed a newly posted warning sign taped by the elevators describing a con artist. "I read it and it sounded so familiar," Jenny says. She then realized that the Israeli tourist was the infamous scammer. "I was so mad!" Jenny notified Security and called her parents, who were very nervous about the incident. "We always told you not to talk to strangers!" they emphatically reminded her.

Mr. John Gordon, Assistant Chief of Security at SCW, offered some rules and warnings for students. When approached by this person, one should walk away and immediately notify the police and Security. Mr. Gordon added that the man usually finds students near 34th Street, near museums and other public places so he can easily lure his victims to an ATM. Police precincts in Midtown and Downtown areas received many reports about this individual last year, yet Mr. Gordon said that he is aware of incidents even earlier. The Midtown police precinct, which includes Penn Station, could not be reached for comment.

Learning the con artist's approach from Jenny's story is the best way to avoid becoming his next target, explains Gordon. "Education is our biggest weapon," he says. Not talking to strangers won't hurt either.

State of the Art Chem Labs Finally Complete

BATYA FREDMAN
Staff Writer

A breath of relief can be heard from students who had to endure the inconvenient commute last year to the uptown chemistry labs, as they now watch the finishing touches being added to the new state of the art laboratories. Complete with Internet access, new instruments and VCR projector, the labs, according to Friuzeh Victory, a lab technician at Stern College, are "incomparable to any other school."

The construction, which began in spring 1998 and was finally completed this summer.

Although there was some talk of an early completion, "that was wishful thinking," says SCW Dean Karen Bacon.

"There were four major entities plus storage space built in the shell of the old labs," elaborates Rosengarten. "Demolition officially began in September 1998, and construction started the following December, but a lot of planning took place beforehand."

Many of the developments were made to accommodate future plans to build labs in the 253 and 245 Lexington buildings. A large tower was built, complete with an air-conditioning that will service the classrooms in that building, as well as future labs. Mr. Rosengarten

explained the reason this multimillion-dollar project was so time consuming was because they wanted to make a lab that was superior to all other schools.

"Time will tell," Mr. Rosengarten states optimistically, "but it should prove to be a successful project."

The overall feedback from students and teachers is positive.

"It was well worth the wait," says Lisa Younger, a junior who takes a myriad of classes that require labs. "There are microphones for

Chemistry and science for non-majors, is pleased with the completion of the much-anticipated project.

"They're unique and as modern as they can be," says Blau. "When everything is in working order it will be superb." The only problem she reports is the ventilation system. "There is no air conditioners or windows, yet, but hopefully in time it should be rectified."

Dr. Blau added that she is impressed with the ventilated and explosion proof stock rooms, as well as the fume hood masks for each student, which protect against noxious gases.

Dean Bacon explains that the new labs are operational, "but as with any project this big, there's always some fine tuning to be done."

A dedication ceremony will be held Nov. 9 in honor of National Chemistry Week. At the ceremony the Organic Chemistry lab will be given its official title, The Bernard L. Manger laboratory, after its generous benefactor. The dedication for the computers in the Inorganic Chemistry labs, funded by Dr. Thelma Warsaw, will take also take place on Nov. 9. All are invited to attend.

Dr. Leah Blau, who teaches both Organic



Students conducting experiments in the new labs

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Vanishing Pandas and Felled Trees: Environmental Awareness Program at SCW

BATYA FREDMAN
Staff Writer

Alarmed by the growing rate of the destruction of our environment, Dr. Edward Levy, Professor of Music at YU recently began a program to increase environmental awareness at SCW. With over 30 years behind him as a professor at YU, Dr. Levy, is taking an active role in leading environmental education programs to inform students about environmental hazards and involve them in devising practical courses of action. Dr. Levy will work directly with the envi-

ronmental clubs at SCW to carry out the new program.

Future plans for the program include speakers involved in environmental issues, educational films, informal talks, practical problem solving and discussions that increase environmental awareness. The limits of this movement depend solely on student interaction and involvement.

Support for the environment can be expressed by becoming active in the Student Alliance for Global Awareness under the

direction of co-presidents Rebecca Sontag and Amira Saltzman. "Club functions will be learning experiences," says Saltzman. "There's more to taking care of the environment than the blue recycling bins."

Saltzman praised Dr. Levy for acting as a faculty liaison and arranging speakers and films. The first club meeting took place October 18 with Dr. Levy as the main speaker.

Dr. Levy personally became involved with environ-

mental causes as an amateur, but has maintained a personal concern for habitat destruction for over thirty-five years. For over twenty years, he has attended annual meetings that discuss demography, politics and environment. With increasing environmental courses at various college campuses nationwide, Dr. Levy felt that he should initiate an environmental concern at SCW.

Environmental courses were proposed but not approved

for the fall 1999 semester. Dean Karen Bacon of SCW and Dean Norman Adler of YC support Dr. Levy's attempts, but they request sufficient student interest before creating new classes.

Dr. Levy says that he looks forward to teaching in this area of concern. His goals for this program include instilling a personal responsibility for environmental issues in the student body, perhaps leading to the establishment of an environmental department.

on campus

SCW Record Setting Enrollment Increase Higher than YC

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

The number of registered students has been tallied. The preliminary numbers are in. And with surprising results. The increase in undergraduate women at Yeshiva University exceeds the increase in men for the first time ever.

"I am finding a continuous increase of women's interest in Jewish studies," said Dean Bacon. "There is a lot of excitement on campus. Our new facilities, new courses, and new faculty members are making a difference. And this vibrancy appeals to incoming students."

"Having attended a yeshiva all my life, I wanted to continue my Jewish education," said Meira Reinstein, an SCW sophomore, and a Distinguished Scholar. "But it wasn't just the Judaic classes that persuaded me to attend Stern, but the environment. Stern is the only place that gives Jewish women the opportunity to develop their full potential." Stern's advertisement, "My daughter, the doctor," which appeared recently in the National section of the New York Times, reinforces that message.

Dr. Fisher, director of enrollment management, notes that this increase may be a one-time phenomenon. Last year marked a great increase in the number of women who stayed in Israel for Shana Bet, a second year of study in Israel. Those students are now at Stern College, which may account for the enrollment increase, Dr. Fisher said.

Last fall, the number of men registered in Yeshiva College and Sy

Syms School of Business totaled 1154, while this fall, the number has risen to 1170 men, an increase of only fifteen students. In contrast, the number of registered women in Stern and Sy Syms School of Business totaled 871 last fall, while this fall, the final count is 922 students, an increase of 51 students. There is no final division yet between those students enrolled in Sy Syms School of Business and those enrolled only in Stern or Yeshiva College.

Dr. Fisher noted that it is realistic that Stern will continuously increase, as Yeshiva University continues to be popular. The problem, however, is whether Stern can keep up with its growing demand.

No department is affected by this increase as much as housing. "In Midtown, we are not only full to capacity, but are stretched beyond capacity," noted Dr. Fisher. Dorming at Stern has reached its limits. There are more than 500 students at Brookdale Hall, approximately 180 at Schottenstein, and more than 100 spread throughout the nearby area in rented apartments. And some people were denied housing.

"Dorming plays an integral role in the College experience," said Lisa Helprin, an SCW sophomore. "Some of life's most important lessons are learned outside the classroom."

Housing for YC students is also an issue. The uptown campus provides for MTA students, Smicha students, and men involved in Kollel - in addition to the

undergraduates. However, it may be easier and cheaper to find apartment uptown, and thus Yeshiva College is not plagued with the same housing problems that Stern faces.

But it is not just Yeshiva University that is suffering from crowded housing. A recent article in The Chronicle Of Higher Education records that colleges throughout America intentionally overbook their dormitories.

Administrators say there are several reasons for the increase in demand for housing. First, the strong economy enables more middle-income parents to pay for dormitory rooms, rather than have their sons and daughters living at home. Second, better housing options, including renovated dormitories, suites and private rooms, are persuading students to house in college even after their freshman year. Third, and most important, higher enrollments create a higher demand for housing. The U.S. Department of Education projected last month that a record of 14.9 million students would enroll in colleges this fall - and that enrollments would rise another ten percent during the next decade.

Stern College is engaged in a number of expansion options, including a theater on 34th, and construction of academic space at 215 Lexington Ave. As Dr. Fisher said, "What's most important is looking toward the future." ☺

Feminism at Stern?

SHIRA GRAHER
Photography Editor

Across between feminism and history, Women Society and Culture is a new course at SCW that smacks of the women's lib movement. As part of the new Honor's Program, the class focuses on the changes for women in the 19th and 20th centuries. The course is team-taught by history professor Dr. Ellen Schrecker and English professor Dr. Carole Silver.

"Women's studies is a field developed from the women's movement," explained Dr. Schrecker. "The purpose is to get a sense of looking toward women expanding their possibilities and options. This is very much the theme of the course."

According to Dr. Schrecker, the course at Stern consists of a mix of novels and readings to show women's lives at certain points in the 19th and 20th centuries. "These include the transformation of families, women being able to get an education, and job opportunities for women; overall, the changes for women," said Dr. Schrecker.

"We are suggesting women need equal rights," added Dr. Silver. "We are focusing on the development of women's ideas about themselves and other's ideas about women. We are looking at these ideas of women throughout history and society."

Student response to the subject proved to be enthusiastic; the class closed out in the first few days of registration last May, with students still clamoring at the Dean's office to be signed in this year.

"They are clearly very passionate which makes it that much more interesting," said Yifat Levin, an SCW senior, regarding Drs. Schrecker and Silver. "They are really fun and entertaining!"

Other courses offering that focus on women include Dr. Laurel Hatvary's literature courses on "Women and Work" and "Literature of Mothers and Daughters".

