The Yeshiva University
OBSERVER
The official newspaper of Stern College for Women

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SCW ELECTIONS 2000

RAMONA BENDJI
Staff Writer

Election results are in-minus two presidents: SCWSC and TAC. Not to mention an executive vice-president of Student Council and a less crucial but equally vacant position of Sophomore Class treasurer. A vacancy election will be held this Wednesday to determine who will fill the empty positions. The same election process minus campaigning will be used in determining the winner.

Of the filled positions on the Executive SCWSC Board, Susanne Goldstone will serve as the new Corresponding Secretary, Ruchie Morgan as Recording Secretary, and Elana Soleimani as Treasurer. The Torah Activities Council will consist of Rachel Bloom and Ahuva From as Vice Presidents, Tova Goldstein as Secretary, and Miriam Shaffren as Treasurer. The Sy Syms School of Business board consists of Zoya Mardakhayev as President, Miriam Rabinowitz as Vice President, Shira Adler as Secretary, and Tara Chudnoff as Treasurer.

Last week, SCW student body supporters gathered together for the first ever election rally. The categories for election included TAC, SSSB, SCW Executive Board and general class positions. Each candidate was introduced and attempted to explain their objectives and reasons for running for their respective positions.

"I think this event is really disorganized. I was interested in hearing opinions and I don't feel like I got any clear answers. This has not motivated me to vote," exclaimed Marina Stolerman, an SCW freshman.

The process of putting together the elections followed a specific order, according to Rechelle Winkler, the head of the elections canvassing committee. "Petitions had to be filled in by March 29th, submitted with a biography and picture," explained Winkler. "All candidates had to hold academic standing, having a 3.0 GPA or higher and candidates for V.P. and President needed

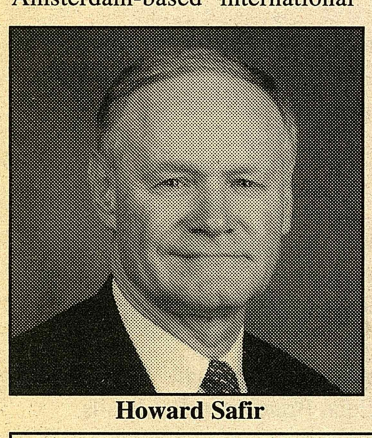
see ***Elections*** *page 22*

NYPD Commissioner Addresses Jewish Student Leaders

MICHELLE FOGEL
Calendar Editor

Police Commissioner Howard Safir, in a recent press conference with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) said the Amsterdam-based international drug ring led by drug lord Sean Erez which employed Hasidim to smuggle the drug MDMA, popularly known as the club drug Ecstasy, into New York City from Holland, was responsible for 60% of all Ecstasy coming into the country. Crime is something that does not discriminate or is characterized by a certain community, commented Safir. "People think Hasidim don't commit crimes, but anyone can…in any community. People are human," he stated.

Commissioner Safir also noted the majority of crimes committed in the Jewish community are not by organized groups, but



Howard Safir

see ***Safir*** *page 20*

Observer Initiates Alumni Mailing

Observer Staff

Early last fall, YU ended its age-old practice of mailing out all student publications and instead decided to send Yeshiva Today, the university's public relations newsletter, to alumni. Despite YU administration opposition and financial limitations, The Observer has begun to personally mail copies of the monthly publication through its own funding. Last week 1000 copies of The Observer were mailed out to SCW alumnae of 1990-1997.

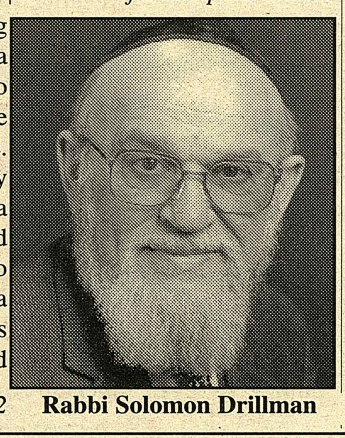
Responding to alumni requests for The Observer, Editor-in-chief Miriam Eljas and Executive Editor Rachel Salamon felt it essential to the continuity of the university as well as alumni-student relations to keep mailing out The Observer.

"I know that the women [alumnae] want to get the papers very much," said Director of Undergraduate

see ***Mailing*** *page 6*

YU Mourns Passing of Rabbi Solomon Drillman

see ***Drillman*** *page 6 for complete article*



Rabbi Solomon Drillman

NEAL HARRIS RESIGNS

MICHELLE FOGEL
Calendar Editor

Citing health reasons, Acting Director of Student Financial Aid Neal Harris abruptly resigned from his position last Monday, the latest in a string of resignations that has plagued Yeshiva University throughout the year. Jean Belmont, University Bursar, will act as the interim director.

"I needed to do what was good for me," said Harris, who has been director of student aid since 1995. "The stress of doing my job simply got to me [and forced me to resign for] health reasons."

Harris, YC class of 1976, has been working in YU since 1978. "I look back over twenty-two years of working in YU with many fond memories. There is a magnificent staff, great students, and I'm thankful for the many years

see ***Harris*** *page 22*

MIRIAM GOLD LEAVES HER POST

DEEDEE LAX
Staff Writer

On April 4, Miriam Gold, Residence Supervisor, announced her resignation from Stern College for Women. Her resignation will be effective mid-July and she currently has no immediate plans for future employment.

"It's time for growth and change," says Gold about her decision to leave. "The tasks of the job always remain the same. The only task is the students, which is wonderful, but I'm ready for a change."

Gold emphasizes h e r recent decision to resign, after working at SCW for three years, is based on want of a different challenge. She explains that it is diffi-

see ***Gold*** *page 23*

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News Briefs

by Rachel Elbaum

Israel:

The Israeli government is not giving any indication that it will heed a request from visiting US Secretary of Defense William Cohen not to sell an airborne radar system to China. Barak reminded Cohen that Israel has to honor its business contracts. The deal has generated tension with the US at a time when Israel is seeking more US aid.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said the chances of talks with Syria restarting are very low, but that the government has still not shut the door. He also reiterated his intention to withdraw from Lebanon by July and said he does not expect a conflagration as a result. Israel wants a $16.7 billion package for advanced weapons and redeploying the IDF from the Golan Heights.

Israeli Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai agreed to enforce the law that assures Filipino workers employed in Israel the minimum wage, approximately $700 per month. Many Filipino workers are employed as caregivers in Israel and earn $500 to $600 per month. It is estimated that there are 25,000 legal Filipino workers in Israel.

International:

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was in a coma and breathing with the aid of a respirator late Monday. A senior cabinet official is acting prime minister. Obuchi was taken to a Tokyo Hospital after complaining of fatigue, and was then diagnosed as having suffered a stroke and placed in intensive care.

A German business executive with Daimler Benz AG, his wife and two children were hacked to death by burglars who broke into their home in China. Their bodies were found together in their villa. Four farmers from a nearby community confessed to the killings said one newspaper. It is believed to be the worst violence in recent times against Westerners in China.

NATO troops arrested a Bosnian Serb leader last Monday for suspected genocide and other war crimes, a major victory for the U.N. Criminal Tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia. He was right-hand man to the Bosnian Serbs' wartime political leader Radovan Karadzic who is also indicted but still at large.

National:

Microsoft was dealt a huge legal defeat Monday, as U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ruled the company violated the Sherman Antitrust Act. The judge found that Microsoft used its position to "monopolize the web browser market," and that it violated another section of the law by "unlawfully tying its web browser to its operating system." The company could be sued under state anti-competition laws.

Massachusetts began enforcing the nation's first consumer protection regulation of handguns. The new rules ban "Saturday night specials," and require handguns to include childproof locks, tamper-proof serial numbers and safety warnings. The new gun safety regulations affect gun manufacturers who want to do business in the state.

The thriving economy and record-low unemployment rates are making it easier for ex-convicts to find work. While former offenders were usually passed over for jobs in the high unemployment days of the 1980's in favor of those with clean records, many companies now are "willing to hire people they were able to ignore in the past" because of increasing job opportunities.

A study in "The New England Journal of Medicine" found that beta-blockers increase the risk of diabetes by about 28 percent, compared to those who do not receive treatment for high blood pressure. Experts say the drugs are proven to lower the risk of heart disease.

According to scientists with The National Institutes of Health, the best time to prevent osteoporosis is during childhood. Experts say that children between the ages of three and 17 should get calcium equal to three cups of milk every day.

Local:

A Daily News survey of New York's public figures, including elected officials and Board of Education members, found that many of them send their children to private schools and spend up to $20,000 dollars per year on their children's education. This comes in the middle of debate relating to school vouchers that would allow city students to use taxpayer money for private school tuition. Mayor Giuliani sends his two children to Catholic schools.

Check out the Observer website at www.yuobserver.com

The Observer

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SCW Calendar

by Michelle Fogel

April

9-12- SC Dramatics Society production Hillstone.

10- Swimming, women's only, every Monday. Vans leave from Brookdale and Schottenstein at 7:30 and 8:45 p.m., returning at 9 and 10 p.m.

Parsha Shiur every Monday night, see Judy Horn for details.

11- Speaker on Breast Cancer Awareness, Marianne Gould, 6 p.m.

Chabad Club Shiur, 7 p.m. every Tuesday, Rm. 301

Bikur Cholim every Monday and Tuesday leaves at 7 p.m. to Beth Israel Hospital. See Leora Berkovitch for details.

Shmirat HaLashon, 10:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Brookdale and Schottenstein Beit Medrash. See Tamar Mosack for more details.

12- Club hour speaker - Rabbi Zeigler Senior Workshop, 7 p.m.

Computer Science Society lecture, 7 p.m.

SAGA event-Environment in Israel, 7 p.m.

Shiur by Rav Hochberg, 8 p.m. every Wednesday, Rm. 301. See Shlomit Zauderer for details.

Chess Club at 9-10 p.m. every Wednesday.

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

17-30- Passover Break. Have a great vacation!

May

1- Yom Hashoah program with speaker T.J. Lighden, 8 p.m

2- Pre-Med Society speaker- Medical School Dean, Downstate. Flyers to follow.

3- Athletic Awards Dinner, 6 p.m.

End-of-Year Dessert, 8 p.m.

4- SAGA nature club event. Flyers to follow.

YU Roshei Yeshiva Lecture Series: "Sefirat Ha'omer," Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Congregation Adereth El near the Midtown Campus, 7 p.m.

7- Outdoors club event- lunch in the park. See Eden Brandwein for details.

8- Blood Drive. Flyers to follow.

Sy Syms Dinner. Flyers to follow.

10- Yom Ha'atzmaut

11- Cap and gown distribution

EDITORIALS

Something Rotten in Denmark

Is there some sort of mysterious bug running around YU, creeping behind administrators ears, whispering "leave, leave…while you still can?" What is it that has caused nearly 15 administrators to resign, step down, quit, retire, or any other form of exodus? Uptown, Midtown, and everything in-between, no one seems to be safe from this ubitiquous bug. As the year draws to a close, the list of disappearing administrators continues. This month's evacuation awards go to Acting Director of Student Financial Aid Neal Harris, and the Residence Supervisor Miriam Gold. Where have all the administrators gone? There is something rotten in the state of Denmark.

Student Lethargy

At most universities there is a rush of nominees for Student Council elections. Students spend weeks planning campaigns, promoting their carefully sculpted agendas, and fiery debates are heard throughout the campuses. Granted, the tense energy before elections may spark animosity between candidates but at least there is some competition in their elections. At SCW, the apathy among students has become pure lethargy. Students don't vote. Better yet, students don't run . This past election was a disgrace, most of the positions were unopposed and some positions had no candidates at all. Everyone complains about the administration and how the school doesn't do anything right. How could the administration implement student ideas, if there are no student representatives to articulate these ideas? What does this say about the student body? Advice to the student body: Stop complaining and do something about it.

Smell the Roses

Flowers? For me? Oh, why thank you…Shlomit, you shouldn't have….

Shlomit, you brightened everyone's day when you handed out flowers to every SCW student and faculty member. We, The Observer staff, want to thank you for your gesture that made everyone's day just a little nicer. Why can't we have more TAC presidents like you? Or, why can't we have one for next year at all?

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtfulness that you have shown to the entire student body all year- and this time you outdid yourself. And the cereals were a nice touch, too. I think it was a shehakol, no wait, a mezonot, no, I think it was a Shlomit…

And hey- you even got us your bencher holders! Finally!!!! We all have you to thank for being able to say a complete bracha achronah.

Shomer Shabbat?

It was most interesting to note when looking at the flyers posted on the bulletin boards around campus, a particular flyer asked for a Shomer Shabbat roomate for a summer apartment sublet. We found this very unusual. Or, perhaps, not very unusual at SCW at all.

Why did the person posting the flyer feel it necessary to mention Shomer Shabbat in her advertisement at all? Indeed this mentioning is reflective of a general trend at SCW over the past few years that everyone has been trying to smooth over. It is not a valid assumption that everyone at SCW is Shomer Shabbat. Nor is it valid to assume that the SCW dress code is followed by all. Clearly.

Change has come about at SCW- and it is time to address it, as fellow Jews.

A Thank-You

The entire Observer staff would like to thank the university as a whole for the incredible help and guidance we have received with regard to our new computer office. From the very first step of funding the project-we would like to once again thank the President's Circle and SCW board member Dr. Marcia Robbins for their generous donations. We are grateful for your support of our publication.

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman has provided us with the initial backing to proceed onward with the project in the early stages.

We would also like to thank Dean Karen Bacon, who has tirelessly worked to ensure the completion of this endeavor. As an advisor and role model to not only The Observer but the entire SCW body, we would like to express our gratitude.

Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun has given us support as well as encouragement throughout this project and we are indebted to you. Thank you.

And to Jose Betances, Supervisor Environmental Services, for enabling The Observer to have a place to put all the computers.

But most of all, this completion of this incredible undertaking from ideas on paper to hardware and software would not be possible without the ongoing support of the MIS department. MIS has ceaselessly worked to transform our office into a 21st century computer lab. Tom Oleszcuk, Assistant Manager of MIS, has helped breathe life into this project and we appreciate all that he has done for us. Herb Altieri, Network Specialist, has given The Observer countless hours of his time to ensure that the new computer system will meet our every needs. Herb, we thank you and you can have all the t-shirts you want.

MIS, we thank you for your ongoing support of our 21st century project and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Observer Announces Appointment of New Editors for 2000-2001

Debbie Bienenfeld
Editor-in-Chief

Adina Levine
Executive Editor

Michelle Fogel
Executive Website Editor

From the Editors

Ode to YU

MIRIAM ELIAS
Editor-in-Chief

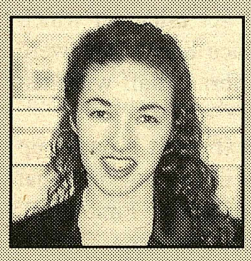
From start to finish
From beginning to end
My years at YU
Have many twists around the bend

From teachers to classmates
From dorm to dorm
Stern is most certainly
Not one of the norm

Never once did I question
Not once did I falter
In the power of word
And the effects of being heard

As editor in chief
A member of the crowd
A student of people
In awe of things renowned

Dean Bacon taught me honor
Dean Nulman respect



Dean Braun people relations
Professor Schram how to speak direct

Dr. Silver showed me how to write
Mr. Tigay how to report
Dr. Cohen how to see and explain
Jenny the basketball coach how to defend my domain

Dr. Bacon how to understand
Dean Orlian Patience
Dr. Kosak the importance of The Land

And most importantly
My own Observer Staff
Who taught me when to laugh
When to cry
And when to ask why

To Rachel or Shnarley
To Snuffy my pet
You both are the best
I am forever in debt

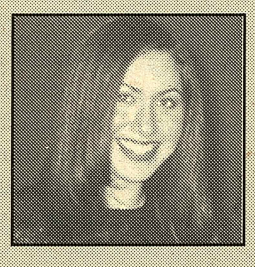
Granted it wasn't always pretty
It wasn't always a treat
But the memories I will take
Will always be sweet

The End. [Or Is It Just the Beginning?]

RACHEL S. SALAMON
Executive Editor

As I complete my final semester at this top-tier university, I realize that I am not anticipating graduation with as much fervor and excitement as I once did. The time I spent in the cocoon called YU flew by, leaving behind the memories of a fleeting educational experience, and hopefully, lifelong friends and the foundation for my future career, whatever that will turn out to be. On the eve of graduation comes the dawn of the unknown - no more caf card nor the convenience of Midtown dorming. No longer can we effortlessly enjoy the safety of an orthodox environment.

In Stern, unlike other universities, most of our students don't take time off after college to decide what career we want to pursue. Less yet spend a year backpacking around Europe or learning the grammatical nuances of Mandarin Chinese; many of us are instead thinking in terms of the long run, which includes the stereotypical concerns of home and family. Of course, if you haven't earned your MRS degree before exiting the doors of 245 (or 215) Lex for the last time, there is no need to feel as though your transcript is incomplete - despite my example, the rest of the world considers 21 too young to get married anyway.



Vital decisions will need to be made, not only during senior year, but also in the aftermath of our departure from YU. Even the most sheltered among us will likely have to work within irreligious surroundings, without the luxury of kosher food available two floors down and with no automatic Yom Tov vacation. Your graduation will pit you against the ultimate challenge: the task of conducting yourself as a Yeshiva University alumna should, living as a religious Jew in a secular world while remaining deeply rooted in Torah values.

On the whole, given the chance to do my years here again, I would temper my view of YU with more appreciation and less criticism. Undeniably, there are many reasons to demand improvement, but I now understand that our university does not merely consist of an administration that refuses to install a third printer for over 900 students, or stair grippers to prevent physical harm, and will probably continue to throw out student newspapers.

YU is certainly imperfect, but no place is more perfect; there's no place like home. YU provides us with the rare opportunity to flourish in an Orthodox environment, among highly qualified faculty members and administrators who give us individualized attention. The walls of YU are safe, and we are lucky to have them. My only regret as an upper senior at Stern College is that I have only begun to appreciate fully the uniqueness of YU with one foot out the door. I hope that those who are just arriving will not have the same regret a few years from now.

Letters to the Editor

Handicapped Accessibility

Dear Editor,

I was on my way to the first floor library the other day and noticed something that I never really paid any attention to before. As I started down the hall I noticed a sign for a handicapped bathroom. At first I was relieved thinking how great it was that our school was looking out for and catering to our handicapped students and visitors. Until, of course, I realized that the only way to reach this single handicapped stall was by walking down a flight of stairs from the first floor. Does that seem a little bit strange or is it just me?

So if we were to have a guest visiting our school in a wheelchair, they have no real accessible way to get to the "handicapped" restroom. Of course they could go on a lovely detour by taking a regular elevator to the fifth floor, go through four doors into the science wing, finally reaching the service elevator where a security guard can escort them downstairs. All this just to go to the bathroom in a normal handicapped-sized facility. But this isn't even half of the problem. The real clincher I found is that the only way for a wheelchair-bound person to get into our school building is through the delivery entrance on 35th street. I don't have any idea how our school building manages to shy away from all of the city ordinances we must be breaking dealing with the handicapped.

