



The Yeshiva University
Observer
The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

November 23, 1999

Volume XLIII Number 3

14 Kislev 5760

Netanyahu Speaks to YU Students

RACHEL ELBAUM
News Editor

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed that the land of Israel unites Jews worldwide during his appearance last week at Yeshiva University, despite the attention in the media to problems between the different factions of Jews both in Israel and the diaspora.

"If the State of Israel does not exist, then the



YU President Dr. Norman Lamm with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Jewish people will not exist," he said the same day while speaking to the honors program at Stern College for Women.

He compared the Jews to the societies of India and China, the two other oldest surviving societies. However, he also noted the disparity in numbers between the nations. The Chinese and Indians number well over one billion people each, while the Jews number only 12 million. He attributed this not only to the Holocaust but also to the devastating effects of assimilation and intermarriage.

Netanyahu pointed to the importance of "cementing Jewish identity in Israel and world wide" as "the key to ensuring our common Jewish future." At his appearances in SCW and at Lamport Auditorium later that day, he encouraged students to move to Israel, noting that Israel is a small enough country for each person to make a difference in

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Hitler's Silver Auctioned on Internet

Observer Staff

One hundred and twenty five pieces of Adolf Hitler's monogrammed silverware, including a teapot, cocktail shaker, and cigarette box went up for bids for the first time on the Internet last week.

Discovered in Hitler's German headquarters in Munich by an American G.I. after WWII, the items were brought back to the soldier's home in Georgia as war souvenirs. They were passed down through the family and recently sold to Great Gatsby's, an auction house in Atlanta, that decided to put the items up for auction on the Internet. This Internet auction is a first for Great Gatsby, featuring the objects for viewing and bidding online between November 11 and the 18th. Hitler's belongings were among other unique items in the auction such as five original works by Pablo Picasso and the original 16 mm masterprint of the Oscar winning movie, "Let it Be" by the Beatles.

SCW parent Keir Beard is the advertising consultant for the



"A Jew, it was an especially interesting experience to hold the items and see that Hitler had missed his hair beard."

and auction house in Atlanta and was commissioned to design the direct mail piece announcing the auction of the various items. He personally reviewed the silver before designing the card.

"The teapot and cocktail shaker are engraved with an eagle holding a wreath in its claws. In the center of the wreath is a swastika, with an "A" on the left of the wreath and an "H" on the right. A relief of the same symbol with the monogram is on the cutlery handles and cigarette box," explained Beard. The price of the cigarette box has been estimated at \$4000 to \$6000.

Although Beard felt it was his professional responsibility to advertise his client's wares, he felt shocked when examining Hitler's personal belongings. "As a Jew, it was an especially hair-raising experience to hold the knife and fork that Adolf Hitler held himself," he recounts. "When I held the silverware in my hands, I realized that the Jews, just like the silver, still remain, yet Hitler is long gone."

Jailed Jews Fight to Remain Jewish

RACHEL S. SALAMON
Executive Editor

Denying the existence of Jewish criminals does not make them go away. Martin J. Hochberg, the Honorary National Chairman for Jewish Prisoner Services International (JPSI), spoke to SCW students last Tuesday about the plight of Jewish inmates during a criminology course taught by Dr. Sidney Langer.

"We do not condone the crimes," Hochberg emphasized. "But forgive, support them and let them live a life. This is what Jews should be about - we have to help each other because no one else will. [JPSI] is helping souls go through their trials and tribulations."

Hochberg was invited to speak by Dr. Susan Prager, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology at SCW. "I have a relative who is incarcerated," Prager explained, "and I reacted as everyone else does - it doesn't happen to Jews, it's a shonda. When her relative who is at a state facility in Coldwater, Michigan, expressed his dismay at the lack of access to Jewish items and gatherings compared to the abundance of religious opportunities available to Christian inmates, JPSI was contacted. They intervened on behalf of the Jewish prisoners, whereupon gatherings for prayer were permit-



Shira Graber with Dr. Langer and Mr. Hochberg

ted at his facility.

There are more than 10,000 Jewish prisoners serving time in the United States today, though the rate of recidivism is unusually low. "We don't know the population," Prager admitted, "therefore we cannot get an accurate sample." But regardless of the specific numbers, most are neglected by the larger Jewish community, their own immediate communities, and most tragically, their families. As such, JPSI attempts to compensate by acting as an advocate for prisoners' rights and providing inmates with religious materials and mentor programs.

Golda Fleischman, a junior and president of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society at SCW, expressed her mixed feelings on the issue of Jewish prisoners. "Something should be done," Fleischman stated, "but it should be done silently, not in the public eye. Try to negotiate with the warden to make changes, but avoid making it a political issue."

Similarly, Esther Azar, an SCW senior who attended the lecture, believes in the efforts of organizations like JPSI, but she feels that Jews are being portrayed in a negative light, which may create more problems than they solve. "Although I believe that [Jewish inmates] should have rights in general," she said, "the more separate they are, the more Anti-Semitism there will be at the prisons."

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SSSB Dean Announces August Retirement

Observer Staff

Effective August 2000, SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg has announced his retirement. A search committee to determine who will fill the shoes of the record setting dean who increased enrollment from 250 students to 600 has yet to be established.

"I'm retiring - that is not resigning," asserts Dean Nierenberg, who maintains that his retirement is completely voluntary. "At my age, it is time," he continued. "[Sy Syms] was probably the highlight of my career. I was pleased to build the Sy Syms School and help enrollment. The students, the faculty, the administration have all become good friends [of mine]. It was easy to get up in the morning and go to work. It wasn't a 'job.'"

Faculty members and administration believe Dean Nierenberg's retirement to be a great loss for the

university. "He's done a lot to improve the standards, assisting students in career opportunities," remarked Accounting Professor David Hornung. "The growth of student enrollment at the business school is testimony to his successful endeavors. He will be missed, and we all hope that he enjoys his retirement."

"I think he did a meaningful job and established a solid ground," said Dean Ethel Orlian. "He is probably proud of his accomplishments. I don't think he has any other plans right now."

Nierenberg has not announced any plans for the future. "I am not taking another job," he said, explaining that he would like to spend time with his seven grandchildren. "My wife and I have been thinking seriously about my retirement," said Nierenberg, explaining that he

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NEWS BRIEFS

by Rachel Elbaum

Israel:

The FBI is warning of the possibility of terrorist attacks by Islamic extremists and fanatical Christian groups in Jerusalem around the turn of the century. The 35-page report issued by the FBI's Domestic Terror Analysis Unit warns "several religious cults have already made inroads into Israel, apparently in preparation for what they believe to be the endtimes."

The High Court of Israel is due to issue a decision on the release of three of the six Iraqi nationals who have been held in prison since their defection over five years ago. They would be released to live under supervised conditions on kibbutzim. The detainees petitioned the High Court of Justice in 1997 asking for refugee status. However, Justice Ministry officials have refused to order their release, reportedly because of

fears that they may conduct espionage activities.

Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is likely to occur sooner rather than later, possibly by next April, according to Israeli officials quoted in the latest issue of a London-based newsletter.

An intelligence report noted that Hizbullah is planning a "devastating attack" on positions controlled by Israel or the South Lebanese Army, and pointed out that Hizbullah had obtained surface-to-air missiles from Syria, as well as Katyusha rockets that can reach the northern outskirts of Haifa.

National:

First Lady Hillary Clinton drew criticism from the Jewish Community for her silence in Ramallah when the wife of Yasser Arafat charged that Israel used gases against Palestinians, causing cancer among women and children.

Mrs. Arafat also claimed that Israeli occupation left Palestinians with contaminated land and water. In response to Giuliani's criticism, Clinton asserted that her trip to Ramallah was part of an American effort to promote peace in the region.

The Anti-Defamation League is protesting the planned auction of silver pieces believed to have belonged to Hitler, that now belong to a Georgia family. A cigarette case, lobster forks and ice cream spoons are among the dozen items to be auctioned. Hitler's personal phone book is planned to be auctioned at a San Francisco auction house. The ADL claims that they would have no qualms if the pieces were housed in a museum.

The United States House of Representatives recently passed a resolution permitting the Supreme Court to allow prayers and invocations before

public school sporting events. Jewish groups were quick to assail the resolution.

A Skidmore College administrator admitted that members of her staff had collected 1,200 copies of the student newspaper from the campus center because she feared an article about vandalism seemingly directed to homosexual students would offend prospective students and their parents at a college open house.

has a financial interest. Giuliani said that he plans to appeal.

At a recent auction of Marilyn Monroe's belongings at Christie's, her Jewish objects sold for more than \$153,500. The highest priced was her certificate of conversion, obtained before marrying playwright Authur Miller, which fetched \$90,500, her siddur for \$46,000 and her Chanukah menorah, which brought in \$17,000.

Local:

A Federal judge held that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani violated the First Amendment when he cut public funding to the Brooklyn Museum of Art for refusing to cancel the "Sensation" exhibition, which he labeled offensive. Giuliani claims that the museum acted unethically by raising money for the exhibition from people who

The UJA Federation campaign recently announced that they are close to reaching an all time record of \$790 million in donations. Its New York campaign for 2000, which began in July, is 15.5% ahead of last year. Donations to charities nationwide rose 16% last year. A nation-wide study by the Chronicle of Philanthropy said the increase in contributions is a result of donors who have benefited from a thriving stock market.



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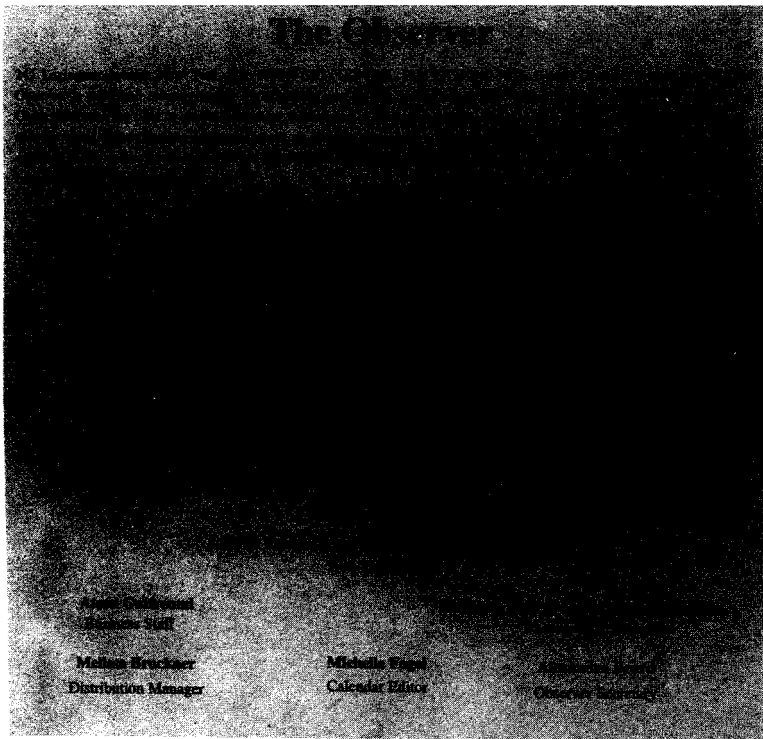
ALEXANDRA BEARD
Staff Writer

The Observer has taken another step in moving into the 21st century. Starting in December, www.yuobserver.com will be the official website for the official newspaper of Stern College for Women.

"Now that everything in the world is out on the web, we felt that we needed a site as well," comments Lauren Krieger, one of the editors of the website. Lauren and her co-editor Eleanor Scuts have been busy revamping the old site which, due to its complicated link, was rarely visited.

The updated site can be easily accessed to both present Stern students and alumni. Current Observer articles as well as an archive section of past articles will be featured on www.yuobserver.com. "Hopefully, the new website will be a success and students will fully utilize it to access the latest news from Stern 24 hours a day," concludes Krieger, with a sense of optimism.

The Observer would like to extend heartfelt condolences to Dean David Himler associate dean of students at Yeshiva College, on the loss of his mother, Shirley Himler, who passed away Friday, November 5th. May he be comforted among the mourners of Tzion.



SCW Calendar

November:

23- Torah U'Madda Shiur with Dr. David, 8 PM on the Main Campus.
 Chabad Club Shiur, 7 PM every Tuesday, Rm. 301
 Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday leaves at 7 PM to Beth Israel Medical Center. See Leora Berkovitch for details.
 Shirmit HaLashon, 10:30 PM every Tuesday in the Brookdale and Schottenstein Beit Medrash. See Tamar Mosak for more details.

