



The Yeshiva University

OBSERVER

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

December 21, 1999

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12 Tevet 5760

SCW Security Nabs Alleged Harasser

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Observer Secretary

A 56-year-old man was apprehended by Carmen Blas, a female SCW security official, near the Main Building on Wednesday, Dec. 15, on charges of harassing at least five SCW students. The man, who is unemployed and lives with his mother, is currently on medication for mental illness and is apparently an Orthodox Jew who has frequented the SCW cafeteria.

"This is a strange case," YU Chief of Security Donald Sommers said. "I was expecting one of the drunks in the neighborhood." When incidents of harassment and anti-Semitic remarks were reported by SCW students, a profile of the suspect was created immediately by security as well as the New York Police Department. "I have quite a file on this guy," Sommers explained. "We have been working on his for awhile."

The man, who lives only a few blocks from the SCW dormitories, was placed in custody by the NYPD after he was identified by security. Patrick Crudo, security coordinator for the Midtown Campus, attributes the capture of the individual to the efficiency and reliability of Burns Security. "They're one

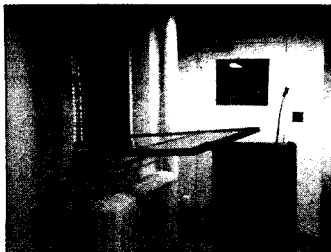
of the best around," Crudo commented. "I owned a security company for 15 years, so I know what good security is."

An anonymous SCW student told the Observer that while walking to school with a friend about two weeks ago, she was approached by this individual. "He walked by us, - but I only realized afterwards that he was saying 'dirty Jew' to both of us," she recalled.

Sommers noted that the individual's remarks were probably not malicious. "He definitely has a mental illness of some sort," Sommers said. "It's more pathetic than anything. We're probably going to help the mother get him into treatment."

There have been no reports of harassment by this man in the school buildings, but students are nonetheless disturbed that he has eaten next to them in the SCW cafeteria. However, the law requires SCW to admit visitors. "SCW wants to accommodate people who want access to kosher food, and by law, we cannot exclude outsiders from visiting," Sommers explained.

Sommers agreed with Crudo that Burns Security was the



Fallen window in room 250 of College building

YU Employee Escapes Fatal Blow From Faulty Window

Observer Staff

Over a month after a faulty window smashed the hand of an SCW student, the same 60-lbs. window fell on YU maintenance employee Edmindo Valle during Professor Laurel Hatvary's Senior Seminar on Nov. 30 due to negligence on the part of Facilities Management.

Since the screws

securing the top of the window had been removed by another employee, when Valle attempted to close it, the weight of the window caused it to crash down, grazing the side of his head as well as his shoulder. "I thought [the window] was going to crown him," Professor Hatvary said. "I had a vision of the window

see Window page 19

New York Times, Forward, Jewish Week Dismiss Observer Disposal

SCW's image suffers from both local media and YU administration.

RACHEL SALAMON AND MIRIAM ELJAS

There are two forms of newspaper censorship. One is tossing out student newspapers. The other is dismissing them. And the New York Times, The Forward, and The Jewish Week have done just that.

Yeshiva University's disposal of over 3,000 copies of The Observer and The Commentator is trivial in comparison to the local media's censorship of The Observer. At least YU had the courtesy to give equal disrespect.

New York Times

education editor Karen W. Arenson chose to disregard the dumping of The Observer in her Dec. 15th article covering the disposal of The Commentator during the month of November, despite an hour long phone interview with Observer Editors.

"It seemed ancillary," Arenson remarked, reflecting the common attitude of local newspapers and online news publications to report only half the YU story. "There is only so much you can include in a limited space."

see Observer page 10

ASSAULT AVERTED AT LOCAL SIMS MINI-MART

NEHAMA MILLER
News Editor

Many SCW students and Murray Hill residents were shocked to learn of a robbery which took place at the Sims mini-mart on Friday evening Dec. 3. Employees of the grocery store, located on 34th Street and Park Avenue, panicked after a man barged into the store, cracking the glass of the entryway.

"After he broke down the door he told everyone he was going to rob the store," said a Sims cashier, who wished to remain anonymous.

Unknown to everyone in the store, the robber, who claimed he had a weapon, was actually unarmed. Yet, even before this fact was confirmed, one Sims employee decided to risk his life and take action.

"One of the guys who works behind the deli counter tried to stop him," continued the cashier, "so the robber took one of the deli knives and threw it at him."

The Sims employee was not hurt in the debacle, and neither was anyone else present.

Although the shoplifter was found and arrested at Sims, many SCW students, especially those who stayed in for Shabbat that weekend, fear for their safety in what is supposed to be a secure area.

"I'm pretty scared," said Suri Brody, a Sy Syms senior who stays in the dorm almost every Shabbat.

"We usually walk back from dinner around the time the robbery happened," said Brody. "I think they should have guards escorting the girls back to Brookdale, Schottenstein and Windsor after the meal."

In the meantime Sims, which is open 24 hours, is conducting business as usual, with the help of NYPD circulation.



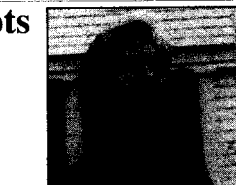
Sims Mini-Mart at 34th & Park

Hillary Attempts to Pacify Jewish Voters

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

Last week Hillary Clinton met with members of the Orthodox Union, attempting to assuage the ill feelings aroused by her recent visit to Israel, where she sat silently as Suha Arafat, wife of Yassir Arafat, falsely accused Israel of poisoning Palestinian women and children.

With her foot in her mouth again, Clinton is trying to patch up her latest Jewish public relations blunder to save her chances for New York senate next year. First it was her comment about the necessity of a



Palestinian state, and then, a delayed reaction to a virtual blood libel case on Israel by Madam Arafat.

She also met with Stephen M. Flatow, the father of Alisa Flatow, a 20 year old student who was killed in a bus bombing in Israel in 1995 (see related article in this issue). Mrs. Clinton expressed support for Mr. Flatow's attempts to receive a \$247.5 million dollar settlement against Iran, which funded the terrorist group that killed Alisa Flatow.

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page 8

SCW Sports Center Spread
pages 12-13

Is Your Room Safe?
page 24

YC Alumnus Starts Successful Music Band
page 18

News Briefs

by Rachel Elbaum

Israel:

The remains of Cpl. Leon Cohen and Cpl. Nativ Mordechai were found by the Israeli army near the Suez Canal and identified twenty-six years after they died when their tank was hit by an Egyptian rocket during the Yom Kippur War. President Ezer Weizman was intimately involved in behind-the-scenes attempts to secure the return of the MIAs. Their remains were found almost exactly where their tank was hit. The army will continue its efforts to locate the 16 missing and fallen whose place of burial is unknown from the Yom Kippur War.

The Knesset lobby convened for its first meeting on December 14, to discuss the release of Jonathan Pollard. The lobby insisted the Israeli government ask possible U.S. Senatorial candidate Hillary Clinton to support Pollard's release and to join with the American Jewish community to seek action on his behalf.

Peace talks between Syria and Israel, on the fate of the Golan Heights, resumed on December 15, following accusations by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa that Israel displaced a half million Syrians living on the border during the 1967 Mideast war. As yet, Barak may transfer the Golan Heights to the Syrians in exchange for a peace treaty, a move that is drawing controversy from much of the Jewish community. Talks will resume next week in Amman, Jordan.

International:

Edward Safran, the founder of Republic National Bank of New York and Sephardic philanthropist, was killed by smoke inhalation in one of his homes in Monaco, in the beginning of December. He was buried in Switzerland. The Sephardic community was a major beneficiary of Safran's philanthropy and it was said he supported synagogues, yeshivot, and schools.

Nazi war-crime official Alois Brunner, considered one of the last major Nazi war criminals still unapprehended, died in 1996 and is buried in Syria, according to reports that came out last week. He was accused of organizing the deportation of 24,000 French Jews to death camps between 1943-44 when he was the director of Drancy concentration camp. A trial against Brunner, in absentia, for crimes committed against humanity will open in France this spring.

The Panama Canal was turned over to the Panamanian government last week, following a diplomatic exchange between former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and President Mireya Moscoso. A 1977 treaty signed by Carter granted full ownership of the canal to Panama in 1999.

In a custody battle, the Italian courts took two Jewish sisters, Nitzan Dolberg, age 14, and Danielle Dolberg, age 10, from their

mother and gave them to their father. The court made this ruling based on libelous accusations against their mother because she had become a religious Jew.

National:

Following months of negotiations, Germany has agreed to create a fund for Nazi slave laborers. A U.S.-based Jewish group released a list of more than 250 firms still operating that used Nazi labor, and urged them to join the fund. Officials on both sides agreed to the establishment of \$5.1 billion for slave labor compensation.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright described Syrian President Hafez Assad as serious about peace with Israel, last week, and said that after meeting with him that she was "much more hopeful" about getting talks reopened. She gave no indication that Assad had moderated his territorial demands.

A new study on America's homeless finds they were often victims in their youth of physical and sexual abuse, poverty and poor education. The government-funded study also says most homeless people are successful in getting off the streets when they receive help from federal and other programs.

1200 copies of the Skidmore College newspaper were disposed of, following the publication of an article on a suspected hate crime at a residence for homosexual stu-

dents. Admissions directors feared the article would turn away prospective students. Following a disciplinary decision by campus officials, Mary Lou Bateed, Admissions Director at Skidmore, must write letters explaining her actions to potential students and parents, as well as research academic freedom.

Local:

Upper West Side residents protested the construction of the 70,000 square foot superstore at community meeting last week. The store is planned to be built at 10th Avenue and 55th Street. Residents and lawmakers say the superstore would compound serious problems in the area and bring in 20,000 additional cars to the area.

Teachers and administrators at 32 New York City schools are accused of helping students cheat on standardized tests by providing them with questions in advance and even marking test forms for them according to a special investigator for city schools. He said all 52 school employees named in the report have been removed from their jobs pending the results of the investigation.

A children's Bill of Rights was unveiled last week as hundreds of homeless children and their supporters took to the streets for Covenant House's ninth annual candlelight vigil. The group also asked government leaders to do more to help homeless children.

SCW Calendar

December 1999- January 2000

December:

22 Chess Club, 9-10 p.m. every Wednesday.
Shiva by Rav Hochberg, 8 p.m. every Wednesday, Rm. 301. See Shlomit Zauderer for details.
Computer Science Club event-Artificial Intelligence, 2:30 p.m. Flyers to follow.
SAGA event-movie, 7 p.m.
Sophomore Class dinner, Flyers to follow

23 Moshav Yotvata Shiva by various Poshei Yeshiva given every Thursday. Flyers to follow. See Shlomit Zauderer for details.

24 25 Reading Week (Illustration) sign up in the courtyard.

27 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

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29 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

30 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

31 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

1 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

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5 Yiddishkeit program, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

The Observer

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EDITORIALS

Accountability

What do the Physics Lab, the Chemistry Lab and the Cultural center have in common? Each of these facilities have undergone renovations, and none have been completed on time. Actually, they have something else in common. Although both faculty and students were "consulted" on the various projects, their input, even on basic essentials, went largely ignored. The unprofessional and incompetent way these projects were handled is a symptom of a much larger issue that concerns the way Yeshiva administration deals with both students and faculty.

The Yeshiva University administration is silent when it comes to issues that are important and relevant to the student body. Communication is begrudging at best, and when it does occur, it is condescending, dictatorial, and presented without the slightest pretense of civility. Certain members of Yeshiva administration have demonstrated by their actions, time and again, little regard for the educational enterprise and a total lack of respect for the opinions of the faculty or students. Stories abound

of students and faculty alike being subjected to unprovoked name-calling and verbal abuse. This blatant disregard for common courtesy is both astounding and, in a Yeshiva environment, most disturbing.

Under the guise of the Student Life Committee, the Yeshiva administration attempts to look sympathetic to student needs. When they actually show up to the meetings, members of the administration nod and smile and promise that something will in fact be done about issues raised. There will be installation of proper ventilation in the exercise rooms in Brookdale and Schottenstein Residence Halls, they assure, the second and third floors in 215 Lexington Avenue will be ready for the Spring semester, the Art Annex will get the lighting needed, the Cultural Center will be outfitted for Student run plays and productions... The list of promises grows with every meeting. The list of promises kept remains pathetically short. There is no accountability in the administration. They make promises and do not keep them because there are no consequences when they fail to

deliver.

We demand that a management consultant be brought in to assess the situation. Where is the break down in the system? What can be done to remedy the situation? The problem areas must be identified and dealt with swiftly and thoroughly.

Our readers are tired of hearing about the bungled physics and chemistry labs, about the cultural center without a stage, about the lack of ventilation for the third semester in a row in many classrooms in 245 Lexington. Our readers are tired of hearing about the contemptuous attitude that certain members of the administration hold toward Stern College. We are tired of writing about these issues. It is not a secret who is at fault for much of the foul atmosphere and much of the foul-ups. We students know it, the faculty knows it, and there is no doubt that the guilty parties know it. We are not anxious to expose or to embarrass, but we owe it to our fellow students to demand changes in the way our problems are addressed, to demand a change in the attitude towards students and faculty, and to demand, above all, accountability.

Seen But Not Heard

So the YU administration tosses all student newspapers out the window. Fine. It is horrible, blatant censorship. The college no longer smells like teen spirit, it reeks of Fascism. So why then do they ask to tape the layout session of the newspaper for an SCW admissions video? More than \$2,000 dollars of Observers were purposely discarded by the

administration and then they want The Observer to draw new students by making everything look nice and happy? The rampant censorship on the YU campuses is anything but nice and happy.

Over 1000 copies of the Observer were thrown out during the SCW Open House when that prospective SCW students and their parents toured the Midtown

campus. If the administration wants to show off The Observer, then let us distribute it freely. This hypocrisy is reminiscent of the old saying "children should be seen and not heard."

Never mind the fact that the Middle States Accreditation Review is coming up-and in order to get accreditation as a university, the school must have a student newspaper. Good luck to them without us.

From the Editors

Bursting Koch at its Seams

MIRIAM ELIAS
Editor-in-Chief

Koch Auditorium nearly burst at its seams during the Chanukah Chagiga earlier this month. An unprecedented number of SCW students crammed into the multi-purpose room to take part in the festivities painstakingly planned by TAC coordinators. In my entire three years at SCW I have never seen so many students actively take part in a communal event. It was a beautiful sight.

All the daily complaints of student apathy that echo in my ears melted away, one after the other, as I sat on the floor of Koch (there wasn't enough room for chairs) and watched different clubs perform for their fellow students. People kept piling into the room, one after the other, till there was simply no space left even to stand. I watched, amazed at the scene around me.

Perhaps this year we are graced with a renewed sense of school spirit. I began this year with old, cynical feelings that everyone complains and nobody cares and somebody should do some-

thing about it. Well, all the somebodies were there that night caring.

The Dance Club took to the floor with energy and life. The Kol Shira and The Belles captivated the crowd with their Chanukah spirit. Every square inch was occupied by students squatting on the floor watching the performers.

Yeah, school spirit. Finally, in my SCW life, I witnessed true school spirit. Students shared oily egg rolls and suganot, tossed beach balls across the room, danced in one big circle, and sang together.

Administrators and faculty came by to chat with students and participate, while the band played away.

I only wished Koch had been big enough to accommodate the students standing in the hallway and crowding in the doorway.

I was overwhelmed. I had never seen this before. Everyone in the same room celebrating together. Doesn't happen often here. But it sure did that night.



Why Barak, Why Now?

RACHEL S. SALAMON
Executive Editor

The cause of massive Israeli demonstrations in the past few weeks, President Clinton is forcing Israel to give up one of its most valuable assets to Syria: the coveted Golan Heights. It is clear that Clinton wants to leave his mark in the history books as the primary facilitator for peace in the Middle East, rather than having the lead in his paragraph in history books starting with the word Whitewater or Monica. He wants to be the one to accomplish the impossible, to make Israel make peace with its Arab neighbors.

Strangely enough, Clinton is orchestrating this deal despite the fact that it will endanger the lives of thousands of American troops who will have to be stationed in the Golan as a peacekeeping force. The plan would also require that the U.S. provide an additional \$25 billion to Israel for this move alone.

The Golan empowers its owner because of its strategic location and ample resources, so this move to hand over the Golan can only tip the precarious scale in favor of the Arabs. Furthermore, the Golan has been inhabited by Jews since the times of Tanach, and if the deal goes through, then the Jews living in the area will

be forced out of their homes. None of this seems to bother Clinton, who is set on destroying Israel piece by piece in order to leave his legacy and improve his image in the international community.

Yet what is entirely unclear is what Ehud Barak hopes to gain from this dangerous venture. Barak is certainly aware that Syria is notorious for supporting terrorists, as well as exporting heroin all over the world. It is painfully evident that neither Israel nor the U.S. will ultimately benefit from the plan to

give away the Golan. Meanwhile, Barak will probably continue in his sycophantic way and scamper off to Washington on White House demand.

