YU expands the overcrowded Midtown Campus with the purchase of two buildings.

FACULTY MEMBERS COMPLAIN OF LOW SALARIES

Aviva Laufer
Observer Staff Writer

Since the early 70's, members of the YU undergraduate faculty have been complaining of "extremely low salaries," and claim that they "are much lower than salaries of faculty members at comparable universities.

Within the last two years some undergraduate full professors that have taught for 30 years or more began receiving salaries in the vicinity of $50,000. But most of the faculty still receives a salary within the $20,000 and $40,000 range.

Several faculty members claim the annual salary increases they receive are not sufficient to bring them up to par with current standards at comparable institutions. As one SCW professor put it, "YU faculty are overworked and underpaid.

As a means of voicing their claims, many YU undergraduate professors have become members of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) over the years. This national organization was in existence since 1915 and has about 45,000 members nationwide. The AAUP handles complaints from faculty members fired for holding controversial views and investigates unfair procedures. Its main purpose is to ensure academic freedom.

Professor Joan G. Haas, Professor of English at YU, organized a YU chapter of the AAUP in 1995. She is currently the chapter president. The YU chapter of the AAUP was intended to serve as a forum for discussion of faculty issues and to work toward improving teachers' salaries and working conditions as well as broader academic issues." As Haas explained, "YU must compensate

WE ARE NOT IMMUNE: AIDS IN THE ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY

Susan Jacobs
Executive Editor

Imagine knowing that you live terminally ill, but being unable to tell anyone for fear they will reject you. Imagine tearing labels off bottles of medications in your medicine cabinet so that no one will guess your

malady. Imagine the fear that when you die you will not receive proper burial because the Chosen People refuse to prepare your body. Imagine you have AIDS in the Orthodox Jewish community.

Thousands of Jewish New Yorkers are suffering and dying of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and many of them have no one to talk to about their fear and pain. There are 15,000 Jews in the New York area infected with HIV of a total of 250,000 infected New Yorkers. There is no way of knowing how many of the infected Jews are Orthodox, but there are enough of them to warrant the formation of an AIDS foundation specifically geared towards the issues of Orthodox Jews with AIDS.

The T'zrif Archi AIDS Foundation was formed in 1993...
Where was YU?

Recently, all the largest and most active Jewish organizations in this country convened in Indianapolis, Indiana for an annual convention called the General Assembly. The assembly was of such importance for American Judaism that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended. It was of such importance for American Jewish politics in this country that President Bill Clinton gave a live televised address to the convention organizations. It was an event not to be missed. But Orthodox Judaism in general, and Yeshiva University in particular, was nowhere to be found.

Two YU undergraduates did attend as representatives of other organizations, but there was no official presence from the university, and that began an important question. Why is YU absenting itself from opportunities to create dialogue with the wider Jewish community? Pluralism is the political baseline in American Jewish politics these days. The Reform and Conservative movements are up in arms about the perceived religious elitism and intolerance conveyed by Orthodox Jews. Hours upon hours of the General Assembly were devoted to this topic, and the Orthodox Jews who attended were the vast minority. Where was YU?

The lack of an Orthodox presence at events of this nature strengthens the claim that Orthodox Jews are intolerant. It also obscures the Orthodox complaint from decisions that will impact all of American Jewry, including the distribution of American Jewish charities. President Bill Clinton gave a live televised address to the convention organizations. It was an event not to be missed. But Orthodox Judaism in general, and Yeshiva University in particular, was nowhere to be found.

Where was YU?

Ignorance is Not Bliss

SCW exists in Murray Hill, Manhattan, New York City, New York State, United States of America, North America, Planet Earth. Yet SCW students are unaware and naive about what is happening in any of these places. To many of these students, the world is synonymous with the four university walls.

A college student is at the point in her life where she begins to step outside the securities of the school and into the outside world. Presumably, a college education is supposed to prepare a student for life in the outside world. A YU education, in particular, is supposed to prepare a student to take an active role in that world. But how can a person be a leader in a world he does not know or understand?

It is not terribly difficult to be informed. Stick your nose in the front page of the New York Times for a few minutes after ER and watch the news. Subscribe to a newspaper of magazine, or that if that is not possible, read the front page of “The New York Times” while waiting for the elevator. Another alternative to receiving the newspaper, is looking up top news on the internet.

It is commendable, that whenever anything takes place in Israel, SCW students tend to be very well informed. But knowing what is happening in Israel is not enough. As educated and intelligent women, the students of SCW have no excuse for ignorance.

AIDS and Judaism

Continued from page 7

in response to the death of a young Orthodox woman who died of AIDS. "Nobody talked about it," said Tooch Ehrlich, one of the foundation’s coordinators. "A lot of young people think of AIDS as a disease that happens to others. They don’t understand the enemy."

So the foundation had to do public education: "We had to show them the enemy. They didn’t know what the enemy looked like, so we took pictures of AIDS patients and showed them the enemy. We also talked about the family. They didn’t know that AIDS was a family disease."

"There’s a feeling of guilt because you bring it upon them. They didn’t do anything to deserve it," said Tooch Ehrlich. "And the guilt is passed on to the next generation."

The foundation is working on a project to teach people about AIDS and about the enemy. They are working with a local rabbi to create a curriculum for the schools. The foundation is also working with the Orthodox community to create a curriculum for the schools. The foundation is also working with the Orthodox community to create a curriculum for the schools.

Roth Institute Scholars

Honor Program in Biomedical Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Application forms are available in the Office of the Dean and on the SCW and YC web pages.

Applications should be submitted before final examinations of the fall semester to Dr. Lee Blas, Department of Chemistry.
**Confessions of a Jew in December**

SUSAN JACOBS

"Have you seen the holiday windows at Lord and Taylor?" "Youth, the once Macys are also pretty pretty." "I was near Rockefeller Center and I saw the tree. It's gorgeous." That is the essence of a conversation I had moments ago with a friend of mine. My first reaction was to wonder why SCW students would want to do all of this or even the non-Jewish world commercializes its most popular religious holiday. But then I thought for a moment, and I looked around me at the trendy stores and their ostentatious decorations. I had to admit that some of them really were attractive. That was a big admission for me.