24- Shiur with Moshe Meir Weiss during Club Hour on the Midtown Campus.
 Chess Club at 9-10 PM every Wednesday.
 Shiur by Rav Hochberg, 8 PM every Wednesday, Rm. 301. See Shlomti Zauderer for details.

25- Moach Ve'Lev Shiur by various Roshei Yeshiva given every Thursday. Flyers to follow. See Shlomti Zauderer for details.

29- Sternbucks Event, 8 PM. Flyers to follow.
 SSSB Reception with Lehman Bros., 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.
 Swimming, women's only, every Monday. Vans leave from Brookdale and Schottenstein at 7:30 and 8:45 PM, returning at 9 and 10 PM.
 Parsha Shiur every Monday night, see Judy Horn for details.

30- Computer Science Club Event- Course in Computer Buying, 7-8 PM. Flyers to Follow.
 Lecture by Rav Rosensweig, 8:15 PM on the Midtown Campus. Flyers to follow.

December:

1- Uplink to the World of Communications Event on the Midtown Campus. Flyers to follow.
 OPCS- Careers in Political Science, 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.
 Torah U'Madda Shiur, 8 PM on the Main Campus.

2- Metropolitan Experience trip to Scarlet Pimpernel, 8 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

3-4 29th Street Shul Shabbaton. Sign up in the cafeteria.

5- Debate Society Home Tournament, 11:30 AM on the Midtown Campus. See Aura Brandwein for more details.

J.P. Dunner Political Science Society Speaker from the National Labor Committee, 8-10 PM on the Midtown Campus. Flyers to follow. See Golda Fleischman for details.

6- Chanukah Chagigah. Flyers to follow.

7- SAGA Dinner Speaker, 7 PM. Flyers to follow. See Amira Saltzman for more details.
 Metropolitan Experience trip to Ibsen at the Pearl Theatre Company, 8 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

8- TAC Chanukah Chagigah Adopt-A-Bubby Program. Flyers to follow.
 Literary Society Book Club Event, 8-9 PM. Flyers to follow.

9- Annual YU Chanukah Concert, 7:45 PM on the Main Campus.
 Political Science Society attending National Labor Committee Demonstration. Flyers to follow.

10-11- Senior Class Shabbaton. Sign up in the cafeteria.

12- Metropolitan Experience trip to Klezmer Madness at Merkin, 8 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

13- Stern College Blood Drive. Flyers to follow.
 Metropolitan Experience trip to Pottery at Our Name is Mud, 8 PM. See Zelda Braun for details.

14- TAC Event, 8 PM. Flyers to follow.

15- Alumni Awards Program. Flyers to follow.
 Computer Science Club Event- Artificial Intelligence, 8:30 PM. Flyers to follow.
 "Rabbi Jehiel Jacob Weinberg" lecture by Dr. Marc Shapiro, 8 PM on the Main Campus.

20- Computer Science Club Event- Lynux, 8:15 PM. Flyers to follow.
 OPCS Workshop in Jewish Community Work, 8-10 PM on the Main Campus.

21- Torah U'Madda Shiur, 8 PM on the Main Campus.

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 mfo-gel@gmail.yu.edu.

From the Editors:

Dying to be Thin?

Michelle Blum
 Editor-in-Chief

Due to one, more in the very recent past, taken by SCW students who were curious to find out what "fellow student" as the flyer read, had battled it out with anorexia nervosa. I waited patiently in my seat next to my roommate, wondering which student in the room was strong enough to speak to her peers about the most difficult memories of her life-threatening illness. Finally one stood up. I had seen around campus, and I waited for her to introduce the speaker. But she didn't. Because she was the "fellow student" who had dealt with anorexia. In my naivete, I assumed that since I had seen her in the elevator, since I had seen in her the cafeteria, she could not have dealt with such a deadly disease. How could someone so composed have dealt with something so terrifying? But she had. And what followed was a harrowing hour long talk about the life of a recovering anorexic.

I do not wish to summarize Shulie. Gertel's words here, for an article covering Gertel's talk is included in this issue. It takes strength of character to survive anorexia, even more to come out on top by speaking publicly to people

you will see everyday. As that remarkable strength and determination, Gertel quickly overcame her anorexia, speaking clearly and strongly about her experience. She described the life of a normal middle school student, and gradually led into her early symptoms. Members of the audience gasped, and some cried as Gertel vividly led the discussion through very turbulent periods of her battle with the disease. She never once lost her composure, and answered the audience's questions with delicacy and tact.

Midway into her talk, Gertel played a video of herself after she had lost one third of her original weight. Nothing was as moving as the difference between the healthier woman before the audience, and the near skeleton on the screen. But Gertel continued on, patiently responding to the audience and giving answers to the endless barrage of questions at the end of her talk.

I would like to publicly thank Gertel for her efforts in raising awareness about the disease.

Thank you, Shulie.

Losing "Conscience"ness

RACHEL S. SALAMON
 Executive Editor

Imagine that you are standing on the corner of 34th and Lee with the girl who sits next to you in class, and out of nowhere, she passes out. Or imagine that you are watching your little brother on a Sunday afternoon and he falls down the stairs and injures his arm or leg. Or perhaps your grandmother starts to choke during mealtime. G-d forbid. Would you know what to do? Surprisingly, an overwhelming percentage of college-age people are untrained in basic first aid and CPR. As the American Red Cross and other organizations offer daily classes, there is no reason that a college-educated person should cry ignorance when faced with a situation wherein the life of another is endangered.

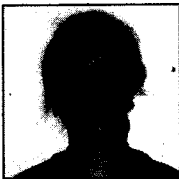
From the vantage point of an instructor for Community First Aid and CPR, I speak here of incidents relating to illnesses and injuries of people whose presence and health we tragically take for granted. Family mem-

bers, friends and fellow classmates are not immune to health problems and occasional falls. The possible problems are endless, but basic remedies are not difficult to come by. It is vital that each student be interested enough in the well-being of those around her to educate herself outside of the immediate Stern requirements.

Our indifference may stem from an innate desire to deny the mortality of ourselves and those close to us. But for a negligible fee compared to the importance of the lessons, the information necessary to rise to the occasion is right at our fingertips. I guarantee feelings of satisfaction and empowerment if you take the first step in arming yourself to fight the rampant ignorance and apathy by calling our local Red Cross at 212-787-1000. There is nothing worse than regret, so try to prevent bad situations from becoming tragedies.

The Observer interviewed students on the Midtown campus, asking the following question:

If you could go anywhere in the world for winter break, where would you go and why?



Anna Sedletcia

I would take a trip around Russia. I came here five years ago and my family is still there so I would want to visit them. I would also go to Moscow and other major cities because they are places I visited ten years ago and I want to compare my memories to how I would see it now.



Kalany Rubin

I want to take a trip across the United States. There is so much I haven't seen - I have never been out west to the Grand Canyon or to middle America. Before I go touring to other countries around the world I want to first see what America has to offer.



Shana Greenfeld

I would love to go to Italy to visit all parts of the country that have magnificent art. Since Western Europe is so rich in history and culture, I would like to tour around those countries. But many of the artists were from Florence, and I would also want to go to Venice and ride on a gondola. EuroDisney would be nice too...

CORRECTION: An Oct. 27th article on the environmental program at SCW was written by Judy Horn not Batya Fredman

Please send us your comments at observer@smail.yu.edu

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was deeply annoyed (although not surprised) as I glanced briefly at the previous issue of The Observer. Notwithstanding the disclaimer at the beginning of the paper, I believe that proper scrutinizing of the advertisers should be done. Of course, I am referring to the full-page ad of a certain gym on a certain 34th Street between Park Avenue and Lexington, but I will not name which "complex" it is or on which page the ad in question appeared, since anyone who read the issue could not help but witness the ad, due to its immense size.

Having improper material (or should I say, material which can neither be classified under the Hirschman motto of "Torah im Derech Eres" or even under Rabbi Dr. Lamm Shlit"u's "Torah Umadda") is not uncommon for a YU student-run publication. One need not be reminded of the drabble published in such sections as the Arts and Entertainment columns, which usually have no relation to gentle wisdom and of course would not fit into the rubric of Torah by anyone's standards. Anyone walking past the gym would realize that it is a mixed one, which halakhically sensitive Jews should not be attending, as it can lead to non-modest behavior.

I am not here to talk on behalf of our halakha, as I am not qualified to do so. However, I feel that greater care be placed into what anything bearing the YU logo contains. Yes, there is a disclaimer, but when people see the paper, it's the YU logo they notice, and not the disclaimer. We should remember that with regard to the desecration of G-d's Name, one is punished whether it is intentional or unintentional. I am the first one to admit that one is free to do whatever he or she desires, on the condition that one does not put the stamp of Torah on it. If we here at YU maintain to be bearers of a proper Jewish way of life, we have the obligation to act not only in accordance to mere laws and loopholes (i.e. disclaimers), but rather we must go above and beyond the law and create a qiddush ha-Shem.

Daniel Borsuk
SSSB Senior

Editors Respond: The Observer appreciates criticism from its readers. Upon investigating the matter, The Observer discovered that single-sex classes are not offered at this gym, and as such we thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Henceforth, The Observer will take your thoughts into consideration when accepting future advertisements. We welcome further comments and thank you for your interest in The Observer.

Dear Editor,

My day starts really early. Seven-thirty to be exact. While I walk down 34th Street each and every morning, I enjoy the crisp, fresh air. This enjoyment lasts for only about four and a half minutes. I dread my entry into the main school building on Lexington Avenue. There, in the cramped, congested lobby, stand the three biggest hurdles and annoyances of my day—the elevators. I take a deep breath and pray for my life as I wait to ride up to the tenth floor.

"Elevator on the left is next!" the burly Burns security guard screams out from the corner of the lobby. As I try to approach the elevator, I am pushed from all sides, stepped on and shoved in various directions. Trying to get in, I plead with my eyes to those who have claimed a spot to make room for me, but the cold steel doors slam in my face. I am forced to wait for the next one, and start this irritating process again. What is supposedly an express elevator going up, only skips two floors; what alleges to be a local elevator going down, is express from the eleventh floor all the way to one.

The really smart people—and the ones who are using e-mail—knowing that the elevator will stop at three, are waiting with smirks on their faces. They think they have beaten the system. Elevator three stops on three, and the doors open. One person gets out, and people start to breathe easy. But wait. Here come the really smart ones. Six of them try to squeeze in when there is barely enough room for one more. Three of them make the cut. The other three dash over to elevator one, which has-skipped the third floor! Apparently no one has answered in the elevator when the Burns guy called out, "Third floor anyone?"

These elevator antics have gone too far. There has to be a solution to this madness. Allow me to suggest a few ideas to try to help remedy this pathetic situation. For starters, if the elevators are express, let's keep them that way. Stopping at three, four, five, seven, nine, ten, and eleven does not qualify as "express." Perhaps cutting out floors three, four and ten would help to alleviate the situation. This would help to reduce all the excess time people spend trying to get to their classes. Secondly, if the elevator looks full, it probably is. Do not try to fit yourself in. It only wastes more time as people wait for the elevator doors to stop closing on you. Third, it is always a good thing to be a considerate person, and not ram people down as you jump into the elevator. This is also a huge waste of time, and believe me—it hurts. If you are standing at the front of the elevator, realize that you have to get out in order for everyone else to get out too. Finally, next time you want to go check your e-mail, use the stairs.

Suzanne Anziska
SCW Junior

Editorial: Falling Forty Feet

Last week, an elevator in the SCW main building plummeted from the second floor to the basement, forcing students to crawl out halfway between floors. One lucky student hopped out before the fall, as the elevator slid down while the doors remained open with terrified students panicking and frantically pushing the alarm button. The elevator, which had been filled past its capacity as usual, was only installed a few months ago. There should be a built-in mechanism which would prevent the elevator from moving if the designated weight limit is exceeded. Moreover, just because a student selfishly wishes to shove herself into the mass of twenty people to get to class on time, that does not mean that she has the right to potentially endanger the lives of others. It is far better to wait and arrive late to class than to risk bodily injury and suffer the emotional trauma of being trapped in a crowded elevator. That includes you.

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Sternbucks Open Mike Night

Monday, November 29 at 8 p.m.