But Barak is in for a big surprise. One day he will wake up and realize what Netanyahu found out too late - that Clinton is not a man of his word-just like Netanyahu mistakenly trusted that Clinton would honor the promise that Pollard would finally be released during his Prime Ministry. Maybe Clinton was referring to Netanyahu's next term as Prime Minister, because that old promise has yet to be fulfilled.



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Letters to the Editor

Editors Emeritus React

Dear Editor,

We are writing to The Observer as former editors and as proud alumnae of Stern College for Women. Several Jewish and mainstream publications have reported recently that undergraduate newspapers have been disappearing from newsstands, and that university personnel confiscated them. While we were upset by this news, we were not surprised. As editors, we noticed that during public events, The Observer newspapers would dis-

appear from their stands, usually to be returned within the week. This was something we tolerated unhappily because the papers were not destroyed and because we knew the university's bureaucracy would make it difficult to change a situation that was for the most part just annoying. We are upset that this year the university has resorted to throwing away newspapers to prevent prospective students and their parents from reading what Stern College students have to say about their school. We hope the

recent publicity will persuade the university that The Observer should be made available to members of the public when they visit the school. We are equally upset by another fact mentioned only in passing by The Jewish Week and not at all by the New York Times. This year the university has stopped mailing copies of YU's undergraduate newspapers to its alumni. This is an insult as sharp as throwing the newspapers away. Alumnae have always constituted a significant portion of The Observer's circulation. By refusing to send the paper to them, the

university limits The Observer's freedom of the press. It is unfortunate that this should happen at a time when The Observer is as good or better than it has ever been in the history of the paper. As former editors, we appreciate the time and devotion required to publish a newspaper of The Observer's quality. It is unfair for this year's editors to be denied the attention they deserve for their hard work. As alumnae, one of our biggest incentives to contribute to Stern has been the knowledge that membership in the alumni association included a subscription to The Observer. As

involved alumnae, we feel we have the right to receive copies of the newspaper, especially in light of our devotion both to the newspaper and the school. We are very disappointed that we have been denied the right to know what is going on at our alma mater. We hope the university will resume sending The Observer to alumnae of Stern College.

Susan Jacobs, editor-in-chief, 1998-99
Leslie Ginsparg, editor-in-chief, 1997-98

Humanistic Yes, But Judaism?

Dear Editor:

Though I am not a student at SCW, I enjoy your newspaper very much. Having been involved with a school newspaper many years ago, I can appreciate the professionalism apparent in every issue.

I find something of interest in almost every article. However, I would like to take issue with the article about "Humanistic Judaism" that appeared November 23. To my mind, a school such as Stern College that promotes Orthodox Judaism should not print an article that publicizes a movement that denies belief in G-D. Though the article was well written, I was offended by the whole concept of Humanistic Judaism. I felt that by printing this article you somehow gave credence to this movement.

Let us hope that the members of Humanistic Judaism soon see the folly of their way and join us in adherence to G-D's way, the Torah.

Mrs. Fay Berman
Brooklyn, NY

Kostant responds:

I appreciate Mrs. Berman's criticism of my article, mainly because her strong feelings toward Humanistic Judaism echo my own. As an Orthodox Jew, I found it difficult to write about Jews who do not believe in G-D, whose belief system is antithetical to the Torah's and consequently, my own. However, I differ with Mrs. Berman when she says that "a school that promotes Orthodox Judaism should not print an article that publicizes a movement that denies belief in G-D." I feel that it is imperative that Orthodox Jews be aware of the Humanistic Judaism movement because it promotes such anti-Torah views. This applies to any similar denomination. When we are educated, we are better able to deal with these movements when they affect our lives. For example, an Orthodox Jew involved in kiruv may be approached with questions about this movement from a Jew interested in exploring his or her heritage, and that Orthodox Jew must be able to answer.

Mrs. Berman said that she was "offended by the whole concept of Humanistic Judaism." Good! I wanted readers of the Observer to be offended by this movement. Better offended than completely ignorant. Mrs. Berman also noted that writing about the Humanistic Judaism movement gives it legitimacy. I would agree with this if the article in question had given the movement a positive review, but my article did not praise Humanistic Judaism. I specifically included criticism of the movement by Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg in the article to make sure the Orthodox viewpoint was present. My article, however, was not an editorial, and it had to possess a certain amount of objectivity in order to uphold the rules of proper news reporting. This objectivity, however, should not be misconstrued as acceptance on my part of Humanistic Judaism.

Equestrian Respect

Dear Editor:

Stern's first ever Equestrian Club was started by Chaya Aspir this year. Yet, the Stern administration has not been overly eager to support this amateur club. Other than providing transportation to and from Clairmont Riding Academy, Stern refuses to subsidize the cost of the horseback riding lessons, claiming it to be a luxury. Riding is no more of a luxury than any other activity that people enjoy, such as tennis, swimming, fencing, golf (YC has a golf club) etc....

Furthermore, at our Club's "graduation" party for completing a semester of horseback riding lessons, Student Council only paid for one pie of pizza, when feeding the entire Equestrian Club required two! Chaya and another club member were then forced to pay out of their own pockets.

Student Council needs to put their priorities in order. They are willing to finance 100 basketball tickets, as well as the Fun Club, which can be seen as no more of a

luxury than the Equestrian Club. They gladly promote the Metropolitan Experience Program, but they won't pay for the necessary food for the Equestrian Club's graduation.

Currently, we are having a battle with the administration regarding receiving credit for horseback riding lessons. Any horseback rider can attest to the strenuous physical activity required by the rider, yet, the physical education program has chosen to ignore that fact.

If this is truly Stern's Equestrian Club, then SCWS should support it as such. Otherwise, we are just ten girls who go horseback riding in our free time.

Finally, SCWS encourages the formation of new clubs, so why then do they make it so difficult to do?

The SCW Equestrian Club
Chaya Aspir Jocelyn Berger
Orly Daniels Elana Groeschler
Ilana Kasten Adina Levine
Ellyn Mauner Michelle Rothenberg
Stephanie Sherman
Shoshana Stein

YCDS Puts SCDS

Dear Editor:

After reserving tickets a week in advance, I looked forward to enjoying the YCDS play, only to find when I arrived that my seat had been given to a high-level administration member who on short notice decided to attend. I was instead allocated to a folding chair, and then to seat with an obstructed view. I am the President of the Stern College Dramatic Society and the fact that the YCDS would treat me this way is just another example of the contempt they show for SCDS.

In the past SCDS and YCDS have had relatively strained, very competitive relationship. I vowed as president that I would see to it that things would be different. I sought to establish a working relationship with the YCDS president, which was not

reciprocated. SCDS attempted to hold a joint SCDS-YCDS shabbaton on the midtown campus only to be met with non-commitment by our male counterparts. Further YCDS was not forthcoming or helpful when SCDS asked to borrow unused props. However despite the negative cooperation on behalf of YCDS, SCDS extends to them common courtesy. We supply them with complimentary tickets as well as extend a verbal invitation to our post play cast party. We even allowed YCDS to send representatives down to the midtown campus to sell tickets (sixty tickets were sold on the midtown campus), even after they refused us that privilege.

The way I was treated was a smack in the face

Celia Sporer, SCDS President

Anorexia in the Student Body

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to the numerous pieces relating to anorexia in the November 23rd issue of the Observer. I recall that Shulie's courage in sharing such a personal experience coupled with her moving story no doubt strongly impacted all of her listeners. But while the number of girls that attended was certainly sufficient, I thought it was extremely disproportionate to the targeted audience.

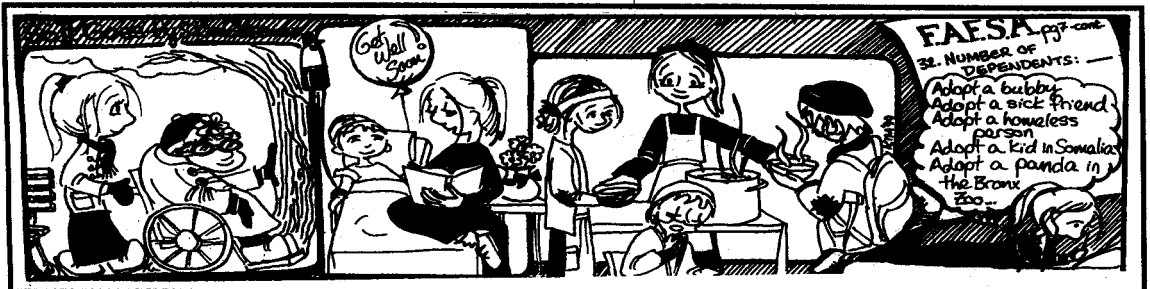
Recent studies clearly indicate that eating disorders are higher among Jewish Orthodox girls. Stern is by no means immune to these statistics. Between the competitive atmosphere at SCW and the pressures of the dating scene, it seems that Stern is an environment that naturally breeds a high number of eating disorders. Given this, I found it extremely disconcerting that more girls didn't take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear a fellow student reflect on her experience.

Shuli's speech was extremely informative and

pertinent to many of the women at Stern. I am sure that the 100 or so women who attended represented only a small fraction of those who could have benefited from Shulie's eloquent speech.

I hope that the next time such vital lectures and discussions are offered, more students will take advantage of them in an attempt to learn about what is so rampantly affecting society as a whole, and specifically, our immediate environment at Stern.

Shira Dickstein
SCW Junior



presidential messages

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SPRING SCHEDULE 2000

Classes held: Monday, January 24, 2000–Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Registration: Monday, January 17, 2000 and Tuesday, January 18, 2000

(WEEKDAY CLASSES MEET FOR ONE 100 MINUTE SESSION PER WEEK)

SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	JEWISH SPECIAL EDUCATION Rabbi Eliezer Vilinsky
	11:30 a.m.	TEACHING BIBLE: PENTATEUCH Rabbi Nachum Muschel
MONDAY	6:00 p.m.	MORAL DEVELOPMENT Dr. Yitzchak S. Handel
	7:50 p.m.	CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT Dr. Chaim Feuerman
TUESDAY	6:00 p.m.	CURRICULUM DESIGN IN JEWISH EDUCATION Dr. Alvin I. Schiff
	7:50 p.m.	SUPERVISION OF JEWISH SCHOOLS Dr. Chaim Feuerman
WEDNESDAY	6:00 p.m.	COGNITIVE PROCESSES AND METHODS IN JEWISH EDUCATION Dr. Aharon H. Fried
	7:50 p.m.	TEACHING BIBLICAL EXEGESIS Dr. Moshe Sokolow
THURSDAY	6:00 p.m.	TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST Dr. Robert M. Shapiro
	7:50 p.m.	HISTORY OF JEWISH EDUCATION Dr. Zevulun Lieberman

For further information on admission to the program contact:
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PLEASE POST


APRIL SIMON
 SCWSC President

Each year we at Stern College recreate the miracle of Chanukah and showcase our own little "Miracle on Thirty Fourth Street" by lighting Chanukah candles for the public to see. We remember the strength of the Jewish people in times of great adversity and recognize the hand of Hashem is behind all that we accomplish. But I fear today people have forgotten that the great wonders of the past can reoccur in the present and future by the same means as before—faith in Hashem and human action.

Activity within the community is so crucial because as members of society we should feel a sense of responsibility to those among whom we live. In the same way we would hope others would assist us when distressed, we should try to do the same for others.

The initiative of many Stern College students in the past to make a difference in the community has been remarkable. The TAC Chesed

Committee and the SCWSC Community Action Committee have collaborated and begun a homelessness awareness project on campus. They offer students the opportunity to participate in food and clothing drives and volunteer at soup kitchens and shelters in the Manhattan area. A bone marrow drive just took place at Stern where almost 300 students came together and gave of themselves for this tremendous Mitzvah. The blood drive is also picking up momentum and more and more students participate each time. Bikur Cholim in local hospitals also continues to grow with each coming week. Stern students' participation in various projects is commendable and I hope those who are involved continue in their work.

But, what about everyone else? Where are those who choose not to be active in their communities? There are countless causes that each person can work at, even in the most minimal fashion. At this very moment one of our own, Jonathan Pollard, is being held in an American prison for committing crimes that most admit did not substantially threaten National Security and are not as severe as his prison sentence dictates.

Abroad, a group of Iranian Jews are also presently imprisoned, with their lives in danger at every

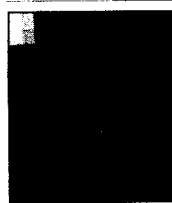
Hebrew.

Yet, when parent teacher conferences rolled around a shocker was thrown my way. Billy's dad walked in to meet with me. He sat down and the first words out of his mouth were "Billy loves coming to Hebrew School!" To say I was shocked would be an understatement! He liked Hebrew School? I had always felt that he hated coming and in my head I translated that to mean he was not learning anything. Ever since that day I have viewed Billy in a new light. I have changed my method of teaching him. I invented an M&M game for him to practice his letters. He rushed to give me his homework last class. When I walked into the office during Chanukah there was a big bag with my name on it. I was speechless when I opened that present Billy had bought me. He even knew to get it in black! Billy is a lot like me. He has a tremendous amount of energy that just needs to be channeled. That is where I feel we all fit in.

moment. Unfortunately, right here in the Metropolitan area, the Flatow family who still mourns the loss of their daughter Alisa who was killed in a bus bombing in Israel several years ago, fights a legal battle with the United States government to force the Iranian government who is responsible for her death, to pay reparations to the Flatow family. All of these individuals need the assistance of both you and I. Please, I urge you to write letters and make phone calls to your Congressional Representatives, organize discussion groups and come up with plans of action. The key is to make your points of view heard, as loud as necessary until those who need to hear it, actually listen. Once politicians see that these are issues that concern the American Jewish community, they will be more willing to take action themselves.

If we all find it within ourselves to serve our community, in even the smallest way, we will begin to see that activity in numbers is much stronger than single individuals working alone. Don't let those who need our help struggle in solitude. Let us all work together, knowing that the hand of Hashem is pushing us along, to overcome great adversity once again.

We all have talents and energies that make us different and unique. This woman sings, this one dances, and this one can conjure up a dvar Torah off the top of her head. Each one of these skills helps to contribute to this microcosm we call Stern. However, too often I feel we ignore the gifts that our peers have and look at more external cues. Our dress, speech and mannerisms all contribute to the diversity we find here. There are 12 *shivatim* (tribes) for a reason. Each one bearing a symbol that corresponds with its *koach* (strength). We are all given special talents and occasionally it will take time to find them. We, at times, carry around preconceived notions about things. I had mine about Billy. Once we begin to see what lies at the core we can begin to realize that within each person is a precious *neshama* (soul). During Chanukah when we sang the blessings over the Chanukah candles Billy knew all the words.


SHLOMIT ZAUDERER
 TAC President

Billy is the kid every teacher dreads having. He has a high pitched voice which he uses all the time to scream 'important' tidbits of information. He jumps all over the classroom, never sits still for a minute, and does not really pay much attention. Whenever I have to quiet down my Hebrew School class I find the word "Billy" on my lips. In today's society someone would stick an ADD label on Billy and make him pop Ritalin. At one point I thought that too. I used to dread Tuesday afternoons because it meant teaching eight very tired, very hungry, and very hyperactive kids all about Judaism and

Goodbye, Mr. Computer Chips

NEHAMA MILLER
News Editor

I have a confession. I am computer challenged. To the extent that sometimes I think, "The Idiots Guide To Computers" was written solely for my benefit. So if a computer teacher can peak my interest in anything from the keyboard to the web, they have done an excellent job. Professor Tom Deering did just that.

As the third teacher for a three part course in Computer Graphics, he managed to grab the class's attention with his occasional card tricks and witty sense of humor, which was hard to keep up considering it is an 8-9 pm class. All the while our class learned the nitty gritty of how to make the ultimate web page, a project we were supposed to start a couple of weeks into the course.

Well, it has been a month and we still haven't begun to make a web page. Is there a problem in the computer system? No. Is the class typing in the wrong code to access web pages? Nope. Could the MIS department of Yeshiva University be preventing us from doing so?

Shockingly, yes.

Tom Deering has been an employee of Yeshiva University for over two years. After being hired as a PR consultant in the fall of '97, he began teaching Computer Graphics at YC and SCW, and continued teaching after being hired by the MIS department to organize their web site. Due to reasons he wished not to be mentioned, Deering quit his job at MIS in the beginning of this year, yet continued to teach in computer departments at YC and SCW.

As the professor who teaches students how to design web pages, working at MIS was an added bonus because he had the tools necessary to help frame the class. Although he and the MIS department did not part on the best of terms, Deering assumed this wouldn't affect the classes he took. To his chagrin, it did.

As part of the course every student is to fill out an information form in a link on the YU web site, and in turn receive his/her code to access a program to design his/her own web page. Almost a

month after we filled out that form, we still hadn't received any information from MIS, and as a result were not able to do what we had to in class.

