

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

STUDENTS POLLED ALL URGE ACTION

A random survey of student opinion about the appearance of the lot and what can be done about it indicates a surprising degree of unanimity with plans for a park. Though the park project was mentioned to none of the interviewees they all suggested it themselves in one form or another.

Carol Jambro, a senior, commented: "I think it (the lot) is disgusting. It ruins the whole atmosphere at Stern because it gives a dirty appearance and is not conducive to eagerness to attend classes. If we can't put a building up, put in some grass and trees and make a place for students to study and perhaps to have lunch. You could even have lectures there."

Athletics at Home

Debbie Album said: "It's a shame and a disgrace. Really it is like looking at the barnyard before you hit the barn. You know what they could do? Throw out the dirty cans and put up a volleyball net and make a recreation area out of it. The girls go to Julia Richman to play now. There is no reason why that lot can't be made to accommodate them."

"You mean the parking lot?" asked Rhona Leskowitz. "If they aren't going to make a school out of it they ought to make a park out of it — you know, with fountains, grass and trees. The girls could have picnics out there and by so doing alleviate the outrageous conditions in the cafeteria."

Members of the faculty and of administration who were interviewed agreed with the park plan on the condition that the construction of a new building had definitely been postponed. Mrs. Tova Lichtenstein felt the park or playground suggestion was an excellent idea that would offer the students a way to show interest in the school and hopefully encourage construction of the new campus.

Assistant Registrar, Rabbi Y. Zev pointed out that all suggestions for the lot depend on final building plans, but if the building were positively put off, he would like to see a sandwich bar out there to relieve cafeteria congestion.

One student who has been active in planning the park had this to say:

"It would be foolish to wait any longer to build the park. Even if plans for the new building did go through, there is so much red tape involved in the decision-making process uptown, we could still get plenty of good use out of the park before they began to act. That lot is just so detractive an element to the appearance of the school, and the park such a creative idea, every day that goes by without a park seems a great waste."

'No Building Now' — YU

Concerned members of the student body devised plans for a small park in the empty lot next to the college building as a creative last resort after repeated disappointments to their hopes for a new building to house classrooms, offices, lecture halls, kitchen and dining hall facilities and a library.

YUPR first announced plans for a \$4.5 million eleven story structure in 1966. However, as Dr. Belkin told student leaders in June 1968, revisions in building plans prompted by faculty complaints caused delay.

By the time the architect's sketches were ready for submission to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, exigencies of the Viet Nam war had frozen government allocations for educational construction. The University was reluctant to proceed while unsure of government support. The Observer published a special issue on proposed immediate building plans in 1966 based on information from a meeting with the President of the University. As time went on it became clear that government funds were to be frozen for a long period.

The college purchased a small police station and revamped it for student use in lieu of a new building.

Amid news of relaxing government curbs on educational expenditures this spring, student leaders dropped plans for the park's construction as University authorities announced that digging would commence in June. When June passed with no signs of construction plans for a park began in earnest. Architects' drawings illustrated a modest low cost recreational area which could afford a place for students to relax or

study whenever the weather permitted.

Subsequently student officials met with Dr. Belkin and the result of their conversation was the announcement in the Sept. 17, 1968 Observer of a groundbreaking ceremony. Further investigation reveals that funds are as yet not cleared and that despite promises by University personnel, Yeshiva will not risk beginning excavation.

Aim of Park

The park is planned as one feature of a program encouraged by the members of Student Council and other student leaders to improve living and studying conditions for students. All of them are working with the idea of utilizing available facilities to their maximum potential. Student Council President Beverly M. Koval said of the park plan today, "If the new building is not to be an immediate reality, at least let's make use of the facilities at hand."

The purpose of the park is to relieve the physical appearance of the main building area and to afford a place for students, to escape the crowded conditions in the school building.

Alternative to Protest

The park plan is regarded by many as a creative, constructive alternative to student debate and protest over repeated disappointments to hopes for a new building. Student involvement in the actual construction of the park should help to raise morale and encourage school spirit.

The park comes amid efforts to create a visible Student Union building out of the annex on thirty-fifth street between Lexington and Third Avenues which currently houses classrooms, department offices and a cooperative bookstore.

Other planned improvements in existing facilities include rearrangement of lounges in the dormitory building to provide a more leisurely and tasteful area for students to congregate and bring their guests.



Lexington Avenue view of the lot shows weeds and dirty doors.

STERN TOLERANCE ENDS - ACTION BEGINS

To some, an Observer blaring the words "Extra! Extra!" might look familiar. The Observer Board of 1966 had the singular privilege of using it to announce the imminent construction of a new building to house urgently needed classroom facilities.