Ivry Student Center

For more information, contact:

Rachel Elbaum: 545-0706

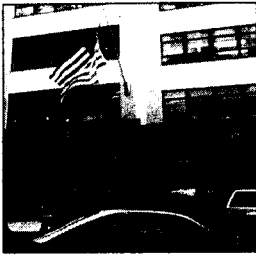
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Construction Update



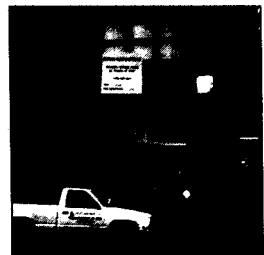
**205 and 215
Lexington Buildings**



34th Street Theater



150 East 35th Street



245 Lexington



215 Lexington is scheduled to open in time for the spring semester, according to Efreim Nulman, YU Dean of Students. The general plan for the space is to contain faculty offices and classrooms. "It should be worked out that the students have input on that," said Nulman.

The space in 205 is not scheduled for immediate use. As classrooms are moved to 215, space in the main school building at 245 Lexington will become more available and could then be used as student activity rooms, according to Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director, Supporting Service Administration. The Student Life Committee will be involved in deciding the exact use of the new space.

The projected completion date of the 34th Street theater is once again delayed. A Nov. 21 date has been set as the new deadline.

A retaining wall in the rear of the theater caved in a month ago, which delayed construction. "The inspection process is still on-going," said Paula Baumser, spokeswoman.

The theater will seat approximately 400 people and will boast state of the art multimedia equipment for lectures, presentations and performances. The University owns additional space attached to the theater; although the use is undetermined, but could possibly house art studios in the future, according to Rosengarten. The theater complex is fully wheelchair accessible.

There are currently no plans for vacant YU property on 35th Street, according to Rosengarten.

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UPLINK to the World of Communications

You have a major, but do you have a career?

Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.
Schottenstein Hall - Dinner will be served

Julie Salomon, Writer

Credits include: The Wall Street Journal, Vogue,
The New Yorker, and several books

Elizabeth Salomon, Art Director
Marie Claire magazine

Guest Speaker To Be Announced

Questions or comments?

Contact: esbakallan@aol.com

on campus

TAC President Addresses OU Women's Branch at Annual Convention

LISA HELPRIN
Staff Writer

ew college-age students are invited to speak at the National Orthodox Union Women's Branch Annual Convention - but SCWTAC President Shlomit Zauderer, noted by her peers as an outstanding speaker, addressed the Women's Branch earlier this month at their annual convention at the New Jersey Tarrytown Hilton. Zauderer lectured on the importance of the *mitzvah* of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests, and introduced Project K'nos, a joint project between SCW and the Women's Branch.

"[The project is] still in its working stages," said Zauderer, "but it is beginning to cement."

Project K'nos, titled after an acronym of Hebrew letters, invites students to spread the importance of hospitality and kindness. Students would give *shuirim* and organize *shul* activities while hosted at alumni homes.

Zauderer was requested to speak at the conference by Marilyn Golomb Selber, President of the Women's Branch, after the two were introduced at an SCW Leadership Shabbaton last April.

"She was an excellent speaker and representative of Stern," said Selber, when reflecting on why she asked Zauderer to speak.

This year's conference celebrated the strength of the Jewish woman. The Women's Branch, in its 77th year, felt this appropriate, as *oz* (the Hebrew word for strength) in numerical value equals seventy-seven. The conference is therefore creatively entitled *Oz V'hadar Levusha* -- Rising to our Challenges with Strength and Splendor.

"[The Women's Branch] allows women in our own *shuls* to network with others doing similar things throughout the country," said Selber, Women's Branch President. "The Orthodox Union, the Women's Branch, and the

Rabbinical Council of America work hand in hand [to] unite the Orthodox of America," she continued.

Zauderer was excited about the event, because she feels it is imperative to impart the importance of *hachnasat orchim* to people, and because she has a firm background in public speaking. Shlomit was heavily involved with the National Conference of Synagogue



SCWTAC President Shlomit Zauderer delivers her speech

at the conference. Youth in High School and has given countless *shuirim* over the years.

Although this is the first time an SCW student was invited to speak at the conference, there has always been a close relationship between Stern College and the Women's Branch. "It was the Women's Branch who first gave Yeshiva University the idea for Stern College," said Selber.

She explained that the daughter of the President of the Women's Branch at that time, as well as another young woman, were approaching college age. They wanted a place to study that would enable them to continue their Jewish education, as well as obtain a secular one. They approached Dr. Belkin with the idea, Max Stern contributed, and ever since there has been a close association between Stern College and the Women's Branch.

In addition to SCW, the Women's Branch also helped establish the Teacher's Institute (TI) of Yeshiva University, to enable Jewish women to have a place to continue their Jewish Education in the evenings, and helped to ensure that TI became an accredited institution.

The project is dedicated to the memory of Eve Golomb, a'h. Ms. Selber's late mother.

Students Angry Over Internet Restrictions

BROOKE KLEIN
Staff Writer

Going through AOL withdrawal? You're not alone. The majority of Stern College students don't understand why email and Internet access has been limited to half of the main computer lab. Students and teachers are also lamenting the removal of AOL in the various classrooms equipped with computers.

School officials are insisting that the new system is more efficient and for the students' benefit. "We took email and Internet out of room 319 [half the main computer lab] because we needed to upgrade the computers [with Windows 98 and Office 2000] and make them Y2K compatible," explained Betty Gordon, computer lab manager and director of all computer facilities. "The removal of Internet and email is temporary until the upgrade arrives."

"My link to the outside world is lost," insists Julie Yanofsky, an SCW senior.

Other student views are not as bitter but feel that some change must take place.

"I think it's good they cleared out one room so we can write papers but they need to provide more computers with Internet and email access," said Golda Fleischman, an SCW junior.

Students aren't the only ones upset at the changes that have taken place. Faculty who rely on AOL use for their classes, are upset at its removal from classrooms.

"We have used it for in-class writing assignments so students can write in 'word' and email the document to me before class ends," remarked Dr. Bakalian, professor of New Media at SCW. "The idea is to get the students to write on their feet, to get them used to deadlines. There are no printers available so email is the only way for me to receive their work."

Although many students' use AOL as their source of web communication, Gordon asserts that there are other alternatives. Every student who enters Yeshiva University is given a ymail account for his/her email use, which every computer in the school can access.

"We have more computers than ever before and we have excellent equipment which is better than most colleges..." said Betty Gordon.

Gordon insists that cooperation is the key in this situation. She says she used to feel like a policeman by telling girls to get off AOL and to stop printing off the Internet.

Students download and print too much of the Internet, she says. "This type of activity slows down the computers and ties up the printers," insists Gordon.

"Downloading from the Internet wipes out programs and overburdens memory. It's as easy as copying and pasting the information from the Internet and into Word. Students aren't looking at the overall picture and they need immediate gratification."

"Anyone who wants to use the Internet is being penalized," said Eden Brandwein, an SSSB junior. "The Internet should be on all the computers. I would suggest opening the [classroom] labs when classes aren't in session and putting some computers in the dorms."

Computers with only word-processing capabilities were put in the Brookdale Hall dorm, but the results have proven to be less than positive.

"The computers in Brookdale are all messed up with viruses," lamented Gordon. "There's no one there to monitor them. I redo the school computers every day and there's still a lot of damage being done."

At this point, the solution seems to rest in the hands of the students, according to Gordon. "We have a community in school and we all must live for its betterment," she said. "Common sense should dictate and students have to consider their peers."

She stresses that students need to be cognizant that the computer lab is first and foremost a place for doing work, not for emailing or chatting on AOL.

"Ultimately all the computers in the lab will be equipped with email and Internet although I'm not sure this is a better system," said Gordon.



SCWTAC President Shlomit Zauderer with OU representative.

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Netanyahu *continued from page 1*

ways not possible in significantly larger countries like America. "Whatever problems we have, one thing is sure - your children in Israel will remain Jews," he said. "I encourage you to make aliyah, not for your own personal future but for our collective future."

Rivky Rogin, an SCW senior, observed that although Netanyahu's commitment to the Jewish people is obviously sincere, he wears no outside sign of his Jewish identity.

"How can someone talk about Jewish continuity and not wear a kippah, which is one of the most fundamental characteristics of Jewish identity?" Rogin questioned.

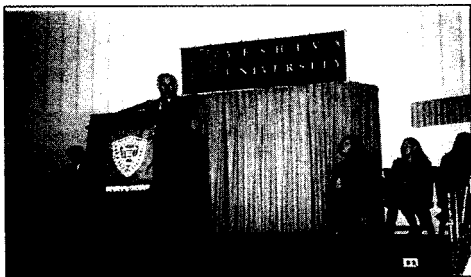
In response to a question by an SCW honors student on the state of the relationship between the ultra-Orthodox and secular Jews in Israel today, Netanyahu lamented that "Jews kill each other not on the battlefield but with words." He explained that the problems between the two major factions of Israeli society lie mainly in differences of opinion on the allocation of money and in the different obligations of Israelis in the military based on religiosity. "What really can resolve the issue is understanding that whatever differences we have today pale in comparison to the common past we have."

This simple explanation was not enough for Adina Levine, an SCW freshman. "He didn't respond to the deeper ideological problems between the religious and secular," she said following the former Prime Minister's discussion with honors students.

Netanyahu emphasized Israel's emerging status as an economic power and commented that for the first time in history, there is money to be made in Israel. "There's a joke that the way to make a small fortune in Israel is to come with a large fortune," Netanyahu said. "Now Israel is about

to become one of the richest societies on earth," he pointed out at his meeting with SCW honors students. In the future he sees Israel using its newfound wealth to help support Jewish communities in the Diaspora for a change. "I think as Israel gets richer we will have to allocate money to support Jewish education abroad," which he understands to be exceedingly costly.

Aliza Kessel, an SCW senior, felt that his speech helped create unity among Yeshiva University students. "Sitting in the auditorium with my peers, I felt like a part of the greater YU community," she said.



Netanyahu at podium, student leaders look on.

Jewish Prisoners *continued from page 1*

Hochberg explained that nevertheless, renewed identification with Judaism boosts the morale of the prisoners. "By observing [Jewish laws in prison], they may be opening the door to more anti-Semitism, but observing together helps them. They take a risk because it gives them a lift," Hochberg noted.

But whether or not individual Jews choose to convene regularly in their facilities to pray and perform other religious rituals, each prisoner is unofficially identified within the prison "community" by his or her religious affiliation. Fayge Seewald, a teacher at a Headstart program and a mother of 12, travels to Riker's Island with other women as volunteers for the Lubavitch Youth Organization, visiting with the handful of female Jewish prisoners.

According to Seewald, even if an individual does not advertise that he or she is Jewish, all the prisoners are aware because they hear "through the grapevine," Seewald said, and most times the Jew will be treated poorly as a result.

"In prison you are classified according to your religion, even if you don't hold up your hand and say you are a Jew," Seewald remarked. She feels genuine sympathy towards many of the inmates, whom she believes were doomed from birth.

According to both Seewald and Hochberg, whose organizations are not affiliated, most Jews are incarcerated because they turned to drugs, which led them to steal in order to keep up with their habit. A vast majority had no knowledge of Judaism, even if they knew that they were Jews. "These people are brought up with absolutely no chance to become an upright Jewish citizen, or any citizen," Seewald pointed out. "Brought up in slums with no money and a horrendous lifestyle, what else is there for them?"

Seewald and others volunteer under the guidance of Rabbi Kasriel Kastel, Program Director of Lubavitch Youth, who stresses that the people who are incarcerated are in need of and deserve charitable deeds despite the reasons that they find themselves imprisoned. His reason for working on behalf of Jewish prisoners in the New York area is simply "to fulfill a mitzva of helping fellow Jews," he said, even though they committed crimes. He hopes that through the prisoners' interaction with the volunteers, the inmates will become rehabilitated.

"Guards are often anti-Semitic, and the prisoners must fight for kashrus," Rabbi Kastel stated. "If someone robbed a grocery store and kept kosher, he used to have to request the maximum security facility near Poughkeepsie, New York, and stay with the murderers [to be able to keep kosher]." But organizations such as Lubavitch Youth and JPSI have made great strides in the area of prisoners' rights, and in most facilities, kosher

food is available, along with the possibility of fulfilling other commandments as well.

A more distressing dilemma, though, relates to missionaries within the prison system. "Often prisoners have to work and can get off if they attend services held by Christians, so [Jews] go, too," Rabbi Kastel reported. Likewise, JPSI receives a slew of letters from inmates describing the conditions. One such letter reads, "In the middle of our seder, the Messianic volunteer chaplain performed the rite of Jesus washing his disciples' feet." In addition, an Evangelical Volunteer Chaplain said, "If they'd just accept Christianity, we wouldn't have these problems."