After writing two separate letters to the YU MIS department, Deering finally came to the realization that this was a deliberate attempt by the MIS department to lock his students out of a program they needed to utilize.

It is because of this immaturity on the part of MIS, that Professor Tom Deering will be leaving YC and SCW after this semester, causing hundreds of possible students to lose out on a wonderful and thought-provoking teacher.

As a student who plans on graduating in June, I have tried to stay out of school politics. But as tuition-paying student, I feel this is unfair and be put to a halt. If the reason behind all this is a problem with the computers, then fix it. But if my fellow students and I are not getting the full benefit of this course as a result of a petty argument, then I think we have a serious problem on our hands.

Giuliani's Crusade Against the Homeless

ABBY CHANA BATKO-TAYLOR
Staff Writer

At five-thirty in the morning, hours before Manhattan rouses itself into life, a man whispers to the shelter volunteer that he's going to work. Of the ten men sleeping overnight in the Anshe Chesed shelter on 100th street, he is the first to leave. By 6:05 a.m., the beds, food, microwaves and tables will be put away, awaiting the arrival of the nursery school that uses the space during the day.

As part of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's new plan to curb homelessness, every one of the ten men who sleep here at night will need to have a job in order to receive benefits such as shelter. The mayor's program, which began the week of Thanksgiving, includes street sweeps that scour the streets of New York City searching for homeless individuals and sending them to shelters.

The stated intention of the policy is to create a gap between the needs of people without shelter and the services provided by the city. Instead of relying on the city, people will have to get jobs to allow them access to the shelter that they need.

And then Paris Drake attacked a young woman in Midtown with a brick.

Amid the mayor's campaign, the media attention over the assault brought the issue of shelter for homeless New Yorkers into the public spotlight. He was not a part of New York

City's homeless shelter system, and had actually been living with a girlfriend up until three days before the incident. However, in response to Drake's crime, Giuliani announced plans to place homeless children into foster care if their guardians could not provide them with public shelter through a job.

What is the difference between a poor family with shelter and a poor family without shelter? To answer that the only difference is a job would oversimplify the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. People have no place to live for a variety of reasons, from eviction to mental illness, drug abuse to family problems.

Should shelter be treated as an unalienable right? Protesters in Union Square at a December 5th demonstration were also celebrating a New York court decision twenty years ago that affirmed this statement. In programs to end welfare, shelter became a service conditional upon the behavior of low-income citizens themselves. While welfare-to-work programs have been successful in New York in forcing people to get jobs, there have been many casualties. In treating shelter as a conditional 'benefit,' the outcome will be more severe. Punitive measures will help some people and families, to be sure. But how many more will be injured beyond repair?



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campus news

Increased Number of Professional Women Leads to Increase in SCW Donations

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

The Office of Development and the SCW Alumnae Association decided to make alumni contact a top priority. Their efforts paid off.

"In the last three years, the participation rate of Stern alumnae has increased from 15 to some 25 percent, as the habit of giving is now fostered and nurtured at Stern," said Joan Apple, Director of Development at SCW. Ms. Apple designs fundraising projects for SCW in an effort to reach out to alumni and publicize the college's name among donors who might be interested in supporting Jewish women's education.

One way the Office of Development has fostered interest in SCW is through "road shows" to various cities around the United States, which have a high representation of SCW alumni. At these "road shows", according to Ms. Apple, the Deans and members of the executive board committee update alumni on the inception of new programs and other advancements in the quality of education at SCW. The areas visited so far include South Florida, Memphis, and Los Angeles.

Ms. Apple said that she plans to bring the SCW presentation to Chicago and other cities with many alumni. The Office of Development is also organizing dinner parties in various locales that will focus on "alums, parents, grandparents and others who might support the college." Ms. Apple feels that this method of publicizing SCW's name has fostered loyalty among alumni, which could lead to greater gifts. "There is a great deal of interest and pride in Stern that we must nurture," said Ms. Apple. "There is much more potential in both alums and parents. Many of our students are second generation, so obviously their mothers feel strongly about Stern College."

Fundraising is

always a formidable task, and SCW has its share of challenges in this area. Although donation prospects have become more plentiful, Ms. Apple noted that SCW is smaller and younger than other colleges and arrived later in the fundraising scene. "We don't have hordes and hordes of alumni that more established colleges have," she said.

Dr. Karen Bacon, dean of SCW, agreed. "You don't develop and cultivate contacts overnight...you have to meet people, show them around," she said. "Sometimes this takes years. We have only had a development officer assigned to Stern in recent years." She mentioned that YC has an advantage over SCW in that it was established earlier and had

had a h e a d start in making contacts w i t h donors, S C W ' s e n d o w - m e n t i s a l s o smaller due to its younger age (see accompanying article).

The extra costs of raising an Orthodox family also play a role. "Another point is that our graduates tend to have large families, with the children going to day schools, all of which means that our families have major expenses for many years," Ms. Apple said. "They are also more active in their communities and more likely to support a variety of Jewish causes. As a result, they have less disposable income available for large gifts to Stern."

A positive trend that has benefited many women's colleges, including SCW, is the growing status of women in the professional world. "An increasing number of women are moving into executive positions and thus are able to make meaningful

gifts," said Ms. Apple. "The key word is able. More and more women have the capacity, but need to be educated and motivated to do so." She added that women who are not powerful entrepreneurs themselves, but have husbands who are, have become involved in the allocation of their families' funds. "Husbands and wives function as partners in identifying opportunities for involvement and making philanthropic decisions," said Ms. Apple. Carole Haring, Director of Development at Barnard College, concurred. "Women are recognizing that they make a contribution to their families, even if it's not financial," she said, adding that they therefore feel they have a right to decide where their family's money goes.

Ms. Apple stressed t h a t women's colleges are not victims of discrimination. "As for men giving to co-ed universities rather than women's colleges, I think that the co-ed nature of the institution is less important than the fact that the institution is their alma mater," she said.

Occasionally, an extremely large gift will come as a surprise, such as the bequest of Anne Scheiber in 1995. Anne Scheiber created a fortune of millions of dollars by investing in the stock market over many years and left her wealth to SCW and AECOM in order to fund the education of Jewish women. "Anne Scheiber's donation was completely unpredictable," said Dean Bacon. "She learned about us on her own. This donation has not been available for use at SCW because a court has been deliberating its status."

Martin Bockstein, General Counsel for Yeshiva

University, said that recently the court ruled in favor of the University receiving her gift. He added that many important details regarding the will still need to be settled before the University can utilize the gift.

The advantages of receiving large gifts are numerous. According to Dean Bacon, the students at SCW would benefit from improved facilities if SCW had more money at its disposal. She remarked that contractors could be influenced to finish the construction of a building by a certain deadline with cash incentives. SCW, however, cannot use this tactic to quicken the pace of renovations on 205 and 215 Lexington Avenue. "Now that we own buildings at 215 Lexington, we can't renovate them and use them as fast as we would like, as fast as we would with unlimited funds," she said. "We can't offer bonuses to finish a job sooner." Dean Bacon also mentioned that the housing crunch at SCW could be alleviated if the University possessed more funds. "We may need another dormitory to accommodate students who are now in independent housing and to reduce the number of students in Brookdale," she said. "That would require another building, which we don't have."

Joan Apple agreed that SCW fundraising is gaining momentum and praised recent donors for their support. "We are fortunate and privileged to have dedicated board members who believe passionately in Stern and back up their passion with generous support," she said. "Our students have benefited enormously from gifts that have made possible the Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall, the establishment of an Honors Program, the endowment of a chair in Jewish Studies, and many other educational opportunities."

What's an Endowment?

When a university speaks of its endowment, it is describing the amount of money it possesses per student. This body of funds is stored in investments and is not spent. Harvard University has an endowment of over \$13 billion, the largest endowment of any college in the United States. Other colleges with substantial endowments include Yale University, with over \$7 billion, and Princeton University, with an endowment of over \$5 billion, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

"Variations in endowments is generally a function of the age of a school and the interest of donors," said Bernard Pittinsky, Director of Finance at Yeshiva University. Harvard University, founded in 1636, has been able to invest its donations for over 300 years. Younger colleges have smaller endowments because they began fundraising later than their wealthier predecessors, and also because their investments did not have hundreds of years to sit in stocks and multiply.

Carole Haring, Director of Development at Barnard College, confirmed that an endowment grows with the dedication of a school's alumni. She mentioned that Barnard College, founded in 1889, has an endowment of about \$145 million. This figure is lower than the endowments of other Seven Sister schools that are the same age as Barnard, such as Wellesley, which has an endowment of \$950 million, and Bryn Mawr College, with an endowment of \$500 million. Barnard's student body in its earlier years was made up of a large percentage of commuters, she said, which accounts for some of the endowment discrepancy.

"Commuting students don't identify as strongly with the college, and don't feel the same sense of loyalty," said Ms. Haring. Students who are not attached to their college will not become donors as alumni. Ms. Haring also noted that Wellesley and Bryn Mawr were started with endowments, while Barnard was not.


SCW's endowment totals \$8,393,000 as of September 30, 1999, which comes out to about \$13,000 of endowment per student. This figure must be understood in the context of SCW's young age; SCW was only founded in the 1950s.

Dean Bacon said that SCW does not have the luxury of funneling donations into its endowment for further growth. "We heavily depend on tuition, loans, and people who give us spendable money," she said. Dean Bacon added that some colleges have such large endowments that theoretically they could stop charging tuition and cover all expenses with the endowment's interest.

Mr. Pittinsky acknowledged the benefits of a large endowment. "The size of the endowment impacts on the scope of programs, the amount of student aid available, faculty support and just about all aspects of a university," he said. "The greater the endowment, the more that can be done at a given tuition level."

"An increasing number of women are moving into executive positions and thus are able to make meaningful gifts."


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campus news

Pattern of Denied Salary Increase Continues

MICHAŁ KANOVSKY
Staff Writer

Salary History

1974: University promises to increase faculty salary, by 1975 the administration freezes wages. In response faculty boycotts all extracurricular events until February of the next year.

1976: Teachers hold an unofficial teach-in to alert students of their financial problems, at this point the teachers consider forming a union. The university fought this and in February 1980, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down the decision that "Members of private university faculty exercising absolute authority in academic matters, held to be managerial employees excluded from coverage of National Labor Relations Act".

1978: The University is reviewed by Phi Beta Kappa, reason for their rejection includes "low faculty morale due to working conditions," their letter further states their concern with the low faculty salaries.

1981: Teachers hold another teach-in and receive criticism from administration.

1987: The observer prints an article "Faculty Salary: Is teaching worth it?" where the below par wages of the faculty are discussed.

1994: The faculty sends a petition to William Schwartz, former YU Vice President for Business Affairs, saying "Historically the university has treated the faculty with contempt and has derided its commitment to education and scholarship, failing to distinguish between an academic and a corporate workplace. The administration is gravely mistaken in the belief that a disaffected, demoralized faculty will attract an expanded student body. Exploitation of a faculty dedicated to the idea of the university and its students represents a betrayal of academic, as well as Jewish tradition and cannot serve as the foundation for the unique education the university promises."

1995: Another article is printed in the observer "SCW faculty outraged over salaries: Faculty members speak out."

1999: Observer prints faculty letter to administration concerning disappointment over unfulfilled salary promises.

The Middle States University Association Accreditation Review is right around the corner and YU is anything but prepared in the salary department. In past years the association has brought attention to the problem of faculty salaries, yet the temporary solutions offered by the school fail to satisfy all those involved. When an association evaluating the school writes, "Board members did not seem too concerned about undergraduate faculty salaries," nobody looks good.

What was understandable policy in the 1980's, when the university struggled under dire financial strain, is unacceptable today, when Yeshiva University's finances are booming. The short term promises and solutions the university offers whenever the issue reappears are not enough. Dr. Carole Silver a Professor of English has been with the university since 1968 and is familiar with what has become policy. "I think it's disgusting that there is a pattern of placating faculty when their discontent is visible and then

as soon as things quiet down and there is some sense of security, the administration forgets its promises," comments Dr. Silver.

Roots of this problem can be found in the University's division of labor. It is up to Vice President for Business Affairs to decide how much money is given to each dean for their faculty's salaries. In 1980 a self-study committee commented on the strain in the relations between the Vice President for Business Affairs and the faculty. Today the relations remain strained as many faculty members share discontent over Sheldon Socol, the current Vice President of Business Affairs, attitude toward their contribution to the university and the compensation that they deserve.

Even when the money is handed down to the deans, it may not be distributed fairly to the faculty, rather a "merit" system is used at the dean's discretion. This system has potential to cause intimidation within the faculty, as many teachers refuse to have their names printed criticizing the university or to actively involve themselves in lobbying for changes.

Dr. Sylvia T. Ceyer Delivers 1999 Kukin Lecture

SARA KOSTANT
News Editor

Dr. Sylvia T. Ceyer, the J.C. Sheehan Professor of Chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke about chemical reactions on surfaces at this year's Ira Kukin Lecture. Her presentation, which was titled "The Unique Chemistry at Surface: Splats, Hammers, and Sinkholes" was delivered to an audience composed of YC and SCW science faculty, students, and chemistry enthusiasts. Most of the students present were taking organic or inorganic chemistry this fall at SCW, but chemistry students from the Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls (Central) also attended. Dr. Lea Blau, Professor of Organic Chemistry and head of the Chemistry Department at SCW, introduced Dr. Ceyer.

"Taking Organic Chemistry this semester gave me the background to appreciate her speech," said Nechama Hochbaum, an SCW senior. "The con-

cepts we covered in Dr. Blau's class came together in this lecture."

Dr. Ceyer has been the recipient of many accolades for her teaching and research successes. She received her B.A. in chemistry summa cum laude from Hope College in 1974, and in 1979 obtained her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. She became an assistant professor at MIT in 1981 after a postdoctoral appointment at the National Bureau of Standards. Students at MIT awarded Dr. Ceyer the Baker Award for undergraduate teaching; she was chosen from the entire undergraduate faculty at MIT to receive this honor. She also has received the School of Science Teaching Prize and jointly with her graduate student, the Nobel Laureate Signature Award for Graduate Education from the American Chemical Society. Dr. Ceyer's distinct teaching style was apparent at the Kukin lecture. Although her topic sounded esoteric,

Dr. Ceyer explained the concepts of surface chemistry with enthusiasm and clarity, enabling audience members with a limited background in chemistry to understand her presentation.

Dr. Ceyer is one of several distinguished scientists who have participated in the Ira Kukin Lecture Series, sponsored by Dr. Ira Kukin, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University and Chairman of its Committee on Academic Affairs. Dr. Kukin founded Apollo Technologies International Corporation in 1963, and before that taught chemistry at Harvard, worked with the Gulf Oil Company in Pittsburgh, and was a research director at the Witco Corporation. He and his wife Doris also endowed the Ira and Doris Kukin Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the Syms School of Business, and Dr. Kukin is a founder and member of the Board of Directors of the SSSB.

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campus news

Founder of SCW Biology Department Dies at 85

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Observer Secretary

Dr. Beatrice Lashin Friedland, a pioneering educator and founding head of the SCW Biology Department, passed away November 3, 1999.

Dr. Friedland received a Doctorate in Biology from New York University in the late 1930's, making her a unique woman for her times since few females had ever reached such an academic level in a scientific pursuit.

She joined the faculty of NYU, then Hunter College, and final-

ly arrived at SCW in 1955 where she became the first professor of Biology at SCW. She also became the department chair on the Board of Directors of Yeshiva University.

Throughout her teaching career, Dr. Friedland received many awards recognizing her devotion to her field and her raison d'être of helping students achieve their full potential. At the Commencement Exercises of the Class of 1998 on May 21, Dr. Friedland was awarded the Honorary Doctor of

Humane Letters Degree, an award that acknowledged her tremendous contributions to Stern College.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Friedland, the son and daughter-in-law of Dr. Beatrice Friedland, established a fellowship of science in her honor. This scholarship fund is intended to award promising students interested in science by enabling them to further their studies, a goal that Dr. Friedland promoted her entire life.

Introducing Creative Writing Professor Madeline Beckman

DEBORAH BIENENFELD
News Brief Editor

We might consider the appearance, texture and taste of a plum. We might even wonder about its smell. But we rarely notice the nuances and implications of a train ride, or consider what we would like our own obituaries to say.

Students enrolled in the new creative writing course ponder these issues and attempt to formulate cohesive works of literature based on them. Their impetus is Professor Madeline Beckman, the revered 'visiting' professor and 'writer-in-residence,' who has inspired students to court their newfound passion and talent: writing.

A prolific and published writer, she teaches at NYU and has been a guest lecturer at universities that include Hofstra, Syracuse and Julliard. These are just a few of her many accomplishments, and now she can add teaching at SCW to that list.

Inside the classroom students grudgingly bring in their stories or poems, and always preface with a disclaimer before the excruciation of reading aloud to their

peers for a workshop session. Normally, upon the completion of reading, an immobilizing silence falls on the room and all students stare at their desks.

