



## Open Discussion Held Between Dean Jablonsky and Students

by Marcia Wolkowitz

Modification of the science requirement, shifting patterns of vocations for women, and integration of academic activity between SCW and YC, were some of the issues discussed at "Meet the Dean," an informal meeting with Acting Associate Dean Jablonsky, held on December 22.

In regard to the question of modifying the science course taken by non-majors, several suggestions were offered. They included formulating a less intensive course, withdrawing the lab requirement, and eliminating some specific topics which are considered by some to be time consuming and uninteresting.

There were students who pointed out the benefits of the lab period, commenting that by cutting out the lab, much would be detracted from the course. Another suggestion proposed was to incorporate such subjects as astronomy, into the first half of the required course, and adding new courses without eliminating the necessary ones. The Dean responded that because SCW is limited financially, this would not be feasible, since generally, if a new course is added, another course from that department must be cancelled. However, Senate presently has this topic on their agenda, and the Dean added that

the Curriculum Committee, comprised of faculty and two student



Dean Jablonsky

representatives should also be involved.

Rabbi Metzger, initiated a discussion on the shifting patterns of women in the vocations, and how this relates to the status of the housewife vis-à-vis the professional woman. He questioned whether one should postpone marriage or vocation. The general response was that at Stern, one can build both worlds, and need not, or should not, give up one for the other. It was pointed out that many faculty

members at the college exemplify this kind of life.

On the subject of more integration in the academic sphere between Stern and Yeshiva Colleges, some students commented that this would destroy the uniqueness of a women's college and that integration would negatively effect the reputation of the school, if Judaic courses were mixed. However, -it was also mentioned that there is a much broader scope, and a larger number of courses offered at YC, and that there is a need for integration, not just in the social sphere, but also in the intellectual sphere. Rabbi Metzger noted that separate education is a religious obligation and without precautions, the college could become another Brandeis or Vassar.

## The President Comments on Dean Bacon's Possible Resignation

The following statement was issued from the Office of the President, Dr. Norman Lamm, on January 6, 1977.

"Dr. Isaac Bacon has yet to tender his resignation as dean of Yeshiva College. When he does, I will attempt to dissuade him from so doing. I regret that the unionization vote has so quickly resulted in this unfortunate situation, whereby we stand to lose the services of a man who has served Yeshiva so loyally for almost 18 years. Should I fail to persuade him to change his mind, I will discuss with him the appropriate date for his retirement to go into effect. This decision will be based on what is best for YC students. I shall, of course, attempt to ensure a sense of continuity in

the College. As for Dean Bacon, I know that all of us appreciate his many years of loyal and devoted service to YU, with the recognition that those arduous years have entitled him to a well-deserved respite from the rigors of administrative life.

"Although the Presidential Planning Commission has not submitted to me its final report, there are already indications that the proposals will formulate an approach to obtaining a sense of vibrancy and creativity at Yeshiva College to meet the challenges of the next decade. With the assistance of the Planning Commission and related advisory bodies, I feel assured that Yeshiva College will be provided with outstanding new leadership for the years ahead."

## Rabbis Riskin, Grunblatt, Blech Discuss Basic Jewish Concepts

by Brachy Osofsky and Polly Rosenfeld

Rabbi Steven Riskin delivered the first lecture of TAC's most recent *Shiurim Series* to Stern College students on the topic of "The Binding Authority of Halakha" on Tuesday, December 21.

Rabbi Riskin outlined the source of *Torah She B'al Peh*, The Oral Law, in order to explain the binding quality of Halakha. He said that all great Jewish thinkers insist that the source of the Oral Law is the same as that of the Written Law, Mount Sinai. They hold different views, however, on how the Oral Law evolved. Two of these opinions were covered during the course of the lecture.

Rabbi Riskin first explained the view taken by Rav Shirra Gaon in a work on Oral Law. He wrote that all of Torah, written and oral, is from Sinai, but much of the Oral Law was forgotten through the generations. Different views of law were formed, and they are reflected in the *machlokot*, controversies, which exist in Gemara. According to Rav Shirra Gaon, the task of the Sages is to rediscover ancient Halakhot which were given in Sinai but have since been forgotten or confused.

Most of the lecture centered on the view of the Rambam. In his introduction to "*Perush HaMishnayot*," Rambam reiterates that the Oral Law is from Sinai. But he postulates two different aspects of Oral Law. The ancient law, given by G-d, and a second aspect which evolves in every generation is the product of the great minds of the generation. The laws which were fixed by G-d are not argued about in the Gemara because of the binding authority of His word.