But above all, I feel that we are treating the handicapped as second class citizens. Hopefully other students will see these things and become just as infuriated as I have become. Something must be done, and quickly.

Susanne Goldstone
SCW Sophmore

In Defense of the SCW Library

Dear Editor,

After reading the article in the February 8 Observer, "Dusty Books and Splintered Catalogs," I felt compelled to respond. As a work-study student in the library, I'm one of those individuals you will see shelving books, photocopying papers and fixing copy machine jams. With this in mind, I would like to share my opinions with you.

The first point presented was that of the "disorganization" of the library. Students complained that they were unable to locate items in the library. I can understand this when you walk in for the first time, but after the second or third time this should no longer be happening. All you need to do is ask; any librarian will be glad to show you how the library is set up. Personally, I'll be happy to show you. I do agree that it is difficult to have the library divided into two floors, but this, I imagine, is due to lack of space. The Dewey vs. Library of Congress (LC) difference shouldn't cause too much of a problem. The general rule for finding books on the second floor library is, for LC: stay on the ground; for Dewey: take the stairs to the mezzanine.

The main reason books can't be located is due to the students. All too often students leave books all over the library. Even worse, students attempt to shelve books themselves, often incorrectly. It is these books that seem to be lost. There are carts set aside on which students can place books that were consulted, and library staff will then shelve them.

The next point brought up is the difficulty in finding out what is owned by the library. First of all, the word you need to know for this is YULIS. I'll say it again "YULIS." This one word is the key to finding any book in the YU system. Further, articles can easily be found through the many computerized databases the library provides. My advice is to ask a librarian to show you which to use. I have found information for every paper I've had just by using Stern's library (and using tons of printing paper). I had a bibliography of 38 sources for just one paper (and these were only some of my sources).

The limited space in the library is felt most during reading week and finals. It is at this time that students can be seen sprawled out on the floor (I've done it; warning: be careful of your back). We need more space in the library and we hope the administration will expand the library's facilities.

I must mention one crucial point here. I work with our librarians on a daily basis. I have never seen a more dedicated staff. They take pride in the library and always welcome suggestions. The Hedi Steinberg Library is a great place to work and I, for one, find the information I need.

Sara Alper
SCW Sophomore

Privacy Invasions Widespread

Dear Editor,

I felt appalled to read the articles in the last two issues of the Observer containing the testimony of Stern students who felt violated when a security guard entered their dorm room when the students were wearing nothing more than a towel. These stories are horrible to hear, as well as terrible violations of privacy, but they pale in comparison to the uptown dorms of Yeshiva College. To start, practically every room in the YC dorms is lacking a private or semiprivate bathroom. Students must walk all the way down the long hallways of the dorms while wearing only their towels, up to a few hundred feet, during which they can be seen by students and security guards alike. And those in the Muss dormitory can be seen by MTA students and teachers as well. Add to this the fact that in the Rubin dormitory there **are** bathrooms containing up to three students to use per one shower stall. Before Stern students ask for more privacy, Yeshiva students should be provided with at least a small modicum of privacy, namely by adding bathrooms to the Yeshiva dormitory rooms to upgrade the facilities simply to be equal to those of our sister school.

YC Junior

Alone in a Foreign Land

Dear Editor,

Despite the efforts of Marga Marx, Foreign Student Advisor, and the Student Council in promoting integration between foreign and American students, there still remain a few unresolved problems:

Imagine being alone in a whole new world: you come to a new country in order to get a better education and prepare for what you hope to be a better future. As time goes on you get to know new people and develop different relationships. You are excited! You are getting ready! But most of all you are scared! Scared of not knowing what is going to happen and how you are going to handle unexpected situations and events without your close family and friends on whom you relied and leaned for the past eighteen years of your life. You have no one to support you in the first couple of days, which are the most difficult days.

Well, this is not a tale or a story. This is the life and feeling of a foreign student at our school. We, the foreign students, have learned to cope with the financial limitations (Yes, we have to live without being able to go shopping once a week), language barriers and the social and cultural gaps and differences we face with everyday.

But after all this, we still hope to rely on one thing: support and understanding from faculty and administration. However, this is not the case in reality. At Stern we have one designated foreign student advisor whom the female students feel comfortable enough to approach (Yeshiva University also has a Foreign Student Advisor who visits its many campuses on regular weekly schedule, and we can approach him about any legal matter that we have. But not personal things, for clear reasons). However, when a student wishes to talk to her or approach her, she must wait about thirty minutes or so to meet with her for just a few minutes. Once you finally do get the opportunity to speak with her about what bothers you, you end up coming out of the meeting not only with no solutions, but even more confused and less at ease than before. The result of the meeting is having to deal with more things on your mind, knowing that you have no where to turn to.

We, the foreign students, don't think that we are asking for much. All we ask for is someone who is willing to talk to us and listen to OUR problems. We are asking for someone who is willing to commit a bit more time for us - at least a bit more than the twelve hours per week that are dedicated now for about fifty students. We beg the administration to find additional advisors who fit this position.

Thank you,

Frustrated foreign students.

The Observer reserves the right to edit all letters for grammar, size and content.
Please email all letters to:
Observer@ymail.yu.edu

An Illegitimate Victory?

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, February 3rd, Yeshiva and Stern College hosted their first annual quiz bowl tournament. The tournament was fun and a great success and food from Dougies was had by all. Unfortunately, the team that won the tournament, and with it a prize of $150, included at least one student who studies at neither Yeshiva nor Stern but at Columbia University. This led me to assume one of two things. The first possibility is that the organizers of the tournament were unaware of the fact that at least one Columbia student illegally participated in Yeshiva University's quiz bowl. What this student who participated in the tournament proposes is that the first place team be stripped of its cash and prizes and that the second and third place teams, both composed entirely of Yeshiva students, should play a single round of quiz bowl to determine who wins the prize.

YC Sophmore

Equestrian Club Apology

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the entire equestrian club, I would like to make some "amendments" to the last letter we sent to The Observer. We did not thoroughly research our information and therefore erred in stating which departments fund which programs. The point of our letter, was not to undermine the help we have gotten so far, and we greatly appreciate student council providing us with a van. It was merely an expression of some individuals as to their wish of receiving further financial support. I would like to add also, that just as most beginnings are difficult, so was this one, but I greatly appreciate the administration's recent support for our club. This club was set up solely as a group of people to share the immense enjoyment one gets from riding, and I apologize for any misunderstanding and/or confusion the previous letter might have caused.

Chaya Aspir
President, Equestrian Club 2000

YULIS, the online catalog for the Main and Midtown campus libraries at Yeshiva University, is now available via the web.
Link to **http://www.yu.edu**
and click on Libraries.
You will find a link to YULIS on the bottom bar. Alternatively you may link directly to the catalog:
http://www.yu.edu/libraries/yulis.htm

Letters to the Editor

In Support of Persky

Dear Editor,

We, the alumni and students of Sy Syms School of Business and Stern College for Women, would like to express our dismay at the demotion of Diane Persky, Assistant to the Dean of Sy Syms School of Business.

Diane Persky's kindness, humor, and warmth have been major factors in the large proportion of women choosing to study at Sy Syms. Her positive advice, support, and her own business experience have given strength and encouragement to many women to challenge themselves and to pursue careers in business.

Women who come to Sy Syms are not only given an outstanding business education, but also gain an invaluable mentor and friend in Professor Persky, a friend who knows your name and whose door is always open. Whether it is a scheduling difficulty, choosing an area of concentration, or simply someone to listen, Professor Persky has always been someone on whom we can count.

As students at Yeshiva University, we have learned that, in addition to secular education, there is something that is equally important and that is Midot Tovot. Why would someone who has been given teacher of the year award, has given five years of dedication to her job and has become a true role model to so many be treated this way by Yeshiva University? We know that Professor Persky will be exceptional as a full-time faculty member (for only three semesters, as allotted in her contract). Instead, the school and the future incoming students will be losing an invaluable and inspirational leader.

Professor Persky is always concerned with her students' welfare. She is a teacher and a true friend. She is someone whom we could count on for business as well as life advice. It is a shame that Yeshiva University does not have more faculty like Professor Persky. It is also an embarrassment that a religious school, which stresses Torah and Science with respect cannot treat their own faculty with the same respect that they espouse. Why should Professor Persky have to be demoted in the middle of the year while a temporary assistant takes her place in her office? A school that stands for Judaism and respect should treat their faculty that way. For Yeshiva University to say definitively that "Professor Persky does not set a proper example" is completely against Judaism's emphasis on respect for our people.

In summation, we would like to express our dismay for the demotion of Professor Persky. It is such a pity that Yeshiva Univeristy cannot recognize a role model when it has one. Professor Persky is an outstanding person who has been a great dean for six years. If Yeshiva University espouses respect, where is their respect or explanation why Professor Persky is suddenly not a proper role model? Professor Persky is not only a role model; she is a wonderful human being. How many teachers keep in contact with their students and attend their weddings? It is hardly an understatement to say that Professor Persky is an excellent teacher and advisor, intelligent woman, and an exceptional dean. We are writing this completely independent of Professor Persky's knowledge, and we only hope that Sy Syms School of Business will realize what it is missing.

Students and Alumni of
Sy Syms School of Business

Rock the Vote

Dear Editor,

November 2000 marks the upcoming presidential elections, and we all know their consequences both in terms of domestic and foreign policy making. The State of Israel is important for all of us, and the American government has its own interests in maintaining relations with Israel. For us, there are more personal and religious matters involved as well. For this reason alone we must take part in electing the next American President. In addition, there are many other reasons.

As you all have noticed, SCWSC and the Political Science Society are holding a national voters registration drive in our school for eligible students to register to vote. In order to register a person must be 18 years or older, an American citizen and resident of one of the 50 States. Most of the students in our school fulfill these criteria.

According to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), in the 1996 presidential elections 146 million of 196 million eligible voters registered. Furthermore, only 49.08% of the eligible population in this country voted in the elections! The Presidential elections of 1960 hold the highest voter turnout of the last 40 years - 63% of the eligible voters participated in the elections.

Voters our age might think that they are too young to be active in politics or that politics and government do not pertain to them. This is not true. The FEC reports that in the 1996 elections, in the age group of 18-20 year olds, over 10 million people registeered, while only 3.3 million of that population voted. They counted as 3.21% of the total U.S vote, while they could have count ed as 10%. In the age group of 21-24, close to 14 million people of that population registered, while only 4.5 million of them voted. They counted as 4.41% of he total U.S vote, while they could have counted as 12%.

Internationally, the American citizens participate less in presidential elections than do those of other countries. For example, in Algeria 75.69% of the voters participate; Argentina - 80.9%; Austria - 74.4; Azerbaijan - 97.6%; Chile - 90%; Cyprus - 90.13%; Gabon - 86.00%; Iceland - 85.95%; Macedonia - 77.8%; Mozambique - 87.8%; Tajikistan - 89.00%. In the United States, in almost every election, only about 60% of the population votes. Furthermore, gender seems to be indifferent in this issue. In each case, only about 55% of eligible voters actually vote.

Many countries around the world are fighting to have the democratic system that we have here in the United States. But we do not use it as we should. Every vote does count and it does make a difference. Most presidential elections are won with a margin of 4% between the two leading candidates. Please, take this right and privilege of voting and utilize it. The first step is to register, and we all can do that in school. Hope to see you all there.

Farhid Hagit Sedaghat-Pour
Chair - Voter Registration Drive.

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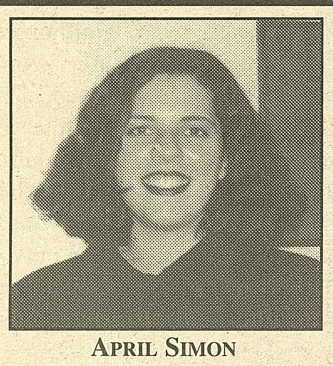


APRIL SIMON
SCWSC President

We have just experienced one of the most unifying events that occur at Stern College - elections. Students come together on election day each year and show their concern for who will represent their interests. Many have criticized our student body for being apathetic toward elections and not feeling obliged to vote. But I would like to recognize those who did vote, those who made informed decisions about their choice of representatives. These newly chosen leaders will be the people who bring our school into the next phase of our development as a college. Our move to 215 Lexington Avenue, our growth of both the student and faculty population, and the change in leadership of key administrators signals a need for student leaders who are prepared to handle these changes.

Those women who voted show that they are in tune with these considerations and are prepared to confront the future that lies ahead. This idea, that we unify ourselves at certain times, is reminiscent of the departure of Bnei Yisrael from Mitzraim. Together we left the land in which we lived, with Matzah on our backs and faith in G-d in our hearts, heading to a land that none had seen and few could imagine. They were led by a great leader, Moshe Rabbeinu, who used his unending belief in G-d to direct his course. As a people, as Am Yisrael, they searched for their final destination, one free from slavery and oppression.

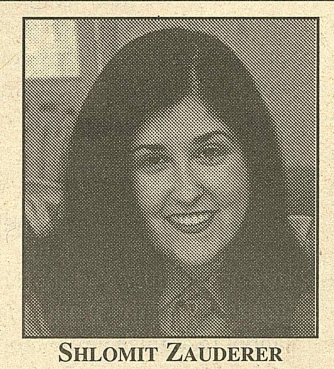
While students at Stern College, we have had countless opportunities to work together and feel more part of a cohesive unit - and the year is not quite over yet!

The Dramatics Society production of Hillstone, a student written original play, is now playing in the Cultural Arts Center until Wed., April 12th. The voter registration drive is in full-swing and anticipates a tremendous turnout. The Yom Hashoa and Yom Hazikaron/Yom Haatsmaut events are upcoming and promise to be most enlightening.

I would like to thank several people for the recent SCWSC/YCSC trip to the Circus and Dougies night when the elephants arrived on 34th Street.

First, Dean Himber, Mrs. Braun, and Andrew Leibowitz and the entire Office of Student Services and Office of the Dean of Students for their continued support of our events. And second, the student leaders who put in extra hours to ensure the events had positive turnouts - Ruchie Morgan, Mo-B Singer, and Shlomo Herman and their respective boards.

It is my hope that we end our year together not as a disjointed group of students, but as peers who support each other's activities, resulting in a more unified student population and a greater academic and social atmosphere for us all to enjoy. Have a Chag Sameach!



SHLOMIT ZAUDERER
TAC President

I must admit that this is my third attempt at writing this column! However I decided that a simple story would be appropriate. I quote Rabbi Paysach Krohn from "Around the Maggid's Table". (p. 87) Rabbi Krohn tells of a small boy named Matthew who came from a broken home. His mother had remarried and he never heard from his paternal father. Each day he would sit in the last row of class and escape from reality. His rebbe would try each day to draw him out, but each attempt was a failure. As a tool of Chinuch, the rebbe would ask the children a question each time he told the weekly Parsha portion to the class. Parshas Vayigash (44:18) states "Ani Yosef, Ha'od A'vi Chai - I am Yosef, is my father still alive?" The rebbe stopped to ask the students what Yosef meant. Yosef, after all, had just heard his brothers say that their father had sent them down to Mitzrayim to purchase food. Could Yosef have been so foolish as to assume his father was not alive? The class sat with baited breath for the answer when Matthew raised his hand.

(I paraphrase Rabbi Krohn's words) "Rebbe, what Yosef meant was not if his father was still alive, but rather if he still remembers him. After all those years of separation, does he still remember and care that I am his son."

Children have the remarkable ability to express the deepest and most heartfelt emotions with the simplest of words. At times we feel like no one is listening to us. We daven and cry and plead with Hashem, and I do not know about you, but I feel at times that he is not listening. Then with a bolt of lightening, a story or an event will happen to you. It hits you with a force so hard that you are forced to wake up and realize that this message is being sent for you and you alone.

Today we are caught in the whirlwind of life. We are caught up in this and that but we never stop to smell the roses!!! We at TAC hoped everyone enjoyed "Stop and Smell the Roses Day". Like Fire Marshall Bill says "Stop. Drop. Roll."

While I do not recommend that everyone fall down in the middle of the caf and roll around in melted frozen yogurt. But take a moment to stop. Try not to rush past people sitting the lobby selling sweatshirts or asking you for T'zedakah money. As student leaders, we are trying to help you and hope that you appreciate what we try to do for you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President's Circle for the generous donation to the Batei Midrashim in the school building and both dorms. Enjoy the new Seforim that have been purchased. I would also like to thank Mr. Jim Rhodes, Debra Wirtschafter and everyone at Facilities Management for helping to install the brand new Bencher Holders in both Koch and the main cafeteria. I would like to also thank Chana Rosenblatt, Tiffany Weitz, and Naomi Rappaport for the great job they did organizing both Purim Chagigahs! Finally, I want to thank my board! YOU GUYS ROCK! Sorry I do not say that often enought!

I wish everyone a restful and spiritually uplifting Peasach and do not forget to "Stop and Smell the Roses!"

Mailing

continued from page 1

Alumni Affairs Toby Hilsenrand Weiss. "I think it is a good idea- a good connection to the school."

SCW Dean Karen Bacon echoed Weiss' sentiments. "I believe the alumni love to read the paper, both the good, the bad, and the ugly," said Dean Bacon. "I am a supporter of the student paper being available to the alumni."

Weiss confirmed that YC alumnus Jeff Strashun '76, formerly a member of the Alumni Association, sent a letter to the university requesting that the student newspapers continue to be sent to alumni.

During the Alumni phone-a-thon headed by Weiss, students who called alumni to raise money for the university were met with irritated former YU students who wanted to receive copies of their college papers. Alumni who were disturbed by the recent YU policy not to mail out student publications refused to donate money for the betterment of the university, explained Weiss.

"[I was] disappointed that all student publications, including Hamevaser were not going out to alumni, commented Bob Saltzman of Alumni Affairs.

"How can the university expect to raise money for the education of its current students if it doesn't let the former students have a connection with their old school?" questioned SCW senior Risa Solomon. "What other way will alumni know what is happening in YU if not for the student papers? Yeshiva Today is great and all, but it doesn't quite cut it. It is not by students."

Although The Observer does not have the funding to mail out the newspaper every month to all alumni, plans for next year include increased attention will be given to The Observer website.

The Observer staff hope to increase publicity about the website to foster the alumni-student relations.

"I think the website is a good option," said Dean Bacon. Following the university's decision to stop mailing out student newspapers and journals, Alumni Affairs offered to begin a subscription system. However, none of the student publication have decided to accept this offer.

"From our perspective, a subscription system is a huge undertaking, and the alumni office has thus far demonstrated that they want to keep the publications from the alumni by the university's new policy," said Salamon. "Based on their previous decisions and actions, it is difficult to believe that the university wants to have our paper delivered to alumni doorsteps. I wouldn't be surprised if the school just threw them out again."

www.yuobserver.com

Rabbi Solomon Drillman

Continued from page 1

People stood quietly and solemnly outside the packed Beit Medrash on Amsterdam Avenue. It was raining as loudspeakers announced the beginning of the proceedings of the Levayah on March 28th for a great Torah scholar, mentor, and friend. Rabbi Solomon Drillman, who passed away on the previous night, was a spiritual leader for hundreds of Jews, serving as a Rosh Yeshiva at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary for many years. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Charlap, and Rabbi Rabinowitz, close personal friends of Rabbi Drillman's for many years, were among the speakers at his funeral. Who was this Tzadik they were all coming to honor?

