

# THE OBSERVER

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## TAC on the Rise - Stern Elected President

by Deena Yellin

Back from a year spent studying in Michlalah in Jerusalem, Faye Stern has been elected President of the Torah Activities Council at Stern College. Ms. Stern, a junior who is majoring in Business Market Research and minoring in Judaic Studies, has always been involved in extra-curricular activities. At Central High School, which Ms. Stern attended before entering Stern as an Early Admissions Freshman, she was involved in Student Council. Ms. Stern has now returned to Stern College and has leadership positions in both NCSY and YU Seminars.

Ms. Stern contends that, "My main goal is to involve all types of students at Stern. If they're here it's obvious that the Jewish aspect is important to them and it's not enough for them to have a curriculum of secular studies." She agrees that part of the beauty of Stern College is the diversity of the student body. "On your dorm floor



Faye Stern

you can meet so many types of people and build relationships with students from all backgrounds." Ms. Stern hopes to reach all parts of the student body rather than just the Judaic studies majors.

Coincidentally, Ms. Stern's marketing abilities may prove to be beneficial to the student body. She says she'd like "to market activities and programs to various types of students." One of the ways she hopes to meet this goal is by sponsoring speakers from all spectrums of the Orthodox circle. "Some women may not be attracted to a speaker from a very right-wing perspective; they may benefit more from someone who is a little more liberal while still within the bounds of Halacha."

Ms. Stern pointed out that everyone has talents to con-

tribute and it "...doesn't have to be the same people involved in the same committees every year." She contends that student interest in TAC has increased. "Never before have there been so many candidates running  
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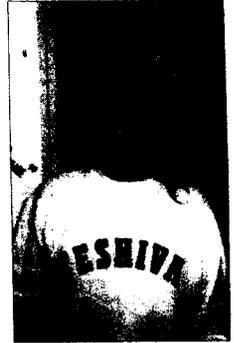
## Ruttner Elected President of SCWSC

by Amy Mehler

She was her Junior class Senator, treasurer of Compu-Sci, and editor of the *Guide*. She sits on the committee of academic standards, and now she'll preside over the Stern College Student Council. If her big sister would have told her that she'd one day be president, she would have

thought she was crazy.

Riding on the slogan, "Experience Counts," Ora Ruttner, from Monsey, New York, won the recently held student council elections for 1988-1989 president. Ora is also one of those hard to find people that will be able to claim she attended Stern College a full four years. Graduating from Bas-Torah



Ora Ruttner

High School in Suffern, New York out of a class of six, three short years ago. Ora admits feeling a little overwhelmed when she first came to Stern. The solution, she feels, is involvement. Once you get yourself into what's happening in the lives of your school and friends, you can handle almost anything that comes your way. Ora's goal for the coming year is just that. She hopes to have many more events so that the members of the students body can get to know one another. One possible idea is going to Shea Stadium as a large representation of Stern and Yeshiva College. Detailed forms are in the process of being drawn up so experienced and inexperienced students will have a chance to join clubs and societies. She is also looking forward to being here with her new board to greet the incoming Freshmen this coming August.

Ms. Ruttner believes that Stern's strength lies in its warm atmosphere and solid religious environment that makes it so conducive to making friends.

She will strive to improve  
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## Candidates Run Without Platforms

by Hadassah Balsam and Gila Iskowit

Wooed by such slogans as "trust the Meitles touch" and "Shu Shu's got sole," over four hundred Stern students flocked to the student lounge on Thursday May 12th to cast their ballots for the Student Council and TAC aspirants of their choice. In a departure from previous years, posters spread from the lobby bulletin board to the library bookshelves, to the vending cafe, and the elevators and stairwells. Only the student lounge was off limits. Reactions to the posters were mixed. One student felt "it gave the school a homey look", while another student commented that to her the school looked "like a kindergarten."

As in past years, the election was run by a volunteer canvassing committee, which was chaired by Renee Levey, who is currently a sophomore. The committee was responsible for inspecting the prospective candidate's records to check that she was in good academic standing and was not currently on probation. They collected the nomination list of twenty-

five names from each candidate, and if the candidate was running for a class officer position, they reviewed the names to see that all the signatures were from members of her class. To include a margin of error, students were asked to collect a total of thirty signatures to be eligible for candidacy. Miss Levey explained, "We had to make sure that everything was fair, so the candidates were not permitted to enter the student lounge unsupervised during voting hours." She was pleased with the turnout that resulted from her committee's efforts, and was also impressed by the good sportsmanship of the candidates. "On the day of elections, Ora Ruttner and Stephanie Schechter were joking around together. This showed that they respected each other and were friends throughout."

While slogans abounded, and cookies were distributed in the lobby, actual platforms and specific plans were noticeably scarce. No speeches were given by the candidates to inform students of their positions even though the Student Council's constitution stipulates that

"each candidate... shall present a speech." "I left some of the slots blank," one student told The Observer. "I didn't know a lot of the candidates, and I didn't think it was fair to vote for someone when I didn't know how qualified she was." Chayala Gottesman, president of next year's junior class, called the election a "major popularity contest." Elaine Witty, departing Student Council president, remembers that when she gave her campaign speech last year, "I don't think there was more than a minyan; only our roommates came." The fact that the "constitution" had been flouted left her unmoved. "The constitution is not followed.

