

THE OBSERVER

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women • Yeshiva University

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Locke Speaks At Morris Epstein Forum of the Arts

by Shira Weinberg

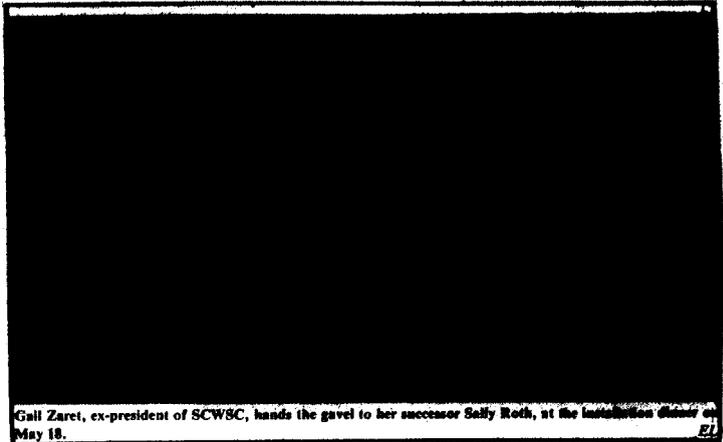
On May 5th, Richard Locke, Deputy Editor of the Sunday New York Times Book Review, spoke on "Books and Book Reviewing Today." He discussed the new format of the N.Y. Times Book Review, read by 4 million people, which reflects the present "plurality of our culture." The new approach is more democratic, having more than one review on the front page, and more interviews. Whereas the old impression of the critic was of an elderly man, puffing on a pipe, with a well behaved dog at his feet, leisurely reading through books, today's critic has a more vibrant, swinging approach.

Reading an excerpt by Virginia Wolfe, written in 1925, Locke compared her comments on book reviewing with observations on contemporary book-reviewing. Wolfe writes, "Reviewers we have, but not critics. . . It is an age of fragments." Similarly, Locke noted the helter-skelter wide range of modern literature, which he views as a healthy situation.

On a practical level, Locke painted a humorous picture of seventeen people in an office,

plowing through thousands and thousands of books. This is not hyperbole; it is a fact. Out of the 38,000 books published each year in the U.S., 25,000 come to the N.Y. Times. About 1600 reviews are printed annually, including 110 books which receive longer feature treatment. While these seventeen men are "winnowing through the mush," searching for "a pearl," to use Virginia Woolf's terminology, the phone is ringing incessantly. Anxious publishers are constantly calling to inform the reviewers of the latest rock star, or a dynamic, young politician who must be featured on the next issue's cover. Furthermore, recognizing that the Book Review is published weekly, the seventeen men are under constant pressure. Locke mentioned matter-of-factly that a reviewer reads about 15 books a week. As one issue is completed, the next one begins. There is, claims Mr. Locke, no relief.

The small yet enthusiastic audience who attended the lecture on Thursday evening were shown an exciting sneak preview of the next issue of the Sunday Book Review. Putting together an issue involves careful planning to



Gail Zaret, ex-president of SCWSC, hands the gavel to her successor Sally Roth, at the installation dinner on May 18.

balance the popular with the esoteric, books on social change with books on the news, fiction with non-fiction, etc. For example, page two contained two reviews on Watergate-based books, while page three had a review of an art book.

Locke explained that best seller books, those that sell 50,000 copies minimally, are reviewed or at least

mentioned in the N.Y. Times Book Review. Citing the best five novelists this year (in his opinion) as Bellow, Nabokov, Updike, Pinchon, and Mailer, Locke emphasized that they all had books on the best-seller list.

Looking back over the literary year, Locke commented that although there was some "good stuff here and there," on the whole, "it

was not a good year."

Finally, replying to a question concerning Alex Haley's controversial *Roots*, Locke labeled it "a kid's book." He explained that although it is an important phenomenon and a unique idea, it makes no definitive effort to consult historical facts and is "rather sentimental."

Inside the Biology Department

by Sara Kaplan and Debbie Levine

"I was originally attracted to the Biology department because it appeared to be an interesting field of knowledge and one that was career oriented. Subsequently, my years as a biology major have reinforced and deepened those

motivations and justified others. Learning the intricacies of the various life processes, the relationships between structure and function, and simply finding out what makes life tick was an overwhelming experience. Beyond this, the field is such a challenging

one." These are the sentiments of Debbie Levine, a senior at SCW this year.

