

# THE OBSERVER

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women • Yeshiva University



April 17, 1985

Volume 46, Number 8

Class 26, 5745

## Security Director Leaves Yeshiva

by Diane Feldman

In the March 6 issue, *The Observer* reported that John W. Upton had been named Director of Safety and Security at Yeshiva University. *The Observer* recently learned that Upton has resigned, effective April 5.

According to Upton, "An opportunity for another position came up. I hadn't expected it to come up, because it had been in the works for a long time. I was made an offer a little closer to home (New Jersey)." Upton added, "It's probably more work, but also more opportunity. However, I have nothing against Yeshiva." Upton will now handle security for Wagner College in Staten Island.



John Upton

No official announcement was ever made by the University acknowledging Upton's appointment or resignation. Upton says he "expressed displeasure about that, but it didn't make a difference."

According to Dr. Sheldon Socol, Vice President of Business Affairs, the reason no announcement was made was "because we were experimenting. Now we'll try something else until we find out what works." He added, "We'll find a new head as soon as we can."

Socol explained, "Whenever there is no head, the deputy always fills in, in the process. Saunders will perform the duties of director of security, just as a deputy normally would if the director was out, say due to illness."

Socol declined to comment on the resignation itself.

Upton took over January 2, as Director of Safety and Security. He previously served as Director of Public Safety at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and as a captain with the department of security at Rutgers University.

Accompanying Upton's appointment as Director, former Director Stephen Saunders was named Deputy Director. Now, according to Socol, Saunders will fill in for Upton until a replacement is found.

## Levitz Resigns as Dean of Students

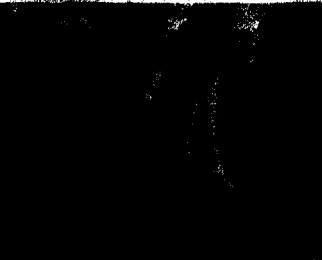
by Diane Feldman

In a surprise move, Dr. Irving Levitz, Dean of Students at Yeshiva University, has announced his resignation, effective at the end of this academic year.

When Dr. Levitz, a practicing psychologist and professor at Wurzwiler School of Social Work, was asked to take the position originally, he told the University that it would not make sense, he said, "due to his extensive professional commitments." "However," Levitz said, "I love the institution and wanted to come in and make a contribution. Our agreement was—if it worked out, without having to change my lifestyle, I would stay. If it didn't work out, I wanted to go back to Wurzwiler."

Levitz explained, "It reached a point where I needed to make a professional decision—to be a psychologist or a dean of students. I opted for psychologist. There is no way I can do both well, and I didn't want to do both in a mediocre way. My other professional commitments seem a lot more attractive to me."

Levitz was involved in several *sederim* a week, developing lectures, writing, consultation, a



Dean Levitz talks to YC students

full practice, and serving as director of a clinic, besides his duties as dean of students. "I was working 60 hours a week. It was unfair to my family, the people I work with . . . I was one fatigued guy."

According to Levitz, he realized early in the year that there was just not enough time to live a normal life. "If this had been anyplace but Yeshiva," Levitz said, "I would have left October 1. The job was without boundaries, and boundaries are necessary, along with some degree of flexibility. At Yeshiva, a lot of people work hard and make demands—it is hard to turn down a student or an administrator." Levitz saw it was more than a full-

time position.

Dr. Levitz summed up his year as "exciting and sometimes turbulent." When asked if his resignation was prompted by criticism from students and administrators, Levitz replied, "I don't want any misconception of why I'm leaving. Flack and heat is a function of the nature of the institution, as well as the undefined nature of my position, which I had to define. In order for me to carve out the parameters of what this office is all about, I had to expect flack and heat. I'm not angry at the University, nor was I ever put off by the struggles—such as the secularization issue."

Dr. Norman Lamm, President

of Yeshiva University, was not available for comment. However, a statement from his office said the University is organizing a search committee after Passover to find a replacement.

According to Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President, Student Affairs, "We're sorry to see him go, but we were pleased to have him here. He feels he cannot manage all of his commitments, so he is leaving. We hope to be able to fill his spot and do what the students and University need." Miller mentioned the possibility of hiring a separate dean of students for Stern College.

