

DEAN FRIMER RESIGNS

FACULTY
TURNOVER

The Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

STUDENT'S
TURNOVER

Vol. 11

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1968

No. 1

Decision Prompted Student Regret

Frimer: In Retrospect

How does one presume to evaluate the achievements of a dean after one short year? Changes both in administration and curricula take time. They must run through long channels of formality before they can be put into effect. Yet, there is another form of achievement in a college, an achievement perhaps best expressed as an aura. And Dr. Frimer has done much to enrich the "aura" of Stern College. He has made every attempt to know the girls personally, to speak with them, and to help them carry out any reasonable curriculum changes. Dean Frimer has worked toward a cohesiveness between student and faculty and a human relationship between the two groups. He has given us a greater awareness of and participation in community affairs.

Mishmar

We students have witnessed the advent of such concrete achievements as the Mishmar group. This highly successful and much-needed extracurricular activity integrates classroom study with club-like informal atmosphere. It expands upon classroom study of Chumash and allows the girls to discuss Halachic problems.

Progress

The Scholars' Tribute Evening, which paid homage to three erudite members of our faculty, was a fine gesture proposed by Dr. Frimer. For student convenience, Dean Frimer instituted the post of a fulltime registrar, Rabbi Zev. Our physical facilities were expanded with the acquisition of the annex. The decision was made to limit future enrollment to the number of students graduating or dropping out to maintain the character and quality of our school.

No Hesitation

Specific curricula changes were also carried out. Religious studies and Hebrew requirements for the individual Hebrew levels were altered. Two, excellent courses taught by Rabbi Levine were in-

stituted in this department: Modern Halachic Problems and Modern Jewish Thought.

Changes Planned

But most curriculum changes have only been suggested. They will be instituted next year and are still in the stages of discussion and planning. Each department is revamping its curriculum. (Details on this in the next *Observer*.) The problem of repetitious courses, particularly in the Religious Studies Department, is under discussion. The A-B level problem of an R.S. course with a scope limited by Hebrew knowledge is being worked on. The curriculum committee is planning a major in Jewish studies, a major in American Studies, and possibly a major in the Humanities.

Lasting Influence

It is apparent that with the mysterious workings of protocol we will be feeling the effects of Dr. Frimer's short but profitable time here as Dean in the future. He has made some fine achievements in present curricula and administrative policy as well. But let us stress and remember the attitudinal changes — how Dean Frimer gave of himself to Stern College.

by Edith Rothkopf

Dr. Norman Frimer will leave his post as Dean of Stern College this June and plans to work with the National B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation while continuing his own private studies.

Explains Reasons

Dean Frimer described his reasons for retiring. "The source (of Dr. Frimer reasons for leaving) is not in the institution but in me." Dr. Frimer said that "the Dean's role, especially during this period in Stern College growth, is exploding. Students want more

courses, a greater variety in electives, increased quality as well as quantity."

"The first thirteen years in Stern's life were a foundation time. The next thirteen years will be dialectic between educational consolidation and experimentation. This process requires a consuming proportion of time. There is no time for one's own life... Study, reading, writing and thinking... these are things for which I have a high priority. Consequently, I have made the decision."

Regret Expressed

Dr. Frimer also expressed regret. "I feel sorry though that I am not going to be part of this explosion." The Dean said that he hoped his contributions to Stern would be of use.

"If things go as they are, a Stern College girl will be able to speak with the same amount of pride about her school as a Barnard or Sarah Lawrence girl could... The Stern girl is still unique. Stern College is the only institution of its kind in this country."

New Image

The Dean also spoke with pride about the girls who were entering school. He feels that the new breed of Stern girl will combine

intellectual, social and personal sophistication and religious and moral sophistication... why can't piety and sophistication get together? The role of Stern, the Dean feels, is to help fashion young people who will "face the world with guts."

Future Plans

Dean Frimer expressed thanks to Dr. Belkin for the freedom that he was given and to the faculty, administration and students for the cooperation he was shown.

Dr. Frimer's future plans include working for the national staff of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation as liaison with Education agencies in the area of national importance.

Past Recognition

Dr. Frimer received his ordination from the Hebrew Theological Seminary of Chicago, his B.A. from Illinois Institute of Technology, his Ph.D. from Yeshiva University, and is presently at work on a second Ph. D. in Higher Education at New York University. Dr. Frimer's past positions include Directorships of Hillel Institutes at City College, University of Minnesota, and Metropolitan Regional Director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

Dr. Frimer is married and has three children.



Dr. Norman Frimer
Dean '67-'68

Student Tribute

We note with regret the resignation of Dr. Norman Frimer as Dean of Students. All who have had any contact with him during the past year have noted his great sincerity in coping with and ameliorating some of the abundant problems which beset this institution. His warm personal approach toward the students has indeed been appreciated.