Biology opens many doors as far as careers are concerned. Fields include physical therapy, medicine, dentistry, podiatry, nursing, dance therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, public health, genetic counseling, research and teaching.

The scholarly pursuits of a biologist are equally challenging and rewarding. Graduate programs are available in many areas including genetics, biomedical sciences, physiology, endocrinology and biochemistry. SCW students who received degrees in biology have had no difficulty whatsoever in getting jobs or in being accepted to graduate schools.

The requirements for a Bio major are 24 credits of Biology courses (all must be lab courses). Inorganic chemistry, a year of mathematics, organic chemistry and physics are highly recommended for further pursuits but are not mandatory for the major.

The introductory course of

Biology covers many areas. The emphasis is on understanding the world around us and ourselves. Advance courses include comparative embryology, comparative anatomy, genetics, cell and vertebrate physiology, endocrinology, bacteriology, molecular genetics, human genetics, evolutionary trends and histology.

New programs are being initiated in conjunction with the Sue Golding and Albert Einstein Graduate Divisions of the University.

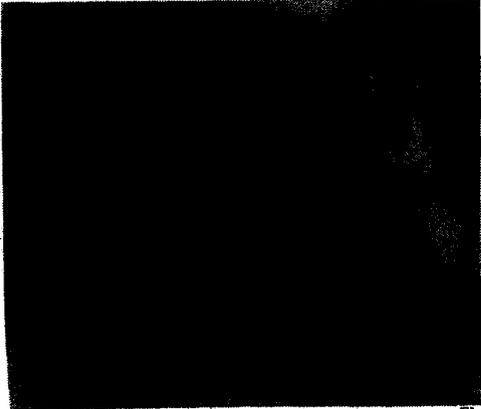
Students may take selected courses there and do research during the summer or during senior year. Anyone with an interest in this program should contact Dr. Rosoff.

Another new development is the establishment of a biology course for non-majors. "While there will be lecture courses for biology majors, there will be diluted lecture courses for general biology for those students taking the course to fulfill the science requirement," stated Dr. Friedland, head of the biology department. Due to the

suggestions of students, fewer exams will be given in both lecture and laboratory. There will be a midterm and a final in lecture. In laboratory there will be two exams. The lecture and lab work for the fall have been "coordinated and correlated" according to Dr. Friedland.

Dr. Friedland has been with SCW since its beginning. Her devotion and concern for her students has caused the department to develop and grow. The other instructors are Dr. Goodman, Dr. Grant, Dr. Rosoff and Mr. Altman.

Debbie Levine, looking back at the Biology department during her years at SCW, relates: "The dedication of this faculty merits many words of praise. Besides their experience and enthusiasm, each displays a real concern for the students." Dr. Friedland perceives the most important part of biology for SCW students as "the chance to learn about herself. It enables the student to acquire the knowledge of how she functions. This knowledge will be valuable throughout life."



Dr. Friedland, head of the SCW biology department

EL

An Open letter to the Faculty of Stern College for Women

SCW's semi-annual Blood Drive took place on Monday, May 16. To my dismay, our faculty took little or no cognizance of this fact. Only one faculty member took the time to donate one pint of her blood to the Greater New York Blood Bank to ensure the availability of blood should it be needed. Unfortunately, that evening, there was a freak accident atop the Pan Am Building and our blood may have been used then.

It is understandable that there is a lot of work for the faculty to catch up on at the end of the semester. I am, however, sure that each one of you, no matter how overworked, could have found one hour to spare. Your blood has no monetary value, its worth is far above that type of compensation.

Fortunately for all of us, the Greater New York

Blood Program now ensures all those associated with Stern College an unlimited blood supply should the need arise. This includes our faculty as well as the students, the administration, and their immediate families.

There is no excuse for the poor showing of the faculty in this drive. Should you now desire to donate blood and apply it to the credit of Stern College, you may do so by contacting the Greater New York Blood Program.

I hope that none of us ever needs to tap this blood resource but it is a very secure feeling to know it is there.

Esther Bramson
Blood Drive Chairman

A Question of Ethics

At a Torah institution such as Stern College, where honesty and ethicality are considered fundamental values of the system, one would expect its members to act accordingly and uphold these values. Thus it is with disbelief and remorse that we make mention of the use of slugs in the food machines. It does not seem credible that someone within Stern College would employ means such as stealing to obtain food, an illegal act which, aside from reflecting poorly on the individual involved, reflects Stern as a whole in an unfavorable light. Furthermore, it is this

type of action which inflates food prices in the cafeteria and limits the facilities available to students, such as the change machine.