In my neighborhood of Charleston, West Virginia, my house has always been one of the few that is never grandly decorated for that other holiday. In December, Growing up, I always felt a bit isolated in school as every writing assignment, every art project and every fun activity from Thanksgiving until winter break had something to do with that holiday. Every once in a while my teachers would ask me to turn in something for that holiday. I was usually allowed to draw a menorah instead of a tree in art class, and I steadfastly avoided the chocolate milk and cookies. On a spelling test in first grade I was the only student who learned to spell "Hamantaschen," while the rest of the students learned to spell "the name of that other holiday." It's still hated to this day. No attempt at sensitivity from my teachers could prevent that. I grunted inwardly every time I went to a store and was given warm holiday wishes from a cheerful clerk. I tried hard to appreciate my friend's thoughtfulness when they gave me cards or gifts that were red and green.

But things are different now. At SCW, December 25 means crowded stores and gaudy decorations, and that's about it. When I hear friends discussing plans for Chanukah and worrying about their camps will burn long enough in the dark, it's hard to even remember how I used to hate December.

As I pass decorated storefronts, I no longer cringe with annoyance. Somehow it's easier to appreciate the holiday that transcends the non-Jewish world when I'm not being smothered with it. I don't think I'll ever look forward to "the holiday season," but I think I've finally started enjoying it. I'm not planning to take a walking tour of Fifth Avenue, but I think I'll understand if my friends do.

AIDS and Judaism

continued from page 2

Mobile communities. American Jews tend to fall under both categories.

Tzvi Aryeh was introduced to SCW recently when Tal Stein, SCW '98, ran a day-long booth in the Midtown Center lobby, advertising the foundation and promoting AIDS awareness. Stein is currently attending a training program sponsored by Tzvi Aryeh to become more involved in the foundation. "It's very important for people to get involved. It's important that Stern College students be involved," she said. "We have a lot to offer the everyday Jews, coming from our background," coming from our background.

Living With AIDS

Rick Gutman (not her real name) is a 35-year-old Orthodox woman living with HIV. She's divorced and is a single mother of a 2-year-old son. When she found out she was HIV positive nearly three years ago, "it was the end of the world. It was just right there," she didn't die, but her life has undergone a lot of changes.

"It doesn't mean you're going to die right away. I learned to fight," she said. Faith in G-D and constant prayer helped Gutman through the beginning stages of her diagnosis.

She couldn't tell anyone about her illness, and sometimes feels that she is living two lives. Tzvi Aryeh has helped her deal with her illness. "She's always there for me. I know where to turn. I know they'll be there." Gutman has told her mother and a brother about her illness, but no one else.

"We're not bad people. We're just sick." - orthodox woman with AIDS

"They wouldn't understand. You know how people are going to be here later. My husband himself has told me that hospitalization is a cure and is determined not to be destroyed by AIDS." Gutman, a director of her doctor every three weeks or monitor her viral load, the state of her life. Her husband makes me as tough as possible. She's an optimist. She refuses to accept the diagnosis and is determined to live. Gutman's doctor every three weeks or monitor her viral load, the state of her life. Gutman's doctor every three weeks or monitor her viral load, the state of her life. Her husband makes me as tough as possible. She's an optimist. She refuses to accept the diagnosis and is determined to live.

Tzvi Aryeh has been helpful to Warrenberg. In the early 1990s, there was one son for him to turn. His parents, although supportive, had difficulty discussing the situation, and his parents didn't know how to address the issue. Tzvi Aryeh has provided connections to other Jews with AIDS, and to Orthodox Jews willing to listen to his concerns. "I was very relieved there was someone out there who understood me, who I could open with," he said.

He spoke of the vulnerability even Orthodox Jews have to AIDS. "I haven't three times a day, and that didn't protect me."

Wartenberg, like Gutman, is thankful that he is still alive. Wartenberg's younger brother, also a hemophiliac, died of AIDS at age 14. "There are so many blessings that have come my way. Don't feel sorry for me," he said. "Some people don't have family support. My parents are very supportive."

He is also thankful to the members of his community who have prayed for him. "I could not have done this without a multitude of people praying for me," he said.
Milner's Mart Open Sunday Mornings

Students who stay in school over the weekend can now purchase food on their dining cards on Sunday mornings. On November 2, for the first time that year, Milner’s Mart opened for business on Sunday morning, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Among the foods that Milner’s nells are: coffee, tea, bagels, cream cheese, yogurt, juice, tuna, dry cereal, muffins, oatmeal and pastries. The tiny room served fresh Sunday morning, while the rest of the food came from the SCW cafeteria. Any food that remains at 2 p.m. is sent to the SCW cafeteria or sold during the week in Milner’s Mart.

According to Shira Smith, SCW ’99, who works at Milner’s Mart during this time slot, the fastest-selling foods are bagels and bottles of Frappucino. Starbucks! ample cappuccino.

The extended hours are geared to help students, especially out-of-towners, who return to school on Sunday night. Previously these students had to go out to buy breakfast or lunch, while din-

Personal Changes at the OPCS

Sarah Balch
Observer Staff Writer

Personnel changes in the Office of Student Placement and Career Services (OPCS) have raised concern among students. The OPCS provides assistance to graduates seeking employment. Additional services provided include career guidance, summer internship, part-time job help and sponsorship and participation in career fairs. Students have the opportunity to meet individually with counselors to learn about different career paths and the best ways to achieve success.

Adrienne Wolff, after a stay of eight years, and Marjorie Rubinson, after two years, left the OPCS, leaving Naomi Kapp and Professor Ira L. Jankull, Associate Dean of SSSB, at the helm. Two new advisors have already been signed on and are expected to begin working at OPCS within the next two and a half weeks. When asked how the changes would affect services provided by the office, Jankull remained optimistic. “New people introduce different perspectives and ideas on how to improve established practices,” he said. Both Jankull and Kapp say they are dedicated to putting in the necessary time to ensure a smooth transition. “Students can always reach us by phone and should feel free to stop by with concerns or input,” said Kapp.