"I first gave these classes about 6 years ago, initially in senior seminar," stated Dr. Hatvary. "There has been a very positive response from the students; they are very enthusiastic. I have been very interested in the topic of women and work."

According to the syllabus for Women and Work, the class considers the characterization of the independent woman, i.e. one who has broadened her personal and/or social role and seeks acceptable ways to enter the workplace.

Likewise, in the Judaic studies department, the only classes that focus primarily on women this semester include, Women in Jewish Law and Mishnah: Nashim. Last spring, in addition to these two courses, Women in

the Bible was offered as well. Otherwise, the only other Judaic courses on the roster on women's issues are the Marriage and Nidah classes.

Aside from having a strong female slant, the students benefit from the class being taught by not just one strong female role model, but two simultaneously. This dual teaching method helps the class learn about society and women from two viewpoints.

"We both decided that the class should be team taught," stated Dr. Schrecker. "It was something we had been thinking about for awhile, since we've both taught women's studies classes before," she added.

"Since I was on sabbatical last semester, we wrote the syllabus together over email and the phone," explained Dr. Silver. "We changed a few things on the syllabus; things that we read that were too boring we knew the students would think were too boring, so we took them off. We're getting a real kick out of teaching the class jointly. We're both learning from each other things we didn't know!"

"I like the joint teaching a lot," remarked Chana Batco Taylor, an SCW sophomore. "...It makes the class flow and we get more viewpoints."

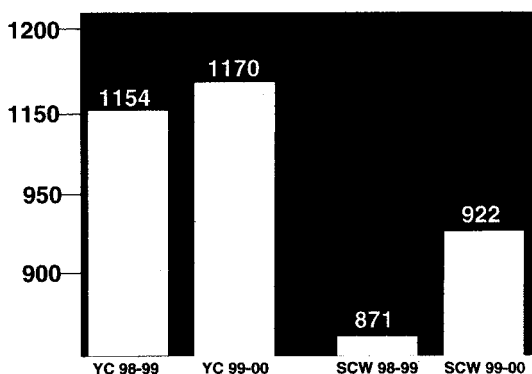
Previously, Dr. Schrecker has taught American Women's History at Stern College. She holds a BA in history from Radcliff and received her Ph.D. in American History from Harvard. Dr. Silver has been teaching women's classes at Stern since 1972; her class "Images of Women in 19th and 20th century British Literature" stemmed from her area of expertise. She holds a Ph.D. in British Literature from Columbia.

Course readings include: The Feminist Papers, ed. Alice S. Rossi; Victorian Women, eds Erna Hellerstein, et al.; Villette, by Charlotte Bronte; The Odd Women, by George Gissing; Dora, by Sigmund Freud; The Breadgivers, by Anzia Yezierska; Living My Life, Vol. 1, by Emma Goldman; A Room of One's Own, by Virginia Woolf; I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou.

"Because it is a class about women, there is a very warm atmosphere since we are talking about ourselves with two strong female teachers," commented Taylor. "I think our teachers have a real connection to the material they are teaching and it really comes across in class."

"The class is made up for women with seeded goals. [They are a] traditional group of women commenting on revolutionary time in women's history where people [were] breaking away from traditional roles..." she continued. ☺

YU Enrollment



club beat

SCW Alumna Directs SCDS Play

DEEDEE LAX
Staff Writer

Setting a YU record, recent SCW graduate Elizabeth Renna, SCW '99, will be the first former SCW student to direct an SCDS play. Renna was hired by the Student Council Dramatics Society (SCDS) for the 1999 Fall semester to direct the SCW play "Nine Girls," which will be performed in November. Renna had extensive involvement in SCDS during her undergraduate years and is ready to take on the responsibility of being the first alumna Director.

"My job is to have a vision...and to make it into a finished product," replies Renna enthusiastically.

"Nine Girls," however, is not her first vision. Renna acted as Producer and Assistant Director of "King of Four Hearts," which was written by Kim Glassman, an SCW senior. She was also the director and stage manager of "A Night of One Acts," a play run solely by students. "A Night of One Acts" replaced the play "Nobody's Gilt" after it was cancelled due to its controversial content. Mark McGovern, Professor of Speech, has directed SCDS plays in the past, but he did not feel that he could direct "A Night of One Acts" successfully this year due to time constraints.

"She proved herself last year," said Celia Sporer, an SCW senior and SCDS co-President.

The SCDS Board began searching for a new director after McGovern announced that he was leaving the position. Three experienced directors, including Reuvane Russel, who performed his famous one-person show on Jewish identity at the SCDS shabbaton last year, turned down the Board. "We have tried to get other directors and we had no one willing to work with us," said Sporer.

Sporer remarked that Renna is directing as a favor to SCDS, because the salary that she receives will not compensate her for the enormous amount of work that is required of her.

"People enjoy working with Liz also because she's a serious director but she could also relate on an age level," added Sporer. The cast feels that as an alumna Renna understands the pressures of tests and busy schedules, issues that a non-student

director who is more distant to college life may not tolerate.

Yeshiva College students have expressed the desire for a student to direct a Yeshiva College Dramatics Society (YCDS) play. Dr. Anthony Beukas, Professor of Speech and Drama at YC, did not wish to comment on this issue.

The lack of student directors in YCDS could stem from the academic status of the Drama department at YC. Dr. Beukas instructs the YCDS as a course that grants students academic credit. In contrast, Renna is not considered an official faculty member. Although students do receive one credit for participating in SCDS as an extracurricular activity, it is not an academic course.

Although Renna received a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech and drama and minored in political science, she did not initially consider directing as a career. As a freshman she majored in Philosophy, and in her sophomore year she toyed with the idea of becoming a doctor or a lawyer. Renna changed her mind for the last time at the end of her sophomore year and decided to pursue Drama. "I just decided I wanted to do what would make me happy," she said.

After committing to Drama, Renna spent two summers studying film and acting at Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University. She also took the position as Associate Producer of the off-Broadway show, "Dinner with Friends."

"I'm still kind of in the midst of learning a craft," admits Renna. However, the twenty-one year old director still feels confident. "I'm motivated and I know that I could do it."

She is currently applying to New York University, The New School for Social Research, Rutgers University, and The London Academy of Music and Arts to pursue a graduate degree in Directing. Renna plans to start off her professional career in theatre, where she can learn the pressures of live performance. She ultimately wants to direct for film.

"Now, I'm just figuring out what direction I want to take, what I want," replied Renna. ☺

Equestrian Team

DANA BIENENFELD
Staff Writer

Hooves took to the dirt for the first time in SCW equestrian history when a group of eager members of the newly established riding club went to the Clairmont Riding Academy on Fri., Oct. 8 on east 89th street and Amsterdam Avenue. The club will continue to meet every Friday morning.

The club was started by Chaya Aspir, an SCW junior majoring in psychology, who began riding two years ago. "I went for a lesson with the instructor of the N.Y.U. team, and I thought, if N.Y.U. could have a team why can't we?" she asked.

Aspir originally

intended

to create

a competi-

tive team

that

would

hold

meetings

with other

schools.

However,

when she

saw

Dr. Zerneck,

the head

of

Athletics

at Stern

College,

her plan

was

altered.

"Dr. Zerneck said we

must become a club before we

could establish a team," Aspir

explained. In lieu of competing,

the club takes a group lesson

every Friday morning.

The club, which meets

between ten and eleven am on

Friday morning, is open to all

students. While the school provides

transportation and t-shirts for

the club, it won't subsidize

the seven-week program at \$27

a session. "I didn't join because

it wasn't school funded,"

explained Debbie Bienenfeld, a

senior and an English

Literature major.

While many students

were deterred by the price, others

answered the advertisement

enthusiastically. "About 25 stu-

dents responded right away,"

Chaya said. "But there

was only enough room for

eleven people."

Although the price seems high, it is a bargain in comparison to a regular lesson, which runs \$100 an hour. Furthermore, the club can save 20% by shopping at Miller's Harness Company for the necessary equestrian apparel.

The team is composed of a wide spectrum of riders. While many are experienced, some have never been on a horse before at all. "My only experience was a pony ride when I was little," admits Shoshana Stein, an SCW sophomore.

Prior to the first lesson, the club met to hear safety instructions and learn about the different types of saddles. "There are

a horse and go galloping into the sunset," Eilyn remarked. "But I did expect to learn more the first day. I think it would be a little more effective if they split us into two groups."

While many shared Mauner's sentiments, all seemed to understand that the first lesson would be slower than the rest. "We had to learn how to adjust the saddle and measure the stirrups," said Mauner. "I'm sure it will go a little faster next time."

The goal of the seven-week club is to teach the members the different ways of riding a horse: walking, trotting and cantering. "Walking is what we learned so far," Mauner said.

"It is squeezing your legs to the horse to get it to start moving." Once a member learns how to canter, she can go to the park and ride on her own.

Orlee Daniels, an SCW sophomore is looking forward to venturing out into the park. "I have been riding pretty much all my life," she said. "My family owns horses

and I used to go riding when I was young." During her year abroad in Israel, she maintained her equestrian skills by riding on the beaches of Netanya and taking lessons at Nivei Alon.

Many of the members have a goal set for the next seven weeks. "I hope to be able to control the horse and go riding on my own," expressed Jocelyn Berger, an SCW sophomore from East Brunswick, New Jersey.

"Most people who are involved with horses, are obsessed with them," Chaya said. "I wanted the group to consist of people who will love it and be committed to it, not those who just needed something to do on Friday morning. I hope that those who were not obsessed with horses before, will be by the end." ☺



Chaya Aspir riding in Israel

two types of saddles," Chaya explained. The Western Saddle is more comfortable, has thick stirrups, and a horn to hold on to. The English saddle is thin, and has no stirrups or horn. "The club will be using the English saddle because it is the more elegant type."