Hundreds of shuls, dozens of chesed organizations, a thriving Jewish community - this is the Flatbush we all know today. What most people don't know is that Flatbush would not be what it is today had it not been for Rabbi Solomon Drillman. For forty years, he served as the rabbi and spiritual leader at the Glenwood Jewish Center, one of the first observant synagogues in Flatbush. Building this Torah community was only one of his achievements in his Torah-centered life.

Born in a small town in Germany, Shlomo Drillman's skills were discovered by Rav Elchanan Wasserman, who brought him to his yeshiva at age 12. He became close with Rav Wasserman, as well as the mashgiach at the Yeshiva, Rav Lupchenski. Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, he went to learn with Rab Baruch Ber Leibovitz in Kaminetz; he remained there until the beginning of the war, when he was caught by the Germans and sent to Siberia until the war's.

In 1946, Rabbi Drillman was sent to Rav Soloveitchik at YU with a letter of commendation from Rav Wasserman. After he received Smicha from the yeshiva, he was appointed as a rebbe at B.T.A., the Brooklyn division of YU's high school. When B.T.A. closed its doors, he was appointed as a rebbe at RIETS, where he remained until his first stroke two years ago.

Rabbi Drillman was the director of the fourth year Halacha LeMaaseh program, meeting every single one of his smicha students, touching the hearts of an extraordinary amount of people. Rabbi Ben Kelsen, one of those fortunate enough to have been a close Talmid of Rabbi Drillman's, described why Rabbi Drillman was known for his tremendous intellect, spanning all walks of secular knowledge and a breadth of Torah knowledge as well. More so than his intellect, Rabbi Drillman's calling was the warmth he exuded towards those with whom he came in contact.

At the Podium: Opinion Forum

Words from the Heart

My name is unimportant; I could be your roommate or your best friend. The purpose of this article is to discuss an issue that has affected almost every girl in society, either directly or through acquaintance. Eating disorder is the common name, anorexia and bulimia are terms that are all too familiar. To many they are just words with no real meaning, just words to be thrown around and joked about. Society has become so sickeningly desensitized to the pain of others, that I feel compelled to write this article. My purpose is to share my story in order that those who are suffering from this disease will get help, and those who are considering acquiring it will stop before it is too late.

My affliction of the mind started innocently enough, I had gained weight one summer and decided to eat healthy and exercise. Sooner or later, I cannot specify the exact time, the healthy lifestyle became a deadly one. Imagine every second of the day counting calories, pinching fat, planning numerous ways how to cut out more severely needed food, when you are going to exercise and for how long, and how you can make yourself throw up so no one will find out your secret and try to stop you. My whole mind was entrapped in a scary obsession about weight. At 300 calories a day and 95 pounds, I still did not have an eating disorder. It was an illness only inflicted upon the skinny, and as far as I was concerned, I was still fat. Every moment of my life for three and a half long years was spent in pain, in a constant state of hunger, and a self-induced torture that I could not pull myself out of. It enwrapped my mind, which too eventually shut down because of lack of food. I would sit in a corner constantly and cry about how disgustingly fat I got and that I just wanted to die. Can you imagine every time you look in a mirror you see a distorted image of yourself and just want to take your life? When I finally told my family, my father, the epitome of strength, the man who never cries, cried. A holocaust survivor who lived through hell actually cried at his daughter's illness, one which is viewed by many as a harmless way of life. That was the first and last time I ever saw my father cry.

Unfortunately, many of you who are reading this know exactly how I felt. For those of you have not suffered from this deadly disease, this may be a very uncomfortable subject, but do not flee from those who suffer from it, for they have feelings too. Do not point and give dirty looks in the cafeteria because they are victims who, for the most part, cannot help it. They need help, just like I did, not from a bunch of self-righteous, insecure people pointing out their problems. Look inside yourself before condemning others. For the people suffering from an eating disorder, I know how you feel. Unfortunately, this is an ignored subject, one that you will eventually have to deal with. Better now than after you destroy more of your precious life. I could have become infertile, or even worse, have died. I know that it is an extremely hard concept to grasp because everyone thinks just one more pound…until I am thin…nothing REALLY bad is ever going to happen to me. But let me tell you, I am lucky that I am still alive and hopefully able to have children. Lucky that I did not suffer from a heart attack at 19 years old. Lucky that I am still here to help other people, because that is what I know must be done. It was not easy to write this article because this is still an extremely painful subject for me, but this deadly trend must be stopped before more people are hurt, or even killed. Please seek help, or ensure your friend gets help. For not everyone is as fortunate as I am, and not everyone lives to be able to tell their story.

Name Witheld

Leave the Elementary Judaic Tract to the Elementary

Unfortunately at Stern College for Women there is a huge discrepancy because students who belong in more advanced levels of Judaic Studies classes are instead in the beginners and elementary level. This is a disadvantage for those students to whom Yeshiva University offers a last chance for a structured Jewish education before the real world hits.

Last year, I enrolled in Stern coming straight from a public high school. I was appropriately placed in beginner's Hebrew, Chumash, and Introduction to Judaism. As a "naive" student, I expected everyone to be a beginner like me, but that was not the case. The first day in Chumash, we discussed where we went to high school; two students had gone to Yeshiva for 10 years, with the rest of the students who received a public school education. Why are girls whohave learned Bible for many years in the same class as girls who don't even know who Abraham was?

When students are placed in classes lower than the level they belong in, the teacher thinks that all of the students are more advanced, and raises the level of the class to meet the skills of the more advanced students. This makes it extremely difficult for the students who actually belong in the class.

A second problem with the lower levels of Judaic classes is that there aren't enough classes offered. This semester, there were two Judaic studies classes offered, one Hebrew class in the beginners level, two elementary level, and one Bible class offered in both the beginners and elementary level.

These problems have been going on for many years and there must be a change. Maybe the school should create a level for Yeshiva students who feel that they didn't learn enough in Yeshiva, and think that they still don't belong in the more advanced classes.

Additionally, SCW should create a mandatory test when students come into the school, which would put the girls into the actual level that they belong. Stern does have a test now, but unfortunately, it isn't taken seriously.

This opinion is not meant to imply that there aren't good Judaic classes at Stern. It is merely meant to heighten the awareness that there are students in Stern who are almost punished for knowing less than their peers. When we came to Stern we knew it wouldn't be easy, but we expected it to be fair. There needs to be a change.

Debra Michaels

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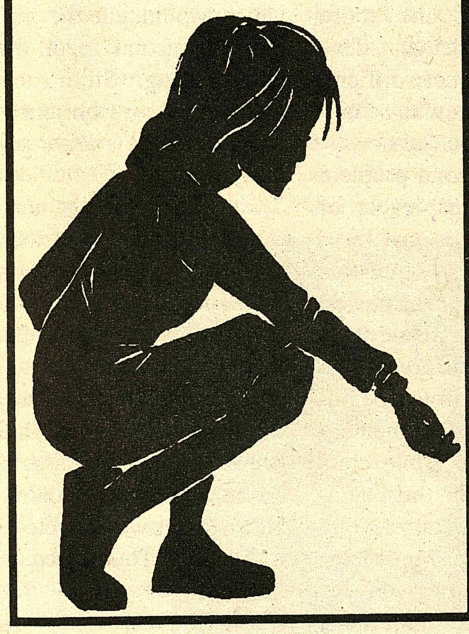

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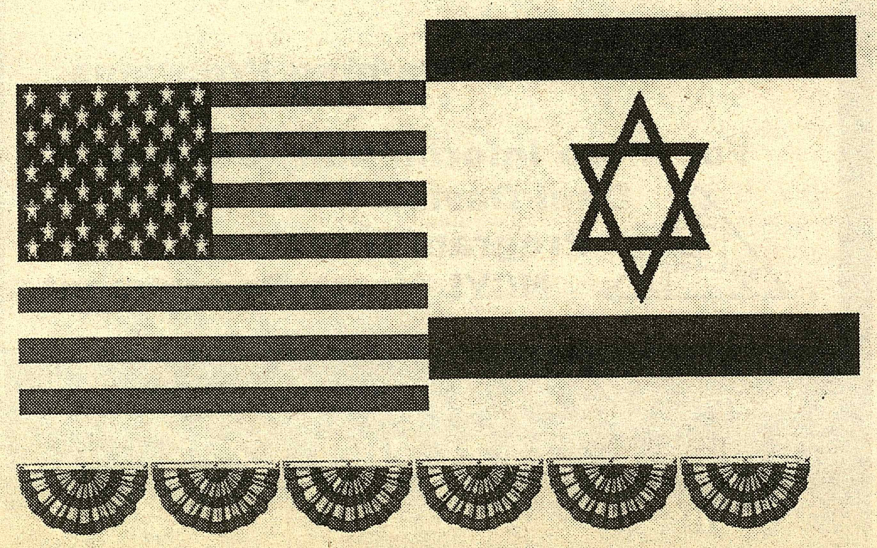

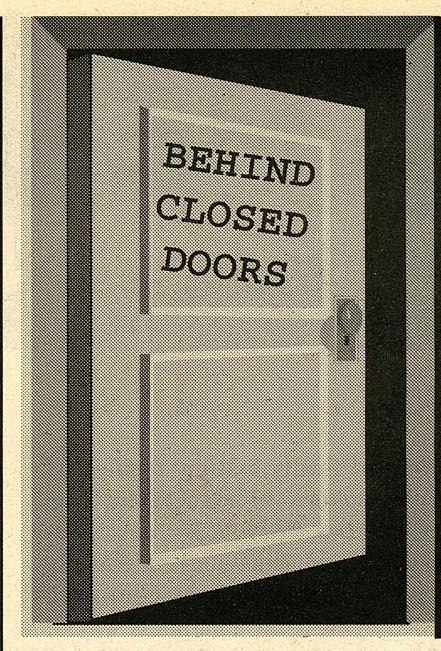

A column devoted to modern problems that lay hidden in the frum world

Adoption in the Jewish Community

LISA HELPRIN

We have all heard stories or personally know of couples who have had trouble having children. After many heartfelt tefilot, doctors visits, and attempted treatments, some are still left childless. Many of these couples are now turning to adoption as the answer, with the aforementioned on the rise in the Jewish community. Between 3-5 percent of Jewish children are adopted, according to Kathy Brodsky, Director of Ametz Jewish Child Care Association. In the face of this statistic, it is crucial that, as community members, we gain a fuller awareness of the issues involved in order to develop the sensitive understanding we must show to couples choosing to adopt.

A child who is adopted into a family is considered by his parents to be his own. The Ramban in Sefer Bamidbar comments on the Torah's reason for referring to Serach as the sister of the sons of Asher, even though she was Asher's stepdaughter. He notes it is to teach us that, because Asher raised her as his own, the Torah calls her his daughter. A parallel phenomenon occurs when detailing "the generations of Moshe and Aharon." In reality, only Aharon's sons were mentioned, but because Moshe taught them Torah, Rashi learns that "whoever teaches one Torah (i.e. raises him), it is as if he gave birth to him." However, halacha does not always run entirely parallel with this concept. For instance, the adopted child's lineage remains. If he is adopted by Kohanim, he doesn't become a kohain. Additionally, poskim disagree on whether or not hugging and kissing an adoptive child is permitted, and on whether or not yichud with the child is prohibited. Additionally, if the birth parents are known, the adoptive son is called up to the Torah using their name instead. There also a disagreement on whether or not adopting fulfills the mitzvah of Pru u'rvu. Rav Shlomo Kluger holds that it does fulfill the requirement, while most poskim do not agree.

A primary issue facing couples who choose to adopt is whether to adopt a Jewish child or a non-Jewish child. Non-Jewish children must undergo a ritual coversion, including immersion in a mikveh and a bris milah.

"Most adoptions are open adoptions nowadays, and there is usually a connection to the birth family," said Bruce Potash, Director of the Young Israel Orthodox Adoption Group, when asked if it can be guaranteed that an adopted child is Jewish. "Therefore, it can easily be determined whether or not the child [that one is adopting] is Jewish."

Additionally, couples must decide whether or not to adopt a child with special needs. "No child is perfect…kids are a spectrum, some have more needs than others," noted Steven Krause, who runs the Jewish Children's Adoption Network with his wife Vicki. "We are all b'tzelem Elokim." He added that a child with a disability is no different from a child without one, and that a child should not be turned away for this reason alone.

Mr. Potash, who has two adopted children of his own, stated his opinion on the proper way for a community to respond to adoption. "It is best not to react one way or the other, he said. "As long as the child is converted according to halacha, [if need be], there is no issue."

"The best way to react is in the same way you would to a natural birth - be excited and welcoming, as you would with any other child," remarked Brodsky.

Many of us will come into contact with couples facing the problem of infertility. There are many things we should refrain from saying, and a compassion we must possess. For example, Ms. Brodsky stressed the importance of not telling couples to "relax."

"Generally, people don't need your advice," said Krause. "They are probably already going to a doctor, and doing everything they can."

Many feel that when they cannot have children, they are being punished in some way. Mr. Krause noted it is not the parents' fault, though it is easy for them to feel upset and discouraged. However, he feels that it may, in fact, be Hashem's way of heading the couple in another direction and showing them that He has other plans for them, such as possibly opening their home to an adopted child.

As family and children are the roots of community life in Judaism, it is imperative that we confront these issues head on. If our brothers and sisters are turning to adoption as a means of continuing yiddishkeit, then it is our responsibility to support them in any way we can. We must have an understanding for their situation.

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on campus

Visual vs. Analytical Thinking: The Conflict of Art Courses and Paragraph E

ALEXANDRA BEARD
Observer Secretary

Any artistically inclined student attending SCW can tell you how her eyes light up while browsing through the descriptions of art classes in the course catalogue. The Studio Experience, Principles of Drawing, Creativity and Innovation, and Print Making are only a few of the many varied art courses the SCW Art Department offers.

Yet many students pursuing majors other than art, whoare interested in such courses, may feel disappointed that they are unable to express their creative sides. This is because all art courses, with the exception of Art History, cannot be used to fulfill a student's Paragraph E requirement. In other words, if a non-art major wishes to take an art class at SCW, the credit she receives will not help her fulfill any graduation requirement.

In order to graduate from SCW, a student must take three courses or nine credits of 'restricted courses' to fulfill the Paragraph E requirement. These are courses outside of the major department and major requirements and are generally beyond the introductory level.

According to SCW Dean Ethel Orlian, when the Curriculum Committee determined the courses that would fulfill the requirements of Paragraph E, they tried to include courses that are components of a solid liberal arts education. "The courses available are for students to explore other areas outside of their major and are typically more in-depth than intro classes," Orlian said.

Hands-on courses and courses that train for a specific field are not able to fulfill the requirement and due to their specific nature, they do not fit into the broader concept of a general liberal arts education.

Orlian further explained that these focused classes, such as business, creative writing, and art courses, shouldn't be required of every student, since they are career specific. More general courses, such as advanced Literature, Theory, and Psychology, should be utilized for Paragraph E requirements.

Viewing art as an integral component of a liberal arts education, Professor Susan Gardner, the head of the SCW Art Department, believes that an innate prejudice exists against hands-on courses. Furthermore, she says that the age-old view subsists that when employing the physical, the brain goes numb. "Studio courses have been written off as hobby-like and recreational rather than a serious intellectual endeavor," Gardner explained. "In fact, these courses are rigorous, yet on a different level, for they require students to utilize visual intelligence rather than solely the analytical and literal thinking they are used to employing."

Gardner believes that courses such as The Studio Experience, a drawing, painting, and sculpture class, would greatly benefit SCW students, for it would take students beyond linear thinking and enable them to experience a new visual and physical decision process.

"Studio courses have been written off as hobby-like and recreational rather than a serious intellectual endeavor," Gardner explained. "In fact, these courses are rigorous, yet on a different level, for they require students to utilize visual intelligence rather than solely the analytical and literal thinking they are used to employing."

Students who take art courses at SCW can testify to Gardner's belief in the benefits of thinking on a different intellectual level. "Art should be part of a liberal arts education and is educational even though hands-on," says Elisheva Weissman, a bio major who opted to minor in art so she could take art courses and fulfill a requirement. "These art classes require a lot of work and perseverance, especially when putting together a portfolio. They should be counted as any other class for credit."

The effort factor is what convinced Ayala Yasgur that all the work she was putting into her "just for the sake of it" art classes wasn't worth the time and energy she expended without fulfilling a requirement. Yasgur took The Studio Experience course, and although she enjoyed it tremendously, was compelled to drop out, for she felt her time was better spent doing work for classes for which she fulfilled a requirement. This semester, she takes the Pastel and Watercolor class but experiences the same frustrations.

"Students' schedules are overstuffed and they have no room to take the art classes that they are interested in," Gardner noted. "It is almost an oxymoron for me [working] in education to tell students who want to be educated in art that they are unable receive credit for participating in these classes."

Dean Orlian, nevertheless, encourages students to take such art courses. "Students should take the courses that appeal to them," she stated. "If a student takes interest in an art class, it is still open to her, yet she should be aware, as evident in the schedule of courses, that they do not fulfill Paragraph E requirements."

Escalators To Be Installed in 215 Lexington

SUZANNE ANZISKA
Staff Writer

Imagine getting to class on time, hassle free, with time to spare. Picture shirts without coffee stains and papers that don't fall out of your books. Think about not being whacked around with someone's overloaded Jansport and not being forced to stand flat up against a wall, with your face plastered to it. Well, many of us will get a chance to have our days improved in the new 215 Lexington Avenue building. Escalators are going to be installed there by the Fall 2000 semester. No more long and messy lines to get into the elevators, as is the current situation in 245 Lexington. The new escalators will extend from the lobby of 215 Lexington to the third floor. "I'm very excited at the prospect of escalators," said Risa Solomon, an SCW senior.

"Escalators have utility in certain areas, especially in schools," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, the Director of Supporting Service Administration at Yeshiva University. "Schools, as opposed to office buildings [which 215 currently is], have the issue of classroom changing between periods. The escalators will serve as a quicker way to move people where they need to go." When asked why this is the very first building in YU to have escalators, Rosengarten explained that many of the buildings that serve as classroom space were not originally intended to be used as such. They started as office buildings and since the only really busy times of the day in offices are in the mornings and evenings, the elevators did not have problems of excessive overcrowding or stopping on every floor.

Rosengarten also explained that since Stern will not be occupying the whole building at the start, elevators would not serve the function of moving people around fast. Elevators are supposed to be used for a whole building from the bottom to the top but since Stern will be using only the second and third floors to begin with, the choice of elevators would not be the best one.

Addressing the safety concerns of having escalators in the new building, Rosengarten stated that there will be security people standing by, making sure that there is no overcrowding and that each person gets on one at a time. Rosengarten seems pleased with the decision to put in escalators.

"Considering everything, escalators are really the best choice," replies Rosengarten. "It fits and works into the needs of the students, and it's something a little different."