By and large, the student body appeared unaffected by the personnel changes. Estee Sandller, SCW ’01, said, “I needed some help deciding on a major. There was no problem getting an appointment.”

Many students were unaware of the changes at the office. When told of the depart-

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Open House Attracts 500 Prospective Students

Bethanie Lieberman
Observer Staff Writer

The SCW annual open house, sponsored by the Dean's Office, attracted an unprecedented number of prospective students and their families on Sunday, November 13. The program, which ran from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., consisted of several sessions focusing on various aspects of SCW life, including academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The event was open to all students and prospective students.

The open house was held in Schottenstein Hall, and the Art Annex. From 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., visitors were given the opportunity to attend their choice of presentations on the various majors offered at SCW and the technological advancements in SCW related to them. Offered concurrently, was the Academic Marketplace, an annual open house program featuring representatives from every major that SCW offers. The marketplace provided an opportunity for those with questions or concerns about academic options, graduate programs, and career planning to get the information they needed. At 12:30, lunch was served, followed by a panel with an open forum for audience questions. A tour of Schottenstein and the Art Annex was conducted after lunch.

According to Dean Ethel Ivry, about five hundred prospective applicants and family members attended the Sunday morning program. In anticipation of the number of visitors, both Koch Auditorium and the basement cafeteria were set up for the open house. In the past, only Koch Auditorium was used, and chronic overcrowding resulted. The problem was alleviated by the dual location. The glee of the auditorium was available for those interested in attending the event, and the basement cafeteria provided a more intimate setting for those who preferred a smaller gathering.

During the open house, visitors had the opportunity to meet and speak with current students and faculty members. The SCW annual open house was sponsored by the Dean of Student Services, the Director of Admissions, and the Office of University Relations.

Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and the Cardozo School of Law and SCW.

Schottenstein Hall's public spaces were formally dedicated in a recent ceremony. Early Sunday morning, students gathered in the 9th floor of Schottenstein Hall, and the Art Annex. From 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., visitors had the opportunity to attend their choice of presentations on the various majors offered at SCW and the technological advancements in SCW related to them. Offered concurrently, was the Academic Marketplace, an annual open house program featuring representatives from every major that SCW offers. The marketplace provided an opportunity for those with questions or concerns about academic options, graduate programs, and career planning to get the information they needed. At 12:30, lunch was served, followed by a panel with an open forum for audience questions. A tour of Schottenstein and the Art Annex was conducted after lunch.
Teacher's Salaries

Disparity Among Salaries

During the high inflation in the 1970's, salaries were either increased at minimal amounts or not increased at all. Haiati stated that a possible long-term affect may be that professors will not be able to afford to retire since their pensions will not be low. YU faculty members' salaries are negotiated when they are hired, but salaries based on the standard of the time. In some cases, newly hired teachers receive higher salaries than those who have been teaching at YU for many years, since each is hired at the current rate.

Salary increases have not yet sufficiently met current standards. As attested by 'students who have been teaching at YU for many years, their morale is quite low because of the standard of the time. The majority of physics, mathematics, and biology faculty members are still behind what other Category I institutions are paying. The only exceptions to this are the heavily endowed and student bodies, which may not attend because of rhetoric and Career Fair coinciding with them.

The tensions surrounding low salaries reached new heights in 1987, when faculty members organized a union. They elected a representative who met with the university's administration to negotiate faculty salaries. YU fought the union. The case was taken to federal court and was eventually presented before the United States Supreme Court. In a five to four decision, the Supreme Court ruled against the union. The majority opinion claimed that the faculty of a private institution could not belong to a union because they are considered managers, and workers.

Failure to Recognize AAUP

YU does not officially recognize the YU chapter of the AAUP. In 1982 YU was named by the AAUP for a violation of academic process. The university had fired a tenured faculty member. Later, Better Graduate School closed and did not help those professors find new jobs.

Despite the university's lack of recognition, Baitl sai the YU chapter of the AAUP has been successful in several areas and continues to actively pursue its goals. The chapter has impugned a salary increase, although the rate now seems to have slowed down. They are in the midst of trying to form a council, which will cover all branches of YU. This would enable each branch to discuss their concerns with other branches.

A Category I Institution

In the July 1997 issue of Academe, the YU AAUP chapter newsletter, YU is ranked as a Category I institution. Universities "granting at least thirty doctoral level degrees annually, in three or more unrelated disciplines," hold this status. However, salaries issued to YU undergraduate faculty members resemble those issued to teachers in smaller Category II institutions.

The newsletter states, "Despite average salary increases of 5% and 6% respectively during the past two years, 1985-1987, the salaries of many faculty members are still behind faculty salaries in other institutions." In the New York region, and nationwide, YU undergraduate faculty salaries in the higher ranks-professors and Associate Professors-cannot, considerably, improve, as according to this, those with similar endowments and student bodies, low salaries are for more prestigious and less efficient institutions than YU.

The newsletter concludes, stating, "YU's long term faculty deserve better from the institution whose academic success derives in great part from the contributions they have made."

Dean Bacon explained that although YU is listed as a Category I institution, the undergraduate college in YU resembles other Category II institutions. YU and SCW do not grant doctoral degrees, as required for a Category I institution. Only YU's graduate programs grant doctoral degrees. Only when placing the institutions together, does the university qualify for a Category I status.

The undergraduate and the graduate programs are anomalous," said Dean Bacon. All other institutions in Category I have combined undergraduate and graduate programs whose faculties teach in both. Despite the seemingly low salaries received by YU undergraduate professors, overall, Bacon said that the faculty remains dedicated to YU because "they believe in the students and they believe that they will make a difference in the world." Dean Bacon added that "one of the strengths of the college is the commitment of the faculty."

Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President of Academic Affairs at YU, claimed that assistant and associate professor levels, YU is actually "not behind at all." While he admitted that the salaries of senior professors are still behind, he said that "the average in trying to enhance professor salaries have been made.