The reader waits in the suffocating silence for a student to initiate the critique on her work. A lone voice might say "I like it, but there might be too many pronouns," and the rest of the class members nod in agreement. Slowly each student gives her opinion, and Beckman offers the last word in tearing apart the product of the student's blood sweat and tears, but she does so in the nicest of ways.

"Writing is one of the hardest things you can do," says Beckman, and her class emphatically agrees. But with the anguish of building a story or poem

comes utter satisfaction, and even after a mere semester, each student senses a strong improvement in her writing. So why does Professor Beckman teach poetry?

"The class gives me the opportunity to turn students on to poetry, particularly in this fast-paced world we live in," she notes. "Poetry enables us to slow down for a moment and reconnect with ourselves, other humans, nature and ideas."

She has reconnected her students to poetry, through visits to the Poet's House (the largest poetry collection in the country) and through attending poetry readings by well known authors.

As a 'writer-in-residence,' Beckman is pleased with her experiences at SCW thus far. Her first impression about the English department and SCW in general "is that everyone is helpful and concerned about education and people-from the guards to the secretaries, dean and instructors-every-

one makes themselves available to help. This is very unusual at a college or elsewhere." Her attitude is refreshing and reflective of the class she holds and the changes she wants to inspire.

Although initially a 'visiting professor,' Beckman envisions herself here indefinitely. She recently attended and read for the Sternbucks open-mike night at SCW earlier this month, and looks forward to attending other functions run by students eager to express their creativity through writing. Beckman also hopes to establish a literature contest and literary journal for all to enter.

Beckman's creative writing class will be offered again in the spring and is open to students from all majors and interests.

Sternbucks Open Mike Night Lets SCW Women Express Themselves

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG
Cultural Arts Editor

Schottenstein's Ivy Student Center played host to this semester's Sternbucks, an open-mike night for student poetry, prose, and music, organized by Deborah Bienenfeld and Rachel Elbaum, both SCW seniors. Complimentary Starbucks coffee and the room's dim lighting, accented by tie-dye backdrops, enhanced the café-like atmosphere of the event.

songs on the guitar. Professor Beckman, who teaches creative writing at SCW, was the only faculty member present at Sternbucks. She also took to the stage to read a few of her poems from a collection of poetry on food that awaits publication.

A number of highly talented students performed that night, especially in



Students enjoy complimentary Starbucks coffee at Sternbucks

The majority of the performers read poetry or short prose sketches. Orli Daniels, an SCW sophomore, read a children's book that she wrote, while Michal Kanovsky, also an SCW sophomore, performed two original

regard to the relatively small crowd in attendance. Bienenfeld feels that although she was disappointed with the meager attendance, the high caliber of the performers compensated for the small audience.

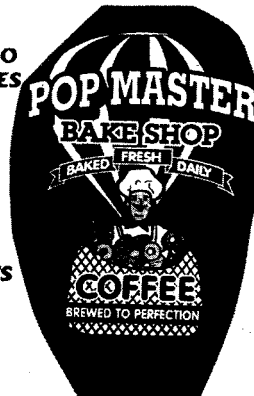


Professor Madeline Beckman

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on campus

Plagiarism at Stern?

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Observer Secretary

A roomful of college students pontificate about the symbolism of the "evil eye" in Edgar Allen Poe's short story, "The Tell Tale Heart." They express deep thoughts, and make remarks about analytical ideas, yet a large percentage of these SCW students will not cite the ideas and words they use that are not their own in their upcoming essay on Poe. In other words, intentionally or not, they will plagiarize.

According to Dr. Veronica Hendrick, the American Literature professor who discovered plagiarism in the Poe papers she had assigned, the pressure to obtain an 'A' average causes such anxiety among students that they feel the need to plagiarize to achieve their goal. "They almost don't trust their own intelligence and will prioritize a critic over themselves," explains Hendrick.

Hendrick noticed that three students who plagiarized used the same information from a literary critic but only one student quoted the source of the information. She asked several students from the class to rewrite their papers and warned them that they would fail the course if they attempted to plagiarize on their final paper.

Hendrick remarked that students sometimes rewrite their high school papers, and that those papers are often replete with plagiarized material.

"Changing two words in a sentence does not mean that you're not plagiarizing either," says Hendrick with a laugh. She advises students to be certain to cite the material when using critic's ideas. If a student is uncertain whether her paraphrasing borders on plagiarism,

Hendrick suggests the MLA Writers Handbook and other English writing guides to avoid plagiarism.

Shayna Strimber, an SCW sophomore, and a student in Hendrick's class, was surprised to discover that some of her classmates had plagiarized on their papers. "Plagiarism is not worth it because it robs yourself of the opportunity to develop your own mind and steals the product of someone else's mind," comments Strimber. "I would have thought that people in my class wouldn't plagiarize. I would have expected more from them."

When asked if plagiarism is a prominent issue in SCW, Dean Bacon commented that plagiarism at SCW is a modest problem but that there are not a deluge of cases. "Our faculty makes an effort to ensure that students are aware of the rules of academic standards," Bacon explains. She also noted that plagiarism is raised as an issue in freshman composition classes and the English department has also produced a booklet for students detailing the statutes of plagiarism so students remain aware. "Now there are papers available on the Internet which have become a bigger national concern. There are even companies available to search student's papers for plagiarism," Bacon says.

At the college level, it is surprising to teachers that students did not learn during high school about the severity of plagiarism. And since Stern is a college with Jewish ethical standards, it is especially surprising that Stern students would attempt to rob the written work of others in hope of an easy 'A.'

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Finals Coordinators Ignore Student Needs

RACHEL BIENENFELD
Staff Writer

With Shabbat starting as early as 4:11 p.m. during the fall semester, students are surprised that finals are being held on Friday afternoon, Dec. 31, making it especially difficult for students to go away for Shabbat. Testing on Sundays also continues to be a problem for those who have to rush back from their weekends.

"There are a required number of days that classes must meet," Dean Orlian said. "If you didn't use Friday or Sunday, you would have to extend the semester."

Other universities, such as Barnard, Columbia, and University of Pennsylvania, test on Fridays, but not on Sundays. "Exams are held on Friday," said Lily Almo, a sophomore at University of Pennsylvania. "But if there was a problem, they would have to reschedule for religious purposes for that one student."

"In regards to Fridays," said Miriam Horak, a sophomore at Barnard, "

they know that there are a lot of Jews and they make sure that they don't make finals at a time that it would be impossible to take them. We don't have finals on Sunday," continued Horak, "because we only have finals on the day that the classes are given."

But unlike these other universities, SCW works on a different calendar with a certain amount of vacation days, making it more difficult to be flexible. "You can't compare the calendar [to other universities]," said Dean Orlian. "We have off for Rosh Hashanah, and in the spring for Pesach... They are not bound by the calendar, and we have to work around the calendar."

But students remain skeptical of the administration's decision. "I think it is overlooking the needs of out-of-towners in particular, and it would be more sensitive to allow the exam time during the regular weekday schedule," explained Rebecca Belgrade, an SCW senior.

"The Friday thing is

a much bigger issue," stated SCW junior Deena Katz. "On Sunday, people have means of getting back to take a test and there is no issue of running into a holiday or Shabbat."

Leorah Bleiberg, a senior at SCW, voiced similar concerns. "I don't appreciate rushing through my final," she commented. "Every year somebody complains about it and nothing is done."

Dean Orlian, however, explained that the alternatives are not much better. "There are students who have indicated that they would prefer not to have exams on Fridays and Sundays," said Dean Orlian. "But when presented with the alternatives, they see the rationale to keep the schedule as is."

Alternatives include shortening intercession and/or other vacations. "I would be more willing to take the exam on Friday or Sunday than to have to stress over an excessive amount of tests in one day," commented Belgrade.

public perception of Yeshiva University as synonymous with Yeshiva College."

SCWSC President April Simon, who was the first student leader on both YU undergraduate campuses to address the issue of reimbursement, was met with a disturbing reaction from YU administrators when she initiated contact with Facilities Management regarding the disposal.

In a letter to Jeffrey Socol, Director of Facilities Management, Simon respectfully requested the return of student newspapers or else reimbursement for their disposal. Simon's conclusion read: "I trust that you will take care of this and will not allow this incident to injure the relationship that exists between the students and Facilities."

Simon did not receive a response from Socol or any

other administrator in reference to her letter, dated Nov. 24. Last week, after The Commentator received a check in the amount of \$1,850 from YU administrators, Simon wrote an additional letter, this time to Socol as well as Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration, and Efram Nulman, University Dean of Students.

"It pains me to discover that Yeshiva recognizes the discarding of student newspapers is wrong only when...reporters bring it to their attention, and not when their own students do," Simon wrote. "...I hope to put all of this behind us and once again reestablish our commitment to one another as respectable, integral parts of our University, which we must all work together to preserve."



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Observer

continued from page 1

The Jewish Week was the only one of the three newspapers carrying the story to even mention the Observer's name: "In recent weeks, editors of The Commentator and The Observer, its sister publication, say university personnel have regularly snatched the papers."

Reactions among SCW administrators were harsh in the face of such blatant yet patterned discrimination. "For someone to say that in 1999 is absolutely an outrage for any story," said SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "...It is a powerful force against recognition of this college."

"I think it is appalling," stated Dr. Miriam Groszof of the Education and Mathematics Departments. "It is all too indicative of

on campus

SCW Continues Expansion; Forces Utrecht to Close Shop

LISA HELPRIN
Staff Writer

The hasty departure of Utrecht Art Supplies, a neighborhood art store at 215 Lexington that served as the main art supplier for all SCW studio art classes, leaves SCW art students frustrated. Utrecht was the successor on a lease originally given to Charrette, another art supply store, according to Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration. SCW was interested in Utrecht leaving 215 Lexington early to create space in the SCW property for student lounges and student activity space on the basement and first floors. Rosengarten said that Utrecht was not doing well in this location and that both YU and Utrecht expressed "mutual interest" in Utrecht's leaving earlier than originally planned under their lease.



Utrecht art store at 215 Lexington

Professor Susan Gardner, Associate Art Professor at SCW and Head of the Studio Program, was able to negotiate a 10% discount earlier this semester with Utrecht for her students on all purchases, and Utrecht was conveniently located a few blocks away from the Art Annex.

"Art supplies are really expensive, and they gave Stern...a discount," said Yael Horowitz, an SCW sophomore and an art major. "I went to another local art supply store and it was really expensive." Esther Donath, an SCW junior, agreed, saying that she was bothered by the news, since Utrecht was inexpensive and nearby. Professor Gardner explained that students are overloaded enough as it is, and going elsewhere to find art supplies will put another burden on their lives. She added that an art student is "constantly buying supplies throughout the term."

The manager of Utrecht declined to comment to The Observer.

Negotiations between the YU Business Affairs Office and representatives of Utrecht took place during a six-week period from Oct. through Nov.

According to Dean Bacon, YU bought the building some time ago with the intention of using the first eight floors for SCW and SSSB. Not all eight floors were empty at the time, she explained. "Our goal was and continues to be to empty the floors as quickly as possible and con-

sistent with the need for space," she said. Currently, the second, third, and seventh floors are empty.

Additionally, SCW plans to supply the students with a private entrance, so students will not have to use the public entrance shared by the public from the various other parts of the building.

However, the expansion news originally left some faculty members and students a little dissatisfied.

The students developed a close connection with Utrecht, and Professor Gardner felt that the store was an incredible asset for the Art Department at SCW.

"The real factor here, though," she continued, "was the shock of [Utrecht] closing suddenly," and the realization that this was due in part "to Stern's wishing it to be gone." Professor Gardner was unaware of the situation until her students

came back and found Utrecht shuttered. The situation was later explained to the students, and Professor Gardner said that some of the students' frustration wore off.

"Now we know that it is for the good of the University, and everyone is happy, because there is more understanding." Professor Gardner is currently sending her students to other local stores in the area, including Pearle Paint and a larger Utrecht at 111 4th Avenue, between 12th and 13th streets.

Dean Bacon said that since Utrecht received a large amount of patronage from SCW students, she would not be surprised if Utrecht continued to offer this discount to SCW students in their other locations.

Professor Gardner hopes that the lines of communication between the University and its faculty and students will open in the future. She commented that the students would not have been so upset if they had about the closure at an earlier date.

After speaking both to Professor Gardner and many art students, Dean Bacon added that she is now more aware of their interests. She did not realize that Utrecht was so significant to the student body, and maintains that if she had, she would have alerted the students earlier to Utrecht's closure.

Amnesty International: A Perfect Israel?

DEEDEE LAX
Staff Writer

Flyers and emails sent out by the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society informing students about an upcoming lecture given by Amnesty International representative. Stuart Polatnik, caused a bit of controversy on the mid-town campus. The slogan "A Perfect Israel?" caught the eye of several SCW students, which prompted them to confiscate the flyers and consequently boycott the November 21st lecture.

Golda Fleischman, J.P. Dunner President, stated that the goal of the lecture was to bring the topic of human rights violation in Israel "to the discussion table." She believes that the "radical people" who took down the signs are afraid to acknowledge that Israel has a human rights issue because it conflicts with what they were raised to believe—that Israel is perfect.

"I think they were taking down signs because they are scared to hear things are wrong with Israel," remarks Fleischman, an SCW sophomore.

However many opponents to Amnesty International believe that the lecture is an analogy to the *miraglim*, the spies in the book of Numbers, who were sent to investigate the land of Israel and returned with a mediocre report.

"I do not feel that I'm qualified to pass judgment on Amnesty International or any other organization for that matter, but based on the email I received, as well as what people have

told me about the organization it constitutes *dibat ha'aretz* [slandering the land]," emphasizes Bethany Bleier, an SCW junior and Vice President of Torah Activities Council. Bleier feels that the email sent to publicize the event had negative connotations referring to the land of Israel and that no Jewish person should attend a lecture as such.

Only six Stern College students did attend; however, the poor turnout did not deter The Political Science Society from holding the lecture. Polatnik explained that Amnesty International was founded on the principle that people have fundamental rights that transcend national, cultural, religious, and ideological boundaries. The organization works to obtain prompt and fair trials for all prisoners, to end torture and executions, and to secure the release of prisoners of conscience. (Amnesty International defines prisoners of conscience as people who are imprisoned solely because of their political or religious beliefs, gender, or their racial or ethnic origin, who have neither used nor advocated violence.)

Polatnik then added that nine Lebanese people have been taken to Israeli prisons, those whom were never charged with a crime or convicted; yet they have been imprisoned for over ten years. In a law report regarding the Lebanese hostages it states "they were detained solely as hostages to be a bargaining counter in negotiations with various bodies for the

release of Israeli captives or missing persons." Amnesty International considers the Lebanese hostages to be prisoners of conscience, which is an Israeli human rights violation. "We don't propose a solution, we're saying that holding hostages is a human rights abuse," says Polatnik.

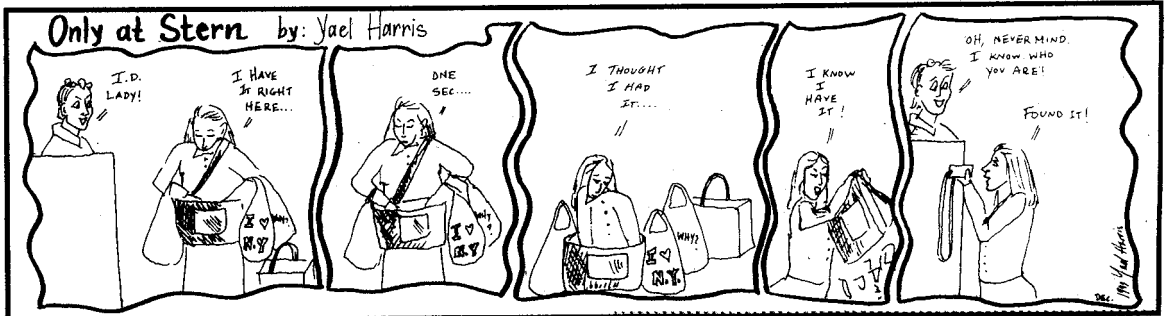
He explains that Amnesty does not only criticize human rights in Israel but they address human rights on an international level. "We yell at the Palestinians just as much as we do the Israelis," remarks Polatnik. "We consider everyone to have a human right."

Amnesty International has over one million members in 160 countries, they have issued 93 major reports, and there are 132 delegations to 85 countries including Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which are all aimed to heighten awareness and expose human rights violations.

"Our only weapon is exposing human rights violations when they happen," stated Polatnik. Despite Amnesty International's ideological goals, they have raised the issue of human rights violations in Israel—consequently angering SCW students who consider their criticism of Israel to be *lashon ha'rah*.

"They have a certain code of what human rights are, we are not necessarily supporting them...but we might as well learn the grounds," said SCW senior Kinneret Cohen.