The constitution is supposed to be revised every two years. It was revised in 1984. Student Council leaders have never attended Student Council meetings in full... When the constitution calls for unanimous decisions of the Student Council, that in essence translates into the executive board." One constructive suggestion was made by Faye Stern, the newly elected TAC president. "My feeling is that people  
*continued on p. 7 col. 3*

## First Governing Board of SSSBSC

by Jennifer Epstein

Tamar Rabinowitz will go down in Y.U. history as the first president of the governing board of the Sy Syms School of Business, which opened its doors at Stern and Yeshiva College for the first time in the Fall of 1987. Assistant Dean of SSSB, Dr. Ira Jaskoll, says that the board was not introduced in order to splinter the student body, but rather, to give SSSB students a "sense of identity." He feels that the governing board will provide an "opportunity for the students to be a unit, closely

coordinated with the other councils." Ms. Rabinowitz adds that the governing board will serve to unify the previously independent Joint-Business and Accounting societies. She says, "The Accounting society might feel that we are taking away their freedom, but in reality, we are helping them, by making money, given to us by the Student Council of Stern, available to them for their various activities." Like the president of TAC, Ms. Rabinowitz will have a voice in SCWSC affairs, but will not be able to actually vote at their

meetings.

The Sy Syms School of Business developed out of a growing need for an intensive business curriculum for serious business majors. "Stern was losing students because business courses weren't available on the levels students wanted." In order to keep bright, promising students from feeling that they had no choice but to leave the Yeshiva atmosphere, the Undergraduate program was developed as an "alternative," with "the best of everything" ... Jewish Studies, Liberal Arts, and a curriculum which

requires 50% business courses. Another advantage, Dr. Jaskoll points out, is the fact that the business school's courses are geared toward training the students towards getting jobs immediately upon graduation in fields such as trading and investment banking. Dr. Jaskoll cites a 100% job placement record for the forty-two accounting majors graduating this June.

Student's, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the business school's strenuous liberal arts requirements. In  
*continued on p. 7, col. 2.*

# Editorial

## Eenie-Meenie-Minie-Moe

For most Stern College students, it was the week of receiving Hershey's kisses in the mail, signing names for the sake of the girl sometimes seen in the elevator, and seeing the Stern lobby and dorm decorated with posters like the set of Romper Room. It was the week of SCW Student Council elections.

As a result of adding on positions this year, many students found themselves overwhelmed by the number of candidates who participated in the elections. The cluttered Stern dorm and lobby just seemed to add to the students' confusion, and, unsurprisingly, few could spare the time to sift through and read the various banners and signs. It was, literally, a mess.

In addition, many students were uncertain as to the actual jobs designated to the members of the Student Council. It wasn't uncommon to hear people asking about the different responsibilities of each position. Twice different students were quoted to have replied, "Who cares? It just looks great on a resume."

It was unsurprising, therefore, that this year's SCW Student Council elections proved to be nothing more than a popularity contest, mixed with a bit of eenie-meenie-minie-moe.

It seems that the current attitude stems from what some have labeled as "Student apathy." Last year, the Student Council attempted to schedule a debate between candidates and not even ten people showed up to the event. As a result, this year the decision was made not to include any issues as part of the election process.

It would appear, however, that the real apathy lies not with the students of SCW, but rather with the Student Council. It should be their job to update students as to the various ideas, candidates, and positions in the elections. A good idea might be to introduce the candidates during lunch, when students would have more time to listen. Another idea would be to distribute information regarding the Student Council jobs in each of the mailboxes. Efforts should be made to inform the students of the elections' whats, hows, and most of all, whos. Perhaps if students would have known more about the elections, they would have displayed more interest.

The Student Council serves as a representative of the Student Body and must be treated more seriously than a popularity contest. A better informed Student Body results in a better qualified Student Council.

## A Step in the Right Direction

The news that the dorm will be open for students to pick up their belongings on Sunday, June 3rd, comes as good news for some, even though for many, it will still be a problem to have everything packed up and ready to go by the June 1st deadline.

One thing can be said on behalf of administration; they are trying to respond to student needs and desires.

All last week, Dr. Nufman, dean of students, and Mrs. Zelda Braun, director of student services at SCW, met with the '88-'89 student leaders to discuss how to better open the channels of communication between administration and the students they serve. Unquestionably, mistakes have been made at both ends, but the dialogues that have taken place in an effort to better prepare for the year ahead is a hopeful sign of change.

Students have been asked to put together a "shopping" list of things they feel will improve the standard of living and learning in and around Stern College. Topping the "wish-list," are computers and copying machines for the dormitory, and a much needed refurbishment of the Orange Lounge. Time will only tell if these things come to pass, but the important thing to remember is that a concerted effort is being put forth.

## We Stand Corrected

May 5th article entitled, "Voting for Valedictorian is out," incorrectly stated that the Judaic Studies Valedictorian was instituted this year.

The discussion in the Senate was in reference to a totally separate issue concerning whether or not valedictorians should be determined by the highest GPA or by a student vote of the three students with the highest GPAs.

The proposal in the Senate was not guided by any one individual, but was the product of numerous group discussions. Lastly, Yonina Segal is not the President of the Senate, but serves as the secretary.

# THE OBSERVER

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# Letters

## Misplaced Mail Costs Student Job

To the Editor:

Recently an article was printed in the Observer about the problems which take place in the mail room. Frequently, mail gets lost, misplaced, and delayed as a result of what is undoubtedly an inefficient system. Although people have complained about this, my own current experience with the mail room seems to prove that absolutely nothing has been done to rectify the situation.