Schwartz noted that even in salary increases for YU undergraduate faculty, YU has made "substantial strides compared to other universities throughout the country." Two years ago YU increased salaries by 8%, while the national average was 2% to 3%. Last year, the salary increase was 6% while the national average remained at 2% to 3%.

Bacon stated that faculty salaries are "related to the financial health of the institution" and increasing them is in a priority. Schwartz agreed, stating that, "we're trying to maintain the momentum," however, "it must be consistent with physical resources."

SCW Students Attend OU Women's Dinner

Miriam C. Grossman
Observer Staff Writer

On Monday evening, November 1, SCW students, faculty leaders, including club presidents, committee heads, and senior student council board members, attended a dinner given by the Orthodox Union at the Tants Town Hilton. Although less than 100 students were invited by the student council and 19 students attended the dinner. The Women's Branch, which is in its seventh year, encouraged the student leaders of SCW to become involved with their organization. The dinner was the culmination of a three day lecture series for delegates of the Women's Branch during which funding methods and ways of relating to the community were discussed.

They paid homage to Aaron Feinstein, of Malden Mills, and a YU alumnus. After one of his cloth drivers burned down in December of 1995, he continued to pay his employees while he rebuilt the operation. Feinstein said the corporation is responsible to the workers and the community, and should be loyal to them. When the corporation fails these responsibilities, the workers, in turn, will return the loyalty. In fact, Mr. Feinstein's employees were instrumental in rebuilding the operation quickly and for increasing production in the one plant that didn't burn completely. Feinstein said, "As your find yourself in situations that are devoid of ethical values, do everything in your power to be a punch [man]."

The Women's Branch also installed its new president, Marilyn Golomb Selber, a SCW graduate (Class of '66) and a recipient of the Stern College Alumnae Association Samuel Belkin Award for Professional Achievement in 1996. She is also the mother of Rachel Selber, SCW 2000. Elizabeth Isaacs Gilbert, the first Dean of Women at SCW, introduced her. Selber has always been involved with Women's Branch and accepted the position in memory of her late mother, Eve Golomb, who was also active in the organization during her lifetime.

Sophie Ebert, the outgoing president, and grandmother of Yedida Goldman, SCW 99, also spoke at the event.

Geraldine Schottenstein Hoffman and Jay Schottenstein cut a ribbon, officially dedicating Schottenstein Hall

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Sunday 9:30 a.m. Jewish Special Education
Rabbi Eliezer Vilinsky
11:30 a.m. Teaching Bible: Prophets
Rabbi Nachum Muschel
Monday 6:00 p.m. Moral Development
Dr. Yitzchak S. Handel
7:50 p.m. Educational Methodology
And Didactics
Rabbi Chaim Feuerman, Ed.D.
Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Research in Jewish Education
Dr. Alvin I. Schiff
7:50 p.m. Cognitive Processes and Methods
In Jewish Education
Dr. Aharon H. Fried
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Sociology of the American
Jewish Community
Dr. Chaim I. Waxman
7:50 p.m. School Leadership:
Problems and Practices II
Rabbi Chaim Feuerman, Ed.D.
Thursday 6:00 p.m. Teaching Bible: Pentateuch
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7:50 p.m. Teaching Jewish History
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Please Post
Are SCW Students Tuned in to the News?  
Volly Nager  
December 3, 1997, 120 noon

Are SCW students really tuned in to current events? Most do not feel that they are very involved with current events. The main reasons are time, the amount of homework, and the school environment. We need to trim the amount of homework and the school environment to make sure students are more involved with current events.

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The commercials contour, each company touting the best plan for your money. Adding a few cents to a dollar a minute charge seems like a bargain, but do you really know what you're getting for your money? Environments differ, and so do the services. Thus, your plan will vary.

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For more information, contact The Friends of The New York Times. Call 1-800-999-NEWS.

One of Jerusalem's Best Secret Keeps

Ruth Lindenblatt

Mother of Israel's President, Ruth Lindenblatt is known for her remarkable way of organizing her life. Despite her demanding schedule, she finds time to be up-to-date, worldly, and politically aware.

The Friends of The New York Times

...and that is why the Reyers sponsored by the friends.

Nikki Paley, SCW '98, states, "I think it is understandable because they don't want to see every penny. Stern needs to cut some spending, but they don't want to say that in the open.

A Loan That Made History

After long and arduous negotiations, South Korea had to swallow its pride and accept a fifty-five billion dollar package from the International Monetary Fund in order to stave off economic collapse. The U.S. government, which took the lead in arranging the loan, has been praised for its deft handling of the crisis. The loan will provide South Korea with the funds it needs to stabilize its economy and begin the long process of economic recovery.

Beverly A. George

The late Rabbanit Sarah Herzog, first and mother of Israel's President, had been involved in The Friends of The New York Times since its inception. Women have served women in the role of Chairwoman of The Friends of The New York Times.

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To Learn
To Teach

Rena Kralowski
Observer Staff Writer

Recalling his own college and post-college years, Rabbi Anson Cohen reminisces about the time his friend asked to borrow his microwave to prepare rice. Having followed Rabbi Cohen’s instructions to cook the rice for twenty minutes, his friend could not quite figure out why the rice came out so crunchy. The two shared a laugh when the problem was discovered; the friend had neglected to add water!

Rabbi Cohen knows what it is like to be a college student and his teaching reflects that. Students describe Rabbi Cohen as a teacher who relates to them on a level and finds the need for interactions with all his students to come for Shabbos.

Rabbi Cohen finds teaching at SCW rewarding and stimulating. He enjoys the interactive “give and take” that has his students actively participating in his classes. Beyond the actual teaching experience, which Rabbi Cohen finds exhilarating, he also enjoys the element of preparation that is required to make each lesson so successful. Part of the reason Rabbi Cohen chose to teach at SCW is the high and exacting level of both the teachers and the students at SCW, and he appreciates the resulting need for careful preparation.