We acknowledge his participation in student organized and sponsored events. In addition to this he has managed to hold his position in the forefront of academia with articles published in *Tradition* and other periodicals of similar stature. He kept in constant touch with campus thought by frequent lectures at various YAVNEH chapters. In this past year we have taken pride in him; we hope that in the future he will take pride in us.

We take this opportunity to wish him success in all his future endeavors.

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Stern Appointments and Resignations

The coming school year will signal a tremendous change in both the religious and secular faculties. The large turn-over in professors and instructors points to a greater academic potential for Stern.

We regret the departure of the following faculty members: Rabbi Dr. Howard Levine, leaving to establish permanent residence in Israel; Rabbi G. Bldstein of the R. S. Department; Dr. E. Ostrau, professor of Political Science;

Drs. L. Kerber and J. Levey of the history Department; Dr. Phyllis Kahn, professor of Biology; Mrs. S. Saldlow and Dr. J. Ross of the English department, who are taking leaves of absence; Dr. Fred Goodman, professor of Biology, who will be on sabbatical.

We note with pleasure the new additions to the faculty; Rabbi Dr. M. Havazelet, returning from a term's sabbatical; Rabbi Dr. Bleich, to the R.S. Department; Dr. J. Dunner, professor of Political Science; Dr. Carol Gruber, Assistant History professor; Rose Chan, History Instructor; Drs. Annette Thau and Carol Silver, Assistant Professors of English; J. Cohen, instructor in English; Leiba Brown, instructor in Sociology; Drs. I. Goldring and Betty Groszoff, Associate Professors of Biology.

We wish the departing faculty members success in their future endeavors and welcome the new members to the ranks of Stern College.

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MIRSKY APPOINTED DEAN

Pres. Belkin Speaks *New Post a Challenge*

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. David Mirsky as Dean of Stern College for Women.

A Musmach of the Yeshiva, a graduate of Yeshiva College, a scholar and authority in his chosen specialty of literature, and Dean of Admissions for the past five years, Prof. Mirsky is deeply steeped in the rich traditions of Torah, the ideals of Yeshiva University, and the challenges confronting higher education in the days ahead. As a teacher and administrator, Prof. Mirsky has

proven himself able and conscientious, and is widely respected by his students and colleagues for his qualities of heart and mind.

Thirteen years is but a brief moment in the life of an institution, and I am sure that under Dean Mirsky's direction and with the support and assistance of a dedicated and able faculty and inspired students, Stern College for Women will reach still greater heights of accomplishment and service to the American Jewish community and to the nation as a whole."

by Malka Krumbain

Yeshiva University has been a part of Professor David Mirsky's life for over 30 years. His experience at Yeshiva began as a high school student at the Talmudical Academy, and his connection with the university has never been severed. In 1942 Professor Mirsky, who now serves as Dean of Admissions and Professor of English at Yeshiva College, was graduated from both TIM (now Erna Michael College) and Yeshiva College. Three years later he earned his smicha at Riets.

ture, and he has done much work in this specific field. Among his works are the monograph "The Fictive Jew: His Function in English Literature, 1890-1920"; a study of "The Beginnings of Hebrew in the United States"; as well as such articles as "The Jew in Shaw's 'Map and Superman,'" "English Literature in Hebrew

sions, a position he held since 1958, to Dean of Admissions. His knowledge in this area has been transmitted to educators and students alike through both radio and television. More important [to us, at least] is the fact that it was Dean Mirsky's signature that appeared on that vital letter admitting us to Stern College.

Come September, however, our connection with Dean Mirsky will be far stronger than before, and we will get a chance to meet the man behind that signature, for it is then that he will assume the deanship of Stern College.

SC Pres. Message

by Zeida Badner

Dr. Frimer's stay at Stern College has been brief, yet his presence will be felt long after he departs. It is not easy to get to know a dean, but I think I have been privileged to gain Dr. Frimer's friendship through my Student Council position. Going behind the scenes has afforded me the rewarding opportunity of seeing Dr. Frimer in his role as dean.

The office of the dean entails an initial remoteness which must be overcome in order for the dean to have effect on the student body. Dean Frimer has in this brief year given an impetus to the importance of the student in our college. He has encouraged closer student-faculty relations, has striven to develop student responsibility, and above all, has attempted to cultivate student involvement in many areas never before open to us.

Through Student Council, Dr. Frimer manifested an attitude of genuine care and concern for the students. His approach to student demands and his understanding of our needs is new and encouraging to Stern College and has aroused more involvement and dedication on our part. His earnest love for Stern College is felt by nearly all the girls.

While we regret Dr. Frimer's

Yeshiva University welcomes the brief visit of His Eminence, The Rishon Le Zion, Rabbi Yitzchak Nissim, the Chief Rabbi of Israel. Rabbi Nissim will address the entire university community at 8:00 P.M., May 7th in Lampion Auditorium.

departure, we feel grateful to him for having been with us and for having given so much of himself. On behalf of the students I feel honored to thank Dr. Frimer for always making himself available for consultation despite his busy schedule. We encountered many stumbling blocks in our work together, and the means instituted for overcoming them have been important. If this relationship between students and dean is maintained, the influence of Dr. Frimer's tenura will certainly continue to be felt at Stern College.