Two weeks ago, I was supposed to receive registered mail which contained notification of summer employment for a position in a highly competitive field. The first notice was apparently lost. I did receive the second notice a week past

the deadline and consequently, I lost the job.

This episode cost me \$3000.

Other students have complained of misplaced plane tickets, paychecks, phone bills, and the like. Clearly, this is a matter that demands attention. I am by no means putting blame on the work-study mail sorters, who do the best job they can under the circumstances. I do believe, however, that Stern should hire a full-time professional mail-sorter to prevent future mishaps. This is an important matter which affects every student residing in the dormitory. I hope that my experience will prove that. Sara Weiss SCW 90

## No Time To Study!

To the Editor:

I am amused that we continue to address the week before finals as Reading Week when, in fact, many teachers schedule regular classes during that time. If Reading Week is supposed to be our time to study, why are classes permitted to meet then?

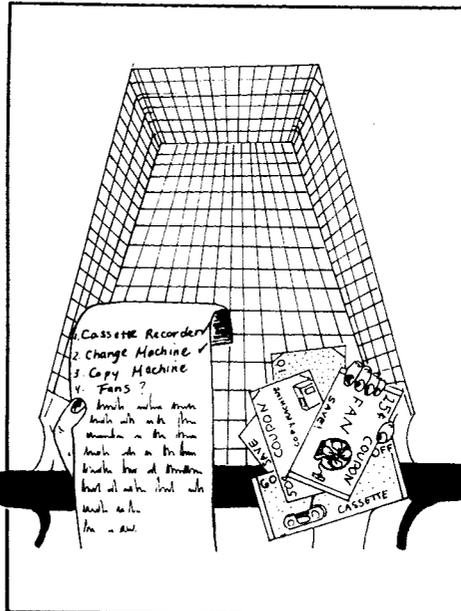
I feel that just as we, as students, are obliged to complete material within a certain duration of time, so too, teachers should make sure that classes finish by Reading Week. Scheduling additional classes at this time not only adds to the already tremendous work load, but it is an extra infringement of our study time.

Yeshiva University is strict with the official dates for last days to enter or withdraw from a course, or last days to file for a P.N grade. Why can't YU be strict with the official last day of classes?

An SCW student who wants time to study

## LIBRARY HOURS

Tues. May 24	9am-1:45 am
Wed. May 25	9am-1:45 am
Thurs. May 26	9am-1:45 am
Fri. May 27	9am-1pm
Sun. May 29	12noon-1:45am
Mon. May 30	9am-1:45 am
Tues. May 31	9am-1:45 am



## OPINION

# A Just Sentence For Demjanjuk

by Sara Bayme

After reading the editorial in the April 28th *New York Times* entitled, "Death Honors No Victims," concerning the sentencing of Ivan Demjanjuk, one feels compelled to respond to the subtle, and indeed devious attempts to once again label the Jews, and specifically, Israel, as vengeful aggressors.

The article opens by asking if adding one more death to the toll really honors the six million dead. It then goes on to question whether the chants of "Death, Death, Death" heard as Demjanjuk was sentenced, really speaks for Israel on its 40th anniversary.

And thus, the issues become hopelessly confused. It appears that the writer is trying to compare the death of six million innocent victims to that of one heartless murderer, and to connect reactions of people in the courtroom who heard the sentencing to the fact that this is Israel's 40th Anniversary. These issues are clearly unrelated.

The writer goes on to claim that Demjanjuk was given the death sentence because the judges definitely felt that he was guilty. Furthermore, "he would answer death with life at an anxious moment when Israel's values are challenged by the uprising in the occupied territories."

Once again, the writer is confusing the issues. He is trying to imply that the trial was held only to prove that Israel was trying the right person. Once this had been established, was it no longer necessary to give him the full punishment that he deserves? The writer seems to imply that establishing Demjanjuk's guilt would have been sufficient. One final question: what does this have to do with rioting Arabs in the West Bank?

## What's New in Judaic Studies

by Cindy Schlanger

The upcoming academic year holds promises of great additions to the Judaic studies department, according to Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry department of Judaic studies at Stern College. Expected, is the arrival of a number of new students, new faculty, and a wider range of courses.

Several new professors from Israel have also been added to the faculty for next year. They have been added, according to Rabbi Kanarfogel, in an attempt to increase offerings in Tanach. Dr. Miriam Bodian will be teaching courses in Sefer Shemot and Modern Jewish Nationalism at Stern next

Perhaps we can attempt to put the trial back into perspective. In a very high court of law in America and in the new highest court of law in Israel, Demjanjuk was proven guilty of countless crimes against humanity. As citizens of a free society it is our duty to kill those who propagate the slaughter of thousands of innocent people.

Most importantly, as Jews, we must accept the command of the Torah to wipe out the element of Amalek from around us.

The image of the spectator chanting "death" must also be put into perspective. This was not an uncontrollable mob as was typified in the French Revolution; this was a group of people, many of whom were survivors, or children of survivors of the Holocaust. What they were expressing was the desire to see a proven murderer receive his just punishment. The chants were admittedly charged with emotion, however, they were not mindless.

It is true that Israel is facing hard times both from the rioting Arabs and from the unfavorable media coverage taking place there. This cannot, however, be allowed to have any effect on the trial. They are two separate issues and to suggest that one should influence the outcome of the other is to suggest an unfair trial.