Check out the SCW website at
www.yu.edu/stern



SCW Fencing Team Begins 99'-00' Season

SUZANNE ANZISKA
Staff Writer

Until recently, competitive women's fencing at SCW was not a mainstream sport. Josie Fusco, the SCW fencing coach, remembers when a van was once ordered for the SCW team before a competition. The van showed up at the main campus of YU, assuming that it was supposed to pick up the men's team. "Fencing is a challenging sport," said Fusco, "especially when it comes to promoting women."

This year's fencing team at SCW consists of nine members divided into three squads—the foil, épée and sabre.

This is the first year that the sabre is considered an official women's weapon. SCW contends against a well-represented group of colleges including Steven's Tech, Fairleigh Dickinson University and Hunter College.

"The Stern women are extremely focused and have much concentration, considering that they have a double workload," comments Fusco. "When it comes to sports, fencing definitely broadens one's horizons." An experienced foilist, Fusco competed for a long time professionally in the Metropolitan Fencing Division.

Led by captain Mina Shoshani, an SCW junior, and co-captain Shomit Zauderer, an SCW senior, the nine women play this unique sport with a lot of focus and concentration.

"Fencing is a different, and almost elegant sport, where you are restricted in your movement and must have full concentration," said Babette

Marciano, a sophomore who competes with the sabre. "Until recently, Marciano was an avid basketball player. "Unlike basketball, there is no full body contact in this skillful sport. Everyone's minds are always thinking about the game and the next tactic they have to come up with," she said. This is Marciano's first time fencing and she loves it. She says that fencing with the team helps her relax and focus better on

her work for school.

Yael Harris, a senior who competes with the foil, decided her sophomore year that she wanted to try something different in the world of sports. She took a fencing class her first year in Stern and

has been a member of the team ever since. "Contrary to what many believe, fencing does not hurt," said Harris. "We wear a ton of gear." Harris praised the SCW Athletic Department for supporting the team and encourages the SCW student body to attend home meets.

The fencing team is always looking for more members. "This is a very big commitment," notes Fusco. "The team is encouraged to practice what they're good at and comfortable with." Fusco enjoys watching her team succeed. "It's great to come here and see women fence," she said, "and do it well."

The next home meet, against Hunter College, will take place on January 27. Contact the SCW fencing team manager, Judith Ritsma, for further details.



SCW Fencing Team

Monday Night Swimming Program

TZIPPY KATZ
Staff Writer

Every Monday night, a small group of dedicated SCW students trek uptown to Columbia Prep School on 93rd Street to do something they don't have an opportunity to do on the Midtown campus. They are participating in the Monday night swimming program that began a number of years ago due to SCW student requests. The program held every Monday night from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., has expanded greatly in response to student demand.

The program now includes two basic swimming classes during the first hour, taught by Miriam Schechter, Academic Advisor for SCW, and Dahlia Rosenblatt, an SCW junior. Next semester, they plan to offer a class for more advanced swimmers. There is van service from both Brookdale and Schottenstein Halls that makes three runs a night to the swimming pool for the classes and the two hours of recreational swim that follows the classes.

The attendance at the Monday night swimming has been fairly low compared to previous years. Although the basic swimming class is normally attended by six to eight students who use the swimming class as their gym credit, fewer students have been attending the recreational swim. One week

there were 12 students swimming during one time slot, but there are usually only three or four per hour, and once only one student attended.

The low attendance is due to a number of factors.

"The main reason for the low attendance is probably inadequate publicity," said Dr. Richard Zernick, Head of Athletics of Yeshiva University. Mrs. Schechter agreed, saying that although there are notices posted around school about the program, not all of the students are aware of it. She also noted that students often decline to attend even when they know about it because most students do not want to spend so much time traveling for a swim class or even for recreational swim. Rosenblatt also noted that students fail to notice the signs and that students generally do not want to travel so far away, especially when they are busy with schoolwork and midterms.

"We're aware of the problem of low attendance," commented Dr. Zernick. He said that it would be unwise to continue if attendance consisted of just three to four people, but he remarked they are tracking the attendance and will reconsider it in the future.

In order to appeal to a larger audience next

semester, the coordinators of the program are proposing either to change the class they planned to offer, or to offer a lifesaving class to train students in becoming water-safety instructors.

This would be in place of the less popular recreational swim. Mrs. Schechter, who both teaches and organizes the program, wants to keep the program small because of the limited space in the pool, but does recognize the problem of low attendance. She was not as concerned because she said that the swimming program often has large numbers of students, and she knows that students often are busy with midterms and other extracurricular activities.

Dr. Zernick, Mrs. Schechter and Rosenblatt expressed their wish that more students attend and take advantage of the program. "Unfortunately, the girls at Stern are not allowed to use the swimming pool uptown," Rosenblatt remarked. She feels that this program is worth continuing because swimming is something that is very beneficial and relaxing, and should be available to the students. She also sees the program as important because it adds variety to the activities found on the SCW campus.

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Introducing Our 1999-2000 Lady Maccabees

HEATHER CHUVEN
Staff Writer

The 1999-2000 women's basketball season is well underway- and the team is ready to fight hard to get to the top. Many new players have joined the team, adding an integral part to the victories. Despite only four returnees from last year's team, the Lady Macs are developing a cohesive united front.

"After a few short games we are beginning to mesh like a team, like a real team," explains Susanne Goldstone, an SCW sophomore and one of last year's players.

The team consists of thirteen players, a group of committed women who are in the process of building a victorious and winning team. Beth Kupferman, Shira Rifkin and Shelia Sherian are the juniors on the team, all three played last year and are experienced college basketball players. Kupferman and Sherian are the captains of the team, and appear to be leading the team on and off the court. Stephanie Aaron, Susanne Goldstone, Chavi Robinson, Avi Septimus and Dawn Sklar are sophomores, adding their share of past experience to the developing team. The freshmen on the team consist of Danielle Epstein, Dara Lawler, Aviva Magder, Ruchi Morgan and Sharon Weiss, who are all show tremendous potential for a long career as Lady Macs.

Our Lady Maccabees are under the leadership of head coach Karen Green and assistant coach Kim Taps, who are both dedicated in the success and achievement of a winning season as well as a season consisting of team growth, connection and cohesiveness. Coach Green and Coach Taps have past experiences in

coaching college-level basketball.

"At first a lot of people had doubts about the success of our team since we are a new team who do not have much experience playing with each other," said Aviva Magder. "Surprisingly enough we have all managed to bond and mesh our different styles to form a unified team".

"I am really impressed with the team," agreed Shira Rifkin. "We have a group of great players with lots of potential."

"I was skeptical at first seeing that only four players were returning and we are up against teams that have been playing together for years," said Goldstone. Although doubts and worries were in the air, the majority of them are gone and all energies and focuses are on winning and playing like a committed, determined team.

Despite the excitement and potential success of the women's basketball team, they are missing a key component to a completely successful season—their fellow college students. Especially when the game is close and competitive, having fans and peers to cheer and support has positive effects. The Lady Macs are SCW's representatives in the collegiate sports arena.

"We are representing Yeshiva [University], but where is Yeshiva [University]?" asked Goldstone.

Aviva Magder adds, "I am very proud of everyone on our team for how successful we have all been and the great teamwork we have shown."

Keep up the terrific work Lady Macs. Go! Fight! Win!

Just a Game?

Intramurals: The Inside Story

CHANA ROSENBLATT
Business Manager

It's the usual scene. The ball is flying through the air. There are eight (okay, maybe just four) arms reaching for the ball. Okay, maybe that's not exactly the scene. Let's just say that there are several pairs of arms stretched expectantly into the air, each one hoping to grab it. Injury or no injury, the basketball is the most precious thing. Usually, however, it includes injury. If you understand this, you understand the game. It's all worth it.

Under the auspices of the Athletic Department and leadership of Nechama Maryles, student coordinator of the Intramural Program, the four teams meet in the 11th floor gym in the school building to play one another for an hour's time each week. Each team consists of eight players, all of differing skill levels and experience. Some have played at the varsity level in high school, while for others, pickup has been the name of the game. There are even several women for whom the intramural program has afforded

them a first opportunity to play the game.

The SCW basketball intramural program is being

We're certainly not professionals," she admits, "but that makes it all the more fun."

Chedva Adler, an SCW junior, agrees with Bromberg. "I go to intramurals to play basketball as a fun game without the competitiveness. It's a way to have a good time after a full day's work."

But to others the game and its attraction are based upon the competition and the desire to win. Without aggressive

and the necessary intensity that mark the professional realm of basketball, the game is nothing more than a farce and a perversion of the sport. After all, how can an athlete perform at her optimal potential when not driven by an innate yearning for victory? Nachama Soloveichik, SCW '01, an aspiring WNBA player, and last year's recipient of the MVP award, has strong feelings on the subject. "I play because I love the game. And to play the game means to put my all into it. I don't know basketball any other way."

run this year by four captains: Nechama Maryles, Shuli Gertel, Rachel Kaufman, and Chana Rosenblatt. Tuesday nights, on a weekly basis, the women gather to play hard and have a good time. The games are played on Tuesday nights between 8:30 and 10:30 and students are welcome to come and cheer on their friends.

Many students simply come to have fun and dismiss the objective of winning the game, and ultimately, the title. Leah Bromberg, an SCW junior, says that she "plays to get away from school work and to have a good time.



SCW Intramural Basketball game

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on campus

Steven Flatow to speak at SCW in January

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

Steven Flatow, father of Hamas bomb victim Alisa Flatow, will be speaking at the Midtown campus this January. Currently engaged in a political battle with the Iranian government over compensation for his daughter's death in 1995, Mr. Flatow seeks to gain popular support for his cause. Last year Flatow sued the Iranian government for its support of terrorism and was awarded a judgement of a quarter of a billion dollars. Since the judgement, however, Mr. Flatow has been battling with the American government in trying to recover that money.

"The American government has blocked us from seizing assets on the grounds of national security," he remarked. "They are afraid that it would jeopardize American troops overseas."

However, Mr. Flatow introduced a bill to Congress this fall that would enable the Flatow family to obtain their appropriate compensation. Working through New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg, the Flatow family plans to act upon this bill in January.

The Jewish community's support has been mixed. According to Mr. Flatow, some feel that any dealings with the Middle East might jeopardize the peace process, and thus try to avoid this explosive issue.

"My personal feeling is that you can't tiptoe around this issue. If you let Iran off the hook, you allow them to continue to sponsor terrorism - and then you're even farther from peace," Mr. Flatow remarked.

Apparently, many Jewish organizations agreed with him, as they called sen-

ators and wrote letters advocating his cause. The most vocal support, according to Mr. Flatow, came from the Zionist Organization of America. Further, he received significant support from many other organizations including the OU, Anti-defamation League, and AIPAC.

The Flatow family also sponsors the Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship for 12 high school graduates to attend a seminary in Israel. The scholarship is meant to encourage specifically those students who have against all odds received a Jewish education and now wish to continue their Jewish education in Israel. Despite his daughter's death, Mr. Flatow personally believes that the year of study in Israel is the



Alisa Flatow

"bedrock of Jewish continuity."

"Every time my kids come back from Israel, I see a change for the better," said Mr. Flatow.

"We certainly shouldn't let terrorism stop us from going to Israel, to our land," commented Devorice Hershkop, an SCW freshman. "If we do, then terrorism has won. The best way to fight terrorism is to continue to go to Israel, to visit Israel, to live in Israel."

In April 9, 1995, a suicide bomber of the terrorist group Hamas blew up a bus in Israel. Seven Israeli soldiers, all under the age of 21, were killed in the explosion, as well as Alisa Flatow, 20, who was studying at a seminary in Israel at the time.

Food Committee Meeting a Success

Students Discuss the Opening of a Schottenstein Dining Hall

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

A tentative plan to open the Schottenstein Dining Hall was officially released last week at the first meeting of the eleven member Food Committee this year.

The Schottenstein Dining Hall that has long remained empty, is tentatively set to open for breakfast before the end of this semester. Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services at Yeshiva University, and Moses Singer, Food Service Manager, attended the meeting and discussed plans for the store to open in about two weeks, operating from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. every morning.

Lieberman stressed the importance of phasing in such a change. "We want to take it one step at a time," he said. He plans to have a cappuccino machine, a soup machine, a drink machine, danishes and bagels. As it continues to expand, Lieberman hopes to increase its output to include a salad bar and hot food. "We might eventually expand it to be open for lunch and dinner, but this is a first step."

The Food Committee also discussed

other important issues, such as the nutrition of the food served. Some students wanted higher-fat content foods, others wanted low-fat. As Singer mentioned, Koch, officially known as the International Café, was originally designed to be the healthier food service, although now they have instituted healthy food plans in both cafeterias. Further, there is often a nutritionist, Felicia Cohen, at the Main campus, who is involved in selecting foods that go into the meal plan.

"I felt the meeting was very productive. Lieberman was open to all our suggestions," remarked Ilana Kasten, an SCW senior.

Further, the students are often not aware of the accommodations that the meal plan offers. For example, a vegetarian can request a vegetarian meal for Shabbos (or on any occasion if she approaches Singer). There is also a value meal special, where you can save approximately one dollar if you purchase a full meal. There are plans to have two size portions available in Koch and plans to make the line move faster.

The students were also concerned with the overwhelming amount of money that some students have left on their card. To this end, Lieberman responded that "we have the lowest kosher meal plan in the United States," and though other colleges can make the meal plan optional after your freshman year, because YU is so small, everyone must be on the meal plan. The extra money on a student's card is converted to food at the end of the year and donated to children in Russia.

Good a Fleischman, an SCW junior, is the head of the Food Committee. "In the past," she said, "everyone has gone berserk, just yelling their ideas at once. This year, I want things to be more productive."

And indeed, students agree that it has been more productive.

"The Food Committee has a great influence on the changes made in the cafeteria," emphasized Lieberman. "They make it better for students to eat there everyday."

The Food Committee's next meeting will be on January 26 during Club Hour.

Students Gather to Debate

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

Imagine a successful lawyer. So successful that if he wins his case, he will be the best in the field. Slowly but surely, he proves his case, defending a man accused of murder. Right before his closing arguments, his client exclaims to him, "This is great! I'm going to get off for murder!" Now that the lawyer knows his client is guilty, should he still continue to defend him and finish his closing argument?

This was just one of the explosive issues that debaters from SCW community, YC, Rockland College, and Queens College gathered to debate on December 5. The debate format was 'extemp,' where the debaters were told the topic only five minutes before the actual debate.

The final round of the debate

pitted SCW sophomore Jenny Rosenfeld against Hillel Deutch, a YC sophomore. After an interesting debate, Deutch took home the first place trophy.

"I loved it," said Rosenfeld. "It teaches you to think on your feet, get your adrenaline moving."

Rosenfeld, unlike many of the participants, does not plan to be a lawyer, but rather a Gemara teacher. She explains that teaching Talmud "uses the same analytical skills." Rosenfeld remarked that the debate was a wonderful experience because of the uncompetitive attitude of the participants.

"[It] was that the people were so nice and friendly," she said. "It was almost not a competition, but a discussion about moral issues."

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campus culture

Arts Festival

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG
Cultural Arts Editor

While the Arts Festival may not be the first thing people think of in connection with Yeshiva University's undergraduate colleges, it definitely exists, and both SCW and YC can rightfully claim to have extremely talented artists among their students.

What the talented artists at SCW and YC will come together for only two weeks at the end of February during the fourth annual Arts Festival, a celebration of student art in which music, sculpture, painting, poetry, drama and literature will take center stage.

The idea to showcase student art through an art festival began in 1996, when Dean Adler initiated the Arts Festival at Yeshiva College.

"I saw a huge amount of creativity among the students, and felt that there should be a forum at the institution for it..." explained Dean Adler. "[Because] it is important for Torah observant Jews to speak to the artistic world as well as the intellectual one."

Over the years, the festival evolved from a dean sponsored event into a primarily student-run organization.

Last year, the relatively small festival was expanded into a two-week long event, which showcased student work in the areas of visual arts, literature, drama and music. The 1999 festival was also the first to include the work of SCW students in its exhibitions and performances.

This year, under the direction of SCW senior Rebecca Leicht and YC junior Steven I. Weiss, the Festival is taking additional steps towards its ultimate goals of exhibiting existing student art and encouraging the development of further arts-related activities at YC and SCW.

"It seems to me that there are more people working on it [the festival] this year than last year, and I'm really excited to see how it turns out," remarked Benjamin Joffe, a YC junior, the director of last year's festival.

The Art Festival's Exploratory Committee has already hosted two events, one

of which was held at the Main campus on Oct. 27th, and the other at the Midtown campus Dec. 21st. The SCW event marked another stage in the development of the Arts Festival, as it was the first event to take place at the Midtown campus.

The Exploratory Committee also plans to run events after the main two-week festival, set to take place in the spring semester.