Interest in Education

Dean Mirsky has had a keen interest in education from the very outset of his career. From 1946-48 he held the position of principal of the Shulamith Midrasa, a Brooklyn high school for girls. During this time he also served as editor of "The Jewish Horizon," a magazine of whose editorial board the Dean is still a member.

When Professor Mirsky received his MA in English literature from Columbia University in 1949, he joined the faculty at Yeshiva University. He was named assistant professor of Hebrew and English literature in 1953, associate professor of English in 1962, and professor of English in 1966.

Author Mirsky

It is understandable that Dean Mirsky's chief interest lies in the Judaic-Hebraic aspect of litera-



Dr. David Mirsky Newly Appointed Dean

Translation," "Thomas Mann and the Joseph Story," and others.

The Dean has also appeared on television, where he hosted a television series on "Minorities in American Literature" and "American Literature—the Voice of Minorities" on two different networks.

New Works

At the present time Professor Mirsky is working on two new presentations. "The New Jew" will show the change of the image of the Jew in literature and a "Developmental Reader of Jewish Literature" will trace key ideas in Judaism through the literature of Jewish authors.

Y.U. Dean Promotion

In 1963 Professor Mirsky was promoted from Director of Admis-

Stern's Challenge

Professor Mirsky looks forward to his new position as an "exciting challenge." His first desire is to learn more about Stern—her faculty, her program, her activities, and above all, her students—in short, all "that gives the school its special character and quality." The dean hopes thereby to strengthen the strong points and eliminate the weak ones in our institution.

In the dean's present capacity, he has maintained his teaching status and hopes to continue to do so. Whether or not he will teach at Stern depends on the curriculum, but he would like to keep at least one course. The dean feels that it is important for the administration to keep in touch with the classroom, besides the fact that he likes to teach.

This interest in education, and specifically, teaching, is evident through Dean Mirsky's activities outside the University. In 1961 he headed the first of three institutes under the National Defense Education Act for high school teachers of Hebrew. The aim of the institute was to upgrade the skills and level of instruction of the Hebrew language, and to introduce new developments and approaches to teaching. The third of these institutes was held in Israel, and enabled the participants in the program to really "live the language."

Achievements

In addition, Professor Mirsky takes a deep interest in the Sura Institute which was founded and led by the dean's late father, Rabbi Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky zt'l. Its chief aim is to encourage research and publication of works reflecting the relationship between Israel and the diaspora. Dean Mirsky is Vice President of Sura, whose Honorary Presidents are Dr. Samuel Belkin in America and President Zalman Shazar in Israel. Rabbi Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky served as President until his recent demise.

Besides the aforementioned, Professor Mirsky is a member of some 20 different associations, boards, and councils. He is a man of great accomplishment, a living example of *Emor me'at v'asseh harbech*.

Hope for Future

When asked about his new position, Dean Mirsky said, "I look forward with great anticipation toward working in Stern College. I hope that Stern will grow and develop in all ways, and I would like to have a part in it. In this I share the hopes of the faculty, the administration, and certainly the students."



"And not other schools have you applied to?"

Stern Comes First

We commend the appointment of Dr. David Mirsky as our new Dean. The possessor of an intimate knowledge of university politics, Dr. Mirsky is a seasoned administrator and a scholar of renown. However, building an institution like ours requires more than administrative skill and academic achievement. It demands patience, understanding, eagerness to learn from everyone, especially one's students, firmness but tenacity, the talent for turning every problem into progress, and, above all, a love of Stern College, for better, so that it shall not be worse. The character traits mentioned above Dr. Mirsky has demonstrated in the past and will surely show in the future. It is the latter that he must scrupulously cultivate. Without compromising on Torah U'Madah, our Dean must put Stern College first; the university administration cares for the university; our administration must care for us. As Dean of Admissions, Dr. Mirsky concerned himself with the entire university; now, as Dean of Stern, he is our guardian and our knight.

Just as Jewish Law stipulates that even the most experienced Torah reader review the portion before reading it to the congregation, so we request that Dr. Mirsky think of Stern today. He can prepare himself now by meeting with student leaders and faculty committees, making through investigations of each department and acquainting himself with the intricacies of Stern policy and tradition. We urge that he be aided in his present duties by his successor to allow him to devote time to Stern.

We look to him for great things: new courses, new majors (Philosophy, Spanish, Hebrew), more R.S., expanded

faculty, stretching our limited facilities and spearheading the acquisition of new ones, encouraging responsible student participation in the College administration . . . These difficult tasks merely headline the long list of essential improvements. Dr. Mirsky's record convinces us that he is, equal to and ready for them.

Dr. Mirsky, welcome to Stern.

The Observer

ACP First Class Rating
The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women
An undergraduate division of Yeshiva University, New York
Published every two weeks.
Printed by Cocco Press

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