Although excitement was predominantly the emotion that most members felt as they climbed on to their horses, some were a slightly anxious "The last time I went riding, the horse rolled over and I had to jump off," explains Eilyn Mauner, an SCW freshman whose family members are avid riders. "I was a little nervous when I got on the horse for the first time on Friday."

Some members were slightly frustrated by the slow pace of the lesson. "Obviously I know I'm not going to jump on

Critical Film and Media Studies Association (CMA) at YU
Students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

On behalf of the entire SCW Student Body we would like to thank the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the Dean, Student Services, the Office of University Alumnae Affairs, and all supporting staff and administration for guiding and supporting a memorable Orientation.

Your hard work and commitment to the students is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to working together to bring about a year of continued success.

THANK YOU!!!


April Simon
SCWSC PRESIDENT


Carla Simon
SSSBSC PRESIDENT


Shlomit Zauderer
TAC PRESIDENT


Miriam Grossman
ORIENTATION CO-CHAIR


Zoya Mardakhayev
ORIENTATION CO-CHAIR

OPCS: What Can

My Life as an Intern

NEHAMA MILLER
News Editor

Can you get me a cup of coffee with skim milk...and don't forget the Sweet 'N Low." Many of you will recognize this phrase. Not at a local Starbucks. And not from the Stern Caf. But from an internship.

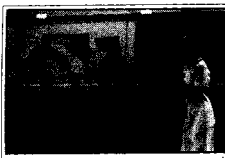
A recent online poll shows that over 90% of college students have completed or are in the midst of an internship. Yet, only half of those students feel they have gotten something concrete out of them.

As a former intern myself, I can sympathize with those who feel the most they learned was how to make a really good cup of cappuccino. I can honestly say that there were times during the course of my seven or so internships where I felt like a 'maid-to-order.' Besides the internship cliché of making skim lattes for your supervisor, my duties included cleaning my boss's desk, watering plants, and

organizing a company's library alphabetically. All the while my parents assured me that just being in the work building was work experience enough. I questioned how I was gaining knowledge from organizing the recycling bin area.

I decided at a very young age that I was going to venture into the cut-throat world of journalism. I was only in high school when I landed a month long stint at FOX Channel5 to fulfill my work study requirement. As a 16 year old, I understood that because of my limited knowledge I could be trusted with...well...just about nothing. I was starting to consider filing a privilege. There was one day I got so antsy that I snuck up to the studio where they film the evening news, just to get a feel for the business. The minute they found out I was an intern I was kicked out and sent to...you guessed it...get everyone coffee.

What is an internship anyway? An internship is an on-the job learning opportunity to give students a link with the workplace. The whole idea is to develop your academic preparation with on-site training. The end result should be that you get



Nehama Miller next to
FOX news van

a sense not only of what it is like to work in the field you are aiming for, but to get a sense of other departments and management levels. For example, I had always thought I would end up an on-air personality, the next Barbara Walters perhaps. But I

decided that may be a tad unrealistic. After interning at NBC Channel4 I realized that production may be calling my name.

Many interns go through the exact opposite and figure out during their internship that this job might not be for them.

One of the keys to surviving an internship is finding a mentor. It's harder when you work in a huge firm where you never see the same face twice. Many times your mentor will be the person you are assigned under. I happened to luck out when I worked at NBC. I was placed under the tutelage of the senior political correspondent. Although I still had to do those wonderful intern chores like getting him lunch and cleaning his glasses before he went on air, he took time out to talk to me about what my goals were and how I was to accomplish them. Once you have a mentor on your side,

especially one with many connections, it eventually opens doors that you will need in the future.

For those who don't have someone to show them the ropes, show yourself the ropes. The biggest complaint you hear from interns is that they show up for orientation, and the next day not only are they expected to remember where everything is, but how everything runs.

"I was so confused," said one Stern College student who wished to remain anonymous, "I thought that the day after my internship orientation we would be assigned to someone. Little did I know I would be spending the next month harassing people to give me something to do."

"Even when I did have something to do I had a hard time doing it because I had no idea

continued on page 20

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They Do for You?

How to Find a Job With OPCS

EILEEN CRUDOW
News Editor

Need a job? How about a little cash to put in your pocket? The Office of Career and Placement Services is here to help your resume shine.

For students who are unsure of what types of careers they may want to pursue, OPCS provides many services, including interest and skill assessments. The OPCS staff members often recommend that these students postpone making a final decision until they experience an internship in a field they are considering.

The Career Planning & Placement Handbook is available in OPCS and includes sample resumes, cover letters and thank you letters. OPCS requests that students complete adequate drafts of their individual resumes and cover letters before scheduling meetings with an OPCS advisor. Newly updated and approved resumes should be submitted at the outset of each semester.

Naomi Kapp, Assistant Director of the OPCS, considers the resume writing process worthwhile because "it gives students a sense of confidence. They take stock of what they've done and come out with a resume that shows who they are." She works with students to improve their resumes by using professional phrasing to indicate their responsibilities and duties.

If a student is reluctant or has difficulty following the outline in the Career Planning and Placement Handbook, Kapp helps her begin the resume or asks her to work on it at the

OPCS offices for 15 minutes before they review it together. "I've never turned anyone away," she said. "It's not sink or swim."

Many students find that

that club's members."

Even SCW students who obtain interesting positions and internships without direct assistance from OPCS find that they require SCW resources. DeeDee Lax, an SCW 'sophomore majoring in journalism, interned at MTV this past year. "Stern helped me with the internship in the sense that in order to get a TV-related internship you need to get academic credit and Professor Hatvay is extremely understanding about giving me the credit," she said.

"I came to Stern with the idea that I wanted a broadcast journalism-related internship," Lax explained. "I called 411 and asked for MTV's number. After I called them, I set up an interview and was placed in the President of MTV, Judy McGrath's office." During her internship Lax worked for the McGrath as well as for General

Kathy Spananese.

Lax feels that she gained a lot from her internship, experiencing first hand many ins and outs of the TV world, such as the way contracts are arranged and glimpsing what occurs behind the scenes in MTV movies. Lax will continue interning at MTV this semester, in the production department and hopes to attend MTV Music Video Awards.

"I have had the opportunity to see certain celebrities like

to be in broadcasting so they informed me about an audition for the position of a host for Nickelodeon. All in all it has been a great experience and I'm looking forward for the fall."

Esther Finkle, SCW '98, obtained her full-time position as a staff reporter and assistant news editor at the Jewish Press with the help of OPCS. According to Finkle, OPCS contacted her right away after a Jewish Press staff member inquired of OPCS

whether it could recommend a student for the opening. Finkle then called the Jewish Press and interviewed in their offices. "OPCS showed me how to put a resume together and

"Our intent is to service the individual needs of students, but if a student feels that we're not doing that, she should let us know. We don't purport to have all the answers but we base ourselves on our past experience of what has worked."

- Naomi Kapp

Carson Daily, Serena Altschul, and Sheryl Crow," she said. "I

how to interview-how to dress, how to talk, how to walk."

Finkle had three on-campus interviews but didn't find them productive. "Everything they did for me in terms of on-campus recruiting didn't help," she said. "I wanted something in journalism, but OPCS doesn't have journalism or publishing openings. Instead, they tried to fit me into openings in financial and computer companies that needed someone with editorial skills. They don't have on-campus interviews for journalism, and don't have resources in liberal arts in general." Still, Finkle appreciated the OPCS efforts on her behalf. "They were looking out for me," Finkle said. "I know Naomi Kapp was looking out for my best interests."



Nechama Hochbaum talks with potential employer

business lectures and forums are helpful since they provide information on various career opportunities and other relevant topics relating to the placement process and working world. OPCS offers a variety of sessions on resume writing, interviewing and job search strategies throughout the year, company information sessions and on-site visits. Workshops on graduate school, successful Orthodox professionals in unorthodox careers, careers in finance and career decisions have been held this year.

"Part of our success is hearing from students," said Kapp. "Our intent is to service the individual needs of students, but if a student feels that we're not doing that, she should let us know. We don't purport to have all the answers but we base ourselves on our past experience of what has worked. If students want more focus on a specific major, they should see us. We are happy to work with individual students about their concerns and with club presidents to arrange workshops and other events that would interest



Students discuss career opportunities at OPCS Career Fair

Manager and President of MTV Productions Van Toffler and Vice President of Administrations

also went shopping for Jewel and Rebecca Romijn. The office I worked for also knew that I want

So It Goes - by S.Kim Glassman

When I grow up I want to be:

A Prince



Someday I might be an:

ASTRONOMER
DOCTOR
LAWYER
DENTIST
ARTIST
TEACHER
PSYCHOLOGIST
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BANKER
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CAREER FAIR
NOW'S THE TIME TO DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE!



When I graduate I'm going to:

I HAVE NO IDEA



city life

Broadway on a Budget

RAULI KLEYMAN
Staff Writer

Are you tired of watching those season premiere letdowns? Is Felicity's bad haircut depressing you? Well, put on your theater clothes and get cultured! There is a whole world of entertainment out there that caters to college students' budgets. Both Broadway and off-Broadway are exploding with dynamite deals for all your favorite shows. Theater discounts are New York's best-kept secret. One of the best sources for discounted tickets is the TKTS ticket booth located on 45th and Broadway, right in the heart of Times Square. TKTS is a service run by the Theater Development Fund which offers discounted tickets to a variety of shows such as *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cats*, *Phantom*, and many more. The discounts can run up to 50 percent off of the regular ticket price for that day's shows. Since the lines tend to be long, and the best shows sell out quickly, it is wise to show up early to get the best tickets. "For only \$40 we had orchestra almost-center seats to *Les Miserables*. It was a good price and a good play," said Mindy Gottlieb, an SCW junior.