Students respond accordingly to Rabbi Cohen’s engaging teaching style. Zemira Barak, SCW ’09, enthused, “This is my favorite class. Of all my courses, I participate the most in this class, which... is a function of [Rabbi Cohen’s] personality.” She commented that Rabbi Cohen explains the subject material with extreme lucidity and precision, which are vital for a proper understanding of the topics covered. She also values the fact that Rabbi Cohen presents the students with all the related sources.

Rabbi Cohen teaches two courses: one on the fundamentals in Jewish Law and another entitled Women in Jewish Law. Rabbi Cohen chose to focus the latter course on the fundamental principles related to Halacha (practical law). Regarding the course on Jewish Festivals, Rabbi Cohen narrowed down the wide scope of material and selected issues that he felt are most practical.

Rabbi Cohen, who grew up in Toronto, now lives in Brooklyn. He has a one and a half year old son, who has proven to be very popular among Rabbi Cohen’s students. The toddler was the star of a high school Shabbaton that his father chaperoned, and the next day, when Rabbi Cohen returned to school, another class claimed to see pictures of Rabbi Cohen’s son. He was quite happily shaken by an instant rush of stampeding girls.

Rabbi Cohen brings vast experience to his teaching. He holds a BA in economics from Yeshiva University, an MA in modern Jewish history from BRGC, and an MA in school psychology from City College of New York. In addition to having spent several years studying in Israel at Yeshivat Kerem B’Yavneh, Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush) and the Mir Yeshiva, and in Mesivta Tikvah Jerusalem on the Lower East Side, Rabbi Cohen has received smicha from RIETS. He has served in rabbinical positions in the Young Israel of Fifth Avenue, the Jewish Center of 86th Street and the Young Israel of Forest Hills. He has drawn upon his teaching experiences from the Jewish Center of Manhattan, JSS in YU, Shevach High School, and Britania High School.

One SCW student summarized her classmates’ feelings toward Rabbi Cohen’s course: “This class is exactly what I was looking for; it’s concrete, and everything we learn is so practical. I definitely plan to take another course [by Rabbi Cohen].”

News of the Weird

Voices in the Elevator

Kayla Pliskin
Associate Features Editor

It is unusual to see someone talking in the elevator door opens when only one person is in the elevator. But that is exactly what I found myself doing one afternoon on the way to class.

I put on my coat, slung my backpack over my shoulder, and headed out the door. I experienced a surprisingly short wait before the elevator arrived. The doors slid open, I entered, and they slid behind me. Looking about, I discovered that I had the elevator all to myself. “This should be a fast ride,” I thought cheerily.

Hunting to myself as the elevator descended, I mulled over the list of things I had to do that day: read English Lit (floor ten), begin working on my paper (floor nine), call home (floor eight), jump at the sound of loud static. “My backpack must have hit the emergency call button,” I thought. Having previously experienced such an incident, I prepared to apologize and explain the mistake to the security guard who picked up.

“Is this Stern?” said the foreign accent.

“Excuse me?” I replied.

“I have a call from someone who wants to be connected to Stern,” continued the voice from the wait. “Floor seven.”

“This is the elevator,” I tried to explain. “A student from Israel wants to talk to the Stern office. Can I put the call through?”

(Floor six.) The operator obviously did not understand English so well. Or maybe, she wasn’t expecting to hear the word elevator.

“Does this office,” I tried to clarify, “You’re calling an elevator.”

As the car traveled to the lobby, I attempted to explain to the operator the humorous event that was transpiring.

I don’t know if the operator ever quite realized where she had gone wrong or that I do know that as the elevator arrived at the ground floor and the doors opened, students waiting to enter beheld the sight of a girl talking to the wall.

True story. Did anything out of the ordinary ever happen to you? If so, contact the Observer with your “News of the Weird.”
Fifty Years Ago: The UN Partition of Palestine
part three of an occasional series

Julie Stampnitzky
Editorial Editor

For almost thirty years, Zionists in British Mandatory Palestine anticipated the time when Britain would grant them independence in their homeland. A main obstacle to these hopes was the competing claims of non-Jews living in Palestine. In August 1947, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine proposed dividing the region into two states, one to be for the Jews and one for the Arabs. The General Assembly of the UN approved their recommendation on November 29, 1947.

This was actually the second time that Palestine was to be partitioned, since in 1922 the portion of the Mandate east of the Jordan River was made into the kingdom of Transjordan. The territory allotted to the Jews in the new plan consisted of three pieces joined only at the corners: the entire coast, had a population of 500,000 Jews and 450,000 Arabs. Jerusalem, located in the midst of an Arab segment, was to be an international city. The two would be states were described by some as being "united like fighting serpents." The plan was less generous than the partition proposed by the Jewish Agency in 1944, but was more favorable than any previous offer made to the Zionists.

The UNSCOP's partition plan was passed by a vote of 33-13. Its opponents included Great Britain and 11 Muslim states; the US and the USSR favored the plan. Great Britain announced their intention of pulling out of Palestine by May 15, 1948. The proposed Palestinian state, however, could hardly be regarded as viable, since there was no governmental body to take control. The British were aware that King Abdullah of Jordan intended to annex the portion of the proposed state that was on the west bank of the Jordan.

The news of the successful vote prompted rejoicing among Jews, who saw their goal of a state finally within reach. The Arab reaction was both immediate and violent. On November 30, fighting broke out, killing seven Jews. Almost 1000 Jews were killed by Arab violence during the undeclared war from December 1947 to April 1948.

ATTENTION STUDENTS PLANNING TO STUDY IN ISRAEL:
Scholarship applications for the Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship are now available for the 1998-1999 academic year.

Alisa Flatow was killed in a terrorist attack in Kfar Darom in April, 1995. The scholarship, established by Flatow's family, is geared for students planning to spend a year in Israel studying Judaism.

Deadline for application receipt is February 9, 1998.

For more information see http://www.ou.org/alisaflatow scholarship

Publications in Israel, History, and Today
Memories of a Colorful Man

My grandfather died when I was 14. I used to visit him about every other summer in his tiny apartment in Haifa. The last time I saw him, he gave me a kiss and told me to have a safe trip. I hugged him and promised to come visit soon.