The festival will last from Sunday, February 20th through Thursday, March 2nd, and will feature events, at both the Uptown and Midtown campuses, that highlight the creative work of SCW and YC students in the areas of visual arts, music, drama, and literature.

"We're all excited about the potential for creativity that the new Festival structure will bring to students on both campuses," explains Leicht.

To participate, or for more information, contact the Arts Festival staff at artsfestival@hotmail.com.

Shawshank on Stage

S. KIM GLASSMAN
Staff Writer

Last week, Yeshiva College Dramatic Society (YCDS) celebrated the resilience of the human spirit when they put on "The Shawshank Redemption", a suspense-filled drama based on the novella by Stephen King. Director Dr. Anthony Beukas mounted a riveting production of the story, familiar to many due to the eminent 1994 film. With the aid of exceptional choreography, phenomenal lighting design, terrific sound effects and a beautifully imaginative set, YCDS's cast leaped into this powerful script with energy that filled the room.

Innocent, and on trial for murder, Andy Dufresne (Joshua Summers) found himself opposite the D.A. (Moshe Kopstick) who held all the right cards in his hands, from the murder weapon, to the motive, to the lack of an alibi, for the

befell him.

Portraying the pseudo-narrator, Red, and institutionalized pal to the protagonist, was Yaakov Silberman, who told his story lit by an overhead spotlight with the rest of the action on stage frozen under a dim red light. This added a nice touch as it effectively separated him from the other inmates, while it still allowed him to be an active participant of the developing storyline. Silberman convincingly drew the audience into the Shawshank Prison with a complimentary mix of poise and passion; the former in his composed story-telling persona and the latter as he trembled and even teared, when the script allowed. This take on Red's character was an interesting choice, in difference to Freeman's performance in the '94 film, which emoted a more subtle



YCDS Drama Cast

impending conviction. The faces of the jury responsible for declaring the guilty verdict were covered by white ghostly masks that successfully gave a callous inhumanity to the people of the court, the only people of the outside who we, the audience members, would ever see. This set an ironic tone to the play, where suddenly it was the people on the outside who were heartless, and the inmates, guilty of theft, assault and murder, somehow worthy of our sympathy and compassion.

Summers allowed his character to make a friend of his fellow inmates and at the same time, of the audience, by throwing faint smiles and constant reassurances that his spirit could not be crushed. His interaction with Tommy (Joey London) was particularly a pleasure to watch, as he offered support and encouragement without stealing the limelight. Summers' nimble agility made his fighting scenes with the attacking "sisters," led by Bogs (Avi Billel) and remarkable, truly very powerful and upsetting. Particularly noteworthy was the rape scene. With an especially effective use of the entire house as an apparatus for stage combat, the "sisters" entered through the aisles surrounding not only Andy, but the audience as well, and then Andy's attempted escape from them as he scrambled over seats, through the audience. We, the outside people, were in the way, almost responsible for Andy's failed escape, and for the violence that

nature of bitter defeat.

In no particular order: Playing the prison warden, Noam Greenberg dominated the stage with a fearful presence and a convincing display of his character's fiscal greed, heartless brutality and demented need for power. With an equally commanding presence, was Hadar Weiss as Captain Hadley, the evil second to the warden. Benjamin Franz as Brooks the librarian offered a wonderful comic relief, and I must pay tribute to the superb performance of Jake, his bird friend, who definitely lived up to the act, especially when refusing to take his cued exit during Sunday afternoon's performance. The aforementioned Joey London strut on stage with apt enthusiasm and spunk as the delinquent Tommy, whose young life was cruelly curtailed by the warden who had him shot for his knowledge of evidence which could have set Andy free. Collectively, these roles and all of the other supporting cast members illuminated the prison and moved the plot along smoothly and cohesively.

Sure, there were some loose moments and times when the cast lost its unity, forgetting they were brutish prisoners serving life sentences, and just seemed to be reciting lines, but this was the rarity. For the most part, the cast and crew pulled together a very solid work of art and rightfully upheld the standards a script as wonderful as Shawshank deserves.

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campus culture



Lisa Helprin

Stern Students Capture 2nd and 3rd Prizes in Emunah Poetry Contest



Melissa Rothenberg

Observer Staff

Two SCW students brought honor to their school as they captured two of the three prizes in the College Division of The Jossi Berger Holocaust Study Center of Emunah of America's Sixth

Annual Holocaust Essay/Poetry Competition earlier this year.

In honor of Chanukah, Emunah ran the winning essays and poems in the December edition of their newsletter, *Lest We Forget*.

The winners, Melissa

Rothenberg, an SCW junior, and Lisa Helprin, an SCW sophomore, took home Second Prize and Third Prize, respectively. Melissa's work was entitled, "Life - Despite Death," while Lisa entitled hers, "Interview with a Holocaust Survivor." In

addition to being published, the two were also invited to participate in a Cablevision taping last spring when selected winners were asked to present their work on television. This contest is open to students in elementary school, high school, and college.

Emunah, in conjunction with the Jossi Berger Holocaust Study Center, look forward to further participation in this contest in the coming years.

Interview with a Holocaust Survivor-by Lisa Helprin

The year is 2039.
100 years after Kristalnacht.
100 years after the ghettos.
100 years after the camps.
100 years after the Holocaust.

A young girl of 10 sits in school.
History Class.
The teacher opens his book to page 144.
The class does the same.

The girl is confused.
The teacher is saying things that aren't true.
At least, she thinks they aren't true.
But he says they are.

great great grandmother.
To interview a Holocaust survivor.
But she couldn't.
There were none left.

The girl went straight home that day.
She told her parents what happened.
She showed them page 144.
That was the first time she saw her father cry.

He tore up page 144 and burned it.
In front of her.
He told her she must never forget that.
This is what was done to the Jews in the Holocaust.

About the Holocaust.

She dedicated her life to studying and lecturing about the Holocaust.
She would say she was not only speaking for the sake of the generations past, but for the generations to come.
They must hear about the Holocaust.

They must know what to answer page 144.
They must know about Kristalnacht.
About the ghettos.
About the camps.
About the Holocaust.

There it is.
In print.
Page 144.
The Holocaust never happened.

How can this be?
Grandma used to tell us about her grandma.
She was there.
She survived.

She told us stories.
About Kristalnacht.
About the ghettos.
About the camps.
About the Holocaust.

Is Chanukah a lie?
Did she make this up?
The teacher said she did.
The girl didn't believe him.

How did she manage to speak to her

Her father told her that there will never be a person alive again.
Who can tell others first hand about the Holocaust.
It was her duty to pass the truth on to her children.
And tell them to never forget.

She called her grandmother.
She, too, was crying.
She told her granddaughter that there are no survivors left to tell the story. It's just "our word against theirs" she said.

The girl vowed she would be on her grandma's side.
She began to tell her friends about her great great grandmother.
About Kristalnacht.
About the ghettos.
About the camps.

As she was coming near death,
She went to visit her great great grandmother's grave one last time.
All her life she wanted the chance to utter one remark.
The chance for one momentary interview with a Holocaust survivor.

She knew there would be no answer.
But still, she had to speak.
She placed a rock on the stone.
And said, "your children will never forget."

With that, she passed away in the middle of the cemetery, next to a Holocaust survivor.
As testimony to Kristalnacht.
As testimony to the ghettos.
As testimony to the camps.
And as her final testimony to the Holocaust.

Life - Despite Death by Melissa Rothenberg

I was born in Warsaw, Poland.
In 1928.
My father was a wealthy businessman.
My mother was a housewife.
We lived in a beautiful house.
The walls were brightly decorated with expensive paintings and cheerful wall coverings.

I entered Auschwitz in June, 1939.
My father was burned when we arrived.
My mother had passed beforehand.
There was no "we" to enter the deadly barracks.
For only I remained.
The walls were decorated, with living corpses and lifeless spirits.

I entered Warsaw Ghetto.
In 1938.
My father was no longer respected.
My mother deathly ill.
We lived in a crowded room.
The walls were barely decorated.
With but a few papers and poor children's drawings.

I suffered every minute until allies arrived in 1945.
With no father to guide me,
No mother to hold me,
I walked miles to my freedom.
There were no walls to decorate.
Everything was gone.

I entered the tiny cattle car.
In 1939.
My father was holding on to his last possession.
My mother trying to hold on to life.
We were traveling one on top of another.
With walls decorated in human excrement.
And finger nail engrav-

I began a new life in 1946.
Father, "why do you cry at night?"
My precious son asks,
I do not tell him of the horrors I saw,
For his walls are going to be decorated,
With hope, peace, and life!

What Are You Doing for Winter Break?

CHANIE COHEN
Staff Writer

Where are you going for winter vacation? If you are like many SCW and YC students, you will get as far away as possible from tests and term papers, to maximize your two weeks away from the stress of college life. Popular vacation spots this winter include such sunny destinations as Miami, LA, and, of course, Israel.

But if you are among the few of us who are so busy studying for finals that by the time the millenium rolls around, you're stuck with nothing to do, don't fret, you're in luck. Today, there are dozens of sites online designed to help fulfill all your travel needs- from finding inexpensive fares and hotel reservations, to actually booking the tickets. One such site, expedia.com, allows you to search for cheap

fares and book tickets online. The site is also full of articles about the latest travel deals to the city next door and to exotic destinations.

Another site, smarterliving.com, allows you to choose your home city and any other city about which you are interested in receiving travel information. The site administrators then send you a weekly email with deals to and from those cities. Though the fares usually apply only for that coming weekend, the prices are phenomenal \$79 for domestic flights, \$200 for international. This site is definitely a worthwhile stop during your online travel planning adventure.

Travelocity.com, like expedia.com, allows you to book flights online as well as make hotel and car rental reservations. It also offers several useful travel tips. One very unique feature of the site is the 'flight tracker'. You can check the status of any flight, find out the plane's current altitude and position through an animated map, expected delays, and even whether the flight attendants served the peanuts yet.



If you don't have access to a computer, or if you just like doing things the old fashioned way, then you can call a local travel agent. Travel agent Jackie Field in Atlanta, Georgia listed three steps to navigating your way through the

process of purchasing a ticket. Travel agencies, Field explained, are specialized. For example, if you wanted to travel to the Orient, you might check out some travel agencies in Chinatown. If you wanted to go to Israel, you might try Brooklyn. Field's own travel agency specializes in domestic travel. He explained that he cannot get the cheapest fare to Israel, but if you were interested in going to Arkansas he would be perfect for you. The next step is to go online and search for fares. And if you can't find what you are looking for that way, then try the airline directly to see what you can find. If all else fails, you may just want to consider staying in the dorm. After all, there is a lot to do in Manhattan in mid-January.

city life

[sic]: The Band

SARA P. CATE
Cultural Arts Editor

[sic] is a rock and roll band. Yes, every member happens to be Jewish, and Shomer Shabbat, but I wouldn't exactly call them "Jewish Music." This four-member band is led by Yossi Fridman, who sings, plays guitar and piano and writes the band's songs with Jon Taub, who plays bass, guitar and also sings a bit. The rhythm section is comprised of drummer Jason Horowitz and bassist Mick Lewis, who also moonlights on guitar. For the past few years, [sic] has been playing the downtown Manhattan club circuit, including the Wetlands, CBGB, Spiral and Kenny's Castaways. They often open for Yosi Piamenta, 'the Hasidic Hendrix,' who is a featured soloist on the newly released [sic] CD *Poor Conductor* on Ned Reckords, and they have also opened for bad boy rapper/rocker Kid Rock.

Fridman calls their music 'power pop.' "It has all of the elements of rhythm, with hooks, but the main thing is of course melody. You can't have good music without melody, he says. "There is no real Jewish sound to our music. Jon and I write about things that are important to us. So, as a Jew, if you are

a good writer, you can't get away from your Judaism. There are definitely thematic elements of Judaism in the music, such as our song "Smorgasbord," which is a parody of Jewish weddings. However, Judaism is not the main theme in all of our songs."

Fridman and Taub began the band after meeting at HASC. Fridman had played in a band during college, and Taub had played in the Yeshiva University Jazz Ensemble during his undergraduate years. After discovering that they shared similar interests in music, they began playing together after work.

[sic] really gelled when YU alum Horowitz joined.

"Jason is the cream and Jon and I are the Oreos - we work amazingly well together," says Fridman. Their first practice space was in Fridman's garage in Brooklyn. "We really began playing for fun, and later, a big producer heard us and offered to produce our CD and it just rocketed from there. But it's still all about having fun."

Fridman began playing the piano when he was eight. "My father bought me an electric piano when I was eight, and he said 'no one taught me how to

play, so no one's gonna give you lessons.' I used to wake up at 6:30 in the morning, before school, bring the piano into the living room, turn it to its lowest volume, and play one key at a time, with my ear pressed to the speaker. I grew up listening to Kiss, Madonna and Black Sabbath." "Fridman started buying guitar magazines with sheet music in order to learn the songs of his favorite artists. Then he decided to cut out the middleman and learned to play guitar instead of transposing the guitar tabs to piano format. Fridman's current musical inspirations are Queen, the Police, Bad Religion and Weezer.

Mick Lewis joined [sic] in August 1999. I asked him about the potentially 'unkosher' nature of playing in a rock band. He claims to have seen little of the drug and alcohol habit that usually occurs backstage. "We have spent most of the time before shows davening Maariv. I guess I'll have to wait for our Purim show."

Being Shomer Shabbat has not been a problem for [sic]. They paid for the recording of the entire CD by themselves because they did not want to have to



[sic] CD Album Cover

answer to anyone. They have sole ownership of the band, so no one can dictate to them when or where they must perform. Fridman estimates that only half of the band's fans are Jewish.

"So far turning down concerts on Friday nights hasn't been a big issue - we haven't been

offered any!" adds Lewis. [sic]'s next performance is January 5, 2000 at the Wetlands. They can be reached at sic@garbage.com or at their official website <http://listen.to/sic>

At The Cinema

SARA P. CATE
Cultural Arts Editor

"Sleepy Hollow"

Washington Irving's story of the occult is brought to the screen in this intriguing version of the classic tale of horror and fright. OK, so now that I write this introduction, let's dis-

cuss the film. It's really a well-rounded piece, Johnny Depp being one of the main reasons. The story slowly unfolds as murder after murder occurs in the quiet town of Sleepy Hollow. The town officials decide to call in a

special authority from New York City, Ichabod Crane in the form of Johnny Depp. His performance is flawless, replete with melodrama, yet balanced with sensitivity.

Depp, who previously

starred in "Edward Scissorhands," lends the character a certain humor, which is integral to lighten the overall Gothic darkness of the film.

Tim Burton, the director of the animated film "the

Nightmare Before Christmas," creates a perfect feeling of gloom and evil in his latest film. Through the use of fog and dark forest scenes, he molds the physical elements of the scenery to his mood of suspense and evil.



Angelina Jolie in Hell's Kitchen

"Hell's Kitchen"

As the camera filters a crime scene through a slightly blurry lens, and films from a disorienting angle, the effect of a jarring chaotic world is translated. "Hell's Kitchen" chronicles the lives of three youths, as they try to reassemble their live after the death of one of their friends. As a result of a miscalculation

and brash reactions, Hayden (Ryan Slater) is murdered at the beginning of the film. Angelina Jolie plays his grief-stricken sister, a role she assumes fully and soulfully. Her boyfriend, Johnny (Mekhi Phifer) is blamed for Hayden's murder by Patty (Johnny Whitworth). Johnny is sent to Potter's Field for five years, as a result of the murder.

The story picks up after Johnny's

"The Bone Collector"

Skip it. It's absolutely horrible. OK, so there are a few redeeming features to this terribly graphic film, but by and large, it flops miserably as anything remotely resembling a movie. Denzel Washington doesn't even live up to his past performances in "Glory" and "The Pelican Brief." In the role of a quadriplegic detec-

tive, he is the foil to Angelina Jolie's aggressive, self-pitying inner city cop. No one could really compensate for her pitiful portrayal of the character, but Washington falls short of his usual acting potential. Then there is the attempt to compensate for hideous acting by presenting every horrific image ever associated with homicide to the audience. Can I ask

how this is supposed to compensate for the film's floundering in every other aspect? Well, it does not. In Hollywood's attempt to out-shock with each new violent thriller, the expectation is, I suppose, that the audience will be so horrified, that they will not consider any other aspects of the film. It simply does not work with "The Bone Collector."

term has been served. He returns to New York, only to find Gloria determined to see him dead. He finds a home with an ex-boxer, who agrees to tutor him in the skills of boxing. As the film progresses, the truth about Hayden's death is slowly revealed. The first hour of "Hell's Kitchen" holds tremendous promise, as both Jolie and Phifer are talented young actors. The film, however, spirals downward into a sick and

warped chronicle of drug abuse. Gloria's mother, Liz, played by Roseanna Arquette, represents the worst aspects of the film's sordid story. A lounge singer, she is also a drug addict. Not only is the film gratuitously violent and inappropriate, it simply seeks to tie up the ends of a fascinating story with platitudes and sentimentalities. It opened in select theaters last week.