Should a student find it necessary to budget her food expenses, it is hoped that she will seek means of doing so other than through the use of slugs. Yeshiva University strives to work within a framework of Torah Judaism — dishonesty has no place within this framework at Stern College, and we hope that in the future its students will put their learning into practice.

Silver Reflections

When Opportunity Knocks...

by Debbie Silver

It's finals time again; spring fever is coursing through my veins, and the lethargy is difficult to dismiss. The general feeling of sluggishness is surely of no advantage when one must settle down to serious studying, but an occasional moment of relaxation can be a welcome sensation, and is extremely conducive to reflections of the year gone by. The accomplishments of the Student Council and its numerous subsidiaries are nothing short of amazing to those of us who remember the low level of student morale only last year. Significant changes have been introduced into dormitory life by Paul and Rachel Glasser, stressing the rights and privileges of the students for the first time since the dormitory came into existence. The administration and faculty have initiated programs which are unprecedented in the history of Stern College, creating new opportunities and raising academic standards. Every aspect of Stern College life has undergone transformations which are as vital as they are remarkable.

It was inevitable that the revolutionary spirit should lead to careful reevaluation of the academic construction within Stern, meticulously accomplished by the Presidential Planning Commission delegated by President Norman Lamm. The PPC's observations concerning the status of the Judaic Studies program at Stern found a dire need for expansion within the department. Thus necessity became the mother of invention. As a result of the extensive evaluation of the PPC, new and innovative changes have been introduced to extend the boundaries and disintegrate some of the limitations. The new Judaic Studies proposal, as formulated by Rabbi Saul Berman, Dean Jacob Rabinowitz, and

Getting In "Z" Last Word

Although the 1976-77 Student Council has concluded its year's work and a new board has been elected, this year's council will not be quickly forgotten, due to the legacy it has left behind.

Its accomplishments and innovations include the opening of the student lounge, specific Shabbat programs with prominent guest speakers, and increased student participation in Student Council activities.

We congratulate Student Council, under the direction of Gail Zaret, on the many contributions it has made to the improvement of student life at Stern College and hope a precedent has been set which future student councils will follow.

Dean Chaim Soloveitchik, recognizes the necessity for intensive Jewish learning to be open to young women on a college level. It is a daring venture, for it opens new options to women that have never before been approached by normative *halakha*. The proposal is commendable in every respect, and the general reaction among the student body has been a mixture of surprise and delight.

The significance of this particular innovation cannot be overlooked in terms of its potential. It is now the task of the students to take advantage of the opportunity which is being presented to us. We must bear in mind that the program is merely the spark needed to set the mechanism in motion; its continued propulsion and eventual outcome will depend on the input by the students. The opportunity is ours for the taking, let's utilize and exhaust it to the fullest extent possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Yellin, Observer Editor-in-Chief '76-'77, for the help and guidance which she has given me over the past year.

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A Burning Issue

by Lexa N. Rosean

Honestly, the plight of non-smokers fills me with disgust. Never have I met so meek and mild mannered a people. Clark Kent, with all his impish politeness and courtesy could never save the world, much less himself. Only Superman can put out fires! These people insist however upon playing the underdog.

It goes without saying, of course, that smokers are by and large the most inconsiderate group of people around. We think only of our own satisfaction.

We smoke in restaurants, theaters, homes, closets, faces, and of course in all those places pronounced illegal by the N.Y. City Health Code Section 181.17. Yes, we are inconsiderate, but we have become considerably more so due to the cowardice of our rivals.

There was a time when like naughty children we lit up under a No Smoking sign, looking warily around for mommy to come up and slap us. But we met with no resistance. On the contrary, we were approached by sniffing do-gooders who politely informed us of the No Smoking signs above our heads and then backed meagerly away. "Please don't smoke," they said afraid to look us in the eyes. Politely, they told us what we were doing was illegal. Politely! Honestly, law enforcers should be made of Sterner stuff!

So, we became what all naughty children become when fear is obliterated — vicious criminals. We no longer put out our cigarettes at the sound of footsteps, but puffed patiently in crowded elevators just waiting for some health-conscious nunny to say, "The sign says..."