Who are the Rabbis who make other laws binding? Rambam states that whenever there is a Rabbinical argument in the Gemara, it shows the evolution of Jewish law in every generation. The written law has an elastic clause in it, giving power to rabbis in each generation to decide the execution of the laws, and whatever is the decision of a generation becomes the will of G-d. To balance the elastic clause, there is also a limiting clause in the Torah, to prevent Halakha from becoming too subjective.

Without power of decision invested in the *G'dolin* of every generation, Rabbi Riskin concluded, Judaism could not survive. There must be room for interpretations in every generation. This keeps Judaism viable, and makes G-d eternally heard and immortalized in each generation. This is the binding power of Halakha, which kept a people without a common land together for 2000 years.

Shabbat

On December 28, in the second of the TAC shiurim series, Rabbi Joseph Grunblatt, Spiritual Leader of the Queens Jewish Center, addressed Stern students about the philosophy of Shabbat.

Introducing his topic, Rabbi Grunblatt asserted that Shabbat is one of the three cornerstones of Judaism. In the context of his Shiur, he developed several philosophical concepts about Shabbat.

First, he explained the intrinsic holiness of Shabbat. The day, Shabbat, has been holy since the beginning of creation. Man must permit this holiness to flow through

him. The holiness of Shabbat can never be lost because although man transcends space, time transcends man.

By keeping the Shabbat, we direct ourselves to G-d in certain ways. Shabbat becomes a testimony that G-d is the Creator.

A second purpose of Shabbat is man's imitation of G-d. We must react to our creativity on the seventh day just as G-d did. Man is constantly reminded by the Shabbat that the world still belongs to G-d and man must not enslave his fellow man or himself in his quest for domination over nature.

Man must not only abstain from physically creative "work" on Shabbat, but he must be sure to be spiritually creative. Shabbat can be a glimpse into the world to come where man will once again live in harmony with his society and his environment.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 5, Rabbi Benjamin Blech gave the third and final shiur in the TAC lecture series. The scheduled topic of discussion was Kashriet, but the talk extended to attitudes of Jews in regard to performances of all mitzvot.

Rabbi Blech began by referring to the first dietary law in the Torah, the command to Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge. This was the first law of any type ever given to man, and Adam's interpretation of it parallels frequent reactions to the performance of mitzvot today.

Adam had knowledge before he ate the "forbidden fruit." His knowledge of the world was objective. In other words, he viewed all things as either *emer* or *sheker*—either truth or untruth, and he (Continued on Page 4)

## Planning Commission Reviews YU Programs

by Chaya Marcus

The Presidential Planning Commission's various task forces and committees have been meeting at both Stern College and Yeshiva College. Students selected by student council presidents from both these schools voiced and discussed their ideas with task force chairmen and faculty committees. Letters from students were also transmitted to the appropriate task forces. Alumnae consultation was sought on both levels.

Discussions at the various meetings dealt with every aspect of the academic program in all the schools, says Rabbi Hirt. These discussions included a scrutiny of various relationships that exist within the University between the different undergraduate and graduate schools of the University.

Rabbi Hirt noted that at these meetings many "suggestions for innovative instructional approaches" to current problems were offered.

The findings of the commission are relayed to the President

following these preliminary actions. First, the faculty committees meet and discuss relevant problems and their thoughts for change and/or improvement. This has taken place from Nov. 10 to December 8. Reports from the committees were submitted to their respective task forces.

The reports were presented at task force meetings where they were analyzed for both their positive and negative points. The task forces met on December 8.

Both faculty committee reports and task force reports were sent to the Commission which met on January 3 and which will reconvene on January 10. The reports were heard. Unanimity, disagreement and suggestions made will be compiled. All this information will then be sent intact to the President. Ultimately, if the decision is made to share the information and recommendations with those outside the commission, the method by which this will be accomplished is still an unanswered question.

# Paranoia

The small number of students, faculty and administrators which comprises Stern College fosters a close relationship and allows for open lines of communication between the three groups.

The Editorial Board of the **Observer** believes, however, that a real fear of self-expression exists. Students, and faculty members as well, are paranoid about offering constructive criticism and expressing their opinions on controversial issues. Upperclassmen in particular, are apprehensive to do so, for fear of jeopardizing potential letters of recommendation and being denied the proper assistance.

Faculty members, when concurring with the views of students on certain issues are apprehensive about vocalizing their support, and will conclude by saying, "Don't quote me on this."

Unless students and faculty feel free to speak their minds, without fear of reprisal, little will be accomplished to improve the academic and overall quality of the school.

# Just and Lofty Hopes

Griffin B. Bell has been appointed to the post of Attorney General of the United States. The position of Attorney General requires high standards of moral and ethical conduct. We hope that Mr. Bell's friendship with Jimmy

Carter will not affect his objectivity as we have so presently seen under the Nixon administration.