Since there are very few Jewish services available in prisons, inmates are susceptible to conversion. For this reason, in facilities where it is permitted, Lubavitch Youth runs programs for Jewish holidays, such as menorah lighting and eating latkes on Channukah and holding Passover seders with the inmates, many of whom have not seen or spoken to their families in several years.

JPSI, which is not affiliated with the Lubavitch organization, similarly meets with prisoners and instituted a pen pal system, in addition to distributing among inmates books of Judaic interest.

Jewish calendars, siddurim, tefillin and Torahs. But since their cause is not supported by most Jewish organizations, both Lubavitch Youth and JPSI continually

face financial problems.

"I don't know of any agency that is very generous to help Jews here," Hochberg lamented. "Chabad houses are wonderful. They will never turn their backs." However, those who hold the power of the purse are not forthcoming. Although originally launched under the sponsorship of B'nei Brith, JPSI is now an independent entity and currently raises only minimal funds to purchase books and other items.

Upon hearing Hochberg's lecture, students felt both enlightened about the subject and disturbed by the ignorance and antipathy of the vast majority of Jews regarding the problem of Jewish prisoners. "It is despicable that people turn their backs and won't help out financially or otherwise to these Jews who are in need of assistance," said Shira Graber, an SCW senior who attended the speech.

If for no other reason, Graber continued, prisoners should be helped so that when they are released, they will not return to a life of crime. "I definitely want to write to a pen pal," Graber decided. "Since we at Stern are in an environment where we see none of this, I feel that the lecture was very broadening. It shouldn't just be for the Criminology class - all of the Jewish community, including Stern, should be made aware of what is going on in the prisons and that people need help."

An Evangelical Volunteer Chaplain said, "If they'd just accept Christianity, we wouldn't have these problems."



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Student Speaks Out on Battle with Anorexia

TOVA KALKSTEIN
Staff Writer

College-age women are among groups highly susceptible to anorexia nervosa, and this year SCW has decided to attack the issue head on. On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the Health Committee sponsored a forum, where Shuli Gertel, an SCW junior, told her personal battle with anorexia, to better educate and inform the student body about this serious eating disorder. Elana Katz, a psychologist at the Ackerman Institute, was also present to answer any questions on the disease.

Gertel has spoken about her experience before, but this was her first time speaking among her friends here at SCW. Although it was hard for her to publicly address her peers, she has gotten so much positive feedback, she says.

"I truly feel it was all worth the effort," she says. "If I can help one person or stop just one person from heading toward the throes of this illness, then it was all worth it."

Gertel's experience with anorexia was somewhat typical of most anorexics with depression, and insecurity playing a central role in her weight loss. Despite the extremely personal nature of Gertel's experience, she still felt that it was necessary to come out and speak to SCW.

"It's not easy to get up and speak about something so personal and that brings back so many memories—but as I've been telling everyone that asks-I speak to make people aware," she says.

Most students in SCW were amazed to hear Gertel's story, and were grateful to her for coming out and speaking among her peers and friends. Geraldine Biton, an SSSB junior, had never personally met someone with Anorexia, but after hearing Gertel's speech, she was surprised at how much power other people had over Gertel's weight loss.

"We don't realize that the seemingly innocent comments we may say to a person can have such a strong impact and can shape that person's self image for the better or for the worse," explains Biton.

Gertel's speech about her experience was the first step in SCW toward promoting a better educated student body, and other colleges will follow SCW's example and broaden the awareness of this serious disease on their campuses as well.

Gertel began her speech describing her typical upbringing in a Modern Orthodox home in Boston. Throughout her early childhood, she was very popular and always excelled in school. During the summer of seventh grade, everything started to drastically change for Gertel. She contracted a stomach virus in camp, which caused her to lose some weight.

After all the positive feedback Gertel received because of her slimmer figure, she started cutting back her food intake, at first gradually and then more drastically. This began a six-month downward spiral where Gertel's healthy eating habits slowly deteriorated until she was watching every calorie that entered her mouth. She was weighing herself about 25 times a day, was vigorously exercising during the middle of the night, and skipping meals during the day to maintain her constant weight loss.

After six months of this grueling regimen, Gertel's weight became so dangerously low that she had to be hospitalized. Her hospital stay lasted a month, but was not successful in helping Gertel overcome her newly developed eating disorder. For the next three years, Gertel continued to starve her already malnourished body of the most essential nutrients.

Gertel's recovery began at the beginning of eleventh grade. She met with a nutritionist who was finally able to make an impression on her, and the nutritionist eventually persuaded Gertel to changing a few small elements in her diet.

She slowly began increasing her calorie intake until that summer when she was deemed healthy enough to take part in the J.O.L.T. summer program, which spreads Judaism to uneducated children in Russia. On the program, Gertel ignored her will to remain anorexic when she encountered the less fortunate Russian children who were deprived of a well-balanced diet because they did not have the money or resources to eat properly.

She was also able to find new meaning and purpose in her life, when she was forced to be a role model for these children and teach them about Torah and Jewish ideologies. These were the two major forces in Gertel's recovery that finally propelled her to pull beyond the frightening disease that had taken control of her life.

Communication is the Word at SCW

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Staff Writer

Aspiring writers and TV anchors met in the Ivry Student Center at Schottenstein Nov. first to hear what the successful members of the communication industry had to say about making it to the top. The lecture, part of a series entitled "Uplink," aims to introduce students to the world of communications. The program was founded by Ray and Juanita Josephs.

"[It's] an opportunity to introduce students with English Majors to careers in writing," explained Dr. Bakalian, a former writer for ABC and a current SCW faculty member, director "Uplink"

The first lecture earlier this month drew a crowd under 30 students, who were treated to dinner and lectures given by a panel of three top professionals in the industry. Jane Murphy,

a freelance writer who has written scripts for "All My Children" and other soap operas, took to the podium first. She is currently writing scripts for prime time and cable TV shows. A psychology major with a background in creative writing, Ms. Murphy started off with an entry-level job at ABC and then took a leap and landed her a job as a daytime writer. She stressed that students interested in this field should seek out entry-level jobs and internships to get a foot in the

door of the communications field.

Moirá McCann, a writer and the Associate Producer for the ABC Long Form Unit, also emphasized the value of building up experience in part time and internship positions. McCann, who earned a B.A. in English and a Masters in Media Studies, believes that her Masters had little to do with her being hired as an assistant to Barbara Walters and later as a producer for "20/20." Simple luck helped her land the job; her resume happened to be pulled of the top of a stack and she was called in to

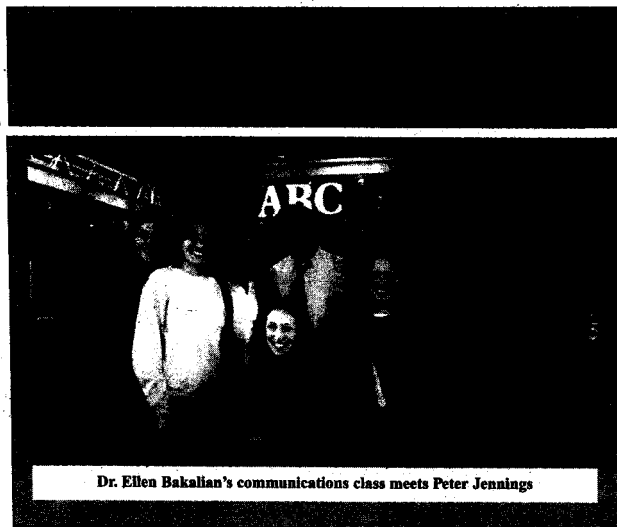
under pressure. He began his media experience while working at his college radio station, and landed a summer job at ABC during his undergraduate years. Mr. Blatt ended up spending 30 years at ABC News, first writing for ABC Radio and then later for World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. He has also written programs for A&E's "Biography." Commenting on the use of the Web, Blatt stated that the demand for information and the need to communicate will always exist, no matter what new technologies arise. He also gave practical advice to students about improving their writing skills: learn to write by writing, make a point when you write, and be your own editor. Blatt, McCann, and Murphy all agreed that strong writing skills make good communication skills, both

vital tools for today's job market.

Three more lectures in the Uplink series are in the works and will feature professionals in the fields of public and community relations, advertising, and electronic and Web design. Be on the lookout for posters about the next Uplink lecture, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1st. For further information, email Dr. Ellen Bakalian at ebakalian@aol.com.



Students speak with panelists



Dr. Ellen Bakalian's communications class meets Peter Jennings

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Need a Doctor ? Where to Go and Whom to See

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

Something growing on your toe and you do not know what it is? You've been coughing a lot lately and you want it to stop? What should you do when you are feeling under the weather? Stop by the SCW medical office at BH 2B for more information.

Unfortunately, many students do not know or appreciate the health services that SCW offers. The medical office posts its hours of operation, though these few hours may not suit the student's individual schedule. Yet Physician's Assistant Marianne Gould says that these hours do not tell the real story. "It's almost impossible to have fixed hours," she said, "because I stay here as long as I'm needed."

The medical office at Stern consists of friendly, receptive staff, according to most students who visit the office. Marianne Gould was trained in Holland, and received her Masters in Nutrition from Rutgers. She is Board Certified and a Registered Dietician. She first began working in Stern in September 1998.

Dr. Maria Ciechorska, is on campus twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. She was trained in Poland, did her residency at Sinloux Roosevelt, and is specialized as a hematologist/oncologist. She was hired in the spring of 1998. Stern specifically

requested a female doctor and P.A. to make the students feel more comfortable. Similarly, in Yeshiva College, the medical office has only male staff.

The office can do checkups and physicals, but cannot give specialized medical attention. Gould has a number of connections in specialized medical centers throughout the city and can get the student an appointment easily. For fractures or sprains, Gould arranges the student to get x-rayed from Docs Medical Care, located across the street from Brookdale, at 55 East 34th Street.

"Guarding our health is indeed a Torah commandment," noted Lisa Helprin, an SCW sophomore. "As such, it is of the utmost necessity that we do everything in our power to do so. It brings me great relief to know there are people here at Stern, who make this job a bit easier."

Despite the extended

hours that the medical office is open, there are bound to be medical issues after hours. If there are any medical issues before eight o'clock at night, Gould recommends that the student go to

Care Liaison between Stern and Beth Israel, and the nurse can recommend treatment. If the student wishes, Hatzolah has a medical group available to provide house calls to the dormitories at all hours at the student's expense, \$95 after six p.m. and \$100 after midnight.

However, if the student needs further medical attention, she may call Hatzolah and go to the emergency room at Beth Israel North ER because it is easy for Gould to follow up on the student. "I'll just call up Beth Israel the next day, and they'll update me on the student's progress," she remarked. "No other hospital is as compliant."

The guards prefer calling Hatzolah rather than 911 for an ambulance because of two major reasons. First, the guards' experience has shown them that Hatzolah is faster. Second, 911

has the obligation to take the student to the nearest hospital, usually NYU Medical Center, on First Ave., while Hatzolah usually can take her to wherever she wants, and SCW administration prefers Beth Israel.

"Sometimes, students call 911," Gould remarked, "at the same time that the guards call Hatzolah. When two ambulances show up, and both fight over who would take the student to the hospital, it can be a real mess. It's very important to follow the standard procedure."

And one of the most important responsibilities of the medical office is health awareness. In this regard, the medical office has to work through the students who are in charge of the Health Awareness Committee, namely Liana Eudaeva and Ahuva Weinberger. "The Health Awareness Committee's goal is to inform students of health issues," said Eudaeva. "They must know these things exist, that it can happen to anyone, and there are ways to deal with it." To this end, there are many health awareness events, including most recently a discussion about AIDS and anorexia. Gould will speak about Breast Cancer on December 14.

For more information about the health office, please call 340-7792.



P.A. Marianne Gould administers shot to SCW student

Docs Medical Care, where she can see a physician. After eight p.m., the RAs have been trained in the procedure of medical care after hours, as are the guards. Security has the beeper number of the nurse on duty, the RN-registered nurse - from Beth Israel Hospital. The student can speak directly to the nurse, the

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Homeless

Life on the Street

ABBY CHANA BATKO-TAYLOR
Staff Writer

How many times has a hand been outstretched to you? Sometimes it's covered in a torn mitten. Sometimes it's so bare and puffy that the bloated skin is stretched too far for the New York City frost. The cracked, chapped fingers tremble for mercy. Eyes peer out behind the outstretched palm, part of a human being whose life has been relegated to the barest existence possible in society. A single, solitary woman, half frozen and a nickel away from sickness puts the magnificence of any large, grand building in New York City to shame.