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Spiking and Serving in Stern: Volleyball Intramurals Begin

RAIZEL KLEYMAN
Staff Writer

The net's set up, the boundaries are marked, and all that's missing is the sand. That's right, volleyball intramurals have finally arrived at Stern. After months of complaints and unanswered requests, volleyball has finally gone legit. There are some vocal volleyball-loving students who took the initiative and got the ball rolling, including Debbie Michaels, an SCW sophomore, and Sharon Weiss, an SCW freshman.

Four teams, each consisting of nine girls, play Monday nights between 9:15-11 P.M. in the school gym. Most players are experienced, but there is always room for a beginner to get in the game and have some fun. While the teams have been finalized for the spring semester, there are some mega plans on the way for an eventual volleyball team at Stern. If intramurals are a success, then there is a possibility of a more competitive level being set up next semester. Unlike the .5 credit volleyball gym, there are no quizzes or readings involved. Volleyball intramurals are just an opportunity for some students to break free and have tons of fun.

"Everyone is having a good time and getting some great exercise," said Michaels. "People are there because they like volleyball, and not because it's mandatory."

on campus

Summer Art History Class to Travel to Amsterdam

Yael Fischer
Staff Writer

What are you doing this summer? For eight SCW students the answer is touring Amsterdam and exploring Dutch art and culture. By attending a summer course, Art and Jewish Experience in the Netherlands from the Age of Rembrandt until the 20th Century , in conjunction with and partially subsidized by the Honors program, these students will have the opportunity to view masterpieces of art while simultaneously experiencing the European Jewish community.

"The trip was jammed packed with so much to see but the time was managed very well," said Sharona Thurm, SCW senior, who attended the course to Florence last summer and will be going to Amsterdam.

> "I felt that people are always stopping in Israel, yet, they are unaware of the culture that lies in between."
> Dr. Evelyn Cohen

This program was designed by Professor Evelyn Cohen. "I felt that people are always stopping in Israel, yet, they are unaware of the culture that lies in between," she said. " The European Jewish community is very different. I wanted to provide an opportunity for everyone to see that."

The trip to Amsterdam attempts to pack in an enormous amount of activities in only a brief course period. During the ten-day trip, students will have the opportunity to dine at the home of a Jewish museum curator.

Dr. Emile Schrijver is very pleased to be hosting the SCW students both at the Rosenthaliana Library and at his home. "In the past few years I've met several Stern College students who were working at New York institutions I've used for research and at judaic auctions. I've always been impressed by the scope of their knowledge, their sophistication and their enthusiasm."

While the program is designed for art majors, Introduction to Art is the only prerequisite and serious students with other majors are equally welcome. The course does require extensive reading prior to the trip and a journal must be kept throughout the duration of the program. Additionally, a ten-page paper is due upon completion of the course analyzing a specific work of art.

"The scale of the art shocks you," commented Estee Stern, SCW senior. "You cannot possibly tell from a slide [in class] what the impact of the art will be. It just completely overwhelms you."

The summer art and culture course is in its second year after a successful trip to Florence last summer and the administration has high hopes of not only continuing the program but incorporating some additional ones as well. "I could see a Jewish History course because Europe is just so rich in that area," expressed Dean Bacon concerning future possibilities. "Otherwise perhaps a political organization course that would study Europe as it reinvents itself."

Dorms Get Cable Modems

Eileen Chudow
Features Editor

The YU Department of Supporting Services will install a cable modem for each student living in the SCW dormitories, according to Erin Hill, Assistant to Department Director Jeffrey Rosengarten. It is uncertain whether students living in the independent apartments will receive the modems.

"These cable modems will allow everyone to be connected to the Internet," explained Hill. "Students will be able to do their work in the dorms instead of going elsewhere. It'll be great."

Although the plans call to install the modems in each room, YU has not yet determined when the installations will begin. "Perhaps it will be done during the summer," Hill stated.

The university is considering whether it is best for YU workers, independent contractors or both to do the actual work. Most likely, Brookdale Hall will receive the equipment first, with completion of the work in both dorms following a little more than a year later.

Installing the modems in Brookdale is especially difficult since men cannot enter the rooms during the daytime while students are occupying them.

"It's a matter of coordinating it and starting but they will definitely do it," said Hill. "I am excited since this will update the dorms."

"It can't help me since unfortunately I don't own a computer," said Avital Silber, an SCW senior, "but I think it's great for those students who do."

Can an Orthodox Jew have a stellar career in the field of Communications?

Sara Trappler
Staff Writer

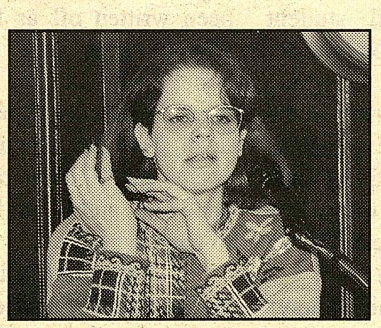
The Ivry Student Center in Schottenstein Hall was filled with SCW students eager to hear speakers explain how they balance their Jewish religious lives with their careers in the field of communications. The Uplink to the World of Communications event on Wednesday evening, March 29, was the final Uplink event in a series of four this year. The purpose of the Uplink events, directed by SCW communications Professor, Dr. Ellen Bakalian, is to expose students to the field of communications by introducing them to ambitious, successful men and women from the field. It provides students with the opportunity to hear impressive panels of speakers discuss their careers, and to enjoy dinner with fellow students interested in communications.

"Every time I come to an Uplink event, I get so inspired that I decide I'm going to start writing a novel or a play," says SCW junior, Chana Rosenblatt.

The final Uplink event on Wednesday evening, which was attended by both Dean Bacon and Naomi Kapp of OPCS, was distinguished from the prior three in its additional theme of balancing Judaism with a Communications career.

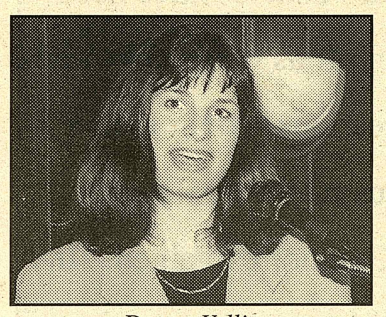
"I've been to several of the Uplinks, and at each one there has been a wonderful panel of speakers on the many different opportunities in the field of communications," explained Yona Israel, an SCW sophomore. "I felt that this one was particularly special since they were an all - Jewish panel and showed that you can have a career and still remain an Orthodox Jew."

The night's event included three Orthodox professionals in communications: Allan Leicht, Deena Yellin, and Naomi Kraus. Ms. Kraus has a Masters in Journalism from



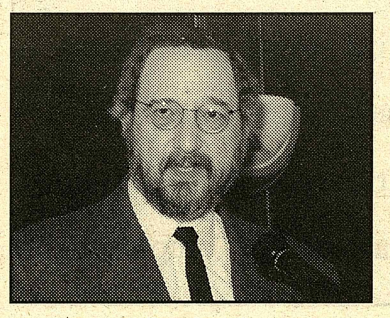
Naomi Kraus

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, has worked for Sports Illustrated, and is currently an editor for Frommer



Deena Yellin

Travel Guides. Mr. Leicht, father of SCW senior Rebecca Leicht, is a graduate of Adelphi



Allan Leicht

University, has a Masters in fine arts from Yale University, and has written for television, theater, and films and was a director of Comedy Network.

Currently, he is a writer and public relations specialist for the government. Mrs. Yellin is a graduate of SCW, where she was the editor of The Observer, and later received a Masters in journalism from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. After discovering her passion for journalism on The Observer, she has worked as a journalist for ten years. Currently, she is a reporter for the Bergen Record, New Jersey's second largest newspaper.

All three speakers described the challenges that being Orthodox can present as a professional in the field of communications, yet believed that it ispossible to balance the two and use it as an advantage to one's career through commitment, determination, and integrity.

"I found it very informative," expressed SCW senior, Shira Graber. "I was able to relate to it on a practical level. I want to go into journalism, and I want to be aware of the ramifications that my commitment to Judaism will have."

The final Uplink event left the SCW students who attended, with a positive, reassured feeling about entering the field of communications as an Orthodox woman. "I had no idea about the field of communications before tonight," says Bruria Kaganoff, an SCW sophomore. "Now I see it's very possible for an Orthodox woman to balance Judaism and this field. I thought that all the speakers were excellent."

On behalf of SCW, we thank
Ray and Juanita Josephs
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The Literary

First Annual Stern

The First Annual SCW Literary Contest received many wonderful fiction and poetry submissions.

It was a very hard choice, requiring reading and re-reading.

We congratulate the winners and everyone else.

Boy Dead in Wisconsin

In the state with the smallest population,
he was killed.
Mathew, a college student
beaten and left to die alone.
Blood spurted from his crushed mouth,
trickling into soils of witness.
Ribs pulverized lay like pebbles,
in a sack of purpled skin.

There were demonstrations
in the hippest city, sure.
But no hot-blooded reverend
protested his death with fury.
His "failed" parents didn't make a speech.
A new Birmingham church is burning,
but the cries of Southern anguish are unheard.
Brows don't furrow for dead gay boys.

I bet that he forgave his killers,
whoever they are.

Marina Stolerman

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Bend

Literary Contest

Escape

Sue had just been discharged that morning. There had been the usual careful instructions from the nurses, to rest, to take Advil for any swelling and to be careful not to get the cast wet while showering. Sue was agreeable in the hospital, she would have agreed to anything in order to be released. However in reality, Sue had no plans to follow these instructions. There was just too much to do that afternoon. Her plan for the day had been forming in her mind since she arrived at the hospital early that morning and there was no way she would back out of it this time.

The first time she was in the hospital, Jack had been so concerned. He brought her pink roses and her favorite cream-filled chocolates. It was actually Jack who had driven her there, apologizing all the way. It was an accident, he explained to the doctor. He just opened the door too quickly. She had been standing on a chair changing a light bulb. Good thing her ankle was only sprained. A few days on crutches and she would be good as new, the doctor said. Jack had been grateful to the doctor, visibly relieved that she would be fine. He was so thankful, Sue convinced herself that the angry glare on his face she had caught sight of on their way out must have been a mistake.

The next time was different. Jack did not drive her to the hospital. He felt she was being a crybaby, and she had better be quiet while the game was on. Sue drove herself and a kind nurse cover her second degree burns with a soothing salve and some sterile gauze. "It was so stupid," Sue heard herself say, "The pot handle was broken. I should never have tried to lift it."

After that, all the times blurred together. All the times, that is, except for one. Sue remembered the yelling, the cruel shove, and then falling down the stairs into the blackness of the basement. She brushed away a tear. "It is better this way," Sue said aloud, "A child in this house would never be able to survive with Jack's short temper." Besides that time, all the visits were the same. Go to the hospital, get treated and leave quickly. Sue had even developed a system of which hospitals to go to. She would never go to the same hospital twice in a row or for the same injury. Whatever was happening in her home was her business, not anyone else's.

Of course there had been doctors who were suspicious. There was this one resident who was very thorough. He had even managed to track down some of her records from other hos-
pitals. As he stitched a particularly nasty gash in her forehead, he comforted her saying that everything would be fine. From this moment on she would be safe. As soon as he left her alone, Sue sneaked out. There was no way she could let the doctor question Jack. He was so charming, the doctor would believe anything he said. Jack was also smart, so it would be no problem for him to think of satisfactory answers. After the questions, Jack would then gently escort her to the car and drive slowly home. Sue cringed at what she thought would happen next. From then on, she stopped giving her real name.

Somehow, today was different. Sue did not know what caused the change. All she knew was that she could not go on living like this. Today would be the day she would finally leave. It was difficult to pack with one good arm, but it would be well worth the effort. A few more minutes and she would truly be safe.

Suddenly, the bedroom door flew open. Jack was home from work.

" And just where do you think you're going?"

Rachel Schneider

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on campus

I DON'T CARE

ADINA LEVINE
News Editor

For every active SCW student there are approximately ten without a name and without a face. For every well-attended event that Stern hosts, there are significant more events with only two or three people. Stern College is suffering from the apathy of its own students.

"I don't have a lot of time to become involved and it's not important enough to me," remarked Shoshana Stein, SCW sophomore. "Stern clubs become something just to put on a resume."

Leah Lubetski, SCW senior, records how she went to hear a speaker from the Beit Din and only four other people were there; one SCW student who came to do a speech paper, one YC student, and two friends of the speaker. "It's such an embarrassment to the school that these wonderful speakers come and we have such a poor turnout," she said.

"People walk past me in the lobbies," remarked April Simon, SCWSC President. "They don't even care to look and see what are the events."

Additionally, Lubetski elaborates on the difficulty of organizing events. "I organized a trip to the stock market, and only eight people showed up," she recalled. Only thirty-five students showed up for senior pictures and an SCW graduate did not even know the name of her college newspaper.

"Student apathy is a recurring theme, and it seems like we're suffering from a malaise," asserts Dean Bacon, who claims student apathy is not an issue. "But really, when put in perspective with other colleges, I don't think that we have a problem of apathy."

"It's not only Stern that is faced with a problem of apathy," Simon commented. "There's apathy in the world. People are only concerned with their own needs."

Nevertheless, whether unique to SCW or not, apathy is still a problem. And so, the obvious question becomes: Why is there so much apathy?

"People don't go to college to get involved," Simon said. "They go to get an education. Papers are on a higher priority than extracurricular events." Students participate in extracurricular activities to make a difference in the school. "I joined clubs because I was impressed with my ability to affect change, but I realized that was a lie," commented Ilana Kasten, SCW senior. " I realized the sheer stupidity and ineffectiveness of the clubs that I had to quit or kill myself out of frustration."

Part of the student apathy predicament may be a result of students who only live on the SCW campus four days out of the week and leave for Shabbos. "Our school becomes a commuter school because people go home for Shabbos," said Golda Fleishman, an SCW junior. "There's no sense of a college life."

And what to do about the prevalent apathy?

"If I knew the answer to that," remarked Simon while laughing. "We would have solved student apathy long ago."

Dean Bacon listed SCW's efforts to get people involved. "The Dean of Students consults students to make them part of the loop," she remarked. "To get people to participate, give them a piece of the action. Student Council should spread its net."

"I think the clubs are great," Orli Daniels, SCW sophomore, remarked. "Those apathetic students are only hurting themselves."

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Need an Ear?

MIRIAM LANDA
Staff Writer

Need someone to talk to? Got a problem? Don't know where to turn? You might want to think about taking advantage of the Yeshiva University's peer counseling program, founded this past fall by senior Fred Kreizman.

"This program is for students that are troubled by all sorts of problems and need someone to talk to," said Kreizman. Open to both YC and SCW, students can seek counseling about any topics ranging from academic to drug-related problems to conflicts at home. "We are here to listen to people. Sometimes when a student confronts an issue at home they get all this lecturing from their parents and so we are here to just listen. Other times they need some advice," said Kreizman.

The program runs from 5:30pm until 1:00am but volunteers are equipped with beepers and are always available.

Dean Efrem Nullman, Director of Student Services and also a psychologist, sits with the volunteers at a workshop during orientation. He coaches them on how to deal with certain situations and when it is appropriate to notify a higher authority. This seems to create some fear in the students regarding the confidentiality of this club. One student expressed his strong fear: "If someone has a serious drug problem or is suicidal and seek[s] help form the volunteers at this university, they may have to tell the administration, and that is not what those kind of vulnerable people are looking for," said an anonymous sophomore.

Not only students with serious life threatening problems turn to this program. Those who seek help include intimidated freshman, students whoare stressed out about finding a job, students having difficulty keeping up with their work load. Students who are having problems with roommates or with financial matters and other issues also turn to this program.

Many students have received very valuable help from these volunteers. Approximately one hundred out of 1200 students utilized this program first semester. "Most of the students that called us or dropped by to talk were freshmen," said Kreizman. The offices of the peer counselors are located in room 314 of the Schottenstein Theater. The volunteers can also meet students anywhere at the students' convenience.

The peer-counseling group needs volunteers that are willing to help other fellow students and also wants all students to take advantage of this club.

Junior Norman Shafar, recently elected president of JSS, will be taking over as director of peer counseling when Kreizman graduates. There is a workshop coming up for volunteers during orientation this fall, at the uptown campus.

SCW is talking about starting this program specifically for midtown by fall 2000. Kreizman, as well as others, have been pushing for peer counseling to start this semester at Stern. Any students interested in peer counseling or in need of someone to talk to can page Fred Kreizman at 1-800-800-7759.

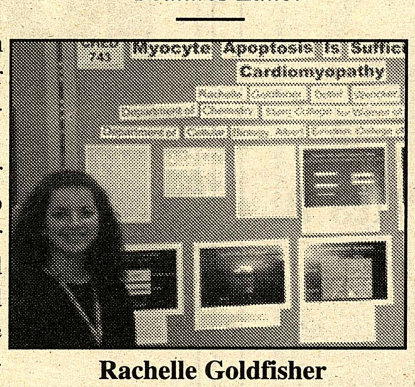
Chemistry Students Win Trip to Conference

EILEEN CHUDOW
Features Editor

SCW honored contest winners Debbie Marton and Rachelle Goldfisher, SCW seniors, with a trip to the 219th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, California, March 26-30.

Marton and Goldfisher won the 1999 poster contest sponsored by the SCW chemistry and biology departments. Each contestant submitted a poster explaining research she had performed.

This is the second year that SCW sponsored students to attend the conference, where over 600 undergraduates presented research in poster form, as did Marton and Goldfisher, while graduate students and professionals delivered oral presentations.



Rachelle Goldfisher

"It's a good opportunity to meet other undergraduates and attend lectures dealing with chemical education," said Chemistry Professor Dr. Lea Blau.

Marton performed research dealing with the metabolism of liver cells jointly with Massachusetts General Hospital and Shriner's Hospital for Children. She expressed her excitement about attending the conference and spending Shabbat in San Francisco with a local family. She plans to attend graduate school in biology research.

Goldfisher performed research into the causes of cardiomyopathy.

on campus

We Need To Talk...

Prenuptial Agreements in the Jewish Orthodox Community

MICHAL KANOVSKY
Staff Writer

What happens when your marriage turns into a nightmare and your husband refuses to grant you a get (religious divorce)? Until recently in America, due to the lack of power given to the bet din, there was little a woman could do. However, times are changing. On February 22, 2000, a statement was issued by a number of Roshei Yeshiva strongly encouraging the use of prenuptial agreements. The action is intended to end the problem of Agunot (chained women) in our modern times.

In recent years, there have been numerous attempts to deal with the problem of Agunot. The Conservative Movement's answer was to write a clause into the Ketubah itself. The Orthodox movement did not wish to tamper with the actual Ketubah and split into two directions. The Agudath Israel went the legislative route and successfully supported the passage of the Get Statute in the State of New York. However, fearful that the statute may be an asmachta, resulting in an invalid get, The Rabbinical Council of America prefers the use of a prenuptial agreement.

"I'm 100% in favor of the prenuptial agreement," said Yael Fischer, an SCW freshman. "It's foolish to presume that just because you're taking precautionary measures that therefore you're injecting some kind of bad feeling into the marriage. There are just too many horror stories out there not to do something that's this simple."