"I know what it says, Bub. Ya wanna make something of it?" we'd reply with looks to kill, remembering to exhale in their faces on our way out. And in answer to the fearful request, "Could you please put that out?", we'd retort, "Sure, how about between your eyes?" Criminal indeed, but such fools deserve to be terrorized. Why, were someone to blow smoke in my face, I'd proceed to ruin theirs in a manner far from being polite.

The cowardly behavior of non-smokers insults the dignity of man. Why, if you're right, then stand up for yourself — exert some authority, or else politely choke in silence.

“Cardiac” Jews: In Need of a Pacemaker

by Laurie Rosenstreich

Every year I join with the thousands of people who rally to observe Solidarity Day. By attending I add one more person to the size of the crowd and prove that I am not indifferent to the plight of Soviet Jewry. Yet every year I become increasingly disillusioned with this event. Although I am not qualified to evaluate the political impact of these annual gatherings, I think their only beneficial results are the official recognition and the large turnouts they draw. Unfortunately, there are several inherent dangers.

Firstly, people feel that they have fulfilled all their obligations towards Soviet Jewry, and deem further activism unnecessary. Secondly, the organization of Solidarity Day may evoke mockery of ourselves and our cause.

As I stood in Battery Park that Sunday afternoon, listening to the speakers and looking around at the crowd, I was surprised by my reaction. Instead of feeling an attachment to these people, my fellow Jews, brought together in a common cause, I felt a creeping animosity toward them. On the one hand, there were the politicians who came to show their faces and maintain their images as patrons of the Jewish community. Their speeches, emphasizing Americanism and humanitarianism with a generous dose of backpatting, say little and are not often repititious from one year to the next. Their audience is equally exasperating. Wandering around the park they see this as an opportunity to meet old acquaintances or to publicize their own particular organizations.

Everyone is gathered to clamor for the personal and religious freedom of Soviet Jews, which are inevitably compared to those American Jews enjoy in “this great land of ours” (sic). Yet it is clear that many of these people have no interest in religious freedom for themselves. Quite a number represent organizations that are actually against Jewish Torah values.

Looking around us, at this rally and elsewhere, I see a group of people that congratulates itself, that celebrates itself without the basis of its selfhood. I see a caricature of a people. I don't wish to give a lecture on cardiac Jews or super-American, liberal Jews. You've already heard it and can walk away from it with a smile of self-righteousness. I'm referring to the more accepted types: the intensive nationalists who resent any religious influence which might impose upon their freedom, the Jewish and Israeli “culture vultures.” I'm also talking about the “traditional” Jews whose *Shulchan Aruch* is their remembrance of their grandparents' houses for anything more is labelled fanatical. I'm also talking about the people who live under the cloud of some



Nixon Talks... Or Does He?

by Leah Katz

After three years of quiet isolation, Richard Nixon reappeared to the American public. Nixon was last seen in the public on August 9, 1974 as he left the White House and the presidency in disgrace. On the first of a series of interviews with David Frost, Nixon faced questions regarding the scandal which forced him out of office — Watergate.

Frost began by asking Nixon if he thought he obstructed justice. Nixon responded in a familiar round-about fashion — he preferred to go through the events, state his opinions and defenses and then let the public decide for themselves. So the interview proceeded in a step by step account of what occurred between the time of the Watergate break-in until his resignation.

Regarding the 18½ minute gap in the recording of June 20, 1972, Nixon maintained that he simply ordered Haldeman to find out what the “other side” was doing through a public relations offensive. He insisted that he had no immediate knowledge of the Watergate burglary. When Frost quoted a portion of a tape that implied the contrary and that Nixon, only days after the burglary was conducting a cover-up, Nixon began to stutter. He denied having any criminal intent in a cover-up. His main objective was to protect innocent people from being smeared. “In other words, we were trying to politically contain it.” This policy of “containment” rather than cover up and his “well meant” motive served as Nixon's main defense in denying any criminal activities.

Discrepancies arose in the interview regarding the payment of hush money paid to E. Howard Hunt, one of the Watergate burglars. Nixon contended that he never approved the payment of money to Hunt but yet, Hunt received a payment the very next day. Nixon said that the money given to Hunt and other

Shtetl in Europe and are zealous about attitudes and observances that are not intrinsically Jewish. And the people who think that *Ahavat HaShem* and *Ahavat Yisrael* are somehow separable.

You will object that Soviet Jewish activism is in itself ethnic and nationalist identification. Fine, that is a necessary first step. It is the product of a remarkable awakening, and requires more courage and tenacity than I can rightly judge.