Every day, dozens of homeless people walk down the steps of St. Peter's Church on 23rd Street and into the basement. Once inside, they find what the street cannot offer: food, warmth and family. The family inside ranges from the elderly man snoring loudly in the corner to the aggressive game of dominoes played near the bookshelf, for every tile slammed down, an outburst of rapid Spanish immediately follows. Included in this extended family is the support staff composed of social workers, case managers and psychologists who create and sustain the framework that keeps Peter's Place functioning. In this homeless shelter, life on the street is a vivid memory only a few days away.

Sitting in an oversized orange chair right behind the television, Bob talks about the move from his old shelter to this one. A powerful man with cold blue eyes and a face surrounded by pure white hair, Bob speaks like the charismatic evangelist he is. "The older people don't stay [in other shelters] and they come here and they're living here because there's too much trouble in the younger places. They've got a lot of stuff going on," he said. "They like it less going on, you know. Here it's much less, they sleep a lot here, they sit in the chair, they rest and they don't talk as much. It's easier here—it's like an old age home. They don't do much here, they sit around and read and sleep."

In New York City, people can be classified as 'elderly' once they turn forty-five—therefore eligible for public services. For people like Bob, who is much older, living in shelters with younger people creates a volatile

and public services struggled to fill a rising demand for housing assistance.

A varied web of life experience shaped by current economic waves brings Bob and the other clients to the shelter. The word 'homelessness' was coined in 1970 to describe people who lived either on the streets or in temporary dwellings like shelters. For some families living on the brink of poverty, recourse to a homeless shelter can fill a necessary gap when money runs out. Because these people are in crisis poverty, even a minor setback can push them over the edge into homelessness. Other individuals may face problems which make it much

more difficult to function on a normal level. For those people with chronic disabilities, or alcohol and drug dependencies, homelessness may become a permanent situation. Although the majority of those who become homeless during the course of a year fall into the first category, the public's image of the homeless tends to be of people in the second category. As a method to prevent having to live on the streets, poverty-stricken families have historically tried to pool resources in order to make ends meet, doubling-up lodgings and sharing living space. Aaron, a member of such a family, looks like any other Brooklyn native lounging in his living room as he sits in the first row of chairs in front of a sports game on television. For this 68 year-old, getting by meant living with his son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, until their housing was taken away. The landlord who owned the basement in which they lived evicted the family in order to rent the entire house at a higher rent. "Of course we went to court, we needed it," said Sosner. "We had two kids at the time and the judge voted for us for eight months, but then everything changes, you know. You win so much, and then the landlord wins." Sosner's son and his family, awaiting the arrival of a third child, now live with Sosner's daughter-in-law's mother. Every weekend Sosner visits his family and plays with his grandchildren.

The story of the heavy Chinese man leaning on a table on the other side of the room demonstrates the severity of the problems facing many working class people in the labor market. Within the last few decades the shift from goods production to the service industry as well as plant closings in urban areas have combined with other factors to eliminate jobs that once spared unskilled workers from vulner-

name, came from China forty-two years ago, a young immigrant eager to work his way into a new country. He worked at whatever jobs were available until nobody would hire an elderly man with faltering English. Two weeks ago he was sleeping on a park bench, eating whatever food that came from a passing truck that made its rounds among street dwellers.

A gentlemanly man sitting in the circle of armchairs to the right shares a foreign background. With a magazine article about food spread across his lap and a scarf piled high around his thin neck, Carlo Petrelli has the air of an epicure. Originally from Italy before working as a chef in Venezuela, Petrelli is far from home. He once taught at a cooking school in Venezuela that produced the chefs who worked across Latin America. When guerilla attacks became too common an occurrence and the political situation too unstable for normal life, Petrelli fled from his adopted country, which "hates the stranger." He headed for America, where at 74 he seeks asylum and a job.

"I will not go to Italy because forty-two years in Venezuela, I forget all Italian," he said. "I have nothing here. In Venezuela I lost all, all, all, because life is impossible. . . . Canada is good for cook, but I am here for now, because I can't work now without a green card." Right now Petrelli has a lawyer going through immigration court with him, trying to obtain a green card that will enable him to work again. As alone as he seems to be in this foreign country, Petrelli has a buoyant hope that he will continue to contribute to the world.

When there is no family to rely upon in the face of a crisis,



Jose Peres sits quietly one afternoon at Peter's Place

environment, leaving him and other elderly people vulnerable to younger, more high-functioning people. The clients at Peter's Place, who are all 55, or older find a structure specifically constructed to fulfill their needs and that supports them in their struggle to survive.

"For this crowd, it's not a matter of going out and getting a job, because most of them have already done that, thank you," said Jennifer Barrows, Program Director for Peter's Place. She adds that they "paid into the system and they're receiving benefits, not a whole lot of benefits because most of the jobs they did were marginal or off the books. But they certainly worked and contributed when they were healthy enough to do that, or young enough to do that. Now, if they don't have a large amount of family support they are going to need some type of public service, some kind of supplement just to be able to pay rent and feed themselves."

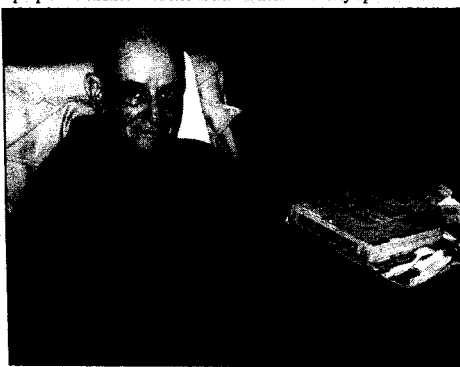
As part of a network of social service agencies, Peter's Place is run by the Partnership for the Homeless, a non-profit organization founded in the early 1980s. At that time, the sight of homeless people on the streets became increasingly common



Aaron Sosner enjoys his lunch.

more difficult to function on a normal level. For those people with chronic disabilities, or alcohol and drug dependencies, homelessness may become a permanent situation. Although the majority of those who become homeless during the course of a year fall into the first category, the public's image of the homeless tends to be of people in the second category. As a method to prevent having to live on the streets, poverty-stricken families have historically tried to pool resources in order to make ends meet, doubling-up lodgings and sharing living space. Aaron, a

to eliminate jobs that once spared unskilled workers from vulner-



Carlo Petrelli sits in his regular chair at Peter's Place

ability to homelessness. This man, who asked not to be identified by

having money saved can protect a person from homelessness. Alfonzo Nickson stopped working when he felt that he had saved enough money from his career as a mediator/arbitrator.

in New York

Peter's Place

continued from page 10

Living with his handicapped mother in assisted housing designed for the disabled, Nickson was able to lead a comfortable lifestyle. When his mother died in her 90s, their apartment was leased to another disabled person needing the space, and he was on his own. Renting a room at the YMCA for fifty-four dollars a day since February, Nickson saw his savings dwindle before his eyes. Determined to save something, he came to Peter's Place for food and temporary lodging.

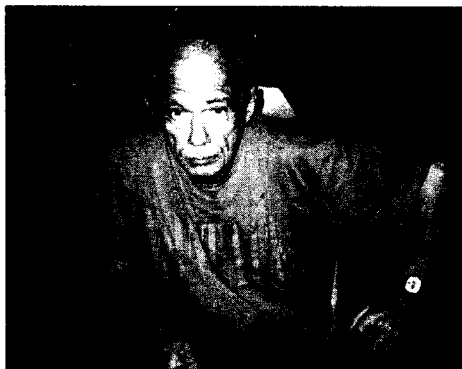
Discussing various topics of interest, it's not hard to believe that this intellectual African-American has a master's degree in economics, having attended Cornell University for his undergraduate education. His main work as a mediator/arbitrator was to develop a plan to teach mediation and arbitration in high schools and universities, a few of which in New York have adopted the plan. Nickson was deeply involved in plans to implement

mediation and arbitration in the judicial system, to be used in dealing with convicts and deter-

It had to go through certain forms to become what it is."

The roof that Nickson

You've reached the bottom, you've gotta go up. That's the way I look at it."



Thomas Carter, a client at Peter's Place

mining sentencing. "First the techniques, then the true possibilities of administrative law through mediation," he said. "The reduction of crime through mediation. It was a patented process.

shares with Bob, Sosner, and Petrelli is not the only factor that unites them. "You've gotta move on, you can't stay here," sosner-said. "You've been lowered, you've gotta get up the ladder.

These men possess a hope for the future and a will to create a better future that drives them beyond reasonable expectation. When family support is gone, when there's no job or a reasonable supply of income, no guarantee of food or shelter, somehow these individuals and many more like them are able to calmly face tomorrow.

The role that shelters play in the lives of their residents varies depending on the needs that they were created to address. More effective and long-term solutions to homelessness seek to provide permanent housing and assistance to those who would otherwise be on the street. "Tough love is terrific for breaking bad habits," Barrows said. "Getting enough food to eat and paying your rent- it's not a bad habit; it's what you need just to survive ... nobody needs to be on the streets, but everybody has to

pay rent."

From Peter's Place, most clients go on to live in their own housing. New independence requires a serious readjustment of lifestyle and living habits, for which services are offered to ease the transition.

To be without a home is to be more vulnerable to the world than those with roofs guaranteed overhead. Being homeless is an economic classification, not a personal one. They are not nameless, faceless, nor feelingless, but merely homeless. People with lives and contributions become homeless. At least for the clients at Peter's Place, life can only get better.

Research: "Priority Home!: The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness." Text pages 17-36, issued by President Clinton in March 1994.

GET INVOLVED NOW:

The Mayor's Voluntary Action Committee

This is a clearinghouse for information on volunteer opportunities all around metropolitan New York. Contact Carol at (212) 788-755

City Harvest

This organization collects unused food from various sources such as markets and restaurants, and delivers the food to homeless shelters and soup kitchens. Contact David at (212) 463-0456 x123

Parity for the Homeless

This organization provides various services for homeless people in New York. Among these programs are a drop-in center for the elderly, on-the-street outreach and a warehouse for furniture. Contact Anita at (212) 645-3444

Coalition for the Homeless

This organization provides a mobile food program, a summer sleep-away camp for 400 homeless children, a rental assistance program, a job readiness program for homeless and low income women. Call (212) 964-1303

Homes for Homeless

Homes for the Homeless provides service-enriched transitional housing to homeless families in New York City. The Institute for Children and Poverty conducts research on strategies for fighting

poverty and homelessness. Email: hm4061@handsnet.org

Urban Pathways

Serves over 3,000 homeless men and women in New York City annually through a continuum of care model. Through street outreach, drop-in centers and transitional and permanent supportive housing, Urban Pathways reaches the most troubled and vulnerable population. Call (212) 736-7385

Bailey House


Bailey House offers housing, vocational training, support services, and personal care to homeless people living with AIDS. Bailey House also advises groups on setting up scatter-site housing and runs workshops on addiction, legal issues, management, and more. Call (212) 633-2932

The Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS):

This organization provides a continuum of supportive services for homeless and formerly homeless people, including street outreach, a drop-in center, transitional and permanent housing programs, and vocational and employment programs. Call (212) 801-3300

Project Or at the 23rd Street Synagogue

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on campus

Investing to the Max

CHANIE FRANKEL
Staff Writer

Founded six years ago, the Max Investment Club is a relatively new 'mock' mutual fund system. There is only one requirement necessary to join the club -- individuals who choose to become members must pool \$100 each, which is invested in different stocks.

The Max Investment Club has an estimated membership of 100 Yeshiva University students (65% male, 35% female). Although 75% of the club is Sy Syms students, "the Max Investment Club is a non-Sy Syms club and you don't need any financial background to join," says MIC president, Avi Friedman. "The point of the club is to teach students how to manage finance for the future," he continues. This means that even business 'know nothings' can join and are very much welcomed.

On Nov. 8, the club had its first meeting

introducing the rules of membership to potential members. Those who agreed to the club's requirements (the ones serious enough to part with the \$100), were signed up by the presidents, Avi Friedman and Aliza Lindenbaum, juniors. The

The point is to teach students how to manage finances for the future

new members were then asked to research stocks for the next meeting, which will be held on Nov. 31. The stocks chosen will be presented and voted on for investment by the other members.

The club also publishes its own newspaper,

the Max Advisor, which had been in existence the first two years of the MIC and has made a comeback this year with the revitalization of the club. The newspaper provides extra information for the business oriented student and is run by editor-in-chief Matthew Rosen.