The prenuptial agreement was developed by Rabbi Mordechai Willig, a Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS, in 1994, under the auspices of the Orthodox Caucus. In his 1995 book, The Prenuptial Agreement: Halakhic, Legal, and Pastoral Considerations, Rabbi Willig writes, "The primary obstacle to the widespread use of prenuptial agreements appears to be the reluctance of Rabbonim to introduce innovations to the institution of marriage." He answers that, "the idea of a pre-nuptial agreement, which encourages the parties to appear before a Bet Din in the unfortunate event of marital strain or break-up, is not new. Over 300 years ago, the Nachlas Shiva included such a provision in his formulary, incorporating it into the standard tena'im, conditions, entered into before marriage."

In the book, Marc D. Stern explains the prenuptial agreements. "The first of these agreements is an arbitration agreement. It is signed by both parties, and binds each of them to appear before a bet din that is empowered to decide all issues concerning a get. The second agreement is signed only by the husband-to-be, in return, as it were, for the future wife's agreement to marry him. It obligates him to pay his wife a daily amount for support per day. The obligation is triggered only if the parties are living apart, and ceases when the husband responds to a summons by the bet din or asks the bet din to decide the parties' martial dispute. This agreement is designed to deny to the husband any economic benefit from the too-common tactic of refusing to give a get unless a large sum is paid to the husband by the wife or her family."

Rabbi Avi Weiss of Stern College for Women, writes that he thinks it is irresponsible for any rabbi to perform a wedding today without a prenuptial agreement having been signed. "There are many who ask 'how can a rabbi insist that bride and groom, so deeply in love, sign a prenuptial agreement which deals with divorce?' The truth is that bride and groom already commit themselves to the ketuba, which is primarily an alimony and insurance policy."

His colleague, Rabbi Saul Berman agrees. "Is not the ketuba precisely a contract in contemplation of divorce or death of the husband? And people hang illustrated texts of the ketuba over their beds! The point is that the very universality of the ketuba allows people to accept it without feeling that they are making a negative statement about the expected longevity of their marriage. The same can eventually be true of these prenuptial documents."

The Prenuptial agreement has been endorsed by many major batei din in Israel, as well as the Beit Din of America and the Rabbinical Council of America. This recent statement issued came as the result of a conference on utilization of prenuptial agreements in December, 1999 at Yeshiva University.

"This statement will encourage more rabbis to use prenuptial agreements," said Rabbi Hirt, Vice President for Administration and Professional Education of RIETS, "In addition, it will encourage young people to act responsibly toward each other and to utilize the batei din which stand behind such documents."

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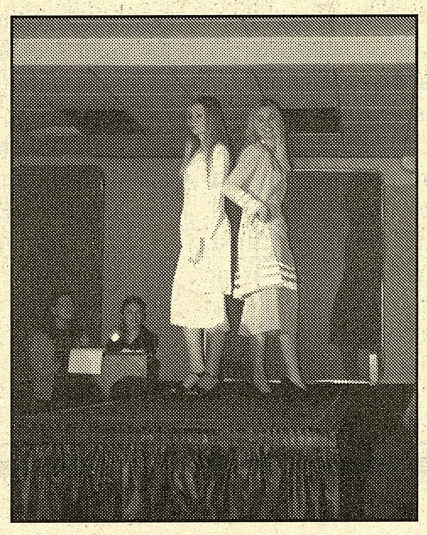
Fashion Show 2000

Observer Staff

Nearly sixty students, faculty and outside guests gathered in Koch auditorium on Tuesday March 7 for The Spring Fashion Show 2000. Held to raise money for Kochavia, the senior yearbook, Fashion Show 2000 gave the students at Stern a chance to unwind from their midterm studying and watch their friends and classmates model the latest spring fashions.

SCW Fashion Show Models Gather Together

Coordinator Miriam Grossman, an SCW senior, was on the staff of the original fashion show held by the sophomore class of 1998. Grossman saw the show's success two years ago and felt it would be a great way to raise money for the yearbook and the Stern gemach, which also received funds from the event.



Models on Runway

"One designer was not willing to provide tzniut clothes so we had to turn them down" said Grossman, who called over thirty companies and designers until finally landing her sponsors. The participating clothing companies included: Laura Ashley, Syms, Karen Nicole, courtesy of Mrs. Victory, a faculty member of Stern College, and Nicole Lee Mor, a budding young designer who specializes in modest dress. Two wedding gowns provided by TAC's wedding gemach were also displayed.

"This was an opportunity that's not easy for Jewish observant girls to get anywhere else," said SCW model, Shifra Chana Rothstein.

With hip music blaring in the background, the SCW models made their way down the makeshift runway as announcers, Carla Schron, SSSB President, and DeeDee Lax, an SCW sophomore, described the outfits. During intermission raffle prizes, including a manicure, shower kit, and a subscription to Modern Bride were distributed to the lucky winners. Grand prize winner, Dorie Friedlander, auctioned off a Karen Nicole suit retailed at $120 to raise money for Kochavia. The bidding started at five dollars and gradually made its way to $70, adding an element of excitement and audience participation.

The models, who spent their vital 'midterm studying' time preparing for the event, were well choreographed by Elana Soleimani. "Now that I've experienced modeling I don't think I'll ever pursue it as a profession, said Amelie Letvin after enjoying her fifteen minutes of fame. "But being out there in Sharon's [Weiss] spotlight was the closest thing to heaven I've ever felt".

Most suits and dresses went for $120-$160 and Nicole Lee Mor's special collection of evening-wear started at $200. "I liked the way everything was reasonably priced," said audience member Sahar Solaimaanzadeh, an SCW sophomore.

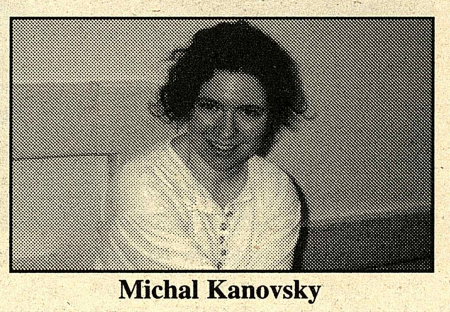
Coordinators Zoya Mardakhayev and Miriam Grossman were pleased with the results of their hard work. "I'm happy with the turnout considering it's midterms and a lot of people took time out of their schedules to make this happen," stated Grossman.

conferences

Jewish Women in the Arts

MICHAL KANOVSKY
Staff Writer

On Sunday March 19, 2000 the NY Chapter of Hadassah/NYU School of Education and Pauline Borgenicht Mack Seminars presented "Our Voices, Our Visions: Jewish Women Create," a Symposium of the Arts. At NYU's Tisch Hall women gathered to listen to successful Jewish females explain and inspire others with their careers in the arts.


Michal Kanovsky

The day was split between a panel discussion and private artists' sessions, separated by lunch. During the panel discussions each speaker spent time explaining the journey of her career and afterwards answered questions, including what it means to be a Jewish artist.

"The difference between an artist who is Jewish and a Jewish artist is that the artist who is Jewish writes about the individual experience and the Jewish artist writes about the community," commented Ellen Gould, two-time Emmy Award recipient for her play "Bubbe Meises" (Bubbe's stories).

"I think that I'm an artist first, then a Jewish artist," said Irene Breslaw, the Assistant Principal Violist of the New York Philharmonic.

Hadassa Marksen, President of the Center for Contemporary Opera and President of the American society for Jewish Music, explained that although there were many Jewish composers, their works were more influenced by the time period they lived in, then by their Jewish roots. "Nobody's ever been able to define Jewish music," she said when asked whether her Judaism influenced her art.

The second half of the symposium was the artists' sessions. Peninnah Schram, Associate Professor of Speech and Drama at SCW, led a session on Jewish Folktales: Telling the Story of Jewish Women. "Women traditionally have been the storytellers in the home," remarked Schram. "The women had the great responsibility in teaching our children about what it is to be a mentch, a Jew." She explained why stories are such an important way of connecting person to person and imparting values for the generations.

Despite the student discount, the symposium was mostly attended by older women, primarily members of Hadassah.

Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance

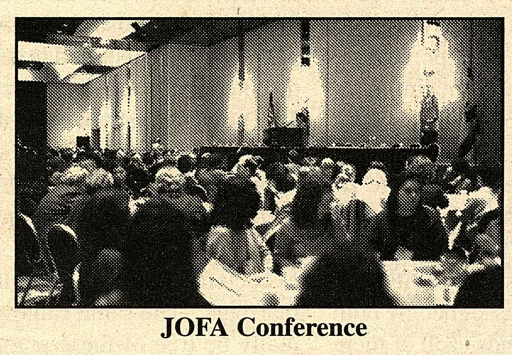
ADINA LEVINE
News Editor

On February 21, 2000 the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) kicked off the Third International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy.

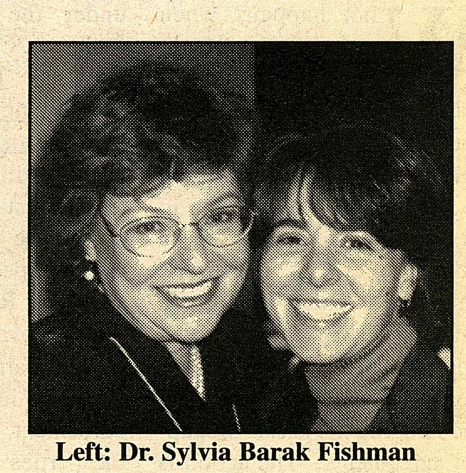
"Our hope is in a few years, we will no longer need the JOFA conference, as our agenda will be integrated into such organizations as Yeshiva University," remarked Rose Landowne, one of the conference speakers.

Dean Bacon commented, "as far as women's Jewish education at the highest level, we not only follow JOFA's agenda, we set the agenda."

Located at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the conference offered a variety of seminars, ranging from the accepted, such as "Understanding Family Violence in the Jewish Community," (a similar article


JOFA Conference

appeared in The Observer) to the controversial, such as "Single Motherhood by Choice." Both Rabbi Saul Berman and Rabbi Avi Weiss, who teach at SCW, gave seminars to packed audiences. But there was also "an Interdenominational Dialogue on Feminist Issues" discussing the advantages of a


Left: Dr. Sylvia Barak Fishman

Reconstructionist siddur.

"The University does not have a standpoint on this issue," remarked Dean Bacon. "We are concerned with education. We don't take a position on issues in Judaism."

Overall, the conference was an outstanding success with approximately 2000 people attending.

"Most of the woman didn't have the same educational background as I did," responded Lize Wolf, an SCW sophomore. "They were religious people, but may have been ignorant of Halacha."

Judy Horn, an SCW senior, was one of the few SCW students who attended the conference. "It's an important thing to keep your eyes open to see the trends where Judaism is going," Horn said.

As Rabbi Berman announced in his lecture, "Jewish women need to be proud of themselves."

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Theater

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"The key words are 'make do'," noted Sporer. She added that the theater also lacks a backstage, dressing rooms, and permanent theater-style sound and lighting systems. "Jeff Socol and the rest of the Facilities Management staff, including Jose Betances and James Rhodes have been very accommodating with our needs…by setting up temporary dressing rooms, ordering body microphones for our actresses…but why should we always have to make do [with a less-than-perfect situation]?" she asked.

Sporer explained that the need for body mikes in the theater is because the room, technically termed a "dead room" because of its sound-absorbing walls, was originally constructed as a movie theater, therefore sound does not travel well within it. "On the whole, I think it's great that we're finally being given a bigger facility to use for the purposes of putting on plays," said Shifra Chana Rothstein, sophomore and "Hillstone" cast member, "but the space wasn't designed for theatrical productions- it was a movie theater. Once you put an audience in there, the actresses' voices will get swallowed up, no matter how strongly they project."

The only lights the theater is equipped with are dim movie theater-style lights, which are useless as stage lights. SCDS usually employed eight theatrical lights for Koch auditorium productions, and anticipated using fifteen lights in the new theater. However, the twenty-two lights that "Hillstone" requires may not bode well with the theater's emergency sprinkler system, which is heat-sensitive. "There is no one main problem with this new theater, but a bunch of little mistakes which make putting on our production that much harder," remarked Sporer. Everything is relative because compared to Koch auditorium, the theater is better, said Sporer. "It is nicer-looking, it has real seats, and we don't have to compete with the sound of refrigerators or have to worry about sharing the auditorium with people eating their lunch--like in Koch. [The theater] is all ours-it is just not completely ready for a full-scale production," she stated.

But is it all theirs? The 34th street theater building has long been promised to Stern College students as a theater intended for SCDS and dramatic student productions, according to Sporer. Yet only recently has the title 'Cultural Center' been circulating. "The administration previously had been calling the 34th street building 'The Theater,' and now they call it 'The Cultural Center'," Sporer stated. "I think when the name changed, the concept of what the building was supposed to be changed as well."

According to Dean Bacon, the Cultural Center was "primarily designed as a lecture hall or auditorium-not as a dramatic stage." "It is supposed to be multi-purpose, not just for productions," she said. "It's a beautiful facility, but it's not a theater."

Sporer said the Dramatic Society is "disappointed that we have to accommodate [the school's plans.] We thought they were going to accommodate our needs."

Dean Bacon acknowledged the Dramatic Society is upset at the "Cultural Center" not being fully equipped for productions. "I know the Dramatic Society is disappointed, I understand their disappointment [that the theater] is not what they expected," she said, "but we do have plans down the road to make more of what the Dramatic Society wants, such as a backstage and dressing rooms."

Sporer stated that it has been particularly hard for the Dramatic Society to "pull off" this production on their slender budget.

Unanticipated expenses due to the unready state of the Cultural Center for a dramatic production required SCDS to dole out a lot of money that they would never have had to for a Koch performance.

"The Presidents' Circle and Student Council have helped SCDS a lot this year," she noted, "but it is not enough because we have had to use it on all of these problems that weren't anticipated. There is no reason why SCDS should have to spend more money when the theater was promised to us in a certain way and [the administration] didn't come through with it."

Dean Bacon stated the administration and SCDS will "straighten out unanticipated expenses somehow." "In the future, I think there will be a real clarity on what goes into a production," she remarked.

"I think the school thought it would be an easy conversion process [from movie theater to theater] even though they never even asked for student input until recently," Sporer said. "You take out the movie screen and projector, change the seats around-[the school] probably thought that would be enough, but it wasn't. I don't think they realized it would take a lot of construction and work."

The SCDS production of Hillstone, written by S. Kim Glassman and directed by Tim Errickson will run from April 9 to April 12, with five performances altogether in the SCW Cultural Center at 239 East 34th Street.

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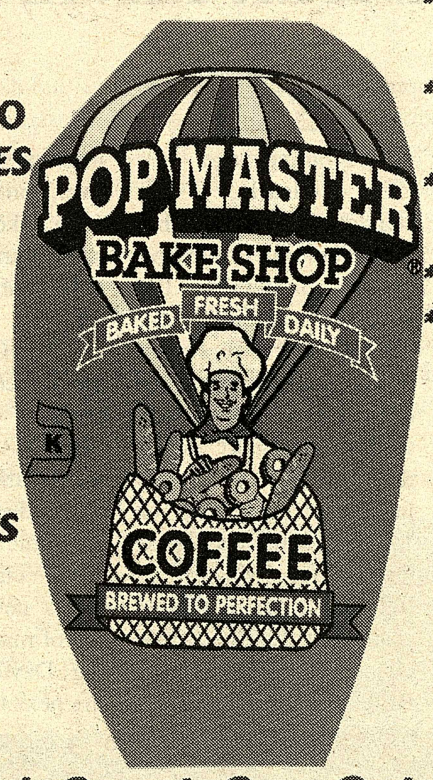

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Pope

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visited Yad Vashem where he met with many of his childhood friends, some of whom he had hidden during the war.

Further controversy arose from the Pope's visit to Palestinian controlled territories surrounding Bethlehem, the claimed place of Jesus' baptism. Addressing thronging Palestinians at the Dehaisheh Refugee camp, the New York Times reports that the pope described the plight of the Palestinians as "degrading" and "barely tolerable." The pope's message at the Camp, home to exiled refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, carried expressions of sympathy and strong political echoes. However, Palestinian officials failed to provide a translator for the pope who addressed the refugees in English. Most of his message went unheard.

"I guess we were there as props," said Abu Mohammed, 51. "If the Palestinians had known exactly what the Pope, said about his regret over our forced departure from our homes, his words would have been drowned out in cheers." The Pope did not explicitly endorse the right of return for Palestinians refugees to their former homes. Calling for an international committee to help the Palestinians find a home, the Pope nevertheless, did not specify where.

On Wednesday, the pope met with Israel's two chief rabbis, Israel Meir Lau for the Ashkenazim and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron for the Sephardim, at Hechal Shlomo the seat of the Rabbinate of Israel in Jerusalem

One rabbi in the general audience commented, "There is clearly an understanding that there are deep theological differences between us, but we feel that the challenges being presented to us are facing both Judaism and Catholicism, and the challenges have greater weight than the differences among us. May we face the challenges together and with the help of God, may this lead to peace."

Without any public commentary on their private meeting, the Pope left the building and proceeded to meet with Israel's President, Ezer Weizman, reported Reuters.

On Sunday morning, reported the Israel Wire, the pope ceremoniously placed a note in a crevice at the Western Wall. The note requested forgiveness for the sins committed against the Jewish People. Minister of Diaspora Affairs Rabbi Michael Melchior called the visit to the Western Wall a "highlight from the Jewish point of view." The head of the Government Press Office, Moshe Fogel, took the note placed in the wall by the pontiff, explaining it would be taken to the Yad VaShem Holocaust Museum. The pope himself signed the note, written in English.

In Minister Melchior's speech to the pope at the Western Wall, he welcomed the pope's coming "as the realization of a commitment of the Catholic Church to end the era of hatred, humiliation, and persecution of the Jewish people." The minister called for peace among the "three great monotheistic faiths in order to promote peace among religions in this sacred land…"

Many responses to the Pope's visit followed, "we must recognize that this is the first time a catholic leader ever visited Israel as a Jewish State, what the pope did was unprecedented, and he recognized that there were sins committed against Jews," said Rabbi Eliezri of Monsey.

Upon return, Reuters reports, "Pope John Paul said he was unable to express the joy he felt in his heart for his historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, describing it as an "unforgettable experience."

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Award

continued from page 24

even half of SCW voted. Some people just didn't want to vote. I don't know why."

April Simon said, "It's a wonderful way for students to express appreciation for a professor who enhanced their college experience."

The award of $1800 will be conferred to Rabbi Cohen at an Awards Assembly in May.

city life

Staged Favoritism

A THEATER REVIEW

S. Kim Glassman
Staff Writer

Last week, the Yeshiva College Dramatic Society (YCDS) energetically performed their spring production, "God's Favorite," a modern satire on the biblical story of Job, written by Pulitzer prize winning playwright, Neil Simon, directed by the one and only Dr. Anthony S. Beukas.

Per a heavenly dispute, a successful businessman is put to the test of faith, to see if loss of fortune and the affliction of immeasurable physical discomfort can cause him to renounce God. Not only renounce God, but also publicly do so, by placing a small ad in the NY Times professing this decision. As anyone who has read the Bible once or twice is aware, the protagonist endures every discomfort that befalls him and boldly triumphs, refusing, under any circumstances, to relinquish belief in his Creator.