After observing the Demjanjuk trial, one cannot help but commend Israel. A proven murderer of innocent thousands was tried according to the letter of the law, without the interference of outside factors or emotions. This trial was indeed true to the ideals of Israel and to alter the sentence in any way simply to pacify other nations would only serve to render the trial false.

In addition, she will be teaching classes at Y.C. and the Azrieli graduate School. Dr. Bodian, who specializes in Tanach and Modern Jewish History, holds a Ph.D from Hebrew University.

Also joining the Judaic studies department is Dr. Eliezer Touitou. Dr. Touitou presently teaches at Bar-Ilan University in Tel-Aviv, and is an expert in Medieval Parshanut. He will be teaching courses in Sefer Bereshit and Biblical Exegesis.

Dr. Ben Ish-Shalom is to hold the Miller Chair in Zionism and will be teaching a course on the philosophy of Rav Kook. Dr. Herring, Rabbi of the Atlantic Beach Center,

# Dr. Roshwalb Receives Ph.D.

by Tammy Berkower

Esther Roshwalb, the Adjunct Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature in the Jewish Studies Division of SCW has recently completed her Ph.D. She will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies in the school of Arts and Science at New York University.

For the past five years Dr. Roshwalb has pursued advanced studies in the fields of Bible and ancient Near Eastern languages and literatures. Her main interest, however, is Hebrew literature. In 1979, she received her Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature at the Institute of Hebrew Culture and Education of New York University. Her knowledge of Hebrew literature led to her interest in ancient Hebrew texts. In order to fully understand the ancient Hebrew literature, Dr. Roshwalb took courses in Jewish History. This led to her Pre-Biblical and Biblical studies. Her dissertation combines her Pre-Biblical studies of Ugaritic literature with her Biblical studies. Ugaritic literature is the literature of the Canaanite people, the inhabitants of Israel before it was given to the Jews.

Her work shows the literary unity of the Bible, serves to illuminate obscure biblical passages and accounts for the problem of repetition in the Bible. "Understanding the Ugaritic literature, says Dr. Roshwalb, can only transform the approach to biblical analysis."

Dr. Roshwalb has a keen desire to continue learning. She feels a person who has the opportunity to continue learning, should take advantage of it. She applies this philosophy to her own life.

Born and raised in Israel, Dr. Roshwalb attended the Hebrew University. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Agriculture in 1966. Her education was based on actual

experience, involving a familiarity with every inch of the land of Israel. It bred in her a deep appreciation of nature. It was her early religious training, however, that was the foundation of her love of Hebrew literature and Biblical studies.

Dr. Roshwalb sees a connection between her agricultural and Biblical studies. She feels the beauty of nature is reflected in the words of the Talmud. She says, "I walk in the park. I see every bloom. I can appreciate poems and poetry. The Bible is full of beauty." Moreover, Dr. Roshwalb feels her knowledge of agriculture helps her to understand the reasons for certain halachot such as kashrut which are applicable to her everyday life.

As one student, Gila Kaufman, commented, "Dr. Roshwalb teaches on a high level



**Dr. Esther Roshwalb** in Hebrew. She allows for student participation and explains everything in depth and is open to new ideas. She is understanding, patient, and knowledgeable about her subject. It was a pleasure to be her student!"

## HIGH-TECH IN ISRAEL

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has just completed his first semester at Stern College. He holds a Ph.D from Bernard Revel, and has published books on Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Ethics.

For students entering the advanced levels of Bible courses, Mrs. Weiner-Pack will be teaching an advanced Chumash course that will stress the methodology of learning Tanach. Among other new courses being offered, is a course in Medieval Intellectual History to be taught by Rabbi Kanarfogel.

A large part of the upcoming change is due to the large

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1987-1988

# Out With The Old...

## A Yasher Koach Extended

by Elaine Witty  
The past year has brought many changes to Stern College for Women. We have created a new council, SSSBSC, and forged a better relationship with an already existing council, TAC. My hope for the new administration is that they will continue on the path we have formed for them.

It is difficult to believe that the '87-'88 year is coming to a close when only yesterday it began. As president, I have been privileged to serve my fellow students. I would like to thank all those who have worked with me during my presidency to make Stern College a better place for all of us. Unfortunately, the list is so long that I dare not venture to name anyone for fear of overlooking someone. Thus, I extend to everyone a yasher koach for a year well done.

## Reflection on Year's Accomplishments

by Yael Spiegler  
In Shemot Rabbah 5:9, there is a beautiful midrash that describes the fantastic miracles Hashem performed for us at Har Sinai with His "voice." It says that when G-d spoke, His voice reverberated throughout the world. At first it sounded as if it was coming from the south, so Bnai Yisrael ran after it to greet it, but then it shifted and sounded as if it was coming from the north. When they pursued it in that direction, it shifted to the east, and then from the east to the west, from the west heavenward, and then as if it was coming from the earth. In addition, the midrash expounds upon the pasuk in Shemot 20:15: "And all the people witnessed the thunderings." R' Yochanan, commenting on the plural lashon of thunderings, explains that as Hashem

spoke, His voice divided into 70 voices in 70 languages so all the nations of the world would understand what He was saying, and be cognizant of the powerful significance of what was transpiring. It further states that this same voice that transcended limitations of place and direction caused the souls of the nations of the world to depart from their bodies when they heard it. This same voice reached each Jew with a power proportionate to his own strength. Hashem's goal was not to overwhelm His people with the awesome kedusha of the Torah—rather, but rather, each member of the nation was approached according to his own individual capabilities. The old or the young, the wise or the simple, each perceived the force of G-d's voice corresponding to his inner potential. Hashem did not expect His children to exceed their capabilities, and He presented them with the most precious gift so that each individual could accept, value and treasure it in the way he deemed most appropriate.