Window

continued from page 1

down around his shoulders." Despite the injury and shock he endured as a result of the mishap, Valle, a YU employee for over 32 years, declined an offer from security to be evaluated at the hospital.

Valle narrowly escaped a fatal blow when he reacted to the students' visceral screams and stepped to the side. "Luckily," he said, "the girls were screaming. So I looked, and that's when the window was coming down."

"All I was thinking was that this man could have been killed," stated Karen Hochauer, an SCW senior in Hatvary's class. "It is disgraceful that the administration of Stern College could allow such a safety hazard to exist in the school building."

Sources say that Facilities Management failed to secure the area following the initial accident involving the student, SCW senior Esther Yehudis Zipris, on Oct. 28 in room 250 of the main building. She required six stitches on her right hand at a local urgent care

center. Although Facilities Management screwed it in place to prevent further damage, no indication was displayed to warn people to avoid the death trap.

On Nov. 30, the window had been opened during an earlier class. Since Hatvary's class feared a recurrence of the accident involving Zipris, Valle responded to the request to close it. "If they intended for the window not to be opened," Professor Hatvary pointed out, "then there should have been a sign." Similarly, the window should have been repaired immediately after Zipris was injured. "There seems to be a lack of recognition that physical maintenance is vital to he safety of the students," Zipris remarked.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration, claimed that he was unaware of the problem in room 250 due to his myriad responsibilities for the entire university's facilities. "I didn't even know it was broken," he said.

"They said that the window was screwed shut," Hatvary noted. "What happened to the screws? I find that totally mysterious." Initially, Rosengarten speculated that the screws

could have fallen out. But when the Observer pressed him for an explanation, he investigated and discovered that a Plant Operations employee had indeed removed the screws necessary to secure the window in place, which led to the accident involving Valle. The individual did so in response to a request to open the window since the room is usually unbearably warm.

Rosengarten admitted that failure to rectify the problem the first time was the direct result of a lack of communication between the mid-level managers and supervisors. Zipris' accident had apparently not been reported to the proper supervisors. Furthermore, the employee who removed the screws on Nov. 30 failed to replace them after opening the window. "In any chain, you have to look at the weakest link to see how strong the chain is," he stated. "He'll be dealt with." Rosengarten assured the Observer that he will investigate whether the employee was also careless in the past in order to evaluate the individual's employment at YU.

Mendy's

cont. from page 24

The OU's coercion to close Mendy's on Dec. 31 is not simply because it's Shabbat. "If they were making it more of a Shabbat meal than a New Year's party, that would be fine," explains Sharyn Perliman, director of public relations at the Orthodox Union. "But having an open bar and making a festive party is subverting Shabbat into New Years. Shabbat of 5760 is far more important than the New Years of the Millennium."

The OU also argues that New Year's Eve is a Christian holiday and should not be celebrated by Jews. "Celebrating New Year's Eve is not a Jewish Custom," said Rabbi Yisroel Belesky, the OU authority on these matters, told the Jewish Week. "Ninety-nine percent of such parties feature revelry and misbehavior."

R a b b i Belsky explained that the OU is helping

Mendy by protecting his reputation. "People don't come to restaurants because it stayed closed once on a Friday night," Mendy responds. "They come because they are hungry."

Some students at SCW were considering attending the event. "I heard about the dinner and was thinking of going with some friends," says Sharone Mehrpouyan, an SCW senior. "I think it was a great idea to have a party that would be kept with in the framework of Shabbat. Now, a lot of those people who signed up for the meal will probably end up in an irreligious atmosphere that night."

But those people seeking a kosher meal for Y2K will have place to go after all. after Heumann "secured a new location" last week. The dinner, which has already secured 75 reservations, will be held at 600 Columbus Avenue. "It will be a glatt kosher meal complete with divrei torah and zemirot," said Heumann.

Hillary

continued from page 1

"The fact that she didn't say anything as soon as the speech was over was a mistake," said Golda Fleishman, an SCW senior. "But that doesn't mean that she's lost the Democratic Jewish vote." Other SCW students are not as kind.

"She has demonstrated that she is a carpetbagger and fair weather friend to the Jews," said Risa Solomon an SCW senior. There is no way I would vote for her."

Last month Mrs. Clinton wait-

ed an entire day to react to stinging diatribes against the state of Israel by Palestinian Suha Arafat, the wife of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

"Our people have been submitted to the daily and intensive use of poisonous gas by the Israeli forces which has led to an increase in cancer among women and children," claimed Mrs. Arafat in her speech.

The First Lady sat unmoved during the speech but after clearing her remarks with the White House, she responded with firm disapproval a full 24 hours later.

Giuliani, however, responded

to the charges immediately, not missing a chance to point out the First Lady's goof-up. "I certainly wouldn't have embraced the person who said it, and hugged and kissed them," said the Mayor at a news conference shortly after he learned of the events boiling down in the Middle East.

12% of Mrs. Clinton's potential election base is Jewish, leaving her anxious to please that possible scale tipping constituency. Earlier this month, a Quinnipiac poll reported that 46% of the Jewish vote supports Mrs. Clinton, leaving Giuliani with a touch and go 43%.

Security

continued from page 24

because the empty bed in the room was under a bookshelf, which is considered a hazard. No prior warning of this was sent to the room, as the students might try to move furniture themselves which could potentially cause an injury, this is standard procedure. When the student asked about what measures were being taken to insure a repeat of the incident would not occur, Miriam Gold expressed that she felt it was an "isolated incident" and needed no further investigation.

Other "isolated incidents" such as this have occurred though. Students report that security guards will often walk into their rooms without giving proper warning. In one case a maintenance man even came into a room unaccompanied by a security guard. There are no laws on the books protecting students from any type of harassment as far as their rights to privacy in their rooms. Common practice is

that security and maintenance can enter any room at any time, tamper with objects and even remove belongings, without consequence.

In another alarming incident, a student, who wishes to remain anonymous, asked for a local van from Brookdale Hall to Schottenstein at 1:55 p.m., based on the advertised local van service that is available until 2 a.m. The security guards informed her that the van driver was off on a run and would not return to Brookdale Hall. After pressing for more information, the guards admitted the driver was off-duty before his designated time. The student demanded a van, based on the published van schedule. The guard grew argumentative and demanded to see her ID, and refused to let her back up to her residence, holding the elevator door open to prevent her from returning to her room. Unwilling to release her name to the confrontational guard, the student bolted for the stairs, and the guard left her alone.

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59	60						61			
62					63				64	
		65				66				67

CROSSWORD BY LEAH LUBETSKI

- ACROSS**
- 1. Aberronomie
 - 5. Uproar
 - 8. Acoustic organ
 - 11. Continent
 - 12. Dash
 - 13. Magnon (abbr.)
 - 14. Dr. Seuss book
 - 17. Family
 - 18. Instrument
 - 20. Hysteria
 - 23. Bottom
 - 28. Sun god
 - 29. Bookroom (abbr.)
 - 30. Deplete
 - 31. Citrus fruit
 - 35. NBC program
 - 36. Wife was a pillar of salt
 - 37. George Orwell book
 - 42. Bluffs
 - 43. Troy (abbr.)
 - 44. Base
 - 46. Weak
 - 47. Chem. Sym. for Rubidium
 - 49. Sesame Street character
 - 50. Vat
 - 52. Train
 - 53. Us
 - 55. Bravo
 - 58. Water in Nice
 - 59. Tale by
 - 62. Vulgar
 - 63. Grab
 - 64. National Liberation Front (abbr.)
 - 65. Summer in Lyons
 - 66. Social Security
 - 67. Config.

- DOWN**
- 1. Obese
 - 2. Around suffix
 - 3. Cravat
 - 4. Desert plants
 - 5. Pal
 - 6. Tear in stockings
 - 7. Busy worker?
 - 8. Resonate
 - 9. Middle Eastern man
 - 10. Impeller
 - 15. Piece of a circle
 - 16. Hee
 - 19. Planet
 - 20. Machination
 - 21. Jordan
 - 22. Bkb Assoc.
 - 24. Length times
 - 25. County sweetheart
 - 26. Two
 - 27. Dr.'s aide
 - 32. Slenderest
 - 33. Pest
 - 34. Days of Chanukah
 - 36. String after UK
 - 38. Grad. degree
 - 39. Flutter
 - 40. Sicken
 - 41. Caviar
 - 42. Sum laude
 - 44. Iron
 - 45. More aged
 - 46. Obeys
 - 47. Indeed
 - 48. Dissembles
 - 51. Tureans
 - 54. Celt
 - 56. Aural
 - 57. Stinger
 - 58. Eternities
 - 59. Golf Assoc.
 - 60. Extremity
 - 61. Unit of Freq.

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campus culture

Fresh Voices

Roaming around the Midtown campus, the Observer interviewed various SCW students on the following question.

Below are a sampling of the answers:

What item would you put in a time capsule?



Abby Batko-Taylor
SCW Junior

I would put songs that we sing in kumzitzes, Carlebach songs and nigunim that everyone I know can relate to and feels inspired by. I would include the musical notes. When they open it they will see what inspired us and be inspired by it in return.



Orli Daniels
SCW Sophomore

I would put in a journal that spanned a lifetime and mentioned trends and developing trends of the time. It would give them a sense of the people who lived before them.



Tamar Tuchman
SCW Senior

I would put in my school planner. When they look at my assignments they can see how much we were able to accomplish in one semester of school.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 19

F	I	T	C	H		F	R	A	Y		E	A	R		
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Sunday 30	SUNY Purchase	2:00 pm / HOME
February		
Tuesday 1	SUNY Old Westbury	8:00 pm / Away
Thursday 3	Stevens Tech	7:30 pm / Away
Sunday 6	Mass. Pharmacy	1:00 pm / HOME
Thursday 10	Brooklyn College	7:00 pm / Away
Sunday 13	SUNY Maritime	1:00 pm / Away
Wednesday 16	St. Joseph's College	8:00 pm / Away
Sunday 20	Bard College	2:00 pm / Away

Berman

continued from page 24

at the OPCS, her absence will affect liberal arts majors as well. Now that Berman has left the OPCS, only Kapp and Bob Bomersbach are left to assist the entire SCW student body with internship and career plans.

Bomersbach is reserved exclusively for the 170 SSSB students at the Midtown campus, who only comprise about 18% of the total student body at the Midtown Campus. The overflow from Bomersbach's work will continue to be handled by Kapp, who is already responsible for all of the liberal arts majors and remains over-worked. Consequently, many

students feel that they are at a disadvantage.

"I don't see why they had two Sy Symms people for 170 students and only Naomi Kapp for about 800 students," remarked Tani Cohen, an SCW senior. "Just hire another person for Stern instead of Sy Symms, and that will lessen the burden for Naomi Kapp."

Other SCW students

pointed to future limitations of the school's counseling service.

"There is not enough awareness of the opportunities available to the student body, and with only one advisor in charge we will not be given the attention and information we deserve as students at Stern," said Ruchie Grunstein, an SCW sophomore. Students also wondered how the OPCS would ever be able to han-

dle the new work load. "Stern is known for providing jobs for the student body," said SCW sophomore Sharon Zylberstein. "How can one person be expected to help close to 1,000 students?" Another student agreed: "It's not fair to Naomi Kapp or the students- you do the math," commented Hannah Leibovitch, an SCW senior.

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umni spot

By Miriam Eljas

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently joked to YU students that making a small fortune in Israel often means starting out with a large fortune, he probably hadn't heard about YU alumnus Reuven Kahane. Before his 30th birthday, Kahane turned dough into gold through his Israeli franchise, Bonkers Bagels. And before he turns 33, Kahane will have dusted his hands free of the stresses of managing two restaurant franchises by selling out to foreign investors.

"Bonkers was [an] obvious [idea] because there are no bagels in Israel," explains the 32-year-old graduate of YC who majored in philosophy.

While building Bonkers from a single store to 13 and a factory, Kahane created a second franchise in the U.S. tailored to what Americans love best: pizza. "A good idea implemented well is more successful than a great idea not implemented that well," says Kahane, who was born in Manhattan. "Pizza Cave is an average idea with a few nuances that are different, like a brick oven and the idea of a chain." Pizza Cave now stands tall at five locations in Manhattan, Teaneck, and Cedarhurst.

Tired of pizza and bagels, and not to mention the

managerial aspects of restaurant administration, Kahane is ready to move on. He plans to spend the next year or so living in the United States, and then he will return to Israel.

"I am looking now to work for someone or with someone," he says. "Being your own boss is overrated. Because if you are not a good boss, then you are not good for yourself and you are undisciplined. Being your own boss comes with its territory. Freedom also has headaches." At this point, Kahane is interested in moving into the hi-tech industry.

"The low-tech market in Israel is too small, in my opinion, to go into low-tech," he explains. "It's too tough, it's small. The market is about 5 million people. So unless you are in import or export or you are one of those original families who controls the different monopolies of businesses, hi-tech is the route to go." But Kahane believes his ultimate career lies in politics.

"I am too young and not experienced enough [to go into politics] now," he comments. "I don't know what type of politics. Hopefully the Knesset one day you never know. Maybe mayor, or a quasi-governmental position." He explains that his family connection to Israeli politics

got him involved at an early age. He also worked for Likud member Uzi Landau.

Now a weathered businessman, Kahane started off as a pulpit rabbi in Manhattan with



Reuven Kahane

smicha from REITS and a law degree from Cardozo in 1991. Always on the go, Kahane served two years as a community rabbi for the Sutton Place Synagogue and then as a lawyer at Yerushalmi, Shibolet, Yisraeli & Roberts for half a year. He saved enough money from his jaunt as a lawyer to make aliyah and then created Bonkers in Israel with the help of friends and family.

"The original money was basically started with me, my partner, some friends and families," he explains. "And then we got the big investments later on.

We really got the big money with our second store." While running both Bonkers and Pizza Cave, Kahane traveled back and forth between Israel and America in order to manage both businesses. Kahane asserts that he always saw the potential for something great within Bonkers after learning from the mistakes of others in bungled bagel ventures.

"I think a lot of people did two big mistakes," he says. "They did a very bad bagel and they thought even if the bagel is garbage, people will come to it. But they won't. They will come once and try it. So a lot of people made a decent bagel but took a garbage location, thinking people are going to run to bad location for bagels. But what we did is put the whole thing together. All the elements. Good location, good product."

While still in school, Kahane and his friends were constantly coming up with different business ideas that didn't always work.

"We always had plans, but we did not get discouraged," he says. Kahane recalls his YU years as a very positive experience. Great teachers and great friends are what Kahane remembers most about YU. He maintains contact with both his friends and his professors on a regular basis.

"The dual education prepares you," he remarks. "I think the network of friends helps you, and the long hours. Those friends are still with me now." He remembers his YU days as a transitional point in his life that prepared him for his future careers.

But walking into the business world with little work experience is definitely a mistake, says Kahane. He recommends other entrepreneurs to work for other people for at least a year or two. "I think it hurt me that I did not work for other people..." he says. "Instead I went straight into business. I learned all my mistakes on the go, on the run. I learned from my mistakes at Bonkers. Bonkers, I believe, was not the success it should have been."

Kahane also advises against setting your goals too high, but balancing that with one's fear of failure. "Don't worry about failure. I've failed a few times. A lot of entrepreneurs fail once and then they don't get back up. You can't be scared of that."

Whatever the future holds for Kahane, one thing is certain. It will have dough in it and plenty of it.