Levitz said his replacement "has to be somebody who can negotiate all the worlds here at Yeshiva, and be prepared for a full-time and a half position."

Levitz expressed his current desire to work with students to assess what they have, what they need, and what they would like to see continued. He has been in touch with Stern College Dean Karen Bacot, assessing what the specific needs of Stern are.

"Because I'm not going to be here next year," Levitz concluded, "I want to make my time here more valuable."

## Levitz: A Year Of Change, Progress

by Diane Feldman

Dr. Irving Levitz, the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the Wurzwiler School of Social Work, was named Dean of Students at Yeshiva University in the beginning of the 1984-'85 school year.

Levitz received his Ph.D. in psychology from Yeshiva University in 1974. He earned a Master of Arts degree in psychology from the New School for Social Research in 1969. In 1963, Levitz was ordained as Rabbi Isaac Elchan Theological Seminary (RIETS), and received a Master of Hebrew Literature degree from YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School.

In 1979, Levitz was appointed director of the Master of Social Work for Clergy program at Wurzwiler. He was named to the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Chair in 1982.

According to Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President, Student Affairs at YU, Levitz's appointment was part of a new administrative structure to oversee student life and activities at Stern and Yeshiva Colleges. The new structure was designed, Miller said, to bring new organization to the students' development in social, cultural, and spiritual affairs.

In his new position, Levitz's duties encompassed organizing, developing, and directing the major facets of campus student life, including coordination of all

counseling services, religious guidance, student activities and programming, residence hall supportive services, and academic and career counseling.

Levitz was quoted in a previous issue of *The Observer* as saying that the establishment of the Office of the Dean of Students reflects "a commitment to improve student life."

Since September:

- Levitz has arranged for the replacement of 153 of the worst mattresses in Brookdale Hall
- Levitz arranged for an eight-man crew to replace the two-man crew hired by the University to paint dorm rooms
- Levitz, in an attempt to meet with all students, held Town Hall meetings, where students were given the chance to voice complaints, opinions, and feelings concerning YU life

Levitz, addressing the need for career-oriented programs, organized the office of Career Services, with Cynthia Friedlander serving as director

- Levitz's office helped organize the career nights, forums, and the alumni outreach program that the Career Services Office planned
- Levitz held a series of informal discussions on dating, love, and marriage

Levitz's office, in terms of finances, absorbed most of the cost of bus transportation between campuses

- Levitz, after reviewing the student council budgets with Dr. Sheldon Socol and Mr. Bernard Pittinsky, aided in drawing up a

new financial agreement between the University and the student councils, resulting in increased funding for student activities

- Levitz's office is currently helping the undergraduate student councils, alumni, and TAC plan the *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* celebration, scheduled for April 24.
- Levitz's office continually keeps students informed of all activities in its publication "YU Campus Life."

Evaluating Dr. Levitz's accomplishments, Judith S. Urbach, Stern College for Women Student Council President, said, "Dr. Levitz has demonstrated a sense of commitment to our welfare. He has not only advised SC and served as intermediary between students and administration, but he has created and successfully implemented

new services for the general student body. Dr. Levitz was immediately aware of the need for a more extensive personal guidance program, and a vital need for career guidance and placement. Dr. Levitz constantly reached out to students. We no longer felt a gap between uptown and downtown. We finally had someone who was regularly available to us at Stern. Dr. Levitz has played a major role in the success of student council this year. Dr. Levitz is a professional and commands professionalism. Because of this, things have been running smoothly at Stern College."

Urbach concluded, "If I was asked to single out the most positive change this year, I would without hesitation say it has been the appointment of Dr. Levitz as our Dean of Students."

## Inside:

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Former faculty member reaches centennial birthday . . . . . p. 3

Desperately Seeking Sheldon . P. 5

# THE OBSERVER

280 Lexington Ave., New York, New York 10017 240-7700. Published by Stern College Student Council. The views expressed in individual columns are those of the Observer only and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the student body, the faculty, or the administration of Stern College.