As the year ends, one inevitably looks back to see what he has accomplished and where he has grown, and looks forward to further developing himself in these areas. It is crucial to remember when judging oneself, that just as we are endowed with certain strengths, we are also limited by certain weaknesses, and possessing these weaknesses is not a crime that warrants accusation and punishment, but we must be motivated to work to overcome them. If G-d does not expect us to do that which He did not grant us the ability to do, how can we possibly expect that of ourselves? Obviously, He can determine what we can and can not do much more accurately than we can, but part of the learning process is to take pride in our achievements and let them serve as an incentive to accomplish even more.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my tremendous hakarat hatov to all of the people who have helped me throughout this year and who, by sharing with me their own unique strengths and abilities, gave me an appreciation for the potential we all have to succeed at that which is expected of us.



## Student Council Dinner Held at Cheers

by Terri Simckes

A dimly lit foyer, mirrored walls, a manned coat room, and an elegant spiral staircase leading to an elaborate sit down buffet-style dinner were just a few of the tangibles which helped to distinguish this year's Stern College Student Council Dinner from those of the previous years. In contrast to the environment of Koch Auditorium, the private dining room upstairs at Cheers presented the exact dimensions necessary, both spatially and atmospherically, for the 80 students, faculty members and guests that attended the May 17th event.

After allowing adequate time for those in attendance to fill one, two, or even three nice-sized plates with the wide variety of fine cuisine of Cheers, Miss Elaine Witty, outgoing SCWSC President, cued everyone that the ceremonies of the installation of incoming officers, presentation of awards, and induction of the newest members to the Aishel Honor Society was to begin.

Dean Karen Bacon, commended those students who managed to, "juggle" a full course-load, maintain a high GPA, and consistently be immersed in extra-curricular activities. Mrs. Zelda Braun, herself a former SCWSC

President, noted the bond of co-operation established during the academic year of '87-'88 between SCWSC and TAC. It was in this vein that Yael Spiegler, the TAC President during that time period, delivered a semi-spontaneous D'var Torah.

It became obvious as the night grew to a close, that there are many at Stern College who selflessly contribute of themselves on a continuous basis; it is these people's efforts which help to ensure the success of Stern College events. Mrs. Pauline Winter, of the Office of Student Services, received acknowledgement of just such actions from the joint boards of SCWSC and TAC, as well as from all the students they represent.

Prof. Ivan Tillem, who offered the use of his newly acquired restaurant, addressed his students and fellow colleagues, and accepted what he referred to as an "unnecessary gesture."

One graduating senior stated during dinner that, "it is not by chance that the evening was as successful as it was. The hard work and forethought which went into the planning stages of the event leading to its ultimate fruition were of amazing quality and quantity."

# In With The New 1988-1989

## Not Yichus That Matters A Word from the President: "I need input"

by Fayge Stern

"Yichus," family background. It's one of those things that defines a person, gives him identity, and makes your grandmother proud. A more important person should have greater yichus, right? Wrong. As we see from the end of the book of Ruth, the lineage of King David, one of the most important religious and leadership figures in our history, is recounted. Dovid Hamelech must have an illustrious past, right? Not so right. Let's examine the roots of "Malchut Yisrael."

Ruth the Moabite, came from a nation whose origin has a basis in an illicit relationship. Moab was the son born of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter. (Lot's daughter feared that after the destruction of Sedom, there was nobody left in the world).

The origins of Boaz also stem from an illicit affair. Tamar, who had been married to two of Yehudah's sons realized that the king of Israel would stem from this family. Tamar disguised herself and had relations with her father-in-law. This resulted in the birth of Boaz.

Both Ruth and Boaz came from tarnished backgrounds, and their marriage was one of Yibum. Having relations with your brother's wife is forbidden by the Torah, except in the case where the husband dies without having had children. G-d chose that the king of Israel would be an offspring of this relationship.

A lesson which can be learned from the lineage of Dovid Hamelech, is that the most important thing is not what your "yichus" is. We saw that regardless of Dovid's ancestors he became King of Israel. This message can apply to us as well. It's not important if you have been involved in student organizations until now, or what your involvement has been, it's not your "yichus" that matters. What matters is your desire to become active this coming year in many different capacities.

Participation is needed on all levels, from heading clubs to making suggestions for improvements. Many exciting new activities will hopefully be implemented next year, and if we want this to be a great year for TAC, we need your help, so please get involved!

by Ora Ruttner  
Fellow Students, I wish to begin by thanking you for your generous support in the past election. I hope that you will continue to support me as the year progresses. I'd like to wish a Mazel Tov to all the winning candidates, especially to my executive board: Batya Rozwaski — Vice President, Heather Rush — Recording Secretary, Cindy Schlanger — Corresponding Secretary and Sheri Nathanson — Treasurer. I look forward to working with all of you next year. I have many hopes, plans, and aspirations for 1988-89. With your help, it can be the best year ever.

Student involvement is essential. There are many clubs

and committees which require your participation. No event can be successful without active students. Many students complain, "I would love to get involved if I just knew how." Now is your chance! Forms will be distributed listing all clubs and committees that you can join or chair. Please fill them out and return them as soon as possible.