Another great option, especially for those students who love joining clubs, is free membership to the Hit Show of the Month Club. This agency gives out coupons to a number of hit shows. The discount coupons must be presented at the individual theaters in order to purchase the tickets and can be used up until one hour before curtain time. The coupons are usually good for two-for-one specials to such shows as *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *The Phantom of the*

Opera, *Footloose*, and others. Students can join The Hit Show of the Month Club by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with their name, address, and zip code to 630 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY, 10036, or by going to their midtown office located on 630 Ninth Avenue (between 44th and 45th Streets) on the 8th floor.

Feeling blue? Then head on over to see the *Blue Man Group*. It is a wild show with three guys painted in blue doing crazy things on stage like throwing food and paint all over the place. Anything goes in New York City! This show is student-friendly, offering the "Student Rush." Seats are \$25 for students who present valid ID one hour prior to show time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Just as with TKTS, it would be extremely wise to show up early because these tickets sell out very quickly.

Two-fers vouchers are another good way to get inexpensive seats. One of the easiest ways to get Two-fers vouchers is to check the student services desk in the registrar's office. The School Theater Ticket Program gives these two-for-one vouchers to various educational institutions. These coupons are good for numerous hit shows.

The simplest way to get tickets to a specific show is to call the ticket office directly and ask if they offer any student discounts. There is a cornucopia of discounted tickets available for the taking if students take advantage of the opportunities. Let's leave the full price tickets for the tourists! ☺

At the Theater: Keep Banging

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG
Cultural Arts Editor

KeeP Bangin' is all about the drums. Jared Crawford, Lauren Hill's drummer and the show's creator, leads an ensemble of six drummers through an hour and twenty-minute percussion-fest. The cast bangs on everything from metal chairs to oil barrels, to bongo drums, to conventional drum sets with equal precision.

Although ostensibly this Off-Broadway show (directed by Savion Glover of "Bring In da Noise, Bring In da Funk") has a storyline, it is inexplicit and serves primarily as background to the real focus of the show, the superb drumming of Jared Crawford. The show's various settings provide excuses for Crawford and the cast to try their hands and drumsticks on anything that 'bangs.' When the drums were the sole focus of the number, it was smooth sailing for both the cast and the audience. However, when they had to share the stage the banging often drowned out the few bits of

spoken narrative as well as the lyrics to the occasional song.

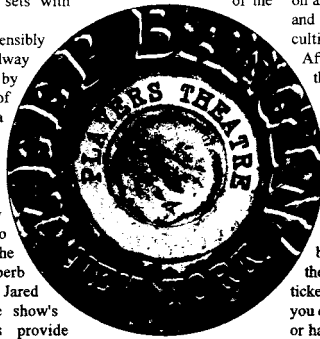
The show was very similar to "Stomp." In fact, there were times when it appeared too similar, especially during a scene in which the performers take their staffs and bang them on the floor. While the rest

of the show is not exceptional, there are some points where he left off. The show's reggae and calypso numbers were especially rhythmically pleasing.

The cast all seemed to enjoy themselves while performing, and that joy and energy spread through the theater. "Keep Bangin'" is the type of show that thrives on an enthusiastic audience, and the cast made sure to cultivate that enthusiasm.

After the performers took their bows they invited drummers from the crowd to come on stage and perform a short solo for the rest of the theater.

Twenty dollar, front-row, rush tickets are available at the box-office on the day of the performance (regular ticket price: \$30-\$40). If you do not enjoy drumming, or have seen "Stomp" within the past six months, it may not be worth it. On the other hand, when you consider that movies in Manhattan cost almost ten-dollars, live theater is almost always worth the cost of two movies, especially with someone as talented as Crawford in the cast. ☺



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city life

The Jewish Museum: A Delight for both the Palate and the Mind

Exploring The Jewish Museum

SHIRA GRABER
Photography Editor

The Jewish Museum, located on 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue, across from Central Park and part of New York's Museum Mile, is a perfect place to soak up some Jewish history firsthand.

Founded in 1904 in the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Jewish Museum is among the world's largest and most significant institutions dedicated to exploring the great variety of Jewish culture. The museum has inhabited its current location since 1947, when Frieda Schiff Warburg donated her family mansion.

The exhibitions occupy four floors; the upper two show the permanent displays, while the lower two showcase the changing presentations. The second and fourth floors are currently undergoing renovations. The Fourth floor is set to reopen in late 1999.

The Museum also has a Café, which is located in the basement.

The permanent exhibition on the third floor is entitled "Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey." Chronicling Jewish history from 1640 to the present, the display attempts to answer two persistent questions: Why have the Jews survived over the centuries? And, what is the identity of a people who are so diverse yet share a common tradition?

The exhibit showcases

artifacts created between 1640-1800 in different Jewish communities around the world. The diversity is reflected in the variety of art and decorations on the various objects, which serve the

had talented craftsmen who sought to serve in the most beautiful manner, and their respective ideas of beauty, were impacted by their outside surroundings.

The next segment of the exhibit, "Confronting Modernity," details the time period from 1800-1948. Portraying the periods of Jewish Enlightenment and Emancipation through artwork, on display are medals celebrating edicts of tolerance and the positive aspects of Emancipation, as well as posters and sculptures depicting Zionism, and rising

Nationalism. The display also contains art depicting the pogroms and other Anti-Semitic expressions of the time.

In the center of the exhibit is "Creative Conversations," a circle of benches with carphones and tables with maps of the world next to each bench. At this exhibit visitors can hear voices from each country depicting their pre-World War I lives in cities around the globe.

No Jewish exhibit this century would be complete without a memorial to the Holocaust, and the Jewish Museum takes an interesting approach. A square towards the end of the exhibition showcases ornaments and Jewish artifacts rescued from Jewish towns looted by the Nazis. The Jews had buried these treasures when news of the Nazis reached them, with the hope of using the

objects again when the war was over. Unfortunately, they never returned, and these beautiful objects are now on display in the museum.

The last section, entitled "New Directions," details the post World War II era. Art exploring redefinition, a mezuzah carried into space, and liberal and feminist Haggadot lead into a room with a video of "Contemporary Voices": a film featuring different opinions, views and experiences of contemporary Jews.

The last room of this exhibit is perhaps the most striking and outstanding. Featuring three large pieces of modern art and one life size sculpture, each is an expression of the artists' feelings about Judaism based on their personal experiences. Each has a personal quote and first-person explanation of the work by the artist. Among the works are: a feminist's rendition of her feelings on the Holocaust, her feelings on Judaism, a four paneled portrayal of how Jewish immigrants would change their names, and a painting of Moses Mendelson's family. The life size sculpture is a startling depiction of the suffering in the camps; a pile of white corpses lie on the floor, one lone figure stands at the barbed wire.

The current exhibit on the first floor details the history of the Jews of Central Asia. Bright, colorful women's and men's costumes, along with fine ornaments, robes and head dressings are on display. The display demonstrates how clothing was an indication of class, wealth, ori-

gin and age. The exhibit also recreates a typical home of 'mountain Jews' (Jews from rural areas). It features kitchen appliances and musical instruments. Also on display are ritual objects, such as a colorful Torah cover, Tefilin, a shofar, and even a recreated Sukkah.

The Jewish Museum provides an intriguing and enlightening look at our history and culture. A visit to the museum will prove an enriching experience for all ages. Upcoming fall exhibitions include: "John Singer Sargent: Portraits for the Wertheimer Family", from October 17, 1999 - February 6, 2000; "The Changing Face of Family: Photographs from the Collection of the Jewish Museum", from October 17, 1999 - February 6, 2000; and "Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1917," from November 14, 1999 - April 23, 2000.

The Jewish Museum. Open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11:00 AM - 5:45 PM, Tuesday from 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Closed Friday, Saturday and major legal and Jewish holidays. Admission: Adults: \$8.00, Students and Senior citizens: \$5.50, Children under 12 and Jewish Museum Members: free, Tuesdays after 5:00 PM: pay what you wish. 1109 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10128. 212-423-3200. ☺



The Jewish Museum situated on Fifth Avenue

same ritual purpose. On display are ornate Tzedakah boxes, embellished gold and silver Torah crowns, pointers and covers, as well as colorful wall coverings and Ark curtains. Two life-size Torah Arks from Bavaria, Germany and Urbino, Italy are on display in the museum room. A mosaic wall houses tiks, rigid, cylindrical containers used for holding the Torah from Isfahan, Persia, in glass 'windows'. The wall was also brought from Persia.

The exhibit then details Jewish life cycles and the artifacts associated with each ritual. Bris sets, amulets and kippot, as well as ornate ketubot are on display. A variety of objects used on holidays and the Sabbath provide an aesthetic feast for the eyes, as well as a demonstration of the diversity of our religion. As the exhibit relates, each community

soned to perfection. It came with a side of sweet-potato chips that were neither too crispy nor too soft.

The julienne of chicken, chicken salad served in a flaky tortilla bowl, tasted as good as it looked. The salad contained chicken, lentils, and assorted vegetables (including delicious sun-dried tomatoes) and was accompanied by the focaccia bread. Both portions were reasonably sized.

After exploring the Jewish Museum, you may want to catch a bite at Café Weissman. Located on the bottom floor of the museum (1109 5th Ave.- 92nd St.), the café offers light yet filling fare and is open to both museum visitors and the general public. It is a perfect place to have a delicious lunch in a quiet setting after a day in the museum or a morning in Central Park, which the museum borders.