Although the MIC has not been very successful in the past three years, Friedman expects to see a resurgence of interest and excitement similar to what existed in the first two years of the club's existence. He stresses that all YC students interested in investing are welcome: "Anyone who did not have the chance to attend the last meeting, but would like to sign up, should come to the next one on Nov. 31."

For more information email the Max Investment Club at maxclub@hotmail.com.

Discovering the Honors Program

SARA TRAPPLER
Staff Writer

You may have heard of the Honors Program, perhaps through friends, or maybe through advertisements somewhere in SCW, but do you actually know what the program is about?

Many students are ignorant of the new Honors Program because printed material describing the program has yet to be distributed by YU Public Relations. However, the Admissions Office uses the Honors Program to recruit new students, and discusses the program during the SCW Open House. More information will be distributed in material form and on the YU web site.

The Honors Program is a new offering at SCW, intended to enhance the college experience of high achieving students. The idea of the program is to challenge high-potential students at SCW by giving them the opportunity to take more rigorous courses and do advanced college work.

Although the program is newly established, it is not a new idea. "It was our analysis over many years that students are used to this kind of [high achieving] program from high school, and are

interested in continuing," says Dean Bacon. The Honors Program has been in the works for a long time; it was only when funds became available that the program became a reality.

YC has also established an Honors Program for the first time this year. The program is similar to SCW, especially regarding the academic component. The honors courses offered, though, are different, and the extra-curricular component differs as well.

To be eligible for the program, a student must have a minimum score of 1300 on her SAT test and a 90 or above high school GPA. Others are considered on the basis of their special academic skills.

Generally, the program is only open to new students at SCW. Since it is the program's first year, the exception was made to allow other students to enter as well; this will not be allowed in the future. Therefore, in addition to the incoming students this year, students who will be attending SCW for another two years were invited to join the program. These exceptions, though, were given only to students with the highest level of fellowships, who will be on campus for four more semesters, and can complete all the requirements for the Honors Program in their remaining time at SCW.

The only students who were not given the chance to enter are the students of the senior class. The reason

for this, according to Dean Bacon, is that one year does not leave enough time to complete the seven required honors courses and senior project. Even if it were possible, though, "It is not reasonable to do it all in one year and say you did the program," says Dean Bacon, since in addition to the academic requirements, the extra-curricular components add a big dimension to the program.

"I really would have liked to participate," complained Risa Solomon, an SCW senior. "I feel like the administration is discriminating against the seniors."

The Honors Program has academic and extra-curricular components. The academic program consists of three requirements. The first is seven honors courses that an honors student must complete before she graduates. These courses may be used toward general liberal arts or major requirements. Honors classes are open for any student to take, regardless of enrollment in the Honors Program. These classes will be indicated with the letter H on transcripts.

The second requirement of the program is a senior project, which must be completed during the last semester of senior year. This project involves intensive work completed under the supervision of a faculty mentor, representing the culmination of her academic career at SCW. The final part of the academic program is the appointment of a mentor. Each honors student selects a faculty mentor in her field of interest, who oversees her time at SCW and provides guidance for academic and personal issues. After fulfilling all the academic requirements, the honors student will graduate with honors notations on her transcript and diploma.

The director of the Honors Program, Dr. Cynthia Wachtel, who taught English 1100 two years ago, plans the extra-curricular portion of the honors program. She arranges speakers, cultural events, and leadership sessions, including Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who met with the honors students on November 17th to share his thoughts on politics and leadership. Each semester a variety of speakers are invited to address the honors students, and expose them to a variety of careers. Specifically, the program seeks women who are successful professionals, to preview their careers and discuss how they balance having a family with a career.

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By Appointment Only

CUNY continued from page 20

nized." Although the building is still under renovation, it is a vast improvement from the old center, which had been oft described by students as a

dungeon. The new building, which stands three stories high at the corner of 5th and 34th, features an extensive library, spacious classrooms, and a high tech studio for CUNY-TV.

With the presentation of a YU I.D. card or a referral from a YU reference librarians, students are granted access to the expansive library facilities of CUNY.

best way to improve teaching and learning Hebrew is focusing grammar skills. "Sometimes grammar is used as just a rule and it's not looked at," said Dubitsky. "When I teach, I'm not using grammar for the sake of grammar. I use it to show it should be part of the language."

Hebrew continued from page 20

"Even though it's tedious, it's important that the rules of grammar be reviewed over and over again," said Weiner-Miller. "Once you know the structure, you will know the reason behind the spoken word."

on campus



Former PM Benjamin Netanyahu addresses YU students.

SCW students listening to Netanyahu last week.

Student leaders Zauderer, Simon, and Shron.

Dean Bacon at ribbon-cutting ceremony for Chem labs.

Bells choir sings in Koch Auditorium at SCW.

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Judaism Without G-d: The Story of Humanistic Judaism

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

Tamara Kolton does not believe in G-d. Yet she is the first rabbi ever to be ordained within the Humanistic Judaism movement, a branch of Judaism that renders the Bible man-made. Kolton completed a five-year ordination program last month at an international Humanistic Jewish institute.

"What we derive from the Bible are values that we consider important, such as compassion and love," said Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, the leader of the Humanistic congregation in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He emphasized, however, that Humanistic Jews do not lead moral lives because of the Bible, rather, people adopt certain values because they realize that they are necessary for a peaceful society. "The stories of the Bible reinforce our commitment to these values, but the Bible is not their source," he said.

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, Mashgiach Ruchani at SCW, countered Rabbi Wine's view that the Bible is not the source of morality. "Man's ideas about what's ethical are subjective," he said. "When you leave G-d out of ethics, there aren't any ethics."

He cited communism as an example of the repercussions of a society built solely on man-made 'ethics.' The Humanistic Jewish ideals of helping others are *mitzvot* commanded by G-d; if they are not regarded as such, said Rabbi Hochberg, future generations could decide "that combating poverty and disabilities are not moral priorities."

Just as Shakespeare's plays are enjoyed for their moral lessons but not necessarily taken literally, so too, according to the Humanistic view, does the Bible provide ethical examples through a narration of events that should not be taken literally.

"We are descended from the ancient people of Judea," said Rabbi Wine, whose temple is the largest Humanistic Jewish congregation in North America. "Scientific evidence would suggest that it began with a federation of tribes in the hills of Judea in 1100 B.C., which united due to an invasion of Philistines."

According to Webster's Third International Dictionary, Humanism is "a philosophy that rejects supernaturalism, regards man as a natural object, and asserts the essential dignity and worth of man and his capacity to achieve self-realization through the use of reason and scientific method" and "a religion subscribing to these beliefs." Humanism celebrates people as special beings because of their innate wisdom and ethical potential.

Humanistic Jews do not view their religion as a status bestowed on them by G-d, says Wine. They see the Torah as man-made, not Divine, and see Judaism as an ethnicity, not as a religion. They consider themselves a nation like any other nation of the world, be it Greek or French.

Basic Beliefs

Rabbi Wine emphasized that Humanistic Judaism is not just another liberal stream of Judaism. Observers of the various denominations should not be tempted to lump it together with Reconstructionist Judaism, a denomination that allows for more reliance on a Divine Source. Rabbi Wine noted that Reconstructionism still uses wording in its services that

believe that He could have written a Torah. They consider the Torah a document written by the Jewish people over the years and compiled into a sort of anthology, from which Jews can receive moral advice-but not Jewish history.

We try to use scientific thinking to find out what the real history [of the Jewish people] is," said Rabbi Wine. "The Bible may be used as a clue book, but the stories of the Bible are so mixed up with mythological thinking that we have to study it as great literature." Wine compared the Torah to the Illiad by Homer, one of the most famous works to come out of Greek culture. Besides denying the Torah as an origin of morality, Humanistic Jews also dispute its

Rabbi Wine. In keeping with the Humanist credo, members of Rabbi Wine's congregation feel that their lives have meaning when they help themselves and others lead joyful lives. "Roles arise out of human needs, such as survival, dignity, and happiness", he said. "Our role is to achieve survival, dignity and happiness and to help others achieve these as well."

"Judaism is a 3,000-year old culture," said Rabbi Wine. "A rabbi is the expert, has linguistic information and knows the literature and history, and can share this with others."

According to Rabbi Wine, each week he or another member of his congregation chooses a theme that embodies a moral characteristic or a part of

answered the questions, 'Who am I? What's my purpose? How do I lead an ethical existence?' which differs from just trying to take part in Jewish culture."

The second part of the evening is a time for members of the community to celebrate a recent milestone, such as a Bat Mitzvah or birthday. After the community time, Rabbi Wine delivers a talk based on the theme of that week. Then, the congregation breaks for an Oneg Shabbat, and returns to have a discussion period on Rabbi Wine's talk.

This type of service is carried out in the 35 Humanistic Jewish congregations throughout North America, and in other international branches as well.

Gordon Rothman, president of the City Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Manhattan, said that 75 families belong to his congregation, which provides monthly Shabbat services, a High Holiday program, and a community Seder featuring a Humanistic Jewish Haggadah. Humanistic congregations do not take the Exodus literally.

"We treat the Exodus as a representation of a very prominent fact of Jewish history, of the Jewish nation being pursued and targeted for eradication and having to fight for its own liberation," said Mr. Rothman. He added that the ten plagues of Egypt are viewed by his congregation as symbols of the plagues many people suffer from today, such as poverty and prejudice.

History

Rabbi Wine traces the beginnings of the Humanistic Jewish denomination to the turn of the century, when secular Zionist groups formed with a goal of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. These groups viewed their Judaism as a nationalistic, rather than religious, status. Most Israelis today still live the secular lives of their forebears, and the Humanistic Judaism movement has tried to forge a connection to Israelis by sending representatives into state schools and the army.

The formation of a Humanistic Jewish denomination in North America answered a need in secular Jews that was not filled by secular Zionism, according to Rabbi Wine. "It was built around the idea that nationalism isn't enough," he said. "People needed a movement that dealt with the personal agenda of Jews, that answered the questions, 'Who am I? What's my purpose? How do I lead an ethical existence?' which differs from just trying to take part in Jewish culture."



Members of Humanistic Judaism congregation celebrate Sukkot in indoor Sukkah.

implies a Divine Leader, while his services do not recognize G-d's presence at all. "Humanistic Judaism is a non-theistic movement," said Rabbi Wine, who added that most of his congregants are agnostic.

Reason is the best method for discovery of truth," said Wine. "If there's evidence, it's true. If there is some evidence, it may be true. The next world pretty much rests on no evidence for us." Reason is the cornerstone of Humanistic Judaism, which means that any idea that cannot be corroborated by scientific evidence is not considered legitimate.

This reasoning, according to Rabbi Wine, also applies to the Torah. Since Humanistic Jews suspect that G-d does not exist, they certainly do not

status as a Jewish history source. "We don't regard any of the three [Creation, the Ten plagues, and Har Sinai] as historical or universal events," said Rabbi Wine. "Creation implies a Creator, and we don't attach a Creator to the Big Bang. As for the ten plagues, we don't have any evidence... We would regard the giving of the Torah as myth. It's hard to find real history in the Bible."

Religious Life

If Humanistic Jews do not believe in the concepts of a chosen nation or a spiritual world after death, then what do they see as their role in life? Humanistic Jews believe that there are no G-d given jobs for each person to complete on this earth. "We don't believe that there is a manager giving out assignments," said

Jewish history. If the theme chosen is love, for example, the first part of the Friday night service will consist of the recital of Jewish poetry and verses that praise this virtue, as well as readings from Jewish writers. These readings are interspersed with Hebrew music and Jewish songs which do not contain allusions to prayer, "because the lyrics have to fit into our philosophy," said Rabbi Wine.

The formation of a Humanistic Jewish denomination in North America answered a need in secular Jews that was not filled by secular Zionism, according to Rabbi Wine. "It was built around the idea that nationalism isn't enough," he said. "People needed a movement that dealt with the personal agenda of Jews, that

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city life

SCDS Whodunit

SUZANNE ANZISKA
Staff Writer

In a quality performance, the Stern College Dramatic Society (SCDS) pulled off a suspenseful whodunit titled "Nine Girls," by Wilfrid H. Pettit. The play, which ran from Nov. 7- Nov. 11, was directed for the first time by alumna Elizabeth Renna SCW'99.

The stage in Koch Auditorium was set to look like an old cabin in the mountains, which was used as a sorority house. Nine girls spend what is supposed to be pledge weekend in the cabin, only to have a series of gruesome surprises. The girls are stunned when one member of the group is killed in an accident, and they are completely taken aback when a second one is inexplicably found dead. Doubt arises as to whether or not these occurrences are really accidents.