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## Editor's Desk:

# The Resurrection

by Diane Feldman

(Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water . . .) Normally one can consider a Last Will and Testament to be rather final. But just when you thought I was gone forever, (I know a few administrators who would like to think so) I have returned. Some recent announcements have taken the students of this University by surprise, and were worth mentioning in the form of another issue.

Key positions are now available in security, office of the Dean of Students, public relations, and even admissions. Only time will tell what

impact certain departures will have on the students, but one thing is certain—even though certain personalities were only with us a short time, they have left their mark on this University, for better or worse. Each person's stay at Yeshiva University, no matter how long, was significant. The students can attest to that. The University has a tough job ahead, especially in replacing the Dean of Students and the Director of Safety and Security. I wish the search committees much luck, and hope that in the case of the Dean of Students, student input will be considered.

# Only The Good Die Young

A pattern has seemingly developed at Yeshiva University—too often, when someone shows concern for the students, that person soon leaves the University.

For example, a number of charismatic teachers have been denied tenure over the past few years. On the other hand, many personable administrators and department heads choose to move on to better jobs.

Two years ago, Yeshiva University hired Stephen Saunders as Director of Safety and Security. Saunders received high marks from administrators and students concerning his job performance. Security improved greatly. In addition, Saunders went out of his way to assist students and make their life easier. On more than one occasion, he helped students cut through red tape. However, in January of this year, a new Director was hired and Saunders was seemingly demoted. Now there is rumor that Saunders will not return to Yeshiva University in the fall, and one cannot blame him.

This year, Dr. Irving Levitz was hired to fill the

newly-created position of Dean of Students. Levitz met with students, listened to their concerns, and worked to alleviate their problems. Now, after less than a year, Levitz has resigned. Furthermore, there is talk that his assistant, Professor Ben Mayer, will soon follow. According to Levitz, the job of Dean of Students is simply too overwhelming for any one person.

It is unfortunate that these men are leaving Yeshiva University before they can witness the fruits of their labor. The University is constantly reminding us that its goal is to improve the number and quality of its facilities and services. However, as one top administrator was recently quoted as saying, "How can we provide more with less?"

Caring seems to be a warning of impending departure. Students wonder what allows great men to slip through the University's hands so easily and what we can do to ensure working with such dynamic personalities in the future as we have in the past.

# Replacement Is Necessary

Often in a big corporation or business the organization grows to such proportions that it loses touch with the workers—the ones that allow the corporation or business to exist in the first place. When this occurs, a middleman must be brought in to keep both sides in touch with each other. Otherwise, problems develop and remain unsolved.

A school is no different, and Yeshiva University found itself in this position at the beginning of this school year. A liaison between students and administrators was lacking, and so student needs went unattended. To solve the problem of a liaison, a new position was created—Dean of Students, and suddenly, things started happening. For the first time, instead of feeling like students were simply talking to a wall, they were talking to an actual person. Not only that, but this person, Dr. Irving Levitz, listened, and

took action as well. He did not simply smile and say "That's very interesting, I'll look into the matter" and then "file" it. Instead, he really investigated the issues and attempted to make improvements.

His vested interest in the student welfare has been demonstrated through his list of accomplishments. Furthermore, a parent of two students currently attending YU, Levitz has a slight edge over anyone else that might have assumed his position. He has a reason to be concerned.

Now that Dr. Levitz is resigning, the obvious question is *what will happen to us?* This year has proven that such a position is indeed needed—it is, in fact, vital to the students. The University has taken a giant step forward. By not filling the position of Dean of Students, and quickly, it will truly be taking two steps backwards.

Mazel Tov to Dr. Michael Dalezman, professor of computer science and mathematics at YU, on his recent engagement to Blima Svatkova, SCW '84.

Mazel Tov to Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Tauber on the recent birth of their child.

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# Teacher Celebrates 100th

by Ethel Zeffren

This year not only celebrates the centennial of Yeshiva University, but also commemorates the 100th birthday of one of its former Stern College faculty members. On April 15, Professor Rachel Wischnitzer will be 100 years old.