Job, or as Simon calls him "Joe" was compassionately portrayed by Avi Billet, for whom you couldn't help sympathizing. Distraught and destroyed, he firmly held his convictions in God's favor.

Joe's family consisted of three sons (Ellie Lamm, Daniel Weisman, and Ariel Penkower), a father-in-law (Ben Franz) and two loyal servants (Naftali Balanson and Ruben Espina Gomez), all of whom laughably provided consistent comic relief. Almost reminiscent of the Three Stooges, an amusing dose of choreography had them constantly running into and falling all over each other and other objects on the stage.

Clearly, the standout of this ensemble was Penkower, playing David Benjamin, the agnostic, rebellious son, offering a steady stream of sly, sarcastic interventions; a drunk whose lack of Divine regard fueled the heightening of his father's tolerance level for "pain, calamity and disaster." In an eerie yellow light, ominously foreshadowing the inevitable conclusion of the play, Billet paternally proclaimed, "I would give away everything I have in this world if you would just say, Dear God, I believe in you."

Avi Billet

And who could forget Sidney Lipton? The classic, pathetic, glasses-sporting, Neil Simon character, who runs the show, but really just wants to squeak by, make a living and go home. Parading a "G" T-shirt as though it was a letterman sweater of God's university, Joshua Summers emphatically carried the production. As God's messenger, his job was to administer this test of faith, first as a salesman, then with humorous deceptions to trick the protagonist into signing the renouncement form. My favorite scene was one with a special effects microphone where he feigned God's voice insisting that the test was over, only to drop the echo mike into his pocket and return to his laughably pathetic pleading self.

Once the aforementioned obvious outcome was reached, Summers put his arm around the reformed son, and ended the show with an ironic punch line, the show's clincher, implying God's never-ending testing of man, and announcing David Benjamin as the next unfortunate subject of this trial of faith.

Despite large amounts of blue paint, and a new stairway, the set was so strongly reminiscent of YCDS's previous production, Shawshank, I kept looking for Andy and Red. Still, the deer head was a nice touch, particularly with "David's" hat on it. The four bedroom doors on the second level offered amusing episodes of comic confusion, particularly at the start of the show, when Lamm and Weisman breathlessly crossed paths backstage to appear and reappear in each other's place.

The sound design was well done in zany spurts that complimented the farcical timing of the production, and sporadically imbedded a cartoon sense when the script bordered on the ludicrous. The lighting similarly played along with the script, aptly providing specials in the presence of thunder and God.

All in all, another enjoyable evening in the Schottenstein theater. Keep up the good work.

Check out the Observer website at
www.yuobserver.com

Ellen Beckerman's "Hamlet"

Sarah P. Cate
Cultural Arts Editor

Most staged versions of "Hamlet" are reduced in some way these days, due to the sheer length of the script. Modern-day directors have little faith in their audience's attention span. Thus, Ellen Beckerman's "Hamlet" is reduced in keeping with this tradition. It is not with the reduction that I found fault, rather it is with her decision to interpret the play in light of a modern audience and her insertion of anachronisms that I disliked.

Beckerman keeps mostly to the text, the performances of the actors shine. She feels, however, that she must insert modern elements at the worst possible moments. For example, when the players come before Shakespeare to act out the tragedy of Hamlet's father's murder, she inserts a modern dance sequence, replete with 1980's music that is purely laughable. Although each director is entitled to interpret a playwright's script as he or she wishes, she does a poor job of it.

Another sore moment was when Ophelia pretended to pull out a cell phone from her bosom and to quickly and surreptitiously answer it. This was an attempt at humor, but it failed miserably.

Beckerman also keeps many of the actors on-stage, although they are not participating in that particular scene. I found this to be distracting and unnecessary. I suppose it was an attempt to be different, but this also failed.

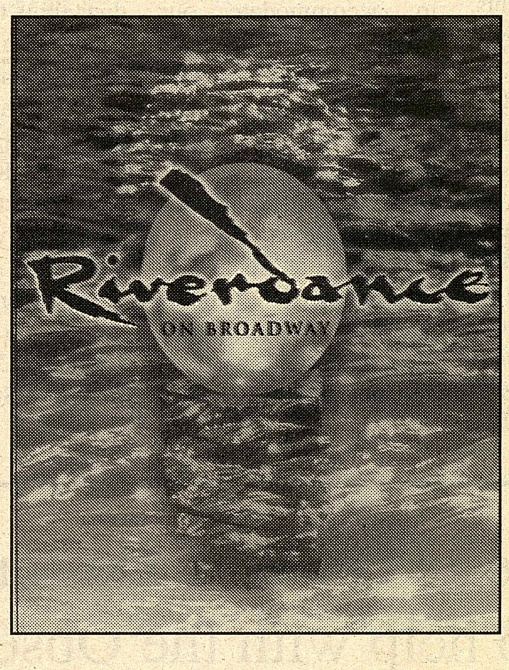
To Beckerman's merit, the play was very well done, despite these flaws. She deftly used the appearance of an actor who poured mounds of dirt onto the stage at various times to foreshadow and symbolize the deaths of characters. This was a marvelous interpretation of the work. She also keeps the actors all barefoot, which I found interesting, for you could use their footwork as a means of interpreting their feelings. For example, even in the way that Ophelia walked, one could tell that she was demented.

"Hamlet" is playing through mid-April at Here, a performance space in Soho. It is located at 145 6th Avenue, and tickets can be purchased by calling (212) 647-0202.

Riverdance: A Review

Stephanie Golgolantz
Staff Writer

Riverdance, like most Broadway musicals, is a blend of music, song and dance. However, the main focus and the reason this show has become as popular as it has is due to the incredible dancing of its eighty-person cast. The "hard-shoe Irish dance" or fast tapping footwork, is executed in perfect sync while the body from the hips upward remains perfectly still. It is an optical illusion in a way, watching in awe as the dancers' lower bodies move so fast while their upper bodies do not move at all. This was the beauty of Riverdance.



Sadly enough, the Irish dancing only occupied half of the show and that is its flaw. The other half of the show consists of narration and songs, which leave the audience restless and hungry for the next dance to begin. The resonating narratives by Liam Neeson seem to hint at a greater purpose behind the show, which is never revealed, leaving the audience somewhat unsatisfied.

The songs though, are the show's ultimate downfall. Although the singers have attractive voices, the songs are too long and too frequent. The main male singer sings of a love which he is either finding or has found. However, as an audience member, I had no idea as to what he was referring. Even after asking others who have seen it and reading various press releases about the show, I still am not any closer to the answer. I did find, though, that the narratives are actually a collection of prose and poetry of Irish writers not meant as a story, but as a piece of Irish culture. Therefore, I assume that the songs were, too, nothing more than a collection of the culture.

While the first half of the show had a vague theme of the elements like fire, ice, water, sun, and moon, the second half had a more pronounced theme of the leaving of Ireland and coming into the New World. There was a scene with a Spanish flamenco dancer, signaling the Spanish influence on the Irish.

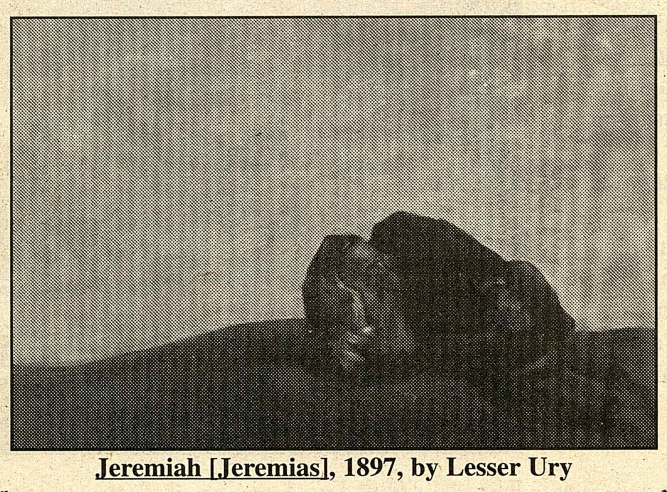
The ten musicians of the show each expressed freedom by breaking the mold of the traditional orchestra and having their own solo - with the violinist stealing the spotlight as she challenged each musician to keep up with her playing. However, the most enjoyable part was when the Irish dancers and the New York tap dancers have a dance contest to show which type of dance is better. The interchange between the two different groups is very funny and entertaining as the Irish group attempts to be more modern and 'hip' and the New York group tries to be more conservative.

Overall, Riverdance is a show which sparkles even amid the breaks in dance. I only wish that those breaks were shorter.

Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918

Miriam Eljas
Editor-in-Chief

An elderly man stretches out his shaking index finger and points to a life-size early 20th century photo of a man holding a poster of Hitler, and shouts "Look! It's Hitler! Look!" His wife shushes him but it is too late, everyone in the final exhibition room of Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918, has heard and is now marred by the virulent images this man has conjured up by a single utterance. Behind the elderly man, a young girl asks her grandfather about her relatives who were hidden in a closet and fed by kind neighbors.



Jeremiah [Jeremias], 1897, by Lesser Ury

It is under this looming shadow of World War II and its ensuing human catastrophes, that Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918, on exhibit until April 23, 2000 at The Jewish Museum, tries to explain Jewish contributions to the culture explosion at turn of the century Berlin.

Despite the gloomy obstacles, guest curator Emily D. Bilski succeeds in her endeavor to explore how Jews in the late 19th- and early 20th-century Berlin aided in the development of modernism. The Museum doesn't sugarcoat the surrounding reality -- there are references to the Holocaust throughout the exhibit and the exhibition catalog.

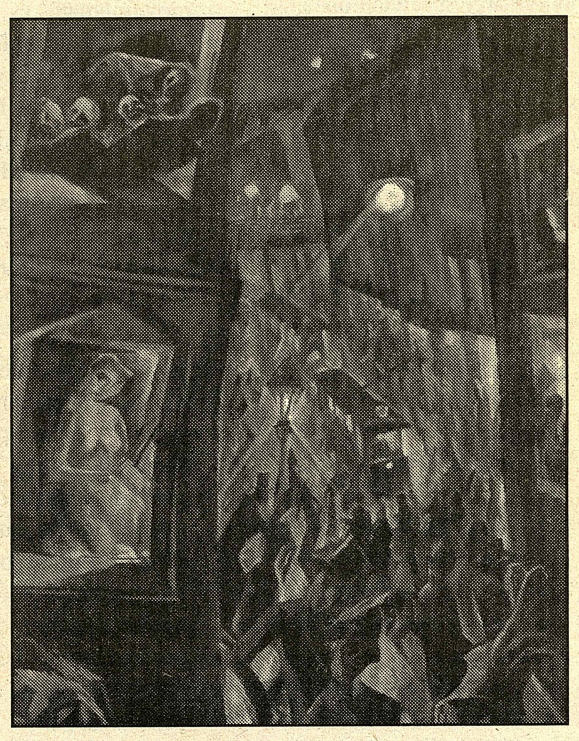
Viewers will find the audio portion of the tour extremely helpful; without the audio assistance or prior knowledge of this period in both history and art, some visitors will be left slightly confused and overwhelmed.

It takes at least 2 hours to enjoy the exhibit, another 20 minutes if you want to sit and view a short film on the early German cinema. The exhibit is divided into seven sections: a brief historical background of the period, a deeper look at the most influential Jewish artists of the period, Jewish artists who created art with Jewish subjects, Italian Futurism and its influence on Berlin, the café scene/Der Sturm, a smattering of German theater and film, and finally, post WWI art.

Despite its efforts to examine all aspects of the cultural explosion in Berlin, The Jewish Museum spread itself a bit too thinly. Viewers would happily welcome a more in-depth look at the development of painting and sculpture, rather than seeing everything all rolled into one. The viewer has barely grasped the changing nature of painting and all its influences when suddenly she is thrown into a discussion of film and theater. Despite the cornucopia effect, the film and theater section does contain some marvelous items. Set designs by Edvard Munch for Ibsen's "Ghost" are quite remarkable, while it is also interesting to see excerpts of works by film director Ernst Lubitsch, who later made it to Hollywood.

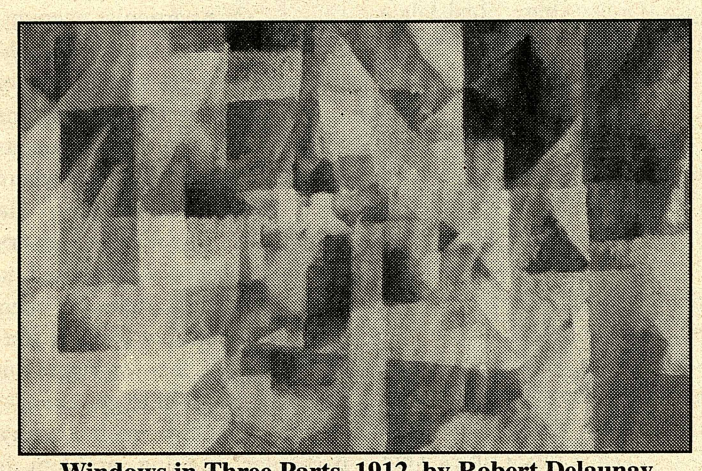
At the entrance to the exhibit, visitors are greeted by miniature photos of the most influential Jews of the Berlin art world accompanied by brief biographies. Viewers will continue to see these names throughout the exhibit.

The placement of the traditional portrait of Kaiser Wilhelm II (a pompous ruler as well as the owner of 600 uniforms) at the beginning of the exhibit, helps the viewer understand the nature of art at the beginning of the 20th century. The Kaiser, who opposed modernist trends with a passion, limited Jewish involvement in public spheres. It was with the Weimar Republic following the Kaiser's exile that Jews were able to become culturally integrated into German society. Jews were still, however, not allowed completely into every part of society. As result, they found their places in the less traditional parts of city life. The international aspects of Jewish family life also contributed to Jewish assistance in the development of modernism.



The City [Die Stadt], 1913, by Jakob Steinhardt

Though it is remarkable that the museum is able to display famous works by Kandinsky, Delaunay, Leger, and others, the true gem of the exhibit lies in the work of the Jewish artists Lesser Ury, Jakob Steinhardt, Richard Janthur, and Ludwig Meidner. The last three are often associated with Die Pathetiker, a movement that explored the mystical states of the prophets. Their exploration of Jewish themes and the emotion thereof is not only poignant but also well executed.



Windows in Three Parts, 1912, by Robert Delaunay

Ury, however, steals the show. Numerous works my him are on display- ranging from vibrant landscapes to potent portrayals of Jewish plight in the Diaspora. Particularly appealing is a preparatory sketch he created for his final composition of Jerusalem. Four figures fill the composition, a charcoal drawing. One figure, with her head resting on her palm, sits before us on a bench with her bare feet exposed. On her left sits a cloaked figure, whose face we cannot see- nor do we need to. Mixed into these two figures are a boy and his mother. The boy looks up at his mother in a questioning tone, while the outstretched palm of the cloaked figure reaches out to the boy. The essence of the Jewish desolation and despair is in this painting. Ury's Jeremiah is another dramatic piece that explores Jewish themes that echo similar works by Rembrandt. Ury's landscapes also capture a certain dramatic feel. Placed in the corner of the second room, the viewer's eye is caught by the dark compositions of greens and blacks, spotlighted by bright greens and yellows that pop out like day in the night.

Opposition to the cultural conservatism of the Kaiser is clearly explained in the exhibi-

*see **Berlin**, page 20*

Kadosh: Anti-haredi Propaganda

Simone Rosenzweig
Cultural Arts Editor

Kadosh", the controversial Israeli film directed by Amos Gitai, may possibly contain aspects of cinematic value. However, the film as a whole is so infuriating that they are quite likely to go unnoticed. Kadosh tells the story of two women living in the Haredi enclave of Mea Shearim. Unfortunately, both have tragic lives. One of the women has been happily married to a man she loves for ten years, yet because they don't have children, her husband is pressured by his rabbi to divorce her. The other woman will soon, reluctantly, marry an "appropriate" husband, although she is in love with someone else.

From this gloomy premise Gitai proceeds to ignore any positive aspects of the Haredi community and highlights every possible negative quality he can find. Some of his inconsistencies can be justified in the name of artistic license, but most have no excuse. In the opening scene a man is seen praying, and a few of the morning blessings are omitted so that the audience clearly hears the blessing, "for having not created me a woman." If Gitai was trying to make a point with this, it is understandable that he did not want to make the audience sit through the entire prayer session just to hear one blessing. This was one of the few instances where Gitai's selective editing may be justified. From this point on, the film is more propaganda than art.

Gitai even overlooks glaring inconsistencies in order to promote his biased agenda. One of the women complains about having to cut her hair once she is married, while the very woman she is complaining to, a married woman herself, had longer hair than most of the women in the theater. Gitai seems to think that it is all right for this woman to keep her hair long, because she is the main focus of the film, so of course she must look attractive for the audience, but the other woman is forced to cut her hair so that Gitai can put down the Haredim once again. How convenient!

Some of Gitai's attacks may have factual basis, but many are inaccurate, and the justified ones are not balanced with any positive portrayals. Even the wedding scene, which should be joyous, is drained of all happiness and made to look like a funeral. All the characters in the film lose whatever personality they may have and become caricatures, their lines designed not to express who they are or how they feel, but to convey Gitai's political agenda.

"Kadosh" is a mean-spirited movie. Parts of it were boring, some scenes dragged, and the ending was underdeveloped and rather ill-conceived. My main complaint against the movie is that if one wants to make a protest movie, it should at least be done right. "Kadosh" is both inconsistent and unfair. There are ways to criticize the negative aspects of a society without ignoring the good. Gitai bends over backwards to portray Haredi life as a terrible one for women. "Kadosh" is virulent anti-Haredi propaganda, and although it can be found in the foreign film sections of video stores, you probably don't want to rent it.

Berlin

continued from page 19

tion by the exploration of The Berlin Secession, spearheaded by Max Liberman, who became the movement's president. The Berlin Secession was spurred by the rejection of Walter Leistikow's Grunwald Lake by The Association of Berlin Artists. The oil on canvas painting was rejected for purely political reasons: to ridicule the leaders of modernism.

Also on exhibition are works by Max Lieberman, whose highly visible brushstrokes create an emotional appeal. The thick impasto of his representation of the Jewish quarter in Amsterdam is quite remarkable. It is interesting from a secular standpoint that Leiberman never painted works of German-Jewish subjects, only foreign Jewish ones.

We are also introduced to the Der Sturm (The Storm) Journal, an avant-garde publication founded by Herwarth Walden (interestingly, formerly known as Georg Lewin), which became by far the most consequential art and literature magazine. Dur Sturm was responsible for publicizing much Expressionist and Futurist art. Yellowing copies of Der Sturm are on display in glass cases, giving the viewer a full taste of the café/salon life. Artwork that was once on view in the Sturm Gallery is now exhibited here. The catalogs from the gallery's exhibits are also on display.

The Futurist section is quite complete with works by varying artists. Dynamism of Dog on a Leash, by Giacomo Balla, captures the changing pace of society and art at the time. Accompanied by other famous Futurists, The Jewish Museum manages to put together an impressive collection of Futurist works, even though several of these artists are not Jewish. The museum succeeds in giving a slice of the changing Berlin life through the inclusion of varying artists from different movements.