Subsequent Observers announced it too — each time expecting momentary action. This Observer Board, firmly believing the highest University officials, announced it only a month ago.

Sadly, it soon became apparent that someone was encouraging a credibility gap. Though we begged for total honesty and frankness, instead we were given hopes and dreams labeled as reality.

The public seldom forgives twice. Stern students have been tolerant beyond bounds; another delay and they will rebel.

Therefore, although Dean Mirsky, who has supported our efforts, has succeeded in scheduling a long overdue meeting of the Legal Counsel Mr. Sidney Schutz, President Dr. Belkin, Director of Public Relations Mr. Sam Hartstein, Stern Administration, faculty and student representatives, we cannot wait. Since the results of the meeting on the twenty-fourth will be either a building or a priority park, we must immediately mobilize every facility in anticipation of a park, paid for by University funds, built with University tools and total University cooperation, and constructed by the University student community.

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

Park Key Plans Shown

STERN BUILDS PARK AS CREATIVE PROTEST

The essential features of the park, as seen in the diagram, are an amphitheater, several study cubicles, four lounging patios, numerous benches, picnic tables, "trees," "shrubs," a "pond" and a "stream." The entire park is laid in green "grass" (gravel), with a blue "stream" (gravel) wandering through it.

Yale Gibber Architect

Mr. Yale Gibber, (Cornell '49), of Monsey, New York, the park's architect, said in an interview, "In drafting the plans, I first considered the limited budget. It should cost between \$800 and \$1,200."

He felt that it should be easy to construct so students could build it. He specifically used gravel and wood so that very little upkeep and care would be necessary.

Observer Layout Editor, Liz Kesten, amplified the idea to conform to additional information about the land gradations.

Perl Keller, co-chairman of the Materials Committee (with Debbi Album) felt that her committee might modify plans slightly to ease building procedures.

Entrance Through Building

There will be an entrance to the park from the teachers' lounge at the very back of the lot area (1). The reason for a back entrance is that opening the front fence would necessitate hiring another guard and the risk of unwanted outsiders would always be present. By leaving the entrance at the back, all those wishing to enter the park will first have to go through the school building to the back hallway and then out through the lounge.

160 ft. Path

One enters (1, numbers refer to diagram) the park through the back door of the school building, past the fire escape and onto the tanbark path (4). The path is approximately 160 feet long and winds past a clump of bright green tar can "bushes" (2) and several benches (3).

Bridges Over Stream

The door walls on the right (5) will be painted in bright stripes to lend a cheerful air to the park. The amphitheatre (6) slopes down. Accessible by a path (7), are four rows of chimney block seats (8), that accommodate nearly one hundred students.

Just the amphitheater (6) are several underblock partitions (9) decorated by brightly painted can "flowers." Between the partitions are four cubicles (10) Crossing the "blue gravel stream" (4), one finds several picnic tables (12), partially blocked from the Lexington Avenue traffic by green can "hedges" (2).

A "grass" "shore" (13) bounds a blue gravel "pond" (14), to the left of the tables.

At both points where the "stream" (11) crosses the path (4), bridges (15) will be constructed.

In the middle of the ovaloid path are four brick patios (16) with tables and chairs. A canvas or wood partition will separate the patios from the right side of the park, so that students who want to