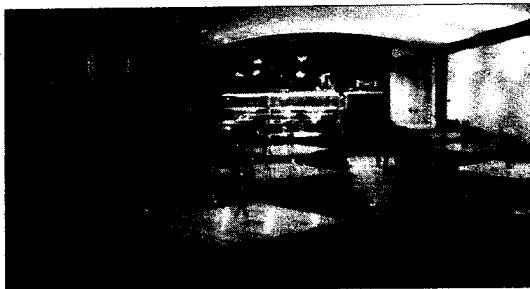
My meal began with soup, a chicken consomme (soup flavors are changed every few days), which needed a bit of respicing, but the meal was uphill from there. A friend and I shared the grilled vegetable sandwich and the julienne of chicken for the main course. Both were excellent. The grilled vegetable sandwich came in a delicious rosemary focaccia, and was sea-

Café Weissman was originally dairy, but when it

fare one expects from a café. Even the desserts veer away from

good crust, but too sweet a filling, and the chocolate biscotti, which were delicious.

Café Weissman, run by Foremost Caterers, is under the supervision of the Star K. The menu changes every four to six months, with a rotating selection of turkey, chicken, vegetable, egg, and fish dishes. Prices range from \$6.50 to 8.25 for a sandwich and from 7.75 to 9.25 for an entrée. The service is friendly and efficient, and the entrees are exceptional. I would give it four and a half stars out of five, and I highly recommend it. The Café is open from 11am to 5:30 pm Mon., Wed., and Thurs., and until 7:30 pm on Tuesdays. ☺



The dining hall of Café Weissman

changed supervision two years ago, it switched to meat, and has done an admirable job of combining the meat dishes with the light

dessert, we sampled the café's rugalach, which I thought left an aftertaste, but my friend enjoyed, the raspberry linzer which had a

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city life

"Stir of Echoes"

SARAH P. CATE
Cultural Arts Editor

Stir of Echoes," the new psychological thriller, tells the story of Tom Witzky, played by Kevin Bacon, a Chicago telephone lineman. The story opens as Witzky's wife, well-performed by Kathryn Erbe, tells Witzky that she is unexpectedly pregnant with their second child. As he reveals his shock about the news, we learn that he is dissatisfied with the mundane life that he leads. This revelation later lends itself to the story, but it is awkwardly revealed at this point.


The story continues as Bacon and his wife go to a neighborhood keg party. Afterwards, Bacon's sister-in-law, Lisa, played by Illeana Douglas, offers to hypnotize the slightly intoxicated Bacon. He begrudgingly agrees, and is suddenly submerged into a world of horrific images and mystery. The audience actually experiences his mental processes, as he floats towards the hypnotic state. He sees a young woman in his home, but then he abruptly returns to full consciousness. His vision perturbs him to such a extent that he cannot fully function until he discovers the entire truth about the young woman. The story follows Bacon as he slowly uncovers the story of Debbie, a teenager who disappeared about a year prior to



Kevin Bacon stars in Stir of Echoes

the Witzky's arrival to the neighborhood. Only Bacon is privy to the flashing images that are a part of her story, such as seeing the world in crimson. His son, Jake, played by Zachary David Cope, can actually see Debbie, although he only knows that she is dead. Cope eerily speaks directly to the audience about Debbie, (played by Lisa Weil,) a cinematographic feat that lends to the mood of fear of the film.

Bacon shines in his lead role in "Stir of Echoes." He combines brash harshness with moments of sensitivity, melding the two opposites into a man faced with a tormenting mystery, while attempting to keep a foot in the real world. He does lend a sense of desire to be something better, despite the lack of dialogue about this ambition.

Echoes The supporting cast is also remarkably impressive. Despite Erbe's excellent performance, it is overshadowed both by Kevin Bacon's own well-delivered performance, as well as his fame. Cope, as Bacon's son, performs flawlessly and with an intensity incredible for a child actor. 

Train CD Review: Self-titled Debut Album

SARAH P. CATE
Cultural Arts Editor

Train's debut self-titled album features the hit "Meet Virginia," an instant classic in its own right. The rest of the CD, however, does not live up to the standard set by "Meet Virginia." What begins as a REM style of lyricism melded with a Bob Dylanesque style of performance degenerates into a melee of sentimentality and poor lyricism. The only saving grace of the album is the background music, which is beautifully performed, especially the acoustic guitar solos.

The first track on the CD is of course, "Meet Virginia", which is a ballad about a number of women; hence the long list of contradictions. Lyrics such as "she wears high heels when she exercises/ Loves babies and surprises," characterize this assortment of women who the writer is intrigued by. Patrick Monahan, the lead vocalist, has a Bob Dylanesque style of semi-chanting the lyrics in this song. The refrain is heartfully shouted out, but sadly he does not devote the same attention to the other songs as he does to "Meet Virginia."

The song "I Am", the third track on the album, very closely resembles REM's method of alliteration. It contains

images of disappointment, but somehow they fail to connote the real heart wrenching emotions that it wants to express. The third track on the album is the beginning of the descent into terribly worn out ideas and repetition. The song expresses loneliness and fear of rejection, but very backwardly and awkwardly.


The fourth track bears a close resemblance to an Elliot Smith style ballad, full of emotional remembrances. The track restored my faith in the band, with its incredible guitar arrangement. My previous impression was fully restored, however, with the fifth track, "Free." Train somehow resorts to cheesy rhymes for the lyrics, and horrible repetition for the refrain. "Eggplant" somehow reminds me of a Beatles song on psychedelic drugs, which is unfortunate, because it has some definite elements of lyrical harmony. These are quickly obliterated by the absurd lyrics, "eggplant and caviar for you."

The eighth track, "Idaho," was an absolute astonishment, blending the sounds of the band "Inasense," with the soulful performance methodology of Bruce Springsteen. The song "Days" that follows

expresses a type of loneliness usually only conveyed by Dave Matthews, but Train gets it right this time. Monahan belts out the heartfelt lyrics, this time convincingly. The last two tracks on the album, "Rat" and "Swaying", are both just mediocre, lacking any redeeming features, but devoid of any heinous faults.

The band was formed in 1994, with the collective belief that if you write and perform great songs, people will listen. It all began when Hotchkiss, the former lead singer of the Apostles, befriended Monahan. He and Monahan, together with the help of one guitar, played in every cafe in San Francisco. They found three new members, Jimmy Startford, Scott Underwood, and Charlie Colin, and spent the next two years playing and recording around the San Francisco area.

Train now opens for *Counting Crows*, *Better Than Ezra*, and *Blues Traveler*. Since its December 1998 release, the album has sold approximately 2000 copies a week.

The album was mixed by Counting Crows guitarist David Bryson, which would explain some of the overtones that were similar to Counting Crows. 

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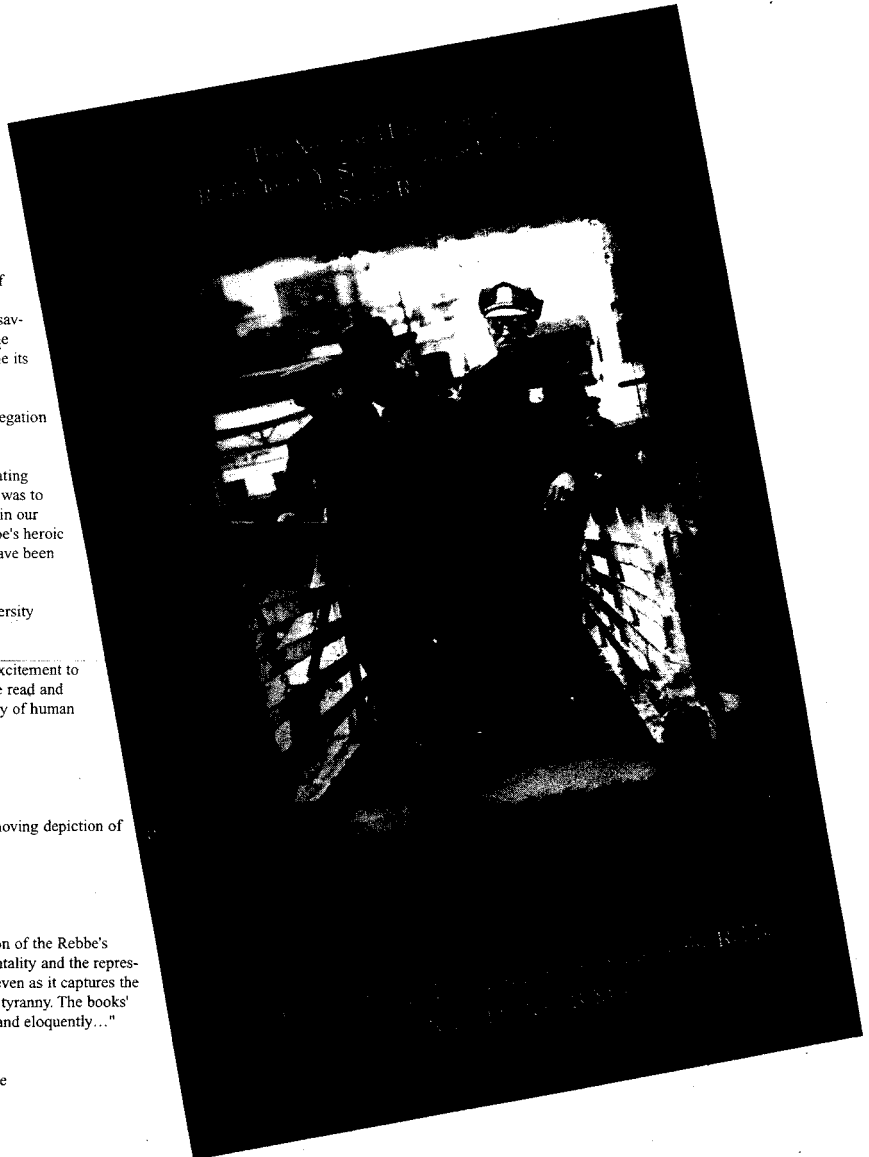
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My Life as an Intern

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where anything was," she continued.