We've all been in Galut far too long, and it has eaten away at us, leaving us fragmented, ignorant, and confused — a warped caricature of ourselves.

Throughout Jewish thoughts there is a recurrent philosophy that what is capable of being raised above ordinary things is also capable of sinking lower. It is Torah that makes us a “wise and understanding people.” (*Devarim* 4:6-8) when we reject or prevent Torah, we become the greatest fools among the nations, making a mockery of ourselves.

Watergate defendants was not meant as hush money but rather for humanitarian reasons. Nixon continued to defend himself in a haughty tone by pointing out that he could have simply ended the entire Watergate ordeal by giving clemency to everyone. However, he refused to do that since that would be wrong. This view is absurd since clemency would have quickly arisen the suspicion of the public as well as Congress.

Nixon further maintained that he viewed himself as defense counsel to his aides in trouble and continuously attempted to disclose what really occurred. However, Nixon failed to take any concrete action that would have uncovered the truth. The interview proceeded to uncover further discrepancies. At one point, Frost quoted a portion of an unpublished tape that contradicted Nixon's assertion that he first learned of the cover-up on March 21. As Nixon found himself backed into a corner, he merely replied that “you could state your conclusion and I've stated my view. So now we go on to the rest of it.”

The last twenty minutes of the show were filled with an emotional exposition whereby Nixon admitted to limited wrongdoing. “I let down the country. I let down our system of government and the dreams of all those young people that ought to get into government. Yes I let the American people down, and I have to carry that burden with me for the rest of my life. But Nixon refused to admit that he let the country down through his own criminal acts. Rather he placed himself in the position of a victimized defendant. He would admit that his only crime was in having a kind heart. He failed to admit his guilt in an attempted criminal cover-up or his guilt in attempting to deceive the American public. For Richard Nixon, the cover-up continues

and our cause.

Personal identity does not mean telling everyone your name, but rather being an individual, and acting like yourself. Similarly, Jewish identity which exhausts itself in stating, “I'm a Jew and I'm proud” and in the traditional manifestations of folk-culture, is superficial and illusory. Instead of an empty celebration of ourselves, Jews should celebrate *HaShem*, and ourselves as a function of that.

It's almost summer, which for me is the time to be around different people, and, in several, overt and a thousand subtle ways, lead them toward the realization that *Yahadut* is not an anachronism from the other side of the ocean. It is here and now, with people who are not too far removed from themselves.

It is time to realize that only when the Jewish People entered anew into the *brit* of Torah, was it said of them (*Devarim* 27:9-29:3), “This is the day that you have become a people.”

End-Of-The-Year Message From Dean Jablonsky

by Priva Naiman

Looking back on my Shabbat visit to the Stern College dormitory last week, I am left with conflicted emotions. On one hand, I shared the warmth of the Glassers and the students and a sense of the deep religious commitment of the Yeshiva University and Stern College students who participated in the ceremonial and social aspects of the Sabbath, but on the other hand, I was unhappy to realize how very, very few of the Stern College students take advantage of the religious atmosphere afforded them through the services, the shared meals, and the informative learning periods. During my year as Dean, many students have told me

that these were among the most important reasons for their coming to Stern. I realize that in truth the formal Jewish Studies curriculum does to some extent satisfy some of these students' needs for greater understanding of their heritage; however, there seems to be an unspoken set of reasons for the lack of intense student involvement in Shabbat programs.

Curriculum: I was delighted to learn that the President has appointed a search committee for the new dean consisting of faculty, students, alumni, and administrative representatives of the Office of the Dean and the Office of Student Services. This com-

mittee has been asked to join with the Yeshiva College Search Committee in recommending someone to fill the post of University Dean of Humanities.

As I sit here perceiving the complexities of this position, I realize that the new Dean should be a woman of extraordinary intelligence and vitality who has a doctoral degree, preferably in a secular academic discipline, who is a devoutly religious person, and who is capable of combining outstanding administrative skills with the human relations activities needed to care for the academic and to some extent personal needs of the Stern College family. I wish the committee G-speded.

Students should be aware that clarifications of a number of regulations of the school have been or are in the process of being consummated at this time. Areas such as joint programs, independent study, honors study and shaped majors will be formalized shortly and posted on the appropriate bulletin board. Students, however, who desire information about these areas should feel free to see me.