As Number 5 said in Short Circuit, "I need input." If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to discuss them with me. Congratulations to Elaine Witty, my predecessor, and the entire Class of 1988. I hope to see the rest of you next August. Have a great summer.

## Aishel Awardees

by Sara Fineberg

The Aishel Award is a scholastic service honor that recognizes a student's academic performance as well as her involvement in student life. This award is open to juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements such as scholastic achievement, character, and service to the college. The student must have a 3.4 cumulative index to be eligible.

The process of selecting an Aishel awardee begins with the students. They must fill out a form listing all of their extra-curricular activities ranging from involvement in student council, the year book, *The Observer* newspaper, the Senate, etc. It is the responsibility of the Student Council vice-president to publicize the need to fill out this form. After the student fills out the form, the Student Administration tallies the service points, and the Registrar's office supplies the academic information. Together, they are sent to the Dean's office where it is decided which students are inducted for receipt of the award.

- The Aishel award is presented to the recipients at the Student Council Installations Dinner. The awardees for the '87-'88 year of the junior class are Penina Blazer, and Ora Ruttner. The Senior class awardees are Ilana Kopmar, Ariella Schrieber and Rachel Pomerance.
- This is a coveted award, for it not only recognizes academic excellence but extensive student involvement as well. This combination of excellence is hard to maintain. People tend to take this award lightly as opposed to the magna cum laude, but according to Zelda Braun, director of student services, "it is a meaningful honor that looks beyond the academic aspects of students."

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# A Compelling Performance

by Jordana Margolin

"There are people whose radiance continues to light up the world even when they are no longer among us..." Hannah Senesh, a Jewish girl who grew up in Hungary during Hitler's meteoric rise to complete power, was such a person. Her love for the Holy Land inspired her to make aliyah and live for a few years on a kibbutz in Palestine. At twenty-two she became a paratrooper and helped organize youth emigration to Palestine. She put her life on the line for the sake of saving others and was executed for treason by the fascists before her 23rd birthday.

Actress Amy Gordon returned to Stern on May 11 and 12 and gave a draining and compelling performance in "Hannah Senesh", a play with music. The production took place before a large audience in Koch Auditorium. The play was directed by Ira Sakolsky and written for theatre by David Schechter, based on the heroine's original writings. These writings dated from the time she was a girl of thirteen, until just prior to her execution. In addition to her role as Hannah, Ms. Gordon also played Hannah's mother, Catherine, and changed costumes, accents, and mannerisms for each part.

Seated, and dressed in a black coat and shawl amid a black background, Catherine relates the story of her brave daughter. She remembers the last time she saw Hannah in a Budapest prison. The most vivid memory she remembers of her is of the time Hannah held up letters to form words at her cell in an attempt to encourage the other prisoners.

As the music begins, we are transported back to 1934, the

## High-Tech Israel Tour

by Deena Yellin

Those who have already made plans for the summer may want to reconsider them in light of a unique high technology seminar field trip to Israel being offered from June 11-21. The program provides an opportunity for participants to explore Israel's technological achievements first hand, and to visit high-tech sites throughout Israel while meeting with the top experts in technological fields.

According to Dr. Kaufman, the director of the high tech program, "The goal of the seminar is to educate people of the technology in Israel today." The seminar is not only limited to those in technology related fields. It has previously attracted people from diverse backgrounds such as engineering, computer science and business, as well as people involved in human resources and marketing. "It's almost irrelevant what field someone is involved in because people can get a lot out of it; they will be looking at Israeli

time when Hannah was a spunky young girl, wearing braids, a white shirt and striped skirt. Munching a banana, she talks excitedly about recently becoming a vegetarian admitting, "mother always says I do things too quickly."

In one scene, she lights a candle for her late father, understanding that "thanks to his writing, papa seems so close," and touchingly adds, "I can hardly remember your face, but even so I feel you are always with me." The melancholy mood is broken up by intervals of lighter sentiments: "My diaries sound like any 15 year old girl's, just about boys." At age 17 Hannah ponders over her life, and admits, "What I really want to be is a writer," and adds ironically, "and a great soul if G-d will permit."

Almost everything said is accompanied by an activity in order to make it more entertaining. While discussing her plans to move to Palestine, she makes a paper airplane and then walks around balancing books on her head. By the power of her imagination, one can almost see her train journey as she looks out an invisible window, absorbing the scenery and waving goodbye to her mother.

Upon setting foot in Palestine, she lets out her braids, dances, and proclaims "I am in Eretz, I am home." A tablecloth used at the beginning becomes one of the 200 sheets that she launders. The sounds of pouring rain are heard, symbolic of the terrible times she lived in. Hannah cries out, "Will this dismal rain ever stop?"

Her bonding love with her mother causes her to go back to Hungary, "to get them out...to get mother out."

institutions and attending lectures on human resources." The program can provide insights into what's currently happening in Israel. "You may not be an engineer or scientist, it's not just looking at technology, it's also meeting with many people and attending lectures. It's very educational..." contends Kaufman. He pointed out that the high-tech field pertains to almost everyone because it has an impact on practically every field. Furthermore, said Kaufman, "...it's also the future of Israel." According to Kaufman, Israel has become a world leader in science and technology. It has been ranked second to Japan among countries that encourage research and development.