Renna, who was greatly involved with SCDS while a student at Stern, was well prepared to take on the responsibility of being the first alumna to direct a play. The staging was convincing as actresses fell to the ground and jumped over couches. All ten actresses seemed at ease and quite natural, and they delivered their lines with enthusiasm, though they occasionally stood in front of one another, blocking the audience's view of the rest of the cast members.

Mary, played by Rachelle Merlis, is a scheming and astonishing character who kills two of her sorority sisters and in a conniving yet unsuccessful scheme, tries to cover up their murders. Merlis played the part of this twisted sorority sister with a great deal of command, completely captivating

her audience. In another compelling role, S. Kim Glassman played Eve, the only sorority sister who seems to have her head on semi-straight. Eve takes control of the group when things look as if they are heading

ticing Shakespeare, especially the "bloody hands" excerpt from Macbeth, captured the audience.

The cynical and obnoxious character of Frieda was played by Orli Daniels with wit and shrewdness. Frieda, forever criticizing others while perched upon a stool in her black beret, was unforgettable.

Sarah Harris performed the humorously sarcastic and tomboyish role of Shotgun with smoothness and slickness,

dishing out retorts and comebacks to the other characters. Especially hilarious were her interactions with the "freshies" as she attempted to keep them out of the way. Judith Kaplan and Arona Schneider played Shirley and Tennessee, the "babies" or "freshies" of the sorority, who are to be "pledged in" on this fateful weekend. Their annoying yet amusing

comedic relief scenes lightened the disposition of the occasionally heavy play.

Aura Brandwein, in the role of Phyllis, helped to give a firm start to the drama. The rapport between Brandwein and Frenkel

in the opening scene sets the stage for a quality account of events and mystery, which is satisfyingly followed up throughout the performance.

Members of the audience were perched at the edge of their seats during Merlis' shocking revelations and had laughs during Katz and Harris' comedic relief. With Renna's outstanding debut and the cast's wonderful work, "Nine Girls" was an instant hit.



Cast of "Nine Girls"



From top left: S. Kim Glassman, Rachelle Merlis, Chanie Frankel, Sarah Harris, Deena Katz

The Yeshiva University Museum on the Move

ESTHER DONATH
Staff Writer

This December, the Yeshiva University Museum is vacating its present cramped quarters in the Main Campus library and relocating to the spacious, state of the art facilities in the Center for Jewish History on West 16th Street. The building, which features a shop, a 250 seat auditorium, and a kosher café, will be shared by the Museum with four other Jewish institutions: the American Jewish Historical Society, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the Leo Baeck Institute, and the American Sephardi Federation.

As a result, mainly pre-arranged groups have attended the museum's exhibits.

Herskowitz also noted that the move brings the main galleries much closer to SCW, and hopes that this will expand the possibility of having Stern students intern at the Yeshiva University Museum. She has discussed this idea enthusiastically with SCW Art History Department head Evelyn Cohen.

The official opening of the new main galleries is set for late spring, and the Uptown galleries will continue to house the museum's exhibits until December. These exhibits, opening on

According to YU Museum Director Sylvia

Director Sylvia



The Fairy Tale Series
By artist Michelle Muhlbaum

Herskowitz, the move indicates the growing prestige of the museum. "[It was] an offer we couldn't refuse," she said. "Not only will the new location give the Museum ample gallery, office, and classroom space which the YU library cannot offer, but it will place the Museum in the heart of Chelsea. With over 110 art galleries, this trendy section of Manhattan is rapidly becoming the new art capital of New York. The downtown neighborhood, aside from being a cultural treasure trove, is also by far safer and more accessible than Washington Heights, where the museum has been suffering from a lack of private visitors, said Herskowitz.

Sunday, October 17th, will include: a series of oil paintings by artist Maxine Yalovitz-Blankenship, mixed media assemblages by artist Michelle Muhlbaum, and a collection of photographs depicting Jews involved in unusual careers.

Admission to the museum is free with a valid YU student ID card. The museum is open on Sundays from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, call (212) 960-5390.

Dean Nierenberg continued from page 1

has been considering retirement for some time now.

SCW and YC administration were unable to provide names of possible replacements for Dean Nierenberg. "I don't have the vaguest idea. I mean, I won't be involved," said Dean Nierenberg. "I don't want to...there will be a search committee."

The second dean of SSSB with an eight-year term, Dean Nierenberg hopes to maintain his ties with SSSB and offers his assistance for the next dean. "I certainly will be available if

they need help," he stated. "I will... miss the many friends I made here. I hope to maintain the relationships." Dean Nierenberg commented on the recent faculty letter, published in the last issue of The Observer, that complained of unacceptable low salaries for YU professors, saying that he knew nothing about it.

"The faculty feel the salaries tend to be low," he explained. "The SSSB faculty wasn't a part of that. They were not approached. I wasn't a part of it."

city life

Just Around the Corner

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG
Cultural Arts Editor

The Workmen's Circle Building, a vestige of Yiddish culture and home of The Jewish Book Center, neighbors Brookdale Hall at 45 East 33rd Street. This bookstore and its operating social organization are a main source for Yiddish culture in New York City. The store differs from other Jewish bookstores in the area due to its large collection of Yiddish materials, and carries literature used by SCW history classes.

At the Jewish Book Center you can find books on Yiddish grammar, Yiddish novels, Yiddish children's books, Yiddish workout videos, Yiddish

t-shirts as well as large selection of klezemer music. The store also carries the traditional selection of Bibles, Jewish History books, cookbooks and other books focusing on Jewish



The Jewish Book Center

themes. Although The Jewish Book Center's collection of Jewish texts may not be as large as that of other bookstores in Manhattan, it has all the basics and offers ten percent student discount.

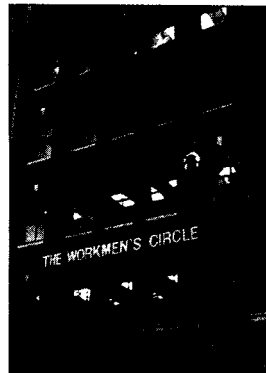
The Workmen's Circle, the social organization that the Jewish Book Center associates with, was organized by European immigrants in the 1900's. It was founded to provide services such as medical care and English lessons to immigrants and served as a general welfare board. The Workmen's Circle continues to run a network of afternoon schools that teach younger generations about Jewish culture and sponsors a summer seminar for adults on various Jewish topics. The Workmen's Circle has hosted Peninnah Schram, a speech professor at SCW, as a storyteller at this seminar.

As The Workmen's Circle became more financially secure,

it began to sponsor Jewish writers and musicians to develop material. The Workmen's Circle still assists young artists working on Jewish topics, especially ones with Yiddish themes, providing grants to help with their projects.

Originally a socialist organization, The Workmen's Circle is now involved in social and economic justice causes. It recently participated in a march on Washington advocating stricter gun control measures, and is involved in the fight for stricter

sweatshop regulations. The organization moved to 33rd Street in the early seventies and was partially responsible for the alteration of the street name to Sholom Aleichem Place. On the eightieth anniversary of Sholom Aleichem's death, his family initiated a program to revitalize his writings. The Workmen's Circle and The Forward, a Yiddish language newspaper, collaborated in the effort and as part of the celebration of Sholom Aleichem's writings, the city renamed the street of The Workman's Circle in his honor.



The Workmen's Circle

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YCDS Sneak Preview

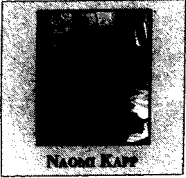
SARAH P. CATE
Cultural Arts Editor

Shawshank Redemption marks the Fall 1999 season for YCDS. The play will run from December 11 to Dec. 16. It will be performed, as are all of the other YCDS performances, in the Schottenstein Theater, at the YU main campus. Directed by Dr. Anthony Beukas and produced by Dov

Pickholtz, YCDS president, the play was chosen over the summer after the rejection of many other scripts. Pickholtz and Daniel Drabkin, YCDS vice-president led the script-selection process until Dr. Beukas made the final decision earlier this semester.

Profiles of Our Career Advisors: What's on *Their* Resumes

EILEEN CHUDOW
Features Editor



NAOMI KAPP

With over 100 jobs behind her, Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of OPCS, is more than able to handle the traditional career wavering of college students. "I always liked college students," she said. "It's an exciting time, trying out different roles

and making important decisions, such as about identity and lifestyle issues, and a tentative career."

Kapp's specialty lies in counseling. While earning her undergraduate degrees in political science and sociology at NYU, she spent two years doing peer counseling. "I enjoyed that more than classes," she said. "I knew I wanted to work more informally with students one on one."

Kapp also earned her teaching certificate and taught for two years at a Brooklyn yeshiva while earning her degree in counseling at Brooklyn College graduate school. She continued at

Brooklyn College, earning an advanced certificate in general counseling. Once she received her NYS certification as a counselor, she spent approximately five years at Touro College, first as a career counselor and later as a supervising counselor.

At Touro, she realized that students had psychological issues that prevented their making career decisions. She spent two years in post-graduate training in psychotherapy learning to deal with the individual as a whole.

She then worked at Federation Employment and Guidance Services, the largest social service agency in the U.S.,

as part of a team offering career services to adults, including women returning to work and professionals in transition. While at FECS she developed a group private practice, which led to her her discovery that she liked the diversity associated with different age groups.

She also joined the development office of the Metropolitan YMCA, providing career services for internal personnel, such as conducting workshops on handling stress, as well as outreach to the general community. SCW accepted an FECS proposal for Kapp to provide career workshops for a year, which led SCW to request Kapp

to work for it part-time. She left FECS for SCW, and six years ago she began working full time for YU, dividing her hours between the two campuses. Kapp now works primarily at SCW but coordinates services on both campuses, traveling uptown once a week. As the Associate Director of OPCS, she has administrative duties in addition to counseling.

"I love working here," said Kapp, adding that the students are the reason she has been working at YU for nearly 15 years. "The students are fantastic," she continued.



ROBERT BOMERSBACH

Knowing full well that the average person will have six different careers in one lifetime, Bob Bomersbach, Assistant Director of OPCS, is perfectly suited for helping students find their career paths. After earning his law degree at Rutgers University School of

Law, he decided the courtroom was not for him and went into legal recruiting. All the while still interested in entertainment, he worked in the film industry while studying as an undergraduate student at Columbia and later at Rutgers.

"I like entertainment and political issues," Bomersbach said, "but the issues that interested me are out of fashion. I'm interested in feminism. The old guard, including Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem addressed the issues of women in the workplace and home."

He later dropped the legal field altogether and went to work for OPCS. "Because I've

made my own way through educational and professional worlds, I know the complexity of the issues involved," he said.

"I think the world's a more interesting place because people have choices," he explained. "People are not afraid to stop their careers, and take three or four years to focus on their kids or to write a novel. I think it's wonderful that there's that flexibility. The old days aren't coming back; my job is to make sure you're as prepared as possible for the job realities of the 90's."

During law school, his experiences working summers at law firms convinced him that law

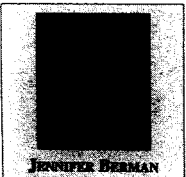
was not the field for him. "I decided not to practice—it wasn't for me," he said. "I experienced that it wouldn't provide satisfaction for me since there's a lot of paper production but few things go to court."

"Because of my own varied experience in film and entertainment law, I have a good sense of the cross section of the industry," he pointed out.

"When I'm working with a student, I need to find out her values and what's suited for her," he said. That includes the roles money, family life, and work play in contributing to that student's fulfillment. As part of his feminism, Bomersbach push-

es aggressively to recruit female students for big firms.

"I was born to do this job," he said. However, he finds his current position to be one of the most exhausting he's held, as well as the most fulfilling. "When I go home at night, I feel a lot of satisfaction from the job I do," he said. "I get calls from May graduates calling to thank me and tell me about their new jobs. I helped them with issues about how to adjust to a work environment. It's rewarding."



JENNIFER BERMAN

Jennifer Berman can relate to YU students who switch majors because she did the same herself, switching from economics to hotel/restaurant management and a minor in man-

agement. "I enjoyed my education," she said, when contemplating whether she would do things differently if offered the opportunity to change the past. She noted that there are ways to learn besides school. "You get education from jobs," she said, "and from living in New York City."

Berman spent her undergraduate years at Syracuse University. "It was a fun school to go to and offered a good education," she said. After graduation, she worked at the J. Crew corporate office in New York, where she worked with human

resources to prevent both internal and external theft. She described her experience there as a good place to learn about work culture.