The elections for new student officers have resulted in the selection of some exceptionally fine students who have exhibited constructive leadership in the past. Their tasks in the year ahead will be

complicated by shifts in the administrative structure of the school and by curriculum innovation. They will need to exert their influence on their fellow student so that involvement on committees, task forces, and the student publication, the *Observer*, can insure them an ever improving standard of academic instruction. They also bear the responsibility of leaving for the generations of Stern students to come a rewarding, exciting, and growth-producing environment. I wish them all a productive year.

The editor-in-chief and the staff of the *Observer* wish everyone a happy and healthy summer vacation.

News Briefs

"Families and Feasts," a major exhibit featuring paintings of Moritz Daniel Oppenheim and Isidor Kaufmann, will open at the Yeshiva University Museum April 24 and continue through June 17.

Leon H. Charney, New York City Attorney, will receive University award at a testimonial dinner in the Plaza Hotel on Sunday, June 5.

Time Magazine announces a national amateur photo contest. Deadline for entries is September 1, 1977. For more information contact: Marilyn Maccio, Time Magazine, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, New York, 10020.

Yeshiva University summer session includes program in education,

Jewish Studies, psychology and sciences. Registration begins May 18.

Under the guidance of Rabbi M. Mitchell Serels, Seminars for Jewish Youth will be conducted entirely in Spanish during the summer, 1977 in Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

Senate Finishes Successful Year

by Heidi Tenzer

On May 11, Senate member Donna Shorer submitted a petition, signed by a substantial number of students, requesting that Yiddish be instituted as part of the language requirement. At present, Yiddish is only an elective, and does not even fulfill one of the twenty Jewish Studies course requirements. The issue will be further debated at the next Senate meeting.

Dr. Krumbain, Secretary of the Senate Subcommittee, proposed the "free drop day," thereby solving the problem of closed and oversubscribed classes. Dr. Krumbain explained that some students register for courses, not knowing whether they will take the course or drop it. The "free drop day" enables the student to drop a course early in the term, free of charge. The office of the registrar has approved of it, and the "free drop day" will be in effect as of the Fall '77 term.

The same committee, composed of Dr. Krumbain, Sabrina Reinhart, and Donna Shorer, also recommended that sections of the same courses be offered on their alternate days. For example, courses would be offered on Monday-Wednesday-Friday and Tuesday-Thursday. This would prove more convenient for students who want all of their classes on the same days, and it would also limit conflicts with other courses. This proposition was set aside for the next Senate meeting.

Dorm Counselors '77-'78

Esther Bramson
Dvora Davis — Head Counselor
Molly Goodman
Shari Kenner
Gerry Lasky
Gila Leiter
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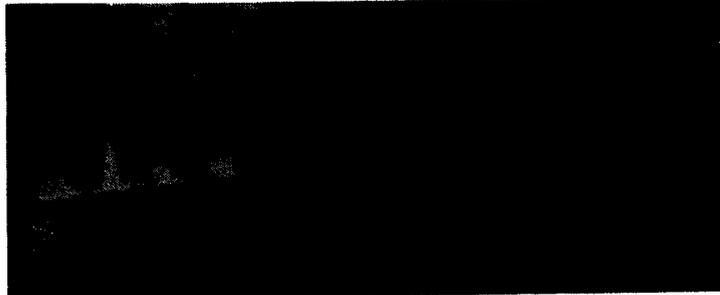
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Treasurer — Thea Resnick

On behalf of the senior class, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported this year's chut sale. We have sold between 380-400 skeins of chut and have raised approximately \$120!

Thanx again,
Donna I1D

P.S.: I still have some leftover chut which must go — it'll be on sale in my room (at night) for a mere 40¢ apiece.



Esther Bramson, chairman of the blood drive, and Shari Kenner encourage one of the many students who came to donate blood at the semiannual blood drive.

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Brochy Osolsky '77 to Nachum Schnitzer '77

Married:
Leah Peysler '78 to Terry Rifkin YC '77

Births:
To Dov and Sherri (Cumsky) Kramer, '75, a girl
To Steve and Arlene (Roseman) Mermelstein, '73, a girl

The '77-'78 editorial board of the *Observer* would like to wish *hatzlacha rabah* to the outgoing '76-'77 editorial board. *Yasher Ko'ach* on a wonderful year!!

The editor-in-chief and the staff of the *Observer* extend a hearty *Mazel Tov* to Brochy Osolsky, features editor '76-'77, upon her engagement to Nachum Schnitzer.

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