The summer program provides exposure to the problems and opportunities in Israel's high-tech industries. In addition to field trips to firms and institutions relating to technology, there will be lectures and discussions with experts from various organizations

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# Profile: Amy Gordon

by Jordana Margolin

Actress Amy Gordon, a 1986 alumna, known for her leading roles in Stern plays, saw actress Lori Wilner in "Hannah Senesh" three years ago. Both she and Professor Schram, Associate professor of Speech and Drama, intuitively knew that the role was for her. Last year, the thought of playing the part reentered Ms. Gordon's mind. "I was looking for monologues to work on for my acting class and this play wasn't published yet, so I found a copy of the diary and had the idea of doing a showcase."

Turning the idea into reality became a tedious process. For help, Ms. Gordon approached Professor Schram. She discovered that Lauri Wilner was in performing the show in Los Angeles with her understudy. Ms. Gordon contacted the producer, Mr. Bruskin and auditioned for the role. Mr. Bruskin said her performance was moving, "but I think you're too young." He explained that though Hannah wasn't physically old, she was well ahead of Ms. Gordon's years. He gave her a script anyway and told her to work on it.

Ms. Gordon did extensive background research. Traveling to Israel, she visited a kibbutz where Hannah lived. There she spoke to people who knew Hannah and what she was like. In addition, Ms. Gordon went to museums to learn about Hungary during the wartime. She also worked on one of the monologues in her acting class. Last spring, she agreed when

Mr. Bruskin asked if she would mind helping the girl chosen for Hannah with her lines. Ms. Gordon explained, "Mr. Bruskin made an offhanded comment that maybe you could perform it for students in Stern."

It was arranged to be performed at Stern as long as it would be non-profit and not publicized outside the school; only Stern students and personal friends could be invited. Ms. Gordon invited over 200 casting directors of which only a handful came.

Ms. Gordon began rehearsing intensively for the play two months ago. "Sometimes you

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## JUDAIC STUDIES

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amount of women who have expressed a desire to study and take more challenging course work. Rabbi Kanarfogel is impressed with the sincerity and commitment these students, Judaic Studies majors or not, approach their studies. Also, due to the large amount of women expected from Israel in the coming year, plans are in the works to extend the already existing Beit Midrash program which concentrates itself mainly in the study of Gemara. Rabbi Flaum's regularly attended shiurim held for interested students after official school hours will also be continued, and new TAC publications will again surface in the coming year.

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# Summer Seminar

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including executives and professionals working in research and development and human resources. The Technion in Haifa will be one of the major sites visited. Technion faculty will be among the experts lecturing on high tech in Israel.

Phil Listowsky, a former YC student who works in the field of computer science attended the seminar program two years ago. "We were able to speak with people at the cutting edge of technology." He maintained that during the Seminar, he had the opportunity to "...get into places that I'd never be able to get into on my own...the presidents and heads of organizations met us and spoke to us." Listowsky's goal in attending the program was to prepare himself for high-tech work and to, "...make some connections..." According to Listowsky, "The first week and a half we were moving around with high intensity from one place to another. Then we were based at the Alon Towers in Jerusalem, which allowed us independent touring...the trip was a good combination of both conference rooms and freedom." He felt that the group was small but diverse, which made the trip more interesting. "We had one married couple, and both undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of backgrounds. People were very friendly and we got along

well as a group."

Because of the nature of the program, the number of participants is limited. Those eligible include undergraduates, graduate students and working professionals from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds. Individual attention is given to the participants and takes into account their backgrounds and interests. An additional benefit of the program is that its participants may receive credit from Polytechnic University.

The Seminar is sponsored by the New York Region of the American Society for Technion, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the National Council for Research and Development in Israel.

The cost of the entire program is \$2200 and it includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, meals, and field trips.

For more information, contact Prof. H.G. Kaufman, (718) 260-3485.

## SSSBSC

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order for a student to graduate with a degree from the Sy Syms School of Business, they need to finish four full years— a schedule many Yeshiva students are adverse to.

# ELECTIONS

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should come up with an article with what they plan to accomplish and their qualifications."

The Student Council mandates that in order to run for an executive position, a student must have experience attending at least one third of the Student Council meetings, or have served as an officer of a chartered club. These specifications raised doubts about one candidate's qualifications to run, and the executive board of the Student Council decided to permit her candidacy to continue, under the constitutional clause that the executive board approves the eligibility of each candidate.

TAC, which became independent of the Student Council in 1985, held its own, much quieter elections. Miss Stern explained, "they didn't want publicity posters." This she viewed as positive because "...I didn't have to be nervous about what my opponent was doing and try to outdo it." No signatures were necessary for TAC candidates, and this was the first year that there was competition for the positions. "In previous years, positions were basically delegated and people ran unopposed...the fact that so many girls were running for the positions is a reflection of the student body that they want a stronger Jewish atmosphere in the school."

# Choral Ensemble Makes a Comeback

by Lisa Katz

The Stern College Choral Ensemble gave its first performance in two years on May 16 in the Koch Auditorium. Under the direction of Judith Otten and accompanied by Gila Kaufman, the fourteen member Ensemble dressed in black, sang tunes dating from the Renaissance to the early 20th century. Ms. Otten felt that "in spite of the social environment in which young people grow up today and the continued assault upon their ears of loud music and uncontrolled noise, these young ladies have in less than three months time developed into an intelligent and responsive chorus."