A must in an internship is NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK! I spent the first half of one of my internships doing everything wrong, just because I was afraid that if I would ask I would look stupid. Believe me you look even more stupid when you pretend you know something when you really don't.

Unfortunately many interns will experience what I like to call: Intern Abuse. Internships usually require clerical work, work that will provide the student with an opportunity to learn something about the field they are interested in. But to many, an intern is viewed as an easy way to get work done, even though it should be the employee doing the work and not the inexperienced intern.

Although I have never experienced Intern Abuse, a wake up call I had to this was when a letter was distributed to all the supervisors at a recent internship of mine. The letter stated that by no means was an intern to run the employers' personal errands, carry all the heavy equipment needed for a shoot, and have them write their news report for them. I was shocked that a letter had to be given out to ensure this does not happen.

Through all the mental work you will do, and the insane hours you will put in, just realize that the more internship experience you have, the more likely it will be you will get a job. You may not know it, but while you are filing and typing, an employer is watching you. Observing an intern over time gives companies a realistic sense of how well the person will work in that organization.

One of the scariest things I read about being an intern, is that from the employ-

er's point of view the internship is like an extended interview. In most cases, where organizations do not offer a paying internship they often hire the intern as a permanent employee.

The bottom line is if you are in what you feel is a dead end internship, talk to someone or familiarize yourself with people in the area that most interests you, so you do not end up coming out of the internship with nothing at all. After all, internships are there for your benefit and nobody else's.

If you find that your resume is a blank page, I suggest going to the very helpful Career Services offices in Stern. There are many companies and organizations in their job selection book that are eager for interns, so seize the opportunity as soon as possible. An internship is a great way to learn more about career opportunities and professions...as well as how to make those infamous cups of coffee.

1991 Petition

continued from page 1

wrote Deena Cohen and Adrienne Goldfetter in their 1991 letter. "...Yet the apparent neglect to the Stern College facilities, and moreover, to the students themselves is embarrassing."

Today, of the four specific problems listed in that letter, only the SCW Student Council office request has been completely solved. However, it is an office that is shared by SSSB Student Council and Torah Activities Council. This is reminiscent of the SCW professors' offices that often accommodate up to four faculty members, which precludes the possibility of scheduling private meetings.

In 1997, Stern College opened Schottenstein Residence Hall in an effort to alleviate overcrowded dorms. However, Brookdale Hall still boasts disproportionate rooms with four students, and many of the independent apartments house six students,

frequently with two students inhabiting the living room.

Yeshiva University has recently purchased various properties in the vicinity of the midtown campus. At the time, the reason for the purchases was to improve conditions for midtown students. However, today those properties are not yet available. 239 East 34th Street was bought to be a theater, potentially solving the problem of a place for the student body to gather. Today the theater is purportedly under construction.

Many students voiced their disappointment regarding the administration's reaction to a legitimate student request: "His response is depressing for two reasons," said Esther Yehudis Zipris, an SCW senior. "The timely response that he claims he is working on is not so timely. It makes me feel my efforts are futile, and it makes me question if there ever will be an improvement in these circumstances. I wonder if in eight years students will still be grappling with the same issues."

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cils depend on enrollment levels, and

SCWSC Funding

continued from page 1

YC has more students, YC will also have, overall, more money. This money, however, is divided up over a greater number of people.

Contributions from alumni and the President's Circle make up the second source of student council funds. The President's Circle is a group of alumni who are dedicated to supporting undergraduate activities. Members of the President's Circle "have donated a certain amount of money over a period of time to the University...they underwrote a number of outstanding projects," said Dr. Nulman. The President's Circle has directly aided the student council by sponsoring shabbatonim, and also renovated the Brookdale Lounges and purchased computer equipment for the Observer.

The third source of student council income is the University itself. Dr. Nulman said that recently, the University has begun pouring in of dollars for student activities.

The "Metropolitan Experience" at SCW, which gives students the chance to enjoy cultural events in New

York City for free, is completely funded by the Office of Student Services. The University also subsidizes the Shabbat programming at YC and SCW so that staying in for Shabbat only costs a student five dollars. Dr. Nulman, whose office oversees the funding for the shabbatonim, estimates that the University places \$85,000-125,000 into Shabbat programming alone. Dr. Nulman also recalled that the Office of Student Services at YC had paid for a welcome back party catered by Dougie's at the beginning of a recent school year.

Besides paying for the "Metropolitan Experience" and the shabbatonim, the University also sponsors special YCSC and SCWSC events at the council members' request. According to Jonathan Mell, the Office of Student Services sponsored a Superbowl party that was held last year. "Student Services is always willing to help us out of a bind," he said. "They can't dish out a million and a half dollars, and I don't expect them to, but they'll help with the smaller events."

April Simon, President of the SCWSC, said that the Office of Student Services paid for a World Series party last year at SCW and will be co-sponsoring an upcoming Health Committee lecture.

Dr. Nulman emphasized here again that the University does not favor YCSC over SCWSC with distribution of funds for individual requests, but it also does not keep a scorecard on which student councils received help most recently. Dr. Nulman hopes to help the student councils even before they ask for University sponsorship. "I sent a note to my staff to ask for a list of activities that the students would like to do, so that we can underwrite them...I'm looking to spend money. If more students are participating in events, I'm a happy camper."

Some students are so worried about how they will afford personal expenses while they are at YU that they cannot enjoy their college experience. The Esther Zuroff Keren HaEzer Fund, an alumni fund, was established in 1987 to cover the personal financial needs (but not tuition costs) of students at Stern College, according to Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students. Mrs. Braun contacts alumni once a year by mail, seeking donations for this fund.

TAC will also donate money to this fund, according to Shlomit Zauderer, TAC President, who added that all TAC revenues go to tzedaka.

Bernard Pittinsky, Director of Finance at Yeshiva University, said that the Yeshiva University

alumni spotlight

The Observer is initiating a monthly column featuring YU alumni writers. In this endeavor the Observer hopes that increased communication between former students and those currently at Yeshiva University will augment the alumna-student relationship at SCW.

"The Heroic Struggle, The Arrest and Liberation Of Rabbi Yosef Y. Schneersohn"

by Rabbi Alter B. Metzger

Reviewed by

Bonita Nathan Sussman

SCW'74

Former Executive Editor of the Observer

I am very pleased and honored to review "The Heroic Struggle, the Arrest and Liberation of Rabbi Yosef Y. Schneersohn" by Rabbi Dr. Alter Ben Zion Metzger, my teacher, mentor and guide for over twenty-five years. Rabbi Metzger opened up worlds for me during my stay at Stern College.

In an article in the New York Times Magazine, "The Fight Against Hate, Why We Can't and Shouldn't Win It" (September 28, 1999), Mr. Andrew Sullivan explores the concept of hate in our society, by reflecting on the passing of hate crimes legislation, school yard shootings, Matthew Shepard, and genocide. He concludes by saying, "Hate is only foiled when the hated are immune to the bigot's power. A hater cannot psychologically wound, if a victim cannot be psychologically wounded.

And that immunity to hurt can never be given; it can only be achieved" (p.56).

"The Heroic Struggle," translated and adapted from the memoirs of the Rebbe, by Rabbi Dr. Alter B. Metzger is a testimony that "immunity to hurt can be achieved" and this immunity could serve as a model for Jews in any time or place who find themselves under intense psychological pressures caused by political, social and/or cultural anti-Semitism.

The Rebbe was arrested by the Soviets on June 14, 1927 (14th of Sivan 5687) and brought to Spalerno prison, a jail designed to intimidate prisoners into testimony. In the first 25 hours, he was subjected to "ruthless people, callous, capable of shedding human blood. He heard screams of the dying and the derisive laughter of bloodthirsty sadists" (p.107) He was told from the start that he was scheduled for execution (p.97) and listened to the sadistic pleasures of an executioner watching his shot victims writhe in pain, collapse and die slowly with the aid of a kick from his foot (p.97).

Throughout the entire ordeal, which included listening to executions, the Rebbe

remained steadfast to Judaism and thought, "It is not appropriate, nor can I permit myself at this time to yield to thoughts of despondency. This is not the place for sadness or anxiety... Yet at the same time, I must be fully aware both intellectually and emotionally of the details of G-d's constant Providence, a consciousness of the Divine that can only be evoked by bitterness of soul and retrospective reflection upon the sacred countenance of my father, the Rebbe of blessed memory." (p.79)

Sentiments like these are expressed throughout the book and reflect the way in which the Rebbe defiantly handled the confrontational hatred. It is clear as well that the Rebbe, in a time of depression, fights internally to feel happiness. The book ends happily when the Jewish world bands together to save the Rebbe and through political machinations, the Rebbe is set free.

The "Heroic Struggle" is fast reading and suspenseful as the reader waits to find out what will happen to the Rebbe in Salerno. The book is also filled with ironies. The reader discovers that Nachmanson, a cruel Soviet investigator, was born from a childless couple after

receiving a bracha from the Rebbe's father (137).