However, following her time at J. Crew, she desired to return to the restaurant industry. With this goal in mind, she took a position at Restaurant Associates as the assistant to the director of recruiting and the vice president of human resources. Within six months, the company realigned itself and Berman became a junior recruiter. She attended career fairs to recruit students for the company's training program

and discovered that she enjoyed interacting with students. Berman saw an opening at YU and thought it a good transition from recruiting.

"It's been a challenging two years," she said of her time at OPCS. "You need to be good at time management. Our jobs are 52 weeks a year. People think we leave when students leave—it's not true."

While Berman is still interested in the hotel management field, she does not see her current career path leading in that direction. She also feels that her

time at J. Crew was well spent since she gained a number of transferable skills. She recommends that students similarly expose themselves to a variety of experiences so they can discover where their own skills lie.

"You must experience this field first hand," she said. "You can't major in it. We take our own experiences and what we've learned from how we've gone through the process and we give that to students. Our best advice to students is what we've done."

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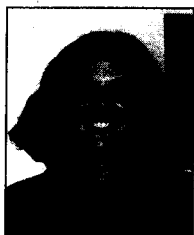
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Presidential Messages



April Simon
SCWSC President

"Mom, Sarah and I would like to see pictures of you when you were younger—can we look at your yearbook?" "Oh sure," you reply. Several minutes later you carefully hand your daughters your little kindergarten yearbook made of construction paper and glitter, your elementary school one with a soft cover and a spiral binding, and your high school yearbook with a hard cover and color pictures. "But didn't you go to college, Mom? Where is that one?" You wish you had an answer for your daughter's questions. "Yeah mom," our other daugh-

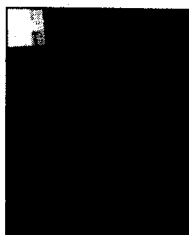
ter chimes in, "why isn't your college yearbook here?"

How do you explain to them that you do not have your college yearbook? That your Stern College years are but a degree and a few scattered memories? After years of late night roommate chats, early morning cramming sessions, and the occasional appearance at a SCWSC/YCSC Thursday night event, what will you have to remember it all by, if not a yearbook? I encourage you to take part in it—sit for your senior picture, encourage family and friends to submit ads for you, and of course, reserve a copy of your very own. College passes you by one time—try and hold on to it as long as you can.

Remembering your Stern years can also be done this year, for the very first time, with the first ever Time Capsule. All are encouraged to choose items that they think will best capture the 1999/2000 year at Stern. You can put in a cell phone or a paper plate—whatever you

think!! This once in a lifetime undertaking can only be accomplished with your help and we hope to make this a huge campus wide activity. At the end of this year, we will have a ceremony, donating the capsule to the school, until the year 2025 when we all come back to open up the Time Capsule. We will be appalled at what kinds of things we did back in the 20th century! Once you have given thought to your submissions, please drop them off in Brookdale Hall 2F to Chani Schubert.

SCWSC hopes to continue planning quality events and programs for all to enjoy. I would like take this time to congratulate the entire Dramatics Society on a job well done on the production of Nine Girls. Your hard work and dedication is valued by the students. We look forward to future activities from all clubs that will be equally as exciting. Hope to see you there!!



Shlomit Zauderer

Dear Sister, Amu'sh

In my shyness and awkwardness I was embarrassed to broach this topic with you. I have noticed over the past few months a change in you. You no longer enjoy eating with me! Do you remember those late night ice cream parties and getting caramel sufganiyot at Uri's? I understand that there is pressure to conform and to be perfect. But as Tom Hanks would say, "We have a problem!" I have tried to for months to rationalize a way to broach this topic in a public forum and this is the only way I felt could be justified. There is a big problem and it is not outside or next door or down the street. This issue is in

OUR caf, in OUR dorms, and in OUR school! There is so much pressure to look a certain way, to conform to certain principles and in the end, people get hurt. I see the value of salad! I do! I like greens with carrots and corn with some peppers on the side! However, the food pyramid also says to eat a certain amount of carbs, grains and yes dare I say FAT a day. It is important to eat right, get plenty of sleep and exercise. However, this incredible pressure forces too many to go to the extreme.

I am sure that there are those who would disagree with this view of mine. Please feel free to comment, e-mail, write letters. Let us all try to get this issue into the open. A roommate of mine said that "two wholes make a marriage." If you are not confident in who you are and losing another 20 pounds will bring that confidence to you, what happens if and when you do lose the weight? You'll want to lose 10 more pounds, most likely. Please, I really beg of you not to get stuck in the vicious cycle. Please think for just a moment what is leading to this. We are here right behind you and we all love you very much!!! Good luck!

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What's an Aleph Again?

Observer Staff

Professor H. Dubitsky was not happy. The SCW Hebrew language teacher was having a hard time believing that a simple homework assignment, composed of conjugating two verbs into past, present and future tenses, could go so wrong. Words were misspelled, the wrong vowels were used, and basic pronouns were mixed up. All in all, Professor Dubitsky proclaimed, the class did a "lousy job."

What is striking about this scenario is not that this Ivrit class forgot the punctuation. The sad fact is, almost half of the students who did the assignment incorrectly had been learning Hebrew almost all their lives.

This lack of Hebrew language skills does not end in this classroom. Millions of college-age men and women, who have attended Hebrew school since the age of two, can barely read the language

In a recent article in The Jewish Week, entitled "Why Yoni Can't Read - Or Daven," addresses the Hebrew education problem. It points out that there is a lack of teaching Judaic subjects in Ivrit B' Ivrit, making it hard for students to really get a grasp of the language.

"If we had more classes in Hebrew it would be very helpful," agreed Dubitsky. "As far as *Chumash* and *Navi*, where the text is in Hebrew, it's a shame. More time should be devoted to the simple reading of the text."

Professor Dubitsky added that throughout davening and *Chumash* there are words used in the present, past and future tenses. "Hebrew should be part of a whole set of something," said Dubitsky. "Words shouldn't simply be translated into English."

Phyllis Weiner-Miller (SCW '73), who works in the Special Education Department of the



Professor Dubitsky admonishes his Hebrew class

or even speak it.

One SCW student, who wished to remain anonymous, was shocked when she received a 73 on a Hebrew exam, which included such exercises as translating numbers and vocabulary words. "Everything that was on the test were things I had learned since elementary school," she said. "For a language I have been learning for 15 years, a 73 on a simple [Ivrit] test is really depressing."

So why is it, that after years of learning one language, and in many cases studying in the country where they speak it, many students still need a serious brush-up?

Professor Dubitsky, who has been teaching Hebrew at YC and SCW for more than 20 years, said one of the many problems in teaching Ivrit is that many students try to find the easy way out. "Ten years ago it was assumed that a student could find a word in a Hebrew-Hebrew dictionary," said Dubitsky. "But lately I have found that rather than looking in a dictionary, students ask an Israeli friend or a friend on a higher level for the answer."

To prevent this from happening, Dubitsky requested every student start to bring a Hebrew-Hebrew and Hebrew-English dictionary to class. "When I asked in class where to find a word [in the dictionary] they didn't know what root to look under," said Dubitsky. "The reason for this, they said, was because in years past, they were told by the teacher to buy the dictionaries, but they never used them."

Board of Jewish Education, agrees that something in the modern system of Hebrew-language teaching has to be changed. "Within the last 10-15 years kids have been getting the easy way out," said Weiner-Miller. "Things are being translated and explained way too much."

A former teacher herself, Weiner-Miller feels the Ivrit B' Ivrit standard should be instituted early on, in order for Hebrew to become routine for the students.

Rachel Farkas, an SCW senior, agrees that when a school institutes an Ivrit B' Ivrit policy, it will make speaking and writing Hebrew much easier. "I was very fortunate to have gone to Yeshivah of Flatbush, where they were very firm about having Hebrew spoken in Hebrew subject classes," said Farkas, who considers herself fluent in Hebrew.

When it comes to who is teaching the students, Professor Dubitsky pointed out a major flaw in schools. "Many times schools will hire Israelis [to teach Hebrew]," said Dubitsky. "This doesn't necessarily mean the person is an expert."

A surprising fault Dubitsky found in the Hebrew language system is the lack of Ivrit B' Ivrit classes for students who attend yeshivas in Israel for their years. "Especially in Israel, teachers should make a conscious effort to teach B' Ivrit, whether it be teaching the language itself or *rabbeim* teaching religious studies," said Dubitsky.

With the coming of the new millennium, both Weiner-Miller and Dubitsky feel that the

Hebrew continued on page 12

Breaking the Bank on a Slice of Tomato

RACHEL BIENENFELD
Staff Writer

Waiting anxiously for the long line of girls to dwindle, Deena Katz, a junior at SCW, finally arrived at the Stern caf to survey her dinner options. She noticed a new side dish, baked tomatoes, and since it was never offered before she decided to try it. When Katz received her dish, she noticed the serving was only a half of a tomato. And to her surprise, that little slice of tomato cost a dollar.

"We are considered a small college," said Jake Lieberman, Director of Food Services for Yeshiva University. "Other colleges have a lot more flexibility to do a lot more with the meal plan."

Those "other universities," such as University of Pennsylvania, and Barnard/Columbia University (which share the same kosher cafeteria), offer different meal plans that are only mandatory for first year students. University of Pennsylvania has a number of different eating options. The one closest to the plan offered at SCW is the debit meal plan. For under \$1,700 a year, students are paying for a certain number of meals per semester.

"You go into the dining hall, you get your ID swiped, then it takes off a meal," said Lily Almo, a sophomore at University of Pennsylvania. "During that meal, you can eat all that you want."

In contrast to SCW's meal plan, the students at Penn, pay per meal as opposed to per product. But this plan has its drawbacks, according to Almo. If a student is not so hungry, he/she may not be happy about using up a whole meal for just a snack. "Sometimes, it's not worth it to use a meal if I would just like to eat a salad," continued Almo.

Barnard/Columbia University also offers different meal plans and is only mandatory for freshman, yet the least expensive plan is about \$3,070 per year. "Every time you walk in, the woman swipes your card, and you can stay as long as you want and eat as much as you want," said Miriam Horak, a sophomore at Barnard. "And



Students at the frozen yogurt machine

that's where your meals are used."

Yet, just like the University of Pennsylvania, there is the problem of paying for an entire meal that you are not necessarily going to eat. "There are people who complain," continued Horak. "Because nobody eats ten dollars worth of a meal."

Unlike the other universities, SCW is significantly smaller in size and cannot offer a number of different meal plans, says Lieberman. "You can add diversity when there's a higher number of participants," said Lieberman. "You need a guaranteed number of participants in the meal, our food consultant recommended this meal plan."

However, SCW does offer a variety of other foods to choose from. "I love the meal plan," commented Lisa Younger, a junior at SCW. "I think they really accommodate..."

Unlike many other colleges, where students get locked into purchasing a certain number of meals per week, for \$1,400 a year SCW offers both meals and a variety of food products. "We give the students the opportunity to buy what they want," said Lieberman. "Other types of meal plans, you miss it, it's gone and money is declined automatically."

But are students getting what they are paying for?

"[The prices] are ridiculous," said Katz.

"It's all over-priced," echoed Younger. "I'd be in the plan anyway, but I see the concern of the New Yorkers who pay an x amount per semester and use only a portion of it."

"I feel that university food should be cheaper than a restaurant," said Tami Dalkoff, a junior at SCW.

Although many students complain that food prices should be marked down, Lieberman insists they are justified.

"Prices are based on an industry formula," said Lieberman, "and our prices are lower than the industry's."

If students are still dissatisfied with the cafeteria situation, there's a food committee that meets about once a month, which addresses price and menu problems. Students are encouraged to give suggestions that can hopefully lead to some changes. "We have a food committee, they bring up the complaints," explained Lieberman. "Sometimes there can be problems, nobody is perfect."

New Graduate Center Open To All

BATYA FREDMAN
Staff Writer

Newman, Chief Librarian of CUNY University, had out-

by the SUNY School of Optometry.

The CUNY Graduate Center at 34th Street and Fifth Ave., neighboring SCW, will finally be completed this December, to the relief of City University graduate students. Though the Center was operational starting Sept. 20, it requires additional construction.

After years at its 2nd Street location, the old graduate center, according to Susan



The CUNY Graduate Center

grown the previous building and therefore agreed to be bought out

The new Graduate Center caters to those seeking a graduate degree in the social sciences or humanities, and is a much-needed improvement to the old CUNY center on 33 West 42nd Street, with a library that had often been described as a dungeon.

"In just one month there are obvious improvements," said Tzipora Ross, a Ph.D. student at CUNY. "On the whole it's beautiful, but disorga-

continued on page 12

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