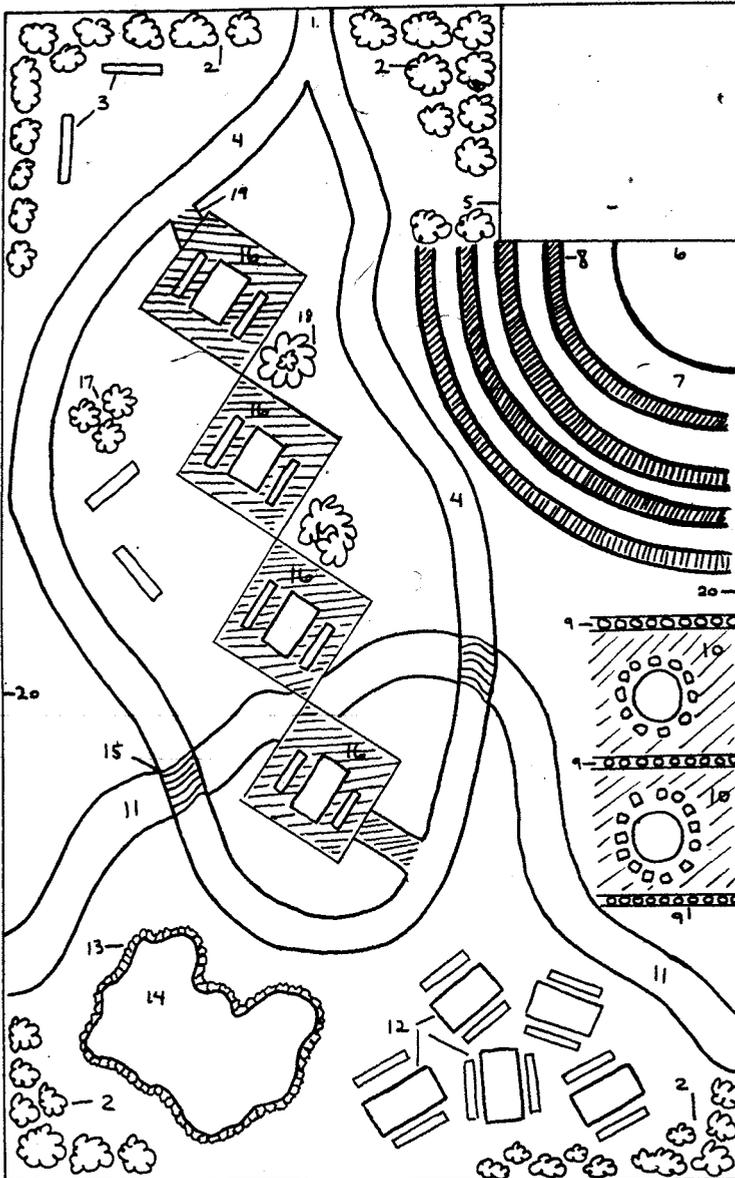


Diagram of proposed park, as designed by Mr. Yale Gibber, modified by Liz Kesten.

study while the amphitheatre is in use will not be disturbed.

A large metal "art thought" (17) will stand near benches (3) directly to the left of the patios. Green barrel "trees" (18) will be "planted" between the patios.

A brick entrance (19) will connect the patios and the tanbark path (4).

Present plans call for murals on the walls of the adjoining buildings (20) on each side, painted in cooperation with the New York City Cultural Affairs Mural Painting Project.

Mr. Gibber, the park's designer, expressed the hope that the project would beautify the area. Student leaders hope that it will alleviate the chillul Hashem caused by the present condition of the lot.

Koval, Butler and Kesten Head Plan

Enthusiasm Essential

The park planned for the lot next to the college building is being sponsored jointly by the Stern College Student Council and The Observer. Coordinators of the project are Beverly M. Koval, Fayge Butler and Liz Kesten who will be assisted by the members of ten park subcommittees. The promotion committee will aim to make the purpose and importance of the park understood and create general enthusiasm among students.

According to Mr. Yale Gibber, architect for the project, the park will cost approximately \$1,200.00. Business managers Tobi Brandriss, Tracy Weinerman and Sutti Bornstein will keep track of incoming money and expenditures for building materials and supplies.

Construction Engineer Advising

Debbi Album and Perl Keller, co-chairmen of the Materials Committee, will be in charge of securing bricks, cinder blocks, gravel, large cans, paints and other supplies. Miss Keller will also consult her father who is a construction engineer on the best methods of assembling the materials.

Edith Schwartz, Merrill Silverstein and their committee will borrow the tools necessary for clearing the lot and constructing the park.

During the coming week, Reggi Singer, Sarah Holstein and Leah Becker will enlist girls for the work crew. Volunteers are needed for all phases of the work including clearing the ground of existing debris, leveling the areas to be used for the planned amphitheatre and patios, painting and spreading the gravel "river" and "grass," laying the tanbark path and laying the cinder blocks and bricks to form benches and the amphitheatre stage.

Yeshiva Men Needed to Help

There is a special committee headed by Ruth Levinson and Meryl Swinkin to recruit students from Yeshiva to help with the more strenuous clearing and building tasks.

Alicia Wald and Meryle Cherick will coordinate the efforts of the work crews by preparing a schedule of all work to be done. Each worker will be told in advance at what time and to which area he or she must report and what tools will be available.

Refreshments will be sold throughout the day to those working on the park. Sally Rottenstreich has volunteered to secure food and secure girls to staff the refreshment stand.

An outdoor rally will be held Sunday evening following completion of the park. Yetti Sarelch and Barbara Ger are preparing a program for the evening which may include speeches by members of the administration and student leaders, and entertainment. At the rally the chairman of the fund-raising committee will launch a campaign emphasizing "priority for a college whose students are willing to do their share to improve their school."

Save Oct. 27th! Help Build

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