The exhibition flows from room to room, partially due to the spaces left in the walls that let viewers peek out at the next space ahead. The special design of the final room, which displays the post WWI artwork, holds particular meaning. The left exhibition wall, of black velvet, inches further and further in toward the exit, alluding to the coming disaster, where the photo of a man bearing Hitler's poster is the last item viewers see.

Eighty thousand Jews helped advance the cultural explosion that struck nearly 2 million people on the streets of Berlin at the turn of the century. The Jewish Museum explores those changes and examines the Jewish influences in context, without ignoring the dark raincloud of Holocaust above. With posters from kiosks from the streets of Berlin, theater posters from modernist drama, painting, sculpture, film and more, Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918 captures Berlin at its quintessential moment of change.

The Jewish Museum is open Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs, from 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and on Tues. till 8 p.m. The Museum is closed on Fridays. Tickets are $8.00 for adults, $5.50 for students and senior citizens.

Safir

continued from page 1

individual entrepreneurs. The problems within the Jewish community are not increasing, but there are incidents that do occur, he said.

Safir stated 80% of all crime is drug-related, and in New York City alone there is a "bottom up, top down" crusade on drug traffickers and users by performing sting and reverse sting operations, but never "drug sweeps," where scores of drug users are arrested en masse on petty charges. "The federal government does not solve the problem, but [the NYPD] will have an effect on the federal drug problem over time," Safir remarked. To discourage the use of drugs among young people, Safir has implemented the largest Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program to date, training over 220,000 students.

Domestic violence and rape are also problems that are not isolated to certain communities, Safir stated. He noted there is a "high incidence of domestic violence" occurring in Jewish, Arab, black and white communities and other communities, but these crimes are often hard to track, as many are unreported.

While rape crimes went down 17% overall, there has been an overall reduction in 'stranger rape' but an increase in (reported) cases of 'acquaintance rape.' "This increase is good because [acquaintance rape] is the most underreported crime in America," Safir stated emphatically. "It tells me people have more confidence in the system." He added that the NYPD has community officers who arrange programs to educate local residents about domestic violence, rape, and other underreported problems, as well as a special victims squad for such crimes.

Safir, now under heavy scrutiny along with Mayor Giuliani from local and national media on the latest incident of alleged police brutality among the NYPD, spoke candidly and knowledgeably on popular law enforcement issues affecting New York City and the Jewish community.

"We try to treat [the NYPD] like a business, where everyone fits into jobs they are good at…and where we look at the crime rate and if it is going up or down more than how many arrests take place," Safir said. "We want police officers to be accountable for their actions. Out of six million contacts with the public, the press characterize two [Diallo and Louima] as serious incidents. We want people to know we are not a racist police force," he said.

One particular accountability program is the much-praised Compstat system. Under Compstat, the NYPD assigns officers different city precincts in order for them to track where every crime takes place. "In Compstat meetings, every assigned officer is supposed to show how the crime [in their area] is going down," Safir stated. "If it's not, then we figure out how we can get it to go down."

One city precinct with a particular ongoing problem is local city precinct 13, which encompasses much of the Midtown Campus, although it is often regarded as one of the most crime-free neighborhoods in Manhattan. Several prostitution ring members occupying the Midtown Campus area along Lexington Avenue between 34th and 29th streets were arrested within the past two weeks in an attempt to crack down on the increasingly apparent prostitution problem in the area. These arrests came days after SCW students present at the press conference informed Police Commissioner Howard Safir at the JCRC student leadership press conference about the problem.

Lieutenant Chris Rising of the Office of Communications in Police Plaza handled the complaint and "put a call in immediately" to the 13th Police Precinct Station, which covers Lexington Avenue around the Midtown Campus. Lt. Rising, who said he was unsure if the complaints were directly related to the increased arrests noted that "these problems take a little bit longer to resolve than a few weeks" as the local prostitution ring is not "an overnight development."

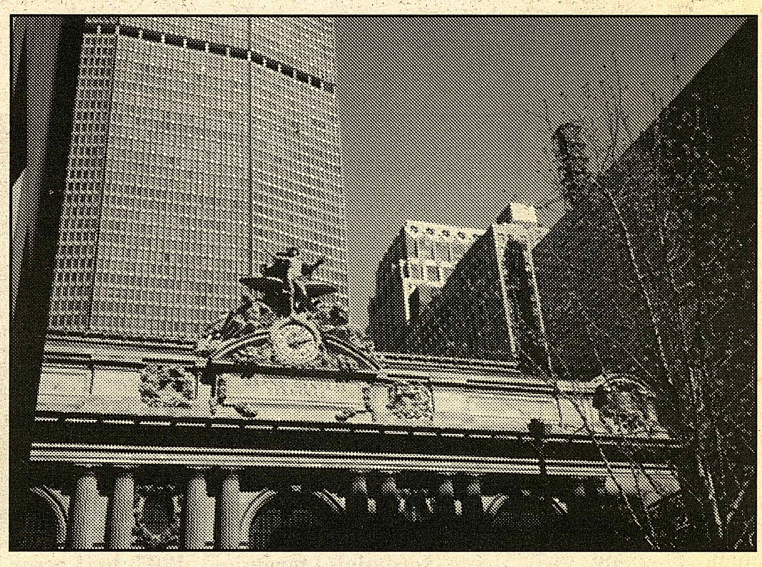
Lieutenant Nadel, liaison between Police Plaza and the JCRC, remembers when he used to work in the local 13th precinct during the midnight shift. "This is an ongoing problem," he stated. "This particular ring has been in this area in some form for more than 20 years. It's easy to simply arrest prostitutes because they just get taken downtown where they pay a fine. Its much harder to infiltrate the ring and imprison the leaders."

The March 7th student leadership program organized by the JCRC was an opportunity for local Jewish student leaders to see and hear about the workings of Police Plaza from the Commissioner himself, Howard Safir. The JCRC student leadership program has existed for two years as an opportunity for college student leaders to see "a world they do not usually get entrée into," stated JCRC Director of Jewish Communal Affairs Phil Abramowitz. "Diallo, the riots…all affect the Jewish community. They are a very vital part of life in New York."

Grand Central Station

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG
Cultural Arts Editor

If you find yourself bored and broke on a Wednesday or Friday at 12:30pm you can head up Park Avenue to 42nd Street, where the Business Improvement District sponsors free tours of Grand Central Terminal. The tours are interesting, though a little long. Full of general New York history, their main focus is the history and facts about Grand Central Terminal. (Terminal, not Station, because, as the tours point out, Grand Central Station is the post office attached to the train terminal).

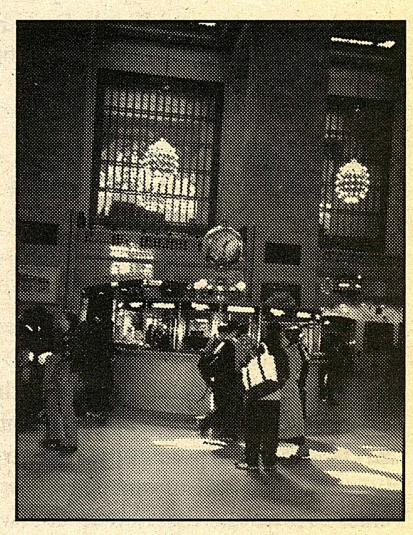


Grand Central was first built when New York City ended at 28th Street and the land around what is now the terminal was a goat farm. It began as a depot for steam trains. After an ugly crash in which many people died, steam trains were outlawed, the railroad was introduced, and Grand Central was born. Its design is modeled after buildings in Paris. According to the tour guide, the United States spent half its life pretending it was Europe.

Like buildings in ancient Europe, Grand Central was designed to elevate people physically, spiritually, and mentally. The elevation is distinctly American. The arches above the famous clock resemble gateways in ancient Rome, but unlike those in Rome these arches are all of equal height due to the American belief in equality.

The architects thought that almost everyone knew mythology and would be familiar with Mercury, the god of transportation, who watches over the clock. Next time you travel there, look up, because the night sky painted on the ceiling inside serves a similar purpose.

The tour guides act out a lot of the history and encourage audience participation, which makes the tours more entertaining. The tours meet at the Philip Morris building across the street from the station and last about an hour and a half.



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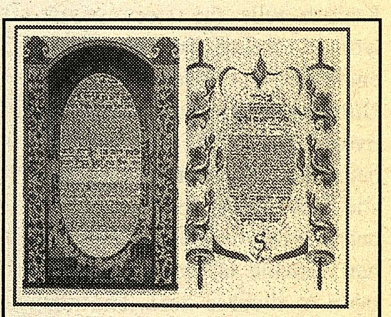
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clubs & events

Jewish Life Around The World

DEEDEE LAX
Staff Writer

On March 8, the Office of International Student Advisement held the first "Jewish Life Around the World" dinner in an effort to integrate the international students with American students. The Student Services - and Stern College for Women Student Council-sponsored event proved to be successful as participants listened attentively to personal accounts from foreign students, who shared about their unique cultures.

"It taught all those who attended, that each of us is different in our own way and we should respect those differences," comments April Simon, Stern College for Women Student Council President.

The lecture was designed to break down the cultural barriers that often inhibit foreign students from mingling outside their crowd of friends. Marga Marx, International Student Advisor, reported that the most difficult obstacle for international students is not knowing the English language, which makes it difficult for them to build relationships with outside students. The goal of the dinner was to "have American students meet foreign students and have them understand their reasons for coming here," adds Marx.

The speakers included: Saritt Back from Montery, Mexico; Aliza Lichtenstein, a native of Johanesburg, South Africa; Olga Pantukhova originally of St Petersburg, Russia; and Sarah Wizman from Casablanca, Moracco.

The background of the speakers varied tremendously, from Wizman who attended an Orthodox girls' school in a Jewish community with a population of 3,000, to Pantukhova, who grew up in an environment where "Jewishness" was considered a nationality and not a religion.

"I didn't feel that much of a gap - just the natural gap," said Pantukhova about her adjustment to SCW. However, for many foreign students, like Wizman, who referred to Marx as her "wailing wall," the process of adapting to New York City life was not quite that easy - but eventually achieved.

"Diversity makes the beauty of humanity," emphasized Wizman. "It's really true when I think about it."

Farbrengen:
A Chabad Club Sponsored Event

MARINA STOLERMAN
Staff Writer

March 14, Zayin Adar Bet, might have seemed like an ordinary day, running between buildings or to classes. But something uniquely special occurred on that day, a farbrengen, the first in recent SCW history. A farbrengen is a chassidic gathering resembling a tisch or kumzits. Sponsored by the Chabad Club, the farbrengen managed to attract about fifty students who wandered in and out throughout the evening.

The farbrengen took place in the Schottenstein Shul. Couch pillows were sprawled on the floor in an imperfect circle and the lights were dimmed. A variety of food, from pizza to carrots and cookies, were passed from hand to hand evoking comfort and unity. The strong rhythm of bongos blended with soft, guitar strumming in a melodic whirl, and steadily voices joined in, singing familiar Hebrew words. But this was more than just some college slumber party. True to its nature, this farbrengen carried an almost tangible spiritual force, sparked mainly by incredible stories of holy tzaddikim.

A special guest, guitarist/vocalist of the all female group "The Light Peddlers Band", related a mind-boggling tale involving a Ger chassid in Bangledesh (of all places) and Rabbi Menachem Mendel Shneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe of our era. Orly Elisha, one of the organizers of the farbrengen and the co-president of the Chabad Club, told a powerful and animated story about Rabbi Isroel Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chasidism.

The inspiration of the story was in turn continued by more singing and swaying to the music. What was particularly moving was seeing the rich diversity of young women visibly affected by what they were hearing.

Some of those students might have been reluctant to attend an evening shiur in a classroom environment with its hard chairs and intense light, explained the event organizers. That is precisely why the farbrengen should be viewed with importance. It brought together students of different religious and social backgrounds under the auspices of sheer spiritual elation. Many voiced not just their song, but also their heartfelt wish to see more of this kind of gathering.

"The time I spent at the farbrengen was so uplifting," commented Esther Beyderman, SCW freshman. I really hope we have more of them."

Riding for Credit

RIVKI BLECH
Staff Writer

When leafing through the SCW course catalog for the Fall 2000 semester, Stern students may find more than the usual basketball, yoga, folk dance and other such physical education courses. Students should be on the lookout for the possibility of a new course: horseriding. Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics and Physical Education, is in the process of investigating and formulating a proposal to make this happen. "The proposal will be, in some form or another, to offer an equestrian experience that will meet the requirements for physical education," says Dr. Zerneck.

The class will meet once a week for an hour and a half, and will be a combination of riding and instruction in stable management. The class will take place at the Claremont Riding Academy located in Upper Manhattan on West 89th Street, with transportation provided by SCW. Although the school will subsidize this program, there will also be a fee for the course because "you need to rent horses for every class and pay for instruction," remarks Dr. Zerneck.

These plans are only tentative, as Dr. Zerneck is still exploring the idea at this time and cannot give a guarantee that it will come to fruition. It must be approved by various committees, and finances must also be worked out, he explains. "I think it's a nice idea because it will allow us to expand the physical education programs which are limited because of our facilities," he comments.

Chaya Aspir, SCW junior and president of the equestrian club, spearheaded the plans to make horseback riding a gym class for next year. "The Equestrian Club members wanted to get credit for it, understandably because it's very strenuous physical activity," says Aspir. " It's not just sitting on a horse and walking around. The only way to get credit for it is if it's a physical education class." SCW currently has an eight member Equestrian Club that will not receive credit for their riding activities this year.

Aspir approached Dr. Zerneck with the idea after having done Internet research, to compile lists of the many other colleges that have equestrian teams and to obtain an explanatory letter from the club's riding instructor. She says that Dr. Zerneck has been extremely helpful. The club is also working to eventually become an equestrian team, which would enable them to compete with teams from other universities. "It was hard work to get all of this started," says Aspir, "but as of now, it was all worth it."

Shoshana Stein, SCW sophomore and member of the Equestrian Club, says she is learning a lot from attending the club's riding lessons and believes that it should be an accredited gym course. "It's physical education and it's an activity," Stein replies. She believes there is a demand for an equestrian physical education course because students are already taking horseback riding lessons outside of Stern.

Although some students are interested, they are also deterred by having to field extra costs in order to take the course. Rachel Schneider, an SCW senior, says horseback-riding sounds like it would be fun and she would consider taking the course if it fit into her schedule. However, "I don't like the fact that I would have to pay extra for it," she says.

Arona Schneider, an SCW junior, shares similar sentiments and says that the idea is great and seems interesting, but the added time involved due to transportation, as well as the costs, are inhibiting factors. "With such a high tuition, paying extra is pointless," she says. "Why should I pay for a gym if I can take a different one for free?"

Rebecca Kleinman, a SCW sophomore, has a drastically different perspective. "I think horseback riding is halachically inappropriate because of pikuach nefesh," she says.

However, enthusiasm still remains on campus despite a few oppositions. Lana Eidelman, SCW junior, is looking forward to the potential course and hopes to add it to her schedule. "I've always wanted to take horseback riding lessons so I would definitely consider it," says Eidelman.

The Yeshiva University History Journal is accepting submissions for its inaugural volume. For further information, contact Avi Helfand at helfand@ymail.yu.edu

on campus

What Primary Election?

MICHELLE FOGEL
Calendar Editor

Political apathy reared its ugly head on the Midtown campus last month when the New York state primary voting day, 'Super Tuesday' March 7th, went virtually unnoticed among SCW students. Whether they didn't care enough, didn't know enough about the election, or couldn't get to their voting district on a school day, the majority of SCW students chose not to exercise their right in the outcome of the U.S. presidential primary race.

"I feel that I don't know enough about the candidates to make an educated decision," said Ruchie Morgan, SCW freshman, "but I am very interested in the idea of voting, making my vote count."

"No one knows what's going on [in politics] at Stern," remarked Suri Alpert, SCW junior. "It's not that students here don't care enough, it's that they are unaware of what is going on in the outside world. It would be pointless for them to vote because they have no idea what is going on."

Lisa Younger, SCW 2001, noted that while students may not know enough about politics from political science classes or contact with the outside world, they do not make the effort to educate themselves in other, more informal ways. "How many people in Stern get the New York Times or have access to CNN?" she noted.

Other students feel their career as college students doesn't allow them to physically travel to their voting district. Chana Rosenblatt, an SCW junior, is registered to vote in Brooklyn, and would have to travel just to cast her ballot. "It's just too hard to do on a school day when you're in college," she said, "and the school doesn't give any time off to do it either."

While many students did not vote or even bother to register for the primaries, Rosenblatt, an avid follower of politics, wished that she could have had the time to vote on March 7th without completely disrupting her school schedule. "I think that in Stern, and within the whole orthodox Jewish community, many people feel voting is not important enough to them because it doesn't have to do with religion or their lives as Jews," she stated.

Shayna Lerner, SCW 2000, confessed that while she does not keep up with politics all the time, she felt is was important for her to voice her opinion at the polls on 'Super Tuesday'. "It was a great feeling [to vote]," she remarked. "You get a sense that you're a part of something much greater than yourself."

In fact, one of the main qualifications Lerner looked for in the candidates before she voted in the primaries was a leader who would be a friend to the Jewish community and Israel. She decided to vote for Gore because she felt he had more concern for Israel's future than the other candidates. "These are issues that should be important to us as Jews," she continued.

SCW senior, Rebecca Feldman, registered to vote in her home state of New Jersey but could not vote for her candidate of choice, John McCain, in the primaries. McCain, who dropped out of the race before New Jersey's primary, had many qualities that appealed to Feldman as a Jew. "He was pro-Israel, pro-life, and never compromised his integrity," she said.

Golda Fleischmann, SCW junior and President of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society, voted in the primaries last month but says that many other SCW students who didn't vote or register yet are simply not interested in the election or politics. She said the voter registration drive, a school-wide campaign to get students registered to vote in time for the general election in November, will begin next week at Stern.

"Hopefully, it will spark interest and make students more aware of the election," she remarked. "As Jewish women, its important for us to express our beliefs and promote the ideas we feel are most important to us."

SCWSC AND YCSC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS AND THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF CIRCUS 2000.

Elections

continued from page 1

leadership experience."

Most of the candidates stood on the podium wanting to get involved and in the hope that in turn they would get others involved.

"I feel more involved - I want to become even more involved and feel more a part of the school," said Rabinowitz. An idea to get students more involved in school activities included combining two popular things: food and shiurim.

Most of the spectators of this event feel that there is much to be desired in respect to the school spirit of the SCW students, or lack there of. "I think this rally is a positive step because we can see what areas Stern needs to focus on- school spirit!" said Orly Elisha, an SCW Sophomore.

An SCW student who prefers to remain anonymous exclaimed, "Some people worked really hard for this presentation and most did not. This just shows how hard they will be willing to work for the student body!"

One of the candidates who also insisted on her anonymity said, "I think the whole thing is pathetic. The only people here were friends of the candidates. I didn't need to make a speech because nobody was even here to hear it!"

In the midst of all the

continued on page 23

Harris

continued from page 1

I have been there."