Prof. Wischnitzer concentrated her fields of study in architecture and art in many universities in Europe. She soon became a leading authority on synagogue architecture. Beginning in 1903, she attended the Brussels Royal Academy, School of Architecture. By 1907, she left the School of Architecture in Paris and Alliance Francaise in Paris with diplomas. In 1910, she studied in the University of Munich. When Prof. Wischnitzer arrived in America, in 1944, she studied for her M.A. at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Among her many articles and books, she authored many articles which appeared in Russian journals and the Jewish Encyclopedia. Besides these she wrote four books: "Symbols and Gestalten der Juedischen Kunst" in 1935; "The Messianic Theme in the Paintings of the Dura Synagogue," in 1948; "Synagogue Architecture in the United States" in 1955; and "Architecture of the European Synagogue" in 1964.

In 1912, she married Dr. Mark Wischnitzer in St. Petersburg. The two lived in various European cities publishing ar-

ticles and editing journals. They had one son, Leonard.

While they lived in America, Dr. Mark Wischnitzer taught history in Yeshiva University. In 1955, he died.

In 1956, Prof. Wischnitzer was asked by Dr. Samuel Belkin, who was the president at Yeshiva University, to establish the Fine Arts Department at Stern College, which opened in 1955.

Besides starting the Fine Arts Department, she taught art at Stern until 1968, when she retired at the age of 83. In the same year, Prof. Wischnitzer was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree.

Presently, Prof. Wischnitzer is in the midst of writing yet another article, about the late works of Picasso.

## English Seminar

by Debbie Fisch

A proposal for beginning an English/English Communications Senior Seminar for next year will be appearing before the Curriculum Committee. This seminar will be a four credit course involving two class hours and two conference hours each week.

The course will be a requirement of all English and English Communications majors, to be taken in their seventh semester. Stern Scholars and seniors with minors in English may register for the course with permission of the instructor. Senior Seminar will be taught on a graduate level, says Dr. Carole Silver of the English department, and its purpose is to give the English/English Communications major the opportunity to expand and test her skills in writing, oral communication, and analysis of literature.

Each semester, the students will

do an in-depth exploration of subjects and texts selected by the instructor. Seminar topics may come from already existing courses. Dr. Silver states that instructors will ask students what they want, and that students will probably have a choice of one out of four proposed topics.

Senior Seminar students will be required to write a paper, which will develop from individual conferences and class presentations. This paper will serve as the basis for awarding honors in English, assuming that the requirements of a minimum grade point average in English have also been met. In the case of honors candidates, seminar papers will be read and approved by all full-time members of the English department. Dr. Silver claims that one of the primary functions of seminar papers is to replace exit exams, which she feels are a poor gauge of student knowledge and proficiency.

## Speak Your Mind Resignation's Impact

by Amy Rubin

The members of Student Council were asked, "What is your initial reaction to the resignation of Dr. Irving Levitz, Dean of Students, and how do you think it will affect Stern College and its students?"



Judith Urbach, President: "My initial reaction was disappointment, but I was not surprised. I hope that the University will act quickly and appoint a new Dean of Students; someone as receptive and efficient as Dr. Levitz. The administration and faculty should be as cooperative and welcoming as our students are."



Jan Pion, Vice President: "I was sorry to hear about the resignation of Dr. Irving Levitz as Dean of Students. He had been a tremendous help to us all. He helped open up the lines of communication between the students and the administration. He made the problems of Stern College a top priority and helped solve them. Our student council was fortunate to have worked with a man of his caliber."

Edythe Nussbaum, Treasurer: "My initial reaction to Dean Levitz's resignation is shock because his position was just created this year. I think the position is a good one and the Dean of Students was very helpful in coordinating student activities. If a replacement is found for Dean Levitz I don't think the students will be affected; however, if the office is abolished, it will be a shame."

Shulamit Glaubach, Corresponding Secretary: "I was very surprised that he resigned. He really put a lot of effort into his job and was blamed for a lot of things. They should definitely try to find a replacement, but should make that office more organized and increase communication between the Dean of Students and his assistants."



Susan Mandelbaum, Recording Secretary: "I'm very, very surprised. I think Dean Levitz was a great liaison between Stern and Yeshiva University and it seemed that he really cared. He was very enthusiastic and did what he could to help Stern. It's a shame that he's going. I think this year Stern has made a lot of progress in regards to student activities and without someone uptown working to assist us it's going to be a setback."