Even though I only saw my grandfather for a few summers, the lessons he taught me will last me for the rest of my life.

My grandfather taught me about caring, about dedication and about love. To me, he represented strength and courage during times of indigence and anguish. I admired him for the little things he did and was awed by the respect others gave him. He never mentioned any of his achievements, but I knew he was a man who made his mark on the world.

During World War II, my grandfather became one of the earliest experts on tanks. As a high general in the Russian army, he once took apart a tank and put it back together again. He never told anyone about the incident until he died. My grandfather got out of his hospital bed to tell everyone he loved—he refunded one letter he ever sent. He once took apart a tank and put it back together again. He never told anyone about the incident until he died.

Yet I will always remember the way he used to hug me and the way he would show me off to his friends in front of me. I remember the way he taught me to swim, the way he taught me to read and write, the way he taught me to love life. I remember the way he taught me to love life. I remember the way he taught me to love life.

My grandfather was not perfect, and I know that. He used to discipline my cousins with a belt, and pull their ears when they were disrespectful. He was tough and had to stand things his own way.

When my grandfather loved someone, he loved them with a passion. He would shower that person with gifts and praise them for no reason. Yet when my grandfather hated someone, he spoke of them. He would show his dislike for the person and insult him outright. He was straight and truthful, and let everyone know that.

My grandfather had a quick tongue and a passion for being right. If there was something he did not know, he pretended he did. He would sit in his brown leather chair opposite the television set and tell Israeli politicians appearing on Ma'ariv what to do. He argued about politics, the future of the Medinah and about the Edged Bus. He hated everything and found loopholes in the system that he used to his benefit.

Yet I will always remember the way he used to hug me and the way he would show me from the corner of his eye. I remember his sense of humor, and the way he told me that I loved. I can recall each gift he would bring me from the shuk, and cherish the only letter he ever sent to me from Israel.

Once, at the age of seven, my grandfather had me carry a live fish from the shuk to his apartment. He skinned it over the kitchen sink, and placed the fish's eyes in front of me on a round plate. He proceeded to make gefilte fish out of the rest of the sea creature. I didn't eat fish for seven years after that incident.

I remember the way he would show me to his friends in shul and the way he would show me that I never knew existed. I remember his love of Torah and the important role chess played in his life.

A few hours before he died, my grandfather got out of his hospital bed to feed a helpless man in his room. He flirted with a nurse and told everyone that he knew he would not make it to the end of the day.

That was my grandfather and those were the lessons he left the rest of the world.

Julie Stampnitzky
Editorial Editor

Hate Goes High-Tech

There is a tendency among some users of the Internet to assume that whatever appears on a webpage is true and accurate. While a reader of a book or newspaper, however, can assume that what appears is overseen by editors, on the Web this is often not the case. The same ease of access that allows us to publish the Observer online is a boon to individuals and groups seeking to spread lies, intolerance, and hate. The most comprehensive index to sites put out by these groups can be found at http://www.hatewatch.org.

The list of sites compiled here, divided into categories such as white supremacy, skinheads, Holocaust denial, black racism, etc., is truly sickening. I'm not going to comment on specific sites, because I hope that everyone reading this will go find out for her- or himself. Get informed, folding your head in the sand like an ostrich is not an option.

A Jew's Slaying, on page 15

Call it "dog bites man," in the slaying of a Jew is not as newsworthy as that of an Arab. A case in point is the murder of Gabriel Hirschberg, killed by a Palestinian gunman while walking through the Muslim Quarter late at night together with a friend, who was seriously wounded in the attack. Hirschberg, 26, had recently emigrated from Hungary and was a student at Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva. The attack was chronicled in a New York Times article of November 21 appearing on page 15, "A Jew's Slaying Fuels Tensions in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter."

The article stressed the tensions between the Jewish and Muslim communities in Jerusalem, the presence of the "right-wing" yeshiva, acknowledging that "many Arabs see the Jewish presence as an intrusion." Curiously, the November 26 issue of the Jerusalem Post did not even mention Hirschberg's death.

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Winter Week of Learning

"And Ye Shall Teach Them."

Jewish Education in Classical Jewish Texts

Dr. Isaiah Gafni, The Hebrew University

December 23 - 25

Women are welcome all 3 days ($150/$90 students) or just Dec. 25th ($50/$30 students).

Men are welcome Dec. 25th ($50/$30 students).

Special Dinner and Kumsitz, co-sponsored by The Carlebach Shul, featuring Dr. Elli Kranzler and the music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, z'l

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Spring semester courses begin February 2nd

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Are Orthodox Jews Elitists?

Being a proud Orthodox Jew at a conference comprised of 4,400 Jews should be an exhilarating experience. Yet, an underlying anti-Orthodox sentiment at the Council of Jewish Federation’s 66th annual General Assembly dented my pride. An assortment of Jewish leaders, laymen, professionals, and students from the United States, Canada, and Israel flooded Indiana’s capital for a six-day conference in November. As all denominations in Judaism were represented, a diverse atmosphere was instantaneously created.

A gathering of such magnitude has various purposes and goals. Generally, the GA provides an ambience that is conducive to gaining a greater and more accurate understanding of the fundamental principles that lie at the core of the larger Jewish community. The conference serves as a unique opportunity for a plethora of differing people to address, discuss, and even debate the myriad of poignant issues relevant to the Jewish people, be it domestic or international. Among these “differing Jews” there is but one common denominator: namely, they are concerned about our people. Through their deeply rooted devotion and communal activities their lives are spent making a substantial difference within the Jewish world.

Some attempted to accomplish this task by meeting with other professionals in their particular fields, sharing their ideas, programs, and institutions that have been successful or disastrous. Others rapped from the seemingly endless array of prestigious speakers and sessions throughout the conference ranging from “How to successfully fund raise” to “Jewish solidarity.”