The pictures include photographs of the Rebbe, his wife and of some of his manuscripts as well as clippings of Western Union telegrams to the Joint Distribution Committee requesting their intervention on the Rebbe's behalf. Newspaper clippings from the NY Times, Jewish Daily Bulletin, Togblatt and Forwards are invaluable and interesting additions. The vignettes of Chaya Mussia and her young husband, Menachem Mendel, provide an interesting twist.

The "Historical Background" section written by Dr. William W. Brickman, brings to light a very interesting period in our history, and raises more questions about the history and motivations of the Jewish Communists.

Rabbi Yosef Y. Schneersohn's courage and heroism can serve as a model for Jews throughout the ages, who face the psychological impact of hatred and bigotry.

Bonita Nathan Sussman is a graduate of Stern College (1974). While attending SCW, she was the Executive Editor of the Observer and for the past ten

years holds the position of Editor of the "Jewish Voice of Staten Island," Staten Island's only Jewish newspaper. She received her first Master's degree from Columbia University in 1977 in Chassidus from the department of religion for a thesis entitled "The Concepts of Two Souls in Tanya." She received a second Master's Degree in Jewish Education with a certificate in administration and supervision. Currently she is the Coordinator of the Staten Island HIV C.A.R.E. Network, a consortium of health care and social service providers who work with HIV and AIDS. She was recently appointed to a committee of the Stern College Alumni Board. She is the wife of Rabbi Gerald Sussman and has four children Yonatan, Eliana, Yeshaya and Odelia. ♪

The Heroic Struggle: Translated and Adapted from the Memoirs of the Rebbe By Rabbi Dr. Alter B. Metzger Kehot Publishing Society Brooklyn, New York, 1999 344 pgs.



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Fairies and Mermaids Run Wild in Dr. Carole Silver's New Book

Observer Staff

Elves and Goblins come alive in "Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and the Victorian Consciousness," written by Dr. Carole Silver, SCW English professor and Chair of the Humanities division.

Silver, who specializes in the Victorian Era within the field of English literature, began teaching a course in Victorian literature in the 1980's that inspired her to write "Strange and Secret People."

"My field is the Victorian Era, and ever since I was a child I have been interested in fairy tales," Silver said.

Her book examines the fairies, goblins, mermaids, elves and other creatures that the British fervently believed in, dating from the 1790's to the early 20th century. "It hadn't been done before, and that is what was exciting for me," Silver stated. "I was able to research a topic that was never explored before, and I am pleased to have done this. I had to find all the materials on my own."

She believes that the concept of fairies is embedded within many poems and stories. "We have lost our knowledge of this concept, and this book will help restore people's belief," Silver said. Throughout the book, she depicts this Victorian belief that still may be discovered in British culture.

The New York Times positively reviewed Silver's book, which is selling impressively in the United States and throughout the world—not an uncommon achievement for a member of the SCW faculty.

"I am very proud of Dr. Silver, and I am very delighted to have this wonderful new contribution to our school," Ethel Orlean, Assistant SCW Dean, commented. "We have some very talented staff at our school."

Silver's students have reacted posi-

tively to her book. "This accomplishment does not surprise me in the least bit," said Tammy Landa, an SCW alumna and a student of Silver's in the '70s. "Among the student body in my time at SCW, Dr. Silver was infamous for her high expectations from the students. She has always been looked upon as a brilliant individual, and this book really plunges into something unusual."

Silver has authored a number of other books, including *Kind words: A Thesaurus of Euphemisms*, written with her SCW colleague, Dr. Judith Neuman, as well as many essays throughout the years. Her other articles include a paper expounding on violence and sexuality in children's literature in the 1890's and various papers on Victorian poetry and literature.

Silver says that she will probably continue to write about fairies since she left many loose ends in the book. Right now, however, she is busy writing an essay about certain painters who will contribute to an art exhibition scheduled for next year. Since she lives in South Africa during part of the year, one of her aspirations is to write about 19th century South African women novelists.

Silver, who earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University, says that she loves working at Stern and plans to stay here for a while. "Despite the salary, I enjoy my students, colleagues and being in New York," she said. "I also love being a part of a vital and unusual university."

"Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and the Victorian Consciousness,"

by Dr. Carole Silver

272 pages

January 1999

Oxford University

Art Controversy

continued from page 1

Supporters of the Brooklyn Museum of Art condemned what they viewed as Giuliani's violation of the First Amendment. The Associated Press quoted Floyd Abrams, counsel for the museum, as saying that Giuliani's attempt to cut financial support from the museum "is a First Amendment catastrophe...a form of destruction of free expression."

"It is no less evil than burning a painting," he said. Edward H. Able, Jr., President and CEO of the American Association of Museums, also issued criticism of Giuliani's stance, which was printed in the website ArtNewspaper.com: "Mayor Giuliani has a record of strong and steady support for New York's renowned cultural institutions, particularly its world-class museums....His position on this matter, therefore, is distressing. To restrict a museum's ability to do so strikes at the heart of its mission of service to the community and its role in helping people understand and value who they are, where they came from, and where they are going."

Susan Gardner, Professor of Art at SCW, viewed the "Sensation" exhibit and believes that the public and the media misconstrued its message. Professor Gardner said that Chris Ofili, one of the artists of the exhibit, is a British Nigerian, so his artworks show strong African influences. Most of the controversy surrounding the exhibit has focused on Ofili's work because of his use of dung on a religious symbol. In African art, however,

ding is considered a perfectly reasonable material for artworks and is a symbol of fertility. The overall theme of Ofili's painting, according to Professor Gardner, is fertility. The combination of dung and the image of Mary is also a symbol for the combination of the African and Western facets in Ofili's own life. Ofili is a practicing Roman Catholic and used the image of Mary because it is central to his life, not because he wanted to denigrate Catholicism. "The issue that has not been addressed is the racial issue, the fact that the Madonna is black," adds Professor Gardner. Some of the strong reaction from the Catholic community, she explains, comes from anger at Ofili for usurping the Madonna image by giving her an African, and not Caucasian, appearance.

Professor Gardner also explained that the works of Damien Hirst, one of which portrayed a dissected pig in formaldehyde, tried to "get people to rethink issues of death, such as our role in death. If we did not consume these animals they would not be dead." She added that "These pieces sound revolting when you read about them, but they are handsome...the workings of an animal do have an aesthetic quality to them."

The widespread belief that this type of "shocking" artwork is new phenomenon is false, according to Professor Gardner. In the 1920s, a group of young artists called the "Dada" raised eyebrows with their works. These artists "were born out of World War I anger...they courted the absurd...they were artists thumbing their noses at bourgeoisie society." She said that the artists of the

"Sensation" exhibit share a similar desire to make society question the protocols by which they operate."

Professor Gardner's attempts to shut down the museum for good. "Giuliani is trying to close down the museum because he wants to punish them for not adhering to what he views as art," she explained. Professor Gardner added that other New York City museums were slow to issue statements against Giuliani because they are awaiting approval for city money and are scared. "He's very vindictive, and people have knuckled under for fear of losing funding and support," she said.

Professor Gardner entered the exhibit with negative preconceived notions.

"I thought I would hate it," she said. But by the end of the exhibit she felt that the experience had been thought provoking, although not all of the artworks were extraordinary. "Even if I went to the show and hated it because it was absolute garbage," she added, "I would still support it's right to be seen because I feel that it's a First Amendment issue."

She encouraged her Innovations class at SCW to view the exhibit "not because I'm endorsing the show, but because I want them to think," she said. "...It's as rich of an opportunity as any to examine all many issues: the motivation of the artist, whether limits should be set, and who can become the art critic. In class we're talking about creativity and innovation. The point of having the class view this exhibit is so that they can see this innovation, and carefully analyze their positive or negative responses."

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Upcoming Shabbatonim

Oct. 29-30 Parshat Vayera

Dina Schuler in Residence

Nov. 5-6 Parshat Chayei Sarah

SCW Business Society & Historical Society

Nov. 12-13 Parshat Toldot

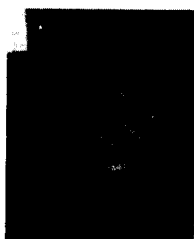
Alan Schacter in Residence

Nov. 19-20 Parshat V'Lech Lecha

Nov. 26-27 Parshat Ki Tavo

Nov. 26-27 Parshat Ki Tavo

Presidential Messages



Shlomit Zauderer
TAC President

I must say that the past few weeks have flown by. I hope all of you had a good time at the TAC Chagiga during "Ohr"entation. The notebook, lanyard and Raffle sales were a smashing success. We raised money for Ohel Family and Children services and other Tzedakah organizations that we will be able to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

All the patting on the back aside there are several issues I would like to address while I have your attention for a little while. Imagine for a minute that you are an explorer. You have discovered a new country but you don't speak the language of the natives. You fruitlessly convey to them who you are but they just stare back at you with blank faces. It disturbs me to hear that some of the students feel left out of the

Stern experience. We learn in Pirkei Avos Perek Daled Mishna Chuf Zayin "Do not look at the jug, but at what is in it." This Mishna brings to mind the words of Atticus Finch from "To Kill a Mockingbird," "You can never understand a man till you put his shoes on and walk around in them for while." Each woman in Stern faces their own challenges and fights their own battles. You and I are not in their shoes, we couldn't possibly know what they face. Each year we daven the same Tefillos of Rosh Hashanah, but do we really take them to heart? I implore every one of you to please treat every student like the Tzelem Elohim they are. Imagine if you were instead of being an explorer you were a new student in Stern. Imagine that.

If you were invited to speak at the White House I'm sure you would be excited. You would prepare for weeks, practice your speech on all your friends. You make sure to look your best. You get up before all the dignitaries and the President. You thank them for inviting you and as you begin your much labored over speech half the audience begins talking to the person sitting next to them. You speak louder and try to make a few jokes but their voices only get louder till you cannot hear yourself think.