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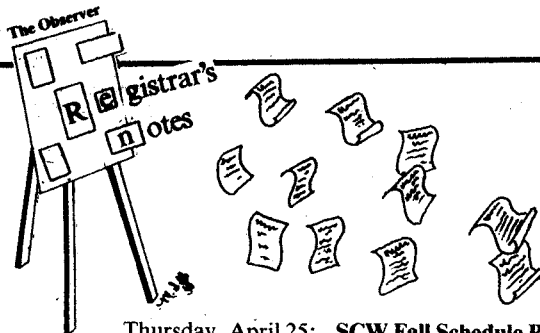
by Francine Ziv

Dr. Barry Potvin, Associate Professor of Biology at Y.C. and Pre-Health Advisor for both Yeshiva and Stern Colleges was appointed to this position in April of 1984 after coming to the University in fall of 1980. Potvin assumed the duties of Pre-Health Advisor in addition to his Associate Professorship in Biology which entails a full teaching load, administrative and departmental work, office hours and some research. He also volunteers as an adjunct associate research scientist at Columbia Medical Center where he spends four to five hours a week doing somatic cell genetics and biochemical research.

Potvin earned his Bachelors degree at Brandeis University. He later received his PhD in genetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His post doctorate work was done at Columbia Medical Center where he later became an instructor of human genetics. Yet, Potvin's interests are not limited to Biology. He is an avid scuba diver, an ice skater, and a regular swimmer.

Potvin's job as pre-health science advisor functions at all levels of the application process—from suggesting what courses to take and when to take them, to the follow-up process after hearing from graduate and medical schools. He manages the application, writes a composite recommendation, meets with the students, and advises about tests. Potvin must deal with both sides of the spectrum. He says it is nice to see a "larger number of students being accepted to very prestigious medical schools". Potvin also finds it problematic to schedule a reasonable amount of appointments at Stern since he is based at the uptown campus. An assistant at the midtown campus would be helpful since Potvin is "presently doing more than can be reasonably expected from a member of the staff."

Potvin would like to spend more time doing further research involving a greater number of students. He enjoys teaching students and holds as his fondest memory students who have graduated the university and kept in touch.



- Thursday, April 25: **SCW Fall Schedule Posting**
- Friday, May 3: **Israel Registration**
- Thursday, May 16: **Senior and Junior Drop Off**
- Tuesday, May 21: **Senior and Junior Pick Up**
- Wednesday, May 22: **Sophomores**
- Thursday, May 23: **Freshmen**
- Mid-July . . . : **Tuition and Fee Bills Mailed by Office of Student Finance**
- Friday, August 9: **Tuition and Fee Payment DUE (Financial Clearance)**
- Thursday, August 29: **New Student Registration**
- Tuesday, September 3: **First Day of Classes**

## Internship Program

Manhasset, NY—For the third consecutive year, CMP Publications, Inc., a publisher of business newspapers and magazines, is conducting an Internship Awards Program.

The program, which is open to four-year college students in New York State colleges and universities, gives students the opportunity to win cash prizes, but more important, gain hands-on experience in the publishing field.

The 1985 program is open to freshman, sophomore, junior and senior year students interested in publishing and journalism. The contest has been expanded to include four year colleges and universities in New York State which offer students majors in English or journalism.

Students participating in the CMP Internship Awards contest will be competing for a limited number of 13-week paid internship positions and cash prizes totaling \$2500. First prize is \$1000.

The internship awards program has been designed so that by the end of the 13-week period,

students will have acquired an understanding of the publishing business and improved journalism skills.

To qualify, students are asked to submit an 800-1000 word article on one of the two topics—"Ethical Issues in Journalism in the 1980's" or "Impact of Computerization on the Journalist."

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges who will evaluate entries based on content; journalistic approach to theme; evidence of interviews, research and analysis; and attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Students will qualify for summer internship positions based on written entries and the outcome of a job interview.

For further information about the Internship Awards Program, call CMP's Public Relations Department at (516) 365-4600, or write to: Public Relations Department, Internship Awards Program, CMP Publications, Inc., 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030.

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