The most frequently discussed topic was Jewish unity and its connection to the conversion to Judaism in Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Yaakov Ne’eman, Israel’s Finance Minister and Chairman of the Committee on Jewish Unity, and President Bill Clinton were among the many speakers to address this pressing issue. As an Orthodox Jew, I find myself torn. It is heart wrenching to think about the conflicts and angst that have arisen over this contentious predicament to which no immediate solutions offer themselves. Although I did not experience any direct animosity from people in alternative denominations, I understood all too clearly that Orthodox Jews are not viewed in a positive light. From the pointed questions asked at sessions, to the subtly negative rhetoric expressed by speakers and performers alike, it was evident that for most of the attendees, Orthodoxy appears to be uncompromising, stubborn, and unsympathetic.

Regardless of the validity of this notion, the death of Orthodox representation was appealing. A tiny percentage of the attendees were Orthodox. A total of two students from all of Yeshiva University’s undergraduate program attended the conference, and not one Rabbi, Professor, or teacher was there to represent the faculty despite the fact that many other institutions and programs were adequately represented.

It is understandable that myths and fictitious assumptions will be perpetuated if they are not given the opportunity to be disproven and invalidated. How can Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Jews think that we are moral and kind people if we are not there to show them this truth? Are we only good to our own kind? If the lines of communication are down, I see no options other than a continuum of the entity that has reached its pinnacle. One method to dissolving unfounded prejudices is to expose each side to the others. If we are so sure that Orthodoxy is the correct pathway towards pure avodat hashem, then we should not be frightened to stand among others who may differ theologically. If our communities became fluid and we actually established a working relationship, I believe that the hostility I felt at the GA would subside and my pride would be restored.

Write a column for the Observer and give your two cents on life. Submissions are being accepted for “yourTurn.” Drop off suggestions at BH 4C or email them to observer@ymail.yu.edu.
The Museum of Jewish Heritage: An Important Lesson for Everyone

Dassi Zeidel
Cultural Arts Editor

Most museums dealing with the subject of the Holocaust feature pictures, testimonies and religious articles taken from that time period. The United States Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem fit this description. A new museum in New York City doesn’t entirely fit the description.

The Holocaust is but one of three main focuses at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, which opened to the public on Monday, September 15th. The three themes of the museum correspond to the three floors, each representing a different facet of Jewish history. The museum’s floor plan illustrates the facts in a clear, easily understandable manner. The exhibits start at a specific point on each floor and wind around the rotunda to an elevator at the other end, leading to the next floor.

Rita Lerner, co-chair of the Associates Division and the Board of Overseers, describes the museum as “a full circle, the full story of the Jewish people.” She says the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. is “wonderful” but the new rendition in New York City is “more well rounded.”

The Entry Round is perhaps the most powerful aspect of the museum as it draws one into its ambiance and environment. An eight-minute video, set on wide screens in a dark room, features Jewish life one century ago, which is the theme of the first floor. In the video, Jews of all ages and backgrounds talk about what being Jewish means to them.

The remainder of the first floor is devoted to the presentation of artifacts from the 19th century collected from Europe, North Africa and the United States. Prayer books, Kiddush cups and charity boxes, as well as more exotic items such as marriage clothing and the walls of a Sukkah, with religious prayers and customs printed elaborately across them, are displayed.

The events of the Holocaust, complete with timelines, pictures and testimonies on video are portrayed in an orderly fashion on the second floor. What is most striking about this section of the museum is its authenticity and the light it sheds on a subject that has been ubiquitously written about and displayed. The exhibit on propaganda contains placards and political comics used by the Nazis in their efforts to bewitch Germans to think of Jews as parasites. The testimonies on video contain heartfelt stories from Jews and Gentiles. They manage to give a name and face to the people who lived through the atrocity of the Holocaust.

One of the final touches of this floor is the gallery of photographs, accompanied by a book containing short biographies of the people who perished in World War II. Keeping with the theme of “A Living Memorial to the Holocaust,” the book states the wishes of the museum to show these people as they loved and not as they died.

Jewish history dating from after the Holocaust to the present is the theme of the third floor, which is aptly titled Jewish Renewal. Some of the events included are the birth of the State of Israel, the establishment of America as a nation of Jewish life and the plight of Soviet Jews. Photographs of Jews as they lived today dress the walls. Among them are Hasidic children playing in Jerusalem, a woman visiting a relative’s grave in Israel, and young people volunteering at a homeless shelter in the United States.

Lerner hopes that people who visit the museum will walk away with a “feeling of hope, a feeling of understanding, a feeling that we have learned something.” The most important thing to be gained from the museum is for people to “educate themselves and educate others,” Lerner states.

Lerner has been involved with the Museum of Jewish Heritage almost since its inception. “I read an article in the New York Times that they were building a new museum. So I called them, I was willing to do anything to help.” Now Lerner, who works as a volunteer, is involved mainly with fundraising for the museum. She also helps organize programs for Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah.

The Folksbiene, meaning “The People’s Theater,” is also housed at the Museum. It is a lifelong home and work place for some of the nation’s top Yiddish actors and actresses. Among them is Sholom Asch, who has been with the Folksbiene for 14 seasons, played a witty sarcasm as Yankl’s father, Shemke, that complemented Bern’s role.

In the role of Yankl is Yossel Wolfe who has been in other Yiddish productions such as last year’s “The Maid of Ludmir,” as well as a range of television appearances including “Law & Order” and “Guiding Light.” Wolfe gave sympathy to a character who was probabaly underservicing. Rachel Botzin’s strong voice and angelic look captured Yankl’s innocence yet powerful presence.

Overall, a light-hearted musical comedy with many droll moments, the play was well acted and enjoyable to watch. Although it was written over 50 years ago and is set in a small village in the Ukraine, circa 1906, this story can be entertaining during any age.

The Folksbiene, meaning “People’s Stage,” was founded in 1928 Blacksmith, page 15

Sarah Catro, Observer Staff Writer

Can you imagine a time when the decision about the dress code would be up to the students, rather than the administration? In December of 1969, the decision about the dress code was up to a vote as to whether the student body or the dean would make the decision. A poll, developed to determine the opinions of the students about the dress code, revealed some trends that one would not necessarily assume would come from students of the 60’s. 36.6% of the student body participated in the poll in 1969. The poll divided the results into two categories: one in favor of the student body making the decision about the dress code and one in favor of the dean making the decision about the dress code.