Now put yourself in the shoes of the teachers here in Stern. In Perek Aleph of Pirkei Avos, Mishna Daled states "You shall become dusty in the dust of their feet (Tzaddikim), and you shall drink in their words thirstily." There is a wealth of knowledge out there is, all we have to do is listen. Please join me in drinking in their words they have so much to offer us.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped out these past few weeks handing out flyers, selling raffle tickets and just letting me vent on their shoulder! I would like to apologize for the lateness of the washing cups. We ran out and were waiting for more to come in. For those of you who have yet to receive one you can pick them up in the Beit Midrash in the school building. I hope you like the TAC Tzedakah boxes. (Those are the little clocks you found in your rooms!) As I said before there are so many organizations that need help, we in can all make a difference.

Finally I would like to thank one of our Uptown counterparts, SOY lead by Aton Holzer, for all the hard work they have put into arranging shiurim with Rav Tendler, Rav Hochberg and Rav Schachter. I'll see you in class!



April Simon
SCWSC President

Before becoming too involved with class readings, writing papers, or studying for midterms, take one step back and think. Analyze your true purpose, your ultimate reason for attending Stern College. Is it to receive a liberal arts degree so that you may be able to retain a highly competitive job one day, or do you seek something more? Are you content with solely working toward an academic purpose throughout your years in college, or can you articulate a deeper goal?

Your answers to these questions are probably leaning toward the more academic side of the college experience. It is admirable to attend Stern College in order to further your knowledge of Judaic and Secular Studies and not focus on having fun. But by looking for a more academically oriented lifestyle, you ultimately will deny yourself the personal growth you can achieve in Stern.

Stern College has so many programs and activities that can appeal to each one of you. From the Dramatics Society to the American Management Association, the Equestrian Club to the Chesed Committee. There are countless ways for you to be more than just a classroom dweller. Take advantage of all that is here. Your college years will pass you by before you even have a chance to notice and you will miss out on the most unique opportunity of your life.

Let it happen, walk away from the schoolwork occasionally and allow yourself to take a deep breath before the tumults of adult life truly begin. Taking a break from your academics can benefit you socially, emotionally, and can help you mature into who you really are. Experiencing the magic of a Broadway show, feeling the emotions of doing Bikur Cholim, or letting yourself dance to swing music with the Fun Club, can let you grow in ways as meaningful as solving a mathematical equation or discovering the meaning of a Ramban.

Ultimately, college is not only for academic growth but also for social and personal growth. By graduating with a balance of both elements, your graduation day will be immeasurably richer. The true diploma from college, the one that you will refer to at all times, will come from within yourself.

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Faculty Members Declare Disappointment in Administration

RIVKI BLECH
Staff Writer

The discontent among the faculty of SCW for YU President Rabbi Norman Lamm's broken promises of salary increases has come to a head this year. In an open letter sent last month, faculty members expressed their great disappointment in Dr. Lamm for not following through with his commitment dating back four years ago to increase their yearly salary raises. Dr. Lamm had told the faculty that there would be a marked effort to bring the YU faculty salaries up to par with other colleges of similar size. As a symbol of this commitment, the pool available for salary increments was then raised to eight percent, which was distributed among the faculty at the discretion of the deans.

But as the years went by, rather than the pool continuing to increase, as was implied by Dr. Lamm, it began to decrease each subsequent year: the original 8 percent shrunk to 6 percent, then to 4 percent, and finally this year, to its lowest level of a mere 3 percent. Meanwhile, faculty members have been putting in extra hours in order to develop various school programs, including Honors programs, for which Dr. Lamm praised them last year.

"We were led to believe we'd be recognized with the increments, but we were faced with a lower pool, which was demoralizing," an anonymous Stern faculty member declared. Another professor added: "It left us with a sense of betrayal."

Many other universities have a salary pattern wherein the more years a professor has been with the school, the more money they make. However, Yeshiva University has never adopted such a policy.

In a letter written on behalf of the entire faculty addressed to President Lamm, 25 - 30 professors collectively voiced their discontent. "Our letter expresses great disappointment and is a polite reminder that when a person in a position of authority makes a commitment to people who need to trust his word, there will be disappointment when an ongoing recognition of that commitment is not made," the anonymous faculty member stated. The following is the letter printed in its full text:

September 14, 1999

President Norman Lamm
Yeshiva University
500 West 185 Street
New York, New York 10033

Dear President Lamm:

As the 1999-2000 academic year gets underway, we want to congratulate you on maintaining Yeshiva's position as one of the nation's top fifty universities. We look forward to continuing progress under your leadership. At the same time, however, we must express our disappointment in the inadequate salary increments received by the faculty this year, as we were encouraged to believe that Yeshiva was finally

beginning to honor its long-time commitment to bring our salaries into line with those of comparable institutions. Our disappointment is especially intense after this past year, during which so many of us worked so hard in developing the new honors programs for the undergraduate colleges.

At a time when Yeshiva is blessed with high enrollments and relative prosperity, the failure to recognize the contributions of its dedicated, but underpaid faculty sends a distressing message to the entire community.

Respectfully,

Members of the Faculties of
Yeshiva College and Stern
College for Women
(see attached list of signatures)

cc. Mr. David S. Gottesman,
Chairman of the Board of
Trustees

Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice
President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Sheldon Socol, Vice
President for Business Affairs

In addition, review committees comprised of faculty members from numerous other schools were brought in last year to evaluate Yeshiva University. These committees unanimously concluded that YU faculty members are overworked and underpaid. They also recommended the hiring of additional faculty members to ease the burden on the existing faculty, reductions of

course loads and higher salaries. "In the face of this, the pool was [still] reduced," a Stern professor commented. "There is hardly a member of this faculty that does not do considerably more than showing up for class," one professor pointed out.

When asked if these faculty members would go on strike if their disappointment was not properly acknowledged, another professor replied that it is not a consideration. "Striking jeopardizes the students and invades the classroom, and that's not what we're all about," the professor said. A colleague added this assurance: "We don't want to make the students suffer for our misery."

According to faculty members, the administration has not yet offered an explanation as to why the pool is continuously being lowered. While Dr. Lamm is presently unavailable for comment, Dean Karen Bacon attempted to shed some light on this controversial issue, although she is not ultimately responsible for action on behalf of the administration on this matter.

"It's not that the administration doesn't want to give faculty members higher salary increases," she explained, "rather, they are unable to do so at this time due to a deficit in funds. The amount of incoming funds the school is taking in is considerably less than the amount involved in operating costs."

Although the school does receive a large sum of

money in endowments, these funds are not always appropriated for immediate use. Also, the cost of education is more than the cost of tuition. But students paying more than \$20,000 tuition find it hard to believe that a school that has a considerably high enrollment and has also been endowed with \$638,911,000 this year, according to "Fact File: 506 College and University Endowments," of The Chronicle of Higher Education, cannot afford to give its dedicated faculty adequate salary raises. "I think it's ridiculous," said Orly Elisha, Sophomore Class President. "I want to know where all the tuition goes. It seems that they would have enough to pay the teachers - I believe that this is an excuse, and the teachers should fight for their rights."

The faculty believes there should have been a way to keep up the increment momentum, but the University apparently decided that there was not. "There is an acknowledgment that the full professor's salary does need an adjustment," Dean Bacon stated. However, it is not that simple to implement a plan. "It's a complicated process involving the operating costs deficit." "To say that the increase was disappointing, absolutely," Dean Bacon concluded. "The faculty was disappointed, the University was disappointed - we all rejoice when the faculty gets increases." □

Arab Boycott of Disney Averted

LISA HELPRIN
Staff Writer

In response to a last-minute compromise between Israel, Disney, and Arab-American and Muslim-American groups, any direct reference to Jerusalem as Israel's capital was dropped from the Israel exhibit at Disney's Epcot Center Millennium Village.

To usher in the new millennium, Disney welcomed 24 nations to display exhibits representing their respective countries. The Israel exhibit was financed at a cost of eight million dollars, paid in part by Israel and in part by Disney. The problems began when Arab-American and Muslim-American groups threatened to boycott all Disney products in reaction to a possible portrayal of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Disney yielded to the threatened boycott, much to the vocalized dismay of Jewish groups such as B'nai Brith, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and others.

Disney, through its public relations department, has proclaimed in numerous other news publications that it is not a political entity, but rather an entertainment conglomerate. They were therefore anxious to settle the matter as expeditiously as possible and to contain any negative press from the incident.

"The notion that Disney would change an exhibit because of Arab protest isn't a pleasant thought," commented Rabbi

Kanarfogel, SCW's head of Judaic Studies. "However, in terms of long-term damage, a compromise was already reached, and the Israeli press has reported that people are impressed with the exhibit. If it is impressive and Israel is being represented, I don't think it will have any long-term damage. We always have to be vigilant that boycotts against Israel don't come into play, but on the same token, it doesn't appear this will be any real cause for alarm."

The proposed Disney boycott is not the first time the Arab-American and Muslim-American groups have tried to use economic pressure on large corporations. Recently, these groups threatened to boycott Burger King for opening a franchise in Maale Adumim (of the West Bank); Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, for purchasing water from the Golan Heights; and Sprint telephone company for its use of a picture of The Dome of the Rock in one of its ads. Burger King is reported to have canceled its agreement, Ben & Jerry's canceled its contract, and Sprint abandoned the ad.

In light of these recent events, many Jewish groups have been on high alert to make sure that the boycott movement does not escalate, and maintain that boycotts such as these are not acceptable to the Jewish community. □



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