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Fall 1999 Final Examination Schedule Stern College/SSSB For Women

THURSDAY DEC 30	FRIDAY DEC 31	SUNDAY JAN 2	MONDAY JAN 3
<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>ACC 1001 K Principles of Accountg Hornung BIB 1088 K Parshanut of Rada Grunhaus CHEM 1045H K General Chemistry Rapp CHEM 1213T K Organic Chem Blau COMP 1315C K Intro to Computer F Parnom-M ECO 1501 K Public Finance Hoover ENG 2910 K American Autobiog Jacobson FIN 1001 K Principles of Finan Andreas FRE 1101 K Elementary French Cohen INF 2250 K Internet For Busine Davidson JUD 1467 K Topics in Festivals Cohen JUD 1582 K Modern Jewish Prc Auman JUD 1435H K Kashruth Kahn MAR 2410 K Sales Management Teich MATH 1540 K Function of Compli Dalezman MUS 1111 K Sense of Music Gleser PHI 1360 K Theory of Knowled Levin POL 1310 K European Union Bevan PSYC 1010 K Introductory Psych DiLorenzo PSYC 3411 K Forensic Psychol Perlman SOC 1158 K Criminology Langer SPA 2023 K Masterpieces of Sp Issacharoff BIO 2206 J Invertebrate Zoolo; De Santis</p> <p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>ACC 3201 N Advanced Account Leibowitz ART 1052 N History of Art II Gardner ART 1471 N Contemporary Art Kawako BLW 2021 N Legal&Ethicl Env B Greenberg COMP 1502 N Discrete Structures Leibovitch COMP 1115C N Intro Computer App Pahmer HIS 1001 N Western Civilization Freedman HIS 1400 N Greek Civilization Hollander MATH 1413 N Calculus II Dalezman MATH 3810 N Theory of Arithmet Grosf PSYC 2430B N Intro to Clinical Psy Perlman SCI 1027H N Intro to Science Blau SOC 1001 N Introduction to Soc Papazahar SPA 1101 N Elementary Spanis Issacharoff SPE 3034 N Audiology II Danto JPH 1813A NPI Modern Jewish Th Holzer POL 1600 NPI American Constitut Hecht MATH 3810 M Theory of Arithme Grosf</p>	<p>8:30-10:30</p> <p>ART 1050 E Introduction to Art Cohen BIB 2049 E Havazele BIOL 1011E Biology Principles Loewy BIOL 3513C E Genetics Babich COMP 2108 E Intro to Operating S Breban ENG 2003 E Survey Eng Literat Neaman HEB 1207 E Intermediate Hebre Cohen JUD 1449 E Laws+Customs;Ma Hochberg MAN 1020 E Principles of Manag Capela MAR 3313 E Advertising Manag Coh MUS 1111 E Sense of Music Levy PHI 1550 E Metaphysics Shatz PHI 1010E Great Ideas of Phil Johnson PSYC 1110 E Developmental I; C Schwartz PSYC 3601 E Health Psychology DiLorenz PSYC 3800 E Personality Schechter PSYC 1010E Intro Psychology I Bacon BLW 2111 M Business Law I Greenberg</p> <p>11:00-1:00</p> <p>ART 1051 M History Of Art I Willumsta BIB 1096 M Ramban al ha-Tora Grunhaus BIOL 1011C M Biology Principles Loewy BIOL 3230C M Immunology Jeremias</p> <p>EDU 1210 M Educational Psych; Lazaroff ENG 2611 M American Lit I Hendrick FIN 2409 M Advanced Corporal Andreas FRIE 1201 M Intermediate Fren Cohen INF 2125 M C++ Prog for Busin Zilbert JUD 1457 M The Sabbath Pahmer MAR 1001 M Principles of Marke Palumbo MAR 3331 M Industrial Marketing Teich MATH 1510 M Multivariable Calcul Dalezman PHI 1010 M Great Ideas Of Phil Levin POL 1510 M American Foreign F Weinberg PSYC 1010 M Introductory Psych DiLorenzo PSYC 1110 M Developmental I; C Fried PSYC 3400 M Educational Psych; Lazaroff SOC 1504 M Methods of Soc Re Prager SPA 1201 M Intermediate Spanis Issacharoff STA 1021 M Intro to Statistics Fuller JPH 1131A MF Intro Jewish Philos; Holzer</p>	<p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>ACC 1001 F Principles of Accoi;Hochman ACC 1002 F Principles of Accoi;Hipschwartz BIB 2605 F Ezekiel Havazele ENG 4270 F Myth and Folklore Silver JPH 1204 F Jewish Ethics Shatz MATH-1412 F Calculus I Prince PSYC 1010 F Introductory Psych Schwartz PSYC 2140 F Learning Bacon PSYC 3845 F Psychology & Reli Schechte STA 1021 F Intro to Statistics Lembess YID 1101 FG Elementary Yiddis Shapiro JUD 1580 FW Modern Jewish Iss Hochberg</p> <p>4:00-6:00</p> <p>BIB 1119 A Pentateuch;WeekI Metzger BIB 1409 A Book of Leviticus Oratz BIB 2107 A Early Prophets Uchtmann BIB 3209 A Psalms Cohen BIB 1305A A Book of Exodus Shulman HEB 1101 A Beginner's Hebrew Cohen HEB 1103 A Elementary Hebrew Dubitsky HEB 1203 A Intermediate Hebr; Barzel HEB 1205 A Intermediate Hebr; Lowin JHI 1511 A History of Modern Kosak JHI 1831A A Medieval Intellect I Kanarfog JHI 1441 A History Jewish Phi Barzel JUD 1485 A Jewish Life Cycle Cohen JUD 1583 A Medical Ethics Berman JUD 1845B AJ Advanced Talmud Kahn BIB 1207A AN Book of Genesis Weiss</p>	<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>BIOL 1001C D1 Biology Essentials Babich BIOL 1001C J Biology Essentials Babich BIOL 1001C K Biology Essentials Babich BIOL 1001C N Biology Essentials De Santis</p> <p>BIB 1303 C Book of Exodus S Sched TAX 2501 E Federal Income T; Hochman</p> <p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>ACC 2403 D Management Acco Snow PHY 1041R D General Physics L Prince ART 1303 D1 16th Century Art Cohen EDU 1210 D1 Educational Psych Lazaroff FIN 1001 D1 Principles of Finan Brown HIS 2005 D1 Survey of US Hist; Kosak HIS 2150 D1 US;1941-Present Schrecke INF 1020 D1 Management Info; Zakhem MAR 2110 D1 Organizational Bel Capela MAR 1001 D1 Principles of Marke Cohn POL 1040 D1 Amer Govt & Polit; Zucker PSYC 2150 D1 Cognitive Psychol Bacon PSYC 3400 D1 Educational Psych Lazaroff SOC 1643 D1 Sociological Theor Eisenber BIB 3210 D2 Psalms Oratz ENG 4558 D2 The Dream in Liter; Neaman HEB 1205 D2 Intermediate Hebr; Dubitsky JUD 1201 D2 Jewish Liturg Pahmer JUD 1203 D2 Jewish Liturg Metzger JUD 1573 D2 The Individual in S Berman PHI 3402 D2 Philosophy of Law Shatz CHEM 1415 DE Physical Chemist Rapp JHI 1577A DW Hist of Amer Juda; Gurock PHY 1031R M Intro Physics Lect; Parnom COMP 3563 F Data-Base System Breban</p>

Fall 1999 Final Examination Schedule Stern College/SSSB For Women

TUESDAY JAN 4	WEDNESDAY JAN 5	THURSDAY JAN 6
<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>BIB 2505 J Isalah Grunhaus</p> <p>CHEM 1125C J Analytical Chemistry Dobin CHEM 1376F J Biochemistry Lectur Rapp ECO 1011 J Intro. Macroeconom Hoover ECO 1221 J Money and Banking Levine ENG 2611 J American Lit I Hendrick ENG 4202 J Masters World Lit II Weidhoff HIS 1285 J The Holocaust Zimmern INF 2250 J Internet For Busines Davidson JHI 1485 J The Holocaust Zimmern JPH 1843AJ Philosophy of Rav S Carmy JUD 1401 J Basic Jewish Conco Berner MAN 1020 J Principles of Manag; Pansky MUS 1111 J Sense of Music Gleser PHI 1100 J Logic Levin POL 1811 J Contemp Political Pi Zucker PSYC 2414 J Abnormal Psychol DiLorenz PSYC 3800 J Personality Perlman SEM 5111 J Elementary Arabic White SOC 1001 J Introduction to Socic Langer</p> <p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>ACC 1101 L Intermediate Account Hornung BIB 2555 L Jeremiah Grunhaus BIOL 3310 L Human Virology Zuckerbr ECO 3006 L Economic and Ethic Levine ENG 2611 L American Lit I Hendrick FIN 2505 L Investment Analysis Krausz HEB 2741 L Topics in Hebrw Lit; Rosenthal HIS 1001 L Western Civilization Freedman INF 3560 L Database Design Zilbert JUD 1447 L Women & Jewish Li Kahn JUD 1489 L Interpersonal Relatik Cohen JUD 1491 L Jewish Business Etl Levine JUD 1514 L Development of Jew Auman MAN 3601 L International Busine Palumbo MAR 1001 L Principles of Market; Bellman MATH 1160 L Intro to Elementary I; Grosf PSYC 1301 L Tests And Measurer Perlman</p> <p>RUS 1101 L Elementary Russian Chernova SOC 1232 L Sociology of Health Prager SPA 1101 L Elementary Spanish Issacharoff STB 1131 L Statistics for Busine; Presby JUD 1821ALR Mishnat; Tesim Shurn</p>	<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>BIB 1087 B Medieval Biblical E Cohen BIB 1161 B Topics;Mystical Exr Metzger BIB 1201 B Book of Genesis Shulman BIB 1207 B Book of Genesis Oratz BIB 1209 B Book of Exodus Moshavi BIB 1303 B Book of Exodus Alter BIB 3257 B Proverbs Havazele BIB 1305A B Book of Exodus Schechte HEB 1103 B Elementary Hebrew Lowin HEB 1203 B Intermediate Hebre Dubitsky HEB 1205 B Intermediate Hebre Cohen HEB 2567 B Modern Hebrew Lit Barzel JHI 1001 B Survey Jewish Hist; Kanarfog JHI 1511 B History of Modern I Kosak JPH 1651 B Philosophy of Mish; Ratfel JUD 1445 B Women & Jewish L Berman JUD 1465 B The Festivals Cohen JUD 1843 B Intermediate Talmu; Kahn</p> <p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>SPE 3025 G Speech Path in Ch Goldstein SPE 3112 G Phonetics Koller</p> <p>JUD 1497A GHW The Land Of Israel Gokvicht</p> <p>4:00-6:00</p> <p>JUD 1449A GHM Laws & Customs; M Saffrah JUD 1455A GHM Topics in Sabbath Soboloff MAN 3610 GH Health Care Manag Miller</p>	<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>ART 1050H C Introduction to Art Cohen BIB 1085 C Topics in Biblical Exer; Moshavi</p> <p>BIB 1507 C Book of Numbers Shulman BIB 3409 C Five Megillot Oratz BIOL 2730C C Human Anatomy De Santis CHEM 1045C C General Chemistry Rapp ENG 4420C C Women, Culture, & Soci Schrecke HEB 1203 C Intermediate Hebrew I Cohen HEB 1205 C Intermediate Hebrew I Dubitsky HEB 1207 C Intermediate Hebrew I Barzel HIS 4659H C Women, Culture, & Soci Schrecke INF 1020 C Management Info Syst; Zakhem JUD 1001 C Intro to Judaism Rafiel JUD 1371 C Hasidism Metzger JUD 1445 C Women & Jewish Law Cohen JUD 1453 C The Sabbath Berman JUD 1841 C Intro to Talmud I Alter JUD 1871 C Midrash Havazele MAN 2370 C Human Resources Capela MUS 1870H C 20th Century Concept; Levy PSYC 2100C C Experimental Psychol Bacon SOC 1001 C Introduction to Sociolo Eisenber JHI 1809H C Topic;Intro Roshoni; Solovitchnik</p> <p>1:00-3:00</p> <p>COMP 3543 P Data Structures & Alg; Leibovitch EDU 4003 P Ed Exceptional Child Fried PSYC 1010H P Intro Psychology - Hor Bacon SPE 3012 P Hearing Mechanism Danto STB 1601 P Operations Research Rau JUD 1473S PQR Sephardic Life Cycle Lieberman BIOL 3830 PQT Neurobiology Lembess JUD 1443A PR Laws&Customs; Home Fulda INF 3121 QR Systems Administration Selt; Smith</p>

*finals schedule subject to change

on campus

Knock First!

Security Continues to Deny Students Basic Privacy Rights

MICHAEL KANOVSKY
Staff Writer

Jennifer Berman Resigns

RAMONA BENDI
Staff Writer

Jennifer Berman, one of the three assistant directors of the Office of Placement and Career Services at SCW, recently announced her resignation. Her decision to change careers was met with dismay from SCW students since the OPCS is now more understaffed than ever.

"She got an offer she couldn't refuse," explained Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of Placement and Career Services. According to Ira L. Jaskoll, Associate Dean of SSSB and Director of Placement and Career Services, Berman will be returning to the world of industry.

YU is currently searching for a replacement for Berman. The University has advertised for a career counselor and has already received responses to its inquiry from qualified applicants.

"We hope to have somebody as soon as possible, definitely by next semester," Dean Jaskoll explained.

Meanwhile, SCW is severely overcrowded, with an all-time high enrollment of 913 students. Although Berman only worked with SSSB students while

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Just because you've locked your door doesn't mean nobody is going to come in. On Friday Dec. 3, a student in Brookdale Hall was showering in preparation for Shabbat when a security woman entered her locked room accompanied by a maintenance man. The security officer knocked on the bathroom door and made the student aware of her presence, instructing her get dressed.

When the student put on her robe she was astonished to find her neat room in complete disarray as the maintenance man was moving around all her furniture an hour before shabbat. They refused to tell her why they had intruded on her privacy.

After a number of repeated attempts to ask the uninvited visitors to leave, she finally persuaded them to call their superior. When they left the student noticed that her ID card was missing from her desk.

Angry and frustrated, the student went to the security desk at Brookdale Hall to file a complaint. Other security guards explained that there had been an order to take extra beds out of rooms and asked her to fill out a report. Led to a room to file the report, she was contacted by Head of Security, Mike Giordano, who sympathized with her situation and asked that she put her complaint in writing. He also requested that she not discuss

it with anyone.

As she was writing her statement, another security guard entered the room and started badgering her privately. He indicated that he wanted to know if the female security officer in the room had acted in any other way inappropriately, the student said she didn't understand and the security man left after asking her not to tell anyone about his question. The student finished writing and gave it to the front desk.

A few minutes after the student returned to her room the doorbell rang. Upon answering it she confronted a security officer from the front desk who had her ID card. The security woman said that the student must have left it on

the front desk, to which the student responded that it had been missing before she went downstairs, since right after the security woman and maintenance man had left the room earlier.

On Tuesday Dec. 8, 1999, the student spoke to Miriam Gold regarding the issue of the student's missing and returned ID card, saying that there was no real proof. She then explained that the maintenance man was there to move around furniture

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SCW Enrollment Exceeds Yeshiva College

ADINA LEVINE
Staff Writer

The numbers don't lie. SCW, historically considered smaller and thus secondary in number to YC, has made history this year. SCW has finally reached an enrollment greater than that of YC.

"It's not surprising in the least," Ellyn Mauner, an SCW freshman, remarked. "Opportunities are opening so much for women these days. More women are interested in going to work, and to do that they need a college education."

This year SCW students this year numbered 750, while the YC undergraduates only total 679. Some speculate that this might be a reflection of the popularity of SSSB whose female enrollment decreased from 186 students last year to only 169, while its male enrollment increased from 456 students last year to 496 students this year. Thus, though the Uptown campus total enrollment is still larger than Midtown (with a total of 1170 students versus Midtown's 922), YC is actually smaller than SCW for the first time ever.

SCW Dean Karen Bacon commented on the all-time high enrollment at SCW. "I don't know whether this increase is merely the same percentage of a greater number, or whether this is making a statement," Dean Bacon stated. "But undeniably, there is a continuous increase of women's interest in Jewish studies."

Registrar Shuffle Continues

Honigwachs moves uptown, temporary replacement found

Observer Staff

As registration rolls in, the SCW registrar moves out. Dr. Lea Honigwachs, the assistant registrar at SCW, has been relocated to the Uptown campus to service students at YU graduate schools.

Pinchas Friedenberg will temporarily fill her position at the Midtown campus. Friedenberg previously held the position of YU



Pinchas Friedenberg

registrar for a year and a half before Rabbi Melvin Davis, who recently submitted his resignation, to be effective at the end of the fall semester.

Dr. John B. Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management,

remains unconcerned about the frequent changes in Enrollment staff. "All the registrar positions will be in capable hands," he stated. "I've known [Friedenberg] for many years." According to Fisher, Friedenberg left YU in 1994 on positive terms, and in the interim he worked for Touro College.

Fisher added that Honigwachs will be available to help with the SCW registration for Spring 2000. "She agreed to accept this post [at the Main campus]," Fisher said. "It has been vacant since last spring. In the short run, [the transition] should be invisible."

No Y2K CELEBRATION AT MENDY'S WEST

DANA BIENEFELD
Staff Writer

Is it appropriate for an Orthodox Jew to celebrate the new millennium? Not according to Orthodox Union officials who are forcing the Mendy's West restaurant to stay closed on New Year's Eve. The kashrus certification agency has urged the Upper West Side eatery to cancel their plans to host a Shabbat meal for over 200 people on Friday night, December 31, or no OU stamp of approval.

The dinner was planned as a celebration for New Year's "within the parameters of Halacha" explains Danny Heumann, the 24-year-old NYU law student who has been organizing the event since the summer.

"We were going to have an evening of singing zemirot and hearing divrei torah while celebrating the new millennium, but the OU decided that they didn't want any such event going on in an institution of theirs."

Mendy's is often open for pre-paid Shabbat dinners. "The OU just didn't want us opened on that particular night," Mendy, the owner, says. "If they [the rabbis of the OU] would be here and experience the Shabbat atmosphere, maybe they would realize what a mitzvah it is. Even if we inspire one person to be religious, isn't it worth it to stay opened?"

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