Of the students who were in favor of the student body making the decision about the dress code, 31.5% favored slacks in the building, but not to classes. 22% of the student body wanted to wear slacks to classes, and 17.3% did not want slacks at all.

Of the students in favor of the dean making the decision about the dress code, 31.5% favored slacks in the building, but not to classes. 22% of the student body wanted to wear slacks to classes, and 17.3% did not want slacks at all, and 16.3% did not specify any requirement.

The overwhelming result of this poll was that the majority of the students wanted the student body to make the decision about the dress code.

As of 1997, the student body had nothing to do with such policy decisions. In fact, the rabbinical faculty of SCW debates such issues, but the final decision is ultimately up to President Rabbi Norman Lamm.
Miss Saigon: Moral Message or Melodrama?

The talented young cast is what really holds the play together. Declan, Lyna Chong, who is making her Broadway debut as Kim, gives a poignant performance, complemented by her tremendous voice. Matt Bogart, who portrays Chris, is also making his Broadway debut, with a solid background in regional theatre. He has an incredible range, but he tends to sing his chief using a musical, "Why Give Why?", a little nasal! By and large, though, he has taken on the role of Chris entirely and has great potential.

Leonard Joseph, who portrays Chris's father, John, has made up his mind to spare the rest of his lives as one. The ensuing action pulls the plot together, but the whole play is tinged with a slight sense of melodrama. The flashbacks are helpful in understanding Chris's relationship and the fact that they seem to provide a better sense of the time period and its turmoil and uncertainty.

ROOMMATES

The Blacksmith's Folly

The Blacksmith's Folly is playing at The Central Synagogue, 125 East 55th Street.

Why You?

Elana Steiner

Baron's Review

not guaranteed to improve ORF scores, grades or mood in anything.

ROOMMATES

continued from page 14

1915 with actors who performed without salary. Over the years the theatre has grown in production and professional reputation. Among the theatre's patrons are Alan Alda and Leonard Nimoy. In 1987 the patrons of the Folkshiene funded the purchase of electronic listening devices that provide simultaneous English and Russian translations of each production.

For more information on the Folkshiene or to purchase tickets call (212) 755-2223. "The Blacksmith's Folly" is playing at The Central Synagogue, 125 East 55th Street.

Iran, as I suddenly noticed a couple of strands of hair at the hem of my skirt. Fine, I can deal with that. But as I start pulling them off, I keep noticing more and more strands. It just didn't end. And then I realized the underside of my skirt was globs of hair!!! I was so disgusted I was almost in tears. I thought of someone who has the abundance of hairballs surrounding them as the world's biggest stage. To just have this thought that this whole creature is completely hypothetical, written for entertainment purposes only ...

So I decided that something had to be done. Desperate times call for desperate measures and so, upon my return home for the weekend, I calmly demanded that my mother chop off my hair. My mother rejected that she didn't know how to cut hair even, but I really insisted that I didn't care - I just want to get rid of this ridiculous problem from its source. Immediately.

So I pinned the two together and my imaginary roommates in the world's biggest stage. To just have this thing go through my head as if it were a plumage it was...a good three inches. That would've been fine with me except that once she realized what she had done, she got scared at such a drastic cut and backed off: resulting in complete crookedness. So I walked around in dishevelment for a day or two until my sister-in-law quickly evened it out for me in an emergency operation right before the family Thanksgiving meal.

And so, I thought the hair saga had come to an end. But then, I returned to the dorm...and I suddenly recalled that my scalp was the only source of the shedding! I still had three other heads of hair to deal with and that's a good thing this whole story is only a figment of my imagination!
Every day we are bombarded with various kinds of information and advice on health and nutrition. Whether it's "don't eat while standing," or "your legs will get fat if you eat all carbs and lose 30 pounds" advice, everyone seems to have an opinion. With all this information entering our brains every day, it's pretty difficult to get a clear understanding of what you should or should not be doing when it comes to your dietary habits. I have found a few myths that come up more often than others. For example, is it true that eating walks take more calories to digest than they contain? Not on your life.

Many people have heard that weight loss is faster when consuming the majority of calories during the day. While there is evidence that implies eating earlier helps you stay thin, there is no scientific proof. In fact, a 1995 study of 1,802 women found that when they made no difference in body weight even among those who consumed most of their calories after 5:00 p.m. However, eating your main meals during the day can help in two ways. If you tend to snack at night, giving yourself a food curfew—say, 7:00 p.m.—will keep you from eating the wrong foods when you're tired to stop yourself. Also, eating a big breakfast means you are more likely to get certain vitamins that you otherwise won't get.

Does your stomach shrink when you are on a diet? This myth seems to be true according to research from St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York. The study compared the stomach sizes of 14 dieters and 9 non-restricted eaters. After 4 weeks on a 600 calorie a day liquid diet, the dieters lost an average of 20 pounds and shrunk their stomachs by 27 to 37 percent. This would probably happen on a 1,200-1,300 calorie a day food diet, but to a lesser extent. A smaller stomach can help you stay trim because you will get uncomfortable before you overeat. Is it possible to permanently change your metabolism? Yes, but only if you work at it permanently. Metabolism varies from person to person. The bigger you are, the more muscle mass you have, the more active you are the higher your metabolism. But to a certain extent it is genetic. If you're a slow burner by nature, the only way to speed things up is by exercise. But here's the catch: the metabolic boost lasts only as long as you exercise. If you stop, you will go back to the metabolism you were born with.

Should you count fat grams or calories when watching your weight? Although fat is easier to count, calories count the most. Still, watching your fat is important because fat packs so many calories—nine per gram. Fat also takes the body more energy to metabolize. A friend of mine once went on a protein diet hoping to lose a few pounds. She ended up gaining eight pounds from eating all the high fat cheeses and meats that the diet allowed her to eat. The moral of the story is to always do research before jumping into any new nutrition regimen.

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