"Being a financial aid officer involves listening to a lot of tzores [hardships] from students and parents." People need help, they are unhappy, that's why they come to financial aid," said Harris. "After years of listening to this unhappiness, I decided I was unhappy too."

Harris explained that being a financial aid officer is a very rewarding, yet taxing job. "It's very gratifying to see students [at YU] go on to do wonderful things," he remarked. "It makes me feel like I had a part in their education. Over the years, I have probably helped several thousand…but it begins to wear down [after awhile]."

Unlike many of the other administrators who have resigned this year yet are staying until the end of the semester, Harris's resignation was abrupt, prompting much puzzlement. "I couldn't continue on right now, that's why [my leave] was abrupt," he said. "I hate long good-byes-if they are quick, it is much easier for me. I also felt like I needed a break right away."

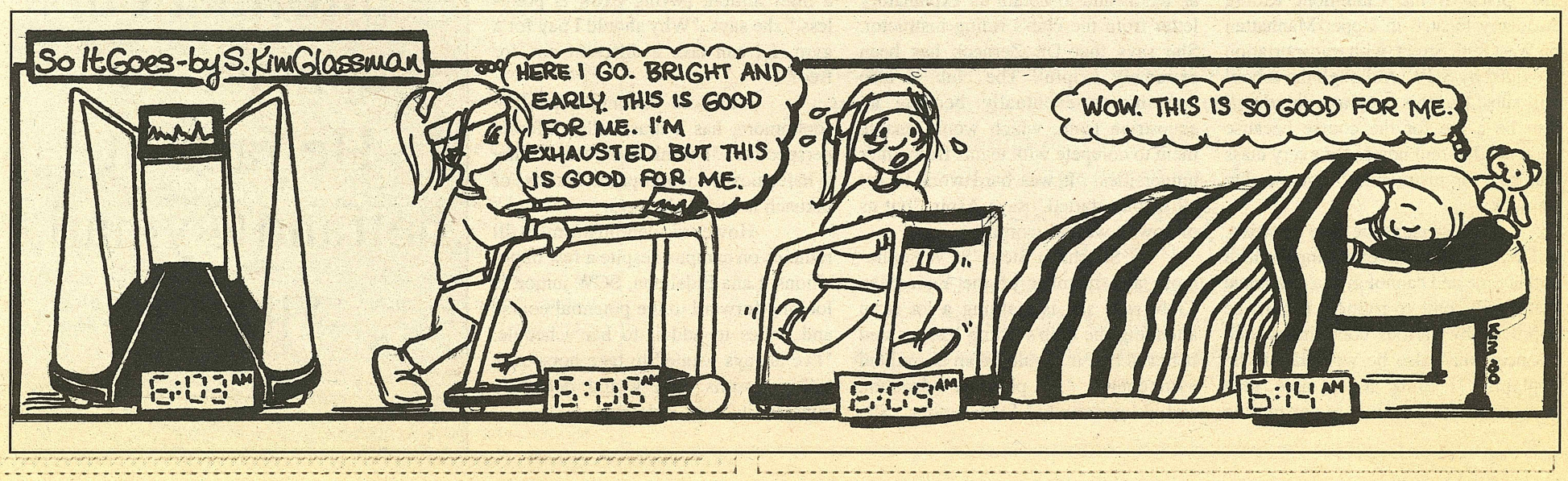
"I hope I left with a positive impact, not just the shock impact of my leaving," Harris continued. He said the idea of leaving had "been brewing in my mind for a few months," and that there was no specific incident that triggered him to consider resigning. "It was just a buildup of things," he stated.

Dean Bacon said she enjoyed working with Harris and noted that his position would be "a trickier position to fill." "He had a certain amount of authority within the system and could often make decisions on the spot, which was very helpful. It put people's minds at ease," she remarked.

Harris said he hopes to start working after Pesach vacation. "For the first time in twenty-two years, I am preparing a resume," he said. He said he is not looking to go into the same field, but is interested in other areas, perhaps as a CEO or CFO of a company.

Director of Enrollment Management John B. Fisher, who oversees the Offices of Admissions and the Registrar, and Student Finances and Financial Aid, has been working with Harris for two years and stated that they were on "excellent terms. I've worked with many people, and he's among the best." Fisher said that it is now a difficult time at YU due to the abnormal amount of resignations. "There has been an awful lot of turnover at YU, more than usual, and it certainly has an effect," he stated.

He also noted that the many vacancies left at YU right now often force other staff members to cancel their personal plans to do the extra work. "While we have lost people, I am confident because…there are a lot of great people still here."



$FINANCIAL AID$

Apply Now for Financial Aid

Applications for financial aid for the academic year 2000 - 2001 are available in either paper or electronic versions and should be filed by May 9.

In order to apply for financial aid, whether from federal or university sources, students and parents must complete the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA). Student Finances strongly requests that applicants use financial information from a COMPLETED 1999 1040 form only. The FAFSA is the only form that is required to apply for aid. New York State residents will be sent a TAP application by NYS HESC based upon filing the FAFSA.

Everyone is urged to complete the FAFSA through the web. Renewal and original FAFSA forms may be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. One may also apply for a PIN number for future use.

The FAFSA is the document that collects information regarding family finances and is used to compute eligibility for all aid programs. Yeshiva University's Federal School Code Number is "002903" and MUST be listed in Step 6. The results of the FAFSA (SAR) will be electronically transmitted to YU by the federal processor if our Federal School Code Number has been listed.

PLEASE READ THE INSTUCTIONS CAREFULLY in completing all forms. Errors and missing information will result in delayed processing and decreased availability of aid. Be sure to use the student's full legal name in completing all applications.

Student Finances is aware of the complexities of requesting financial aid and stands ready to assist parents and students. Please do not hesitate to consult with them if you have any questions at 212-960-5269 option 1. They will be open by appointment to assist people in completing the FAFSA on Sunday, April 9 and May 7, 2000. Call Rosa Harmon at 212-960-5269x5276 for an appointment.

Any student with an outstanding tuition and fees balance will not be permitted to register for the summer or fall 2000 semester. Students with questions regarding their outstanding balance should contact the Office of Student Accounts at (212) 960-5269 (option 2).

In addition, Ms. Farrior or Ms. Lagares, from the Office of Student Accounts will be available at Stern College, Room 250, the following days to assist you.

May 2, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
May 3, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
May 4, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
May 8, 2000 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
May 9, 2000 9:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
May 10, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
May 11, 2000 9:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Elections

continued from page 22

chaos, when a general question was asked about what the objectives of each candidate are, one student stepped up to the microphone and said, "We were never told what we are supposed to be doing, so how are we supposed to know?"

On a more positive note, April Simon, SCWSC President, says, "I was very happy with the turn-out! It seems to me that there is an interest. I am confident about next year's board, and hope that the work that we started this year will continue."

Check out the Observer Website at www.yuobserver.com

Talmud

continued from page 24

areas of Jewish History and Jewish thought, but the majority of the day will be spent in Gemara seder and shiur.

This program is "an opportunity for women to continue their study of Talmud and Talmudic literature beyond the college years," says Rabbi Norman Lamm, Yeshiva University President.

The student reactions are diverse, characteristic of the orthodox world's view of women's learning. Shira Graber, SCW senior, is pleased about the program. "This will open people's minds that women are just as capable of intensive learning, even on a full time basis," remarks Graber. Dena Freundlich, an SCW senior who will be attending the program, hopes to see the Stern program "grow and develop into a thriving center for women's learning."

Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Professor of Jewish History, chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish studies, and now the director of this program, points out that SCW has six Talmud courses out of eighty, signifying the support for women learning Gemara. "This," says Dr. Kanarfogel, "is not a radical departure or any departure from what we are already doing." The program is not making a statement, rather is merely giving the "elite cadre of women" a chance to learn in an academic program and prepare them as leaders and teachers.

He further emphasized, to counteract the dissenting reactions, that "this is not a kollel. It is not a smicha program. This is an opportunity for a select group of women to pursue their learning." This program will not affect SCW's own Talmud classes, for the same amount of classes will be given every year.

Freundlich's goals are clear. "I want to learn," she says. "That's my main goal. I plan on teaching, and want to become more knowledgeable, but mostly it will be a place to come and sit and learn lishmah."

"This is a positive development in terms of learning. People will always be unhappy, but Stern College does promote women's learning, and I think that this program is needed," says Rabbi Kahn, who is perhaps most excited.

"[The] learning possesses incredible power to increase women's commitment to and passion for halakha and Torah," adds Freundlich, "and I'm thrilled that we will finally have the opportunity to engage in high level learning."

Gold Steps Down

continued from page 1

cult to know professionally when to move on but she is now looking for career opportunities in human resources or staff training and development.

Gold's responsibilities as Resident Supervisor include organizing all the housing placement, counseling SCW students, and hiring and supervising a staff of resident advisors.

She explained that it was difficult to motivate herself to resign because she grew up in Yeshiva University, having attended Central High School, SCW, and Wurzweiler School of Social Work, where she received her masters. Before Gold's appointment as Residence Supervisor she acted as a therapist for Federation Employment and Guidance Services (FEGS), where she counseled the mentally ill.

"[I am] glad and sad all rolled into one," jokes Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students. "But I'm very happy for her that she is doing what is good for her."

Braun demonstrates confidence in appointing a new residence supervisor, explaining that Student Services has always been successful in finding a replacement when there is a change in staff. She added that it is easier to hire and train a new staff member when the previous employee leaves on good terms. Gold succeeded Alexis Levitt and Deborah Kenny.

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman has also recently resigned, which now leaves two open positions in the Office of Student Services.

"I think it will leave a void in terms of her," comments Nulman. "She is a nice person, who has done a wonderful job." However, Nulman did not feel his absence would leave a gap in the Office of Student Services.

Gold leaves the SCW students with the following advice: "They should know they have the right to advocate for themselves to make their school better..."

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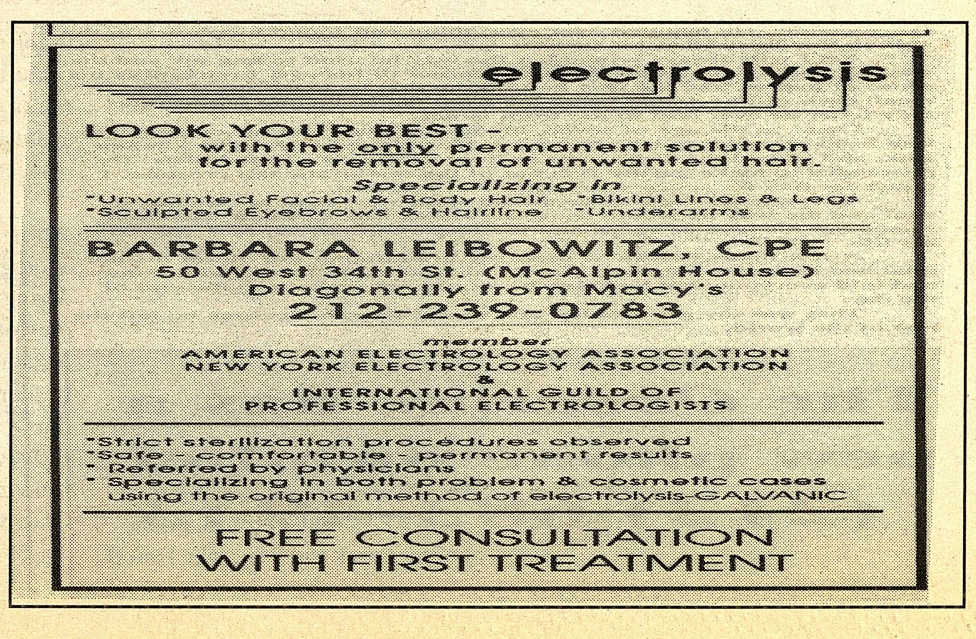


on campus

Theater or Cultural Center?

SCDS calls new theater "The Million Dollar Mess"

MICHELLE FOGEL
Calendar Editor

The much-anticipated opening of the new Stern College Cultural Center at 239 East 34th Street will be opening in time for the Dramatic Society's spring production, "Hillstone," on April 9th,with less than enthusiastic responses from the Dramatic Society.

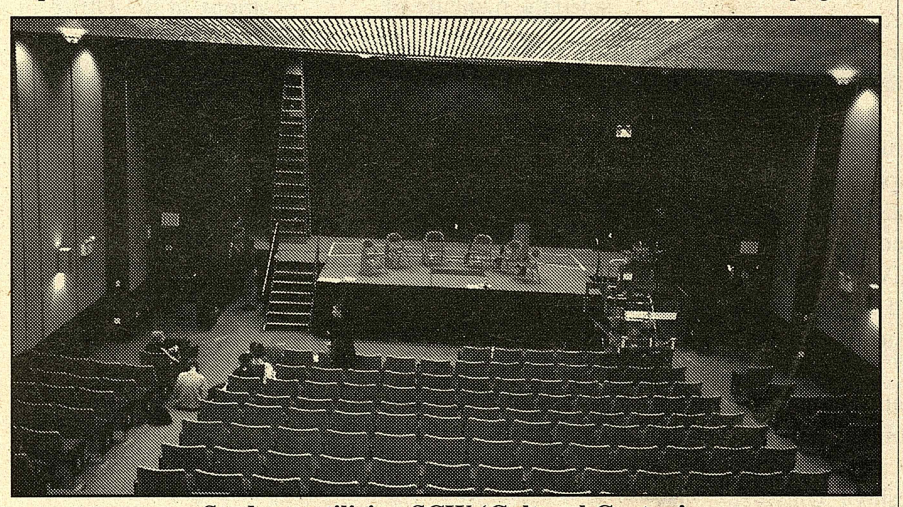
"The new building is supposed to be a 'Cultural Center' for the arts- including the dramatic arts," said Celia Sporer, SCDS President, "but it's simply not equipped for use as a dramatic theater yet. It's an auditorium, not a theater."

Currently, the Cultural Center, which was converted from a movie theater to an auditorium only within the past several months, is equipped with theater-style seating for 300, high ceilings, sound-absorbing walls, a rented stage, and movie theater-style lighting and sound systems. While these facilities are acceptable for lectures and guest speakers, Sporer explains that it is hard to utilize them for dramatic production purposes.

"One of the biggest problems in the theater is that the fire safety box was placed in such a way on the wall that the stage can never extend as far out as it should without blocking the safety box," noted Sporer. "We are using a makeshift stage now that is never going to look much better because of the way [the fire safety box] is set up."

While Director of Supporting Service Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten was unavailable for comment, his spokeswoman Erin Hill acknowledged the fire safety box is in a certain spot that prevents the stage from extending all the way, but was unsure if it was due to engineering reasons or if it could be moved. Hill stated that overall the school is "all ready for this production" and is "fixing the last of the problems...by trying to make do [with what equipment there is.]"

*see **Theater** page 17*



Students utilizing SCW 'Cultural Center,' 239 East 34th Street

Yeshiva University Introduces Silber Faculty Awards

ADINA LEVINE
News Editor

In the first ever Lilian and William L. Silber Award, SCW students voted Rabbi Aaron Cohen Professor of the Year. In a related election, Stan Watson was chosen as the YC Professor of the Year.

"I was truly surprised that I got the award," remarked Rabbi Cohen. "It was a vote of confidence that a number of students feel that they are gaining from my classes. My teaching is having an impact. That's encouraging."

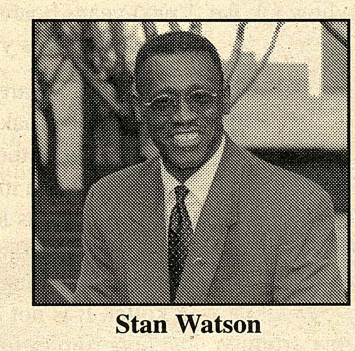
"He's a really good teacher," commented Chedva Adler, an SCW junior. "He truly deserves it."

Rabbi Cohen received his smicha from Yeshiva University. He first taught in SCW part-time in 1997, and this is his second year teaching full time at Stern. Rabbi Cohen will be introducing a new class next semester entitled "Medical issues and Halacha."

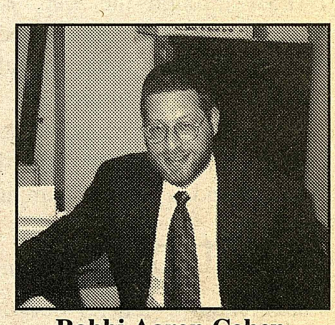
"I personally don't feel that too much significance should be attached to the award," said Rabbi Cohen. "It's not a status of the best teacher, but that a number of students appreciate you."

The Silber Award was initiated this year, and will continue to be an annual award. William Silber is a graduate of YC, and teaches at NYU and SSSB.

The award was elected by students. There were secret ballot nominations for a list of candidates including all full-time faculty. A week later, there was another election for the top five faculty members. There was a tie between Rabbi Berman and Rabbi Cohen, and in a run-off, Rabbi Cohen won.



Stan Watson



Rabbi Aaron Cohen

"I voted for him," Suri Breban, an SCW sophomore said.

However, the entire SCW did not vote. On the contrary, Jacqueline Morse, SCW freshman, said, "Not

*see **Award** page 17*

Papal Visit to Middle East

MERI WEISS
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 20, Pope John Paul II arrived in Amman, Jordan for a seven-day pilgrimage culminating in Jerusalem. In response to this historical visit, SCW students expressed a combination of contempt and admiration.

"I don't think he is sincere," said an SCW sophomore referring to the Pope's peace-making objective for his journey.

Before he departed from the Vatican, the Pope declared as his objective, "above all [it will be] a spiritual pilgrimage", reported EDNTV.

"You must understand where he is coming from," said Miriam Gloger, an SCW senior. "He is the leader of a 2000 year-old institution that has condemned Jews for centuries. The fact that he expressed remorse at past sins committed against the Jews by the church is respectable."

Israeli President Weizman, Prime Minister Barak and Pope John Paul II

Much of the controversy stems from the Pope's failure to apologize for the Vatican's silence during the Holocaust. When the previous pope, Pope Paul VI visited Jordan in 1964, he was conspicuously silent on Holocaust-related issues, thus generating bad feelings. However, the present pope saved Jews in Wadowice, a town near Cracow, during WW II. The pope

*see **Pope** page 17*

New Women's Graduate Learning Program

DEBORAH BIENENFELD
Staff Writer

It is an exciting time at Stern College for Women. The honors program is in full effect, and the new theater is opening. Most significantly, there is a two-year Torah SheBa'al Peh graduate program starting in the fall. Each of the recent implementations shows a stage of development in the college, but the learning program is perhaps the biggest move by YU in recent years.

This is a progressive step, moving positively toward a widespread acceptance of women's learning. Administration and students alike are enthusiastic and optimistic about the program,.

"I think it's great," says Rabbi Moshe Kahn, the main Talmud teacher at SCW and the Talmud teacher in the new program. "In America you don't have any opportunity for women to continue learning on a higher level, and I think there's a need for it."

Between six and ten students will be accepted each year in a competitive admission process. Each student must have completed at least two years of college-level Talmud study and have the skills to approach Talmudic texts. Accepted graduates will receive stipends of $18,000 per year, and upon completion will be awarded a certificate. The program will encompass areas in Talmud and halakha, as well as certain

*see **Talmud** page 23*