The repertoire began with the charming "Sweete Kate" by Robert Jones. The soprano and alto sections seemed to be in a chase, with one section trying to catch up with the next, thus creating a pretty harmony. Sweete Kate is ironically responsible for breaking a boy's heart due to her lack of trust: "Men I know have oaths at leisure." Next was another ballad by Robert Jones entitled, "Will Saide to his Mammy."

Following these selections were William Cornysht's, "A Robyn, Gentil Robyn, an English love ballad with a three part harmony that alternated between the sections, and Haydn's "Come Gentle Spring." Naomi Shemers' Israeli song, "Sheleg Al Iri" or "Snow on my City" described a woman

in a snow covered city, who spiritually enjoys walking in the warm land, "artzot hachom". Other songs included "Simple Gifts," an early American Shaker hymn and "Now's The Time" by Bedrich Smetana.

The last song on the program was "Van Pensiero" or "Speed Your Journey" by Guiseppe Verdi, known for his march-like songs. The notes rolled up and down the octaves, creating an inspiring momentum. Listening to this song, one felt pride and sorrow going over the mountains, valleys, and "waters of Jordan." The song concluded with "Oh inspire us, great leader with courage, so that we may endure to the last."

# SCW Pres.

*continued from p. 1 col. 5*

the actual living conditions of the dorm itself by pushing for a Xerox machine enabling girls to photocopy without leaving the building, installing fans in the back room so the people inside won't swelter, and making computers available to the girls in the dorm. She also plans to be available practically twenty-four hours a day for the students, and wants everyone to know that she is there for them if and when they need her.

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**PROFILE**

*continued from p. 6, col. 5.*

actively work on it, sometimes passively. I wish I had another two months. Everytime you learn something new." She tried to become emotionally involved with the part and think about how she would react if she was in Hannah's situation.

To learn the Hungarian accent necessary to portray Catherine Sensesh, Ms. Gordon listened to tapes and worked with her speech coach. The biggest challenge she faced in

sustaining the roles was "keeping my faith that I could believe in myself enough to do it."

Will Amy Gordon ever perform 'Hannah Senesh' again? For now, the question remains unanswered, though with hope she declared: "if there's a will, there's a way." She empathizes with Hannah in the sense that, "if she felt a way to do something, she did it. I felt close to her, I guess it's hard not to, everybody does."

As for the future, Ms. Gordon admits that she would love to get a role in a play

or film and work with others instead of being the "whole thing." Unfortunately, she acknowledges the demands of her profession; "it's very hard to get parts, everything is a catch 22."

**PERFORMANCE**

*continued from p. 6, col. 3.*

execution, Hannah shook away a blindfold and "lifted her brown eyes up to heaven." Hannah didn't die in vain. The paratroopers' missions had provided hope as they were seen, "dropping from the sky like angels."

**FUTURE FOR TAC**

*continued from p. 1, col. 2.*

for TAC offices. This reflects a greater interest by Stern students in the Jewish atmosphere here than ever before." Ms. Stern hopes that the extensive interest in TAC will help to accomplish much this year and she hopes to hear reactions to programs and activities. She emphasized that TAC has an "open door policy" in terms of positions. "Anyone who wants to be involved with TAC in any capacity, whether it be as Chairperson or as a committee member or even in doing some behind the scenes work is appreciated." Ms. Stern is interested in adding new programs as well as adding innovations to those already in existence. In addition to providing more *shuarim*, she hopes to plan fun programs related to Jewish themes which may help draw a greater amount of student involvement. She feels that there are some holidays that are not emphasized enough at Stern College such as those at the end of

the year or during inconvenient times, like Yom Yerushalaim or Yom Hazikaron. "A lot of holidays get lost in the shuffle," she said. Furthermore, Ms. Stern hopes to sponsor holiday celebrations at Stern College. "There are a lot of holiday programs exclusive to YU. In addition to joining with them we could make our own celebration here." She is very much in favor of interaction with Student Council and hopes to coordinate joint programs with Ora Ruttner, the new Student Council President.

"It's important for a cohesive student body to have TAC support for SCW, and visa versa." Ms. Stern sees TAC as playing an important role in the Jewish environment at Stern College, and feels it has made a great impact on the school. She hopes to embellish and add innovation whenever possible. "I'm anticipating that the board will be a cohesive group and we will work together to the benefit of Stern College."

**Athletics Dinner Awardees**

by Daniella Reichik

On May 16th, students gathered in Beller Commons for the Y.U. sports dinner. The award recipients from Stern College included members of the Tennis and Basketball teams, as well as the swimming class.

The Stern College Tennis Team has had an incredible year, having won all but one game. The coach, Suri Brody, accepted the International Athletic Conference (IAC) Co-

Championship Award on behalf of the entire team. This is the first time in athletic history that any school of Yeshiva University has received such an award. In addition, Miriam Simpson and Sharon Sussman both received the IAC Recognition Award. Only six players of the entire league receive this award. Sharon Sussman also received the Most Valuable Player Award and Miriam Simpson was given the

coach's Award.

Award recipients also included members of the Basketball Team. Stephanie Schechter received the Most Valuable Player Award and Sheba Stern received the Coach's Award. Individual Intramurals Awards were given to members of the swimming class. Recipients included Vicki Gribetz, Ariella Halpert, Ayala Keller, Bonnie Ross, Ricki Stein, and Tova Wizman.



Pictured l to r, Sharon Sussman, Suri Brody, Stephanie Schechter, and Miriam Sipson.

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