Mr. Bell has also held membership in two Atlanta social clubs which exclude Jews and Blacks. The Editorial Board of the **Observer** hopes that Mr. Bell will restore the credibility which the Department of Justice symbolizes. We also hope that Mr. Bell's southern conservative policies will not affect his upholding the freedom and rights due to all Americans-no matter what their beliefs may be.

# Outrage

The **Observer** was shocked to learn of a recent meeting that five American Jewish leaders had with representatives of the Palestine Liberalization Organization in Washington. The participants' claim that they were attending as individuals, and not as representatives of their organizations, in no way detracts from the morally outrageous act of sitting down with the avowed enemy of Israel. At a time when even the U.S., let alone Israel, refuses to recognize and negotiate with them, it is deplorable that there are Jewish leaders who feel they have the right to by-pass the Israeli Government.

In the face of vocal leftist groups calling for recognition of the PLO, and the establishment of a Palestinian state, it is incumbent upon those of us belonging to the Orthodox Jewish Community, particularly upon us at Yeshiva University, to voice our opposition to any talks with the "moderate" PLO.



## For Yellin Out Loud

# Critically Speaking...

by Sharon Yellin

In October, ten American Jews met with PLO representatives, Sabri Jijis and Isam Sartawi. Most of the ten attended the meeting as individuals, rather than as representatives of their organizations.

On November 15, another meeting was held with PLO representatives, this time in Washington. The five American Jews who participated were: **Herman Edelsberg**, former director of the B'nai B'rith International Council; **David Goren**, regional director of the American Jewish Congress in Washington; **Olya Margolin**, representative of the National Council of Jewish Women; **Max Ticktin**, national director, department of field services and leadership training B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and vice chairman of Breira, and **Arthur I. Waskow**, member of the executive council of Breira.

When word of the meetings seeped out, it was the subject of hot debate in Jewish circles. In a *New York Times* article entitled "American Jewish Leaders are Split over Issue of Meeting with PLO." (December 30, 1976), the author observed that "the question has broadened in some minds: Must American Jews who are friendly to and support Israel, necessarily adhere strictly to every Israeli Government policy. Or should they be free to explore other possibilities and on occasion to criticize an Israeli Government stand?"

This is a very basic question facing the American Jewish community, one which it is important to come to grips. Actually, I think there are two issues at hand here: 1. The right to criticize; 2. The freedom to "explore other possibilities."

### The Right to Criticize

As religious Jews, we, more than others, should understand that "Am Yisrael" is a unified body that includes Jews living in Aretz, as well as those who reside in Chutz l'Aretz. "Kol Yisrael Aravin Zeh laZeh," all of Israel is responsible for each other, implies the responsibility of Jews to Israel, and vice versa. Therefore, it would be consistent to

say that Jews the world over, have the right, and perhaps also the obligation, to make themselves heard to the Israeli Government. Just as it is the responsibility of Jews in Chutz l'Aretz to provide financial and political support (it is not merely an act of kindness on their part) so too, it is their obligation to provide guidance or constructive criticism when the conditions deem it necessary. The frequently-voiced argument, "if you are not living in Aretz, then you have no right to voice your feelings," basically an emotional argument which is often promulgated by secular Zionists who do not fully comprehend the meaning of "Am Yisrael" and *Kol Yisrael Aravin Zeh laZeh*. True, it is a *Chavla* that there are those Jews who have not reoriented themselves towards aliya, as of yet, but nevertheless, this does not negate their right of input into decisions that affect all of *Am Yisrael*. (After all, any decision concerning Israel should affect all the Jewish people.)

### The Freedom to Explore Other Possibilities

The question here is what is meant by "exploring?" Does it connote meetings with the avowed enemies of Israel (and the Jewish people therefore) who are committed to the destruction of the State of Israel? Then even on an individual and unofficial level, it is deplorable for Jews to meet with the PLO. At a time when even the U.S. Government has been hesitant to recognize the PLO, and just two years after the American Jewish communities rallied forth to protest and denounce Yasir Arafat's "debut" in the United Nations, it is particularly ironic that there are those Jewish leaders who are making the move towards potential recognition of Arafat's "moderation." Their meetings with him was a clear slap in the face to Israel and to the many unfortunate victims of the PLO.

**George Gruen**, an International affairs specialist from the American Jewish Congress, was quoted as saying that it was useful "to know your enemy." But should this be at the expense of your brother?

# Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

After reading "Return With the Wind" in the November 23rd issue of the **Observer** I felt it important to share some thoughts with you.

At this moment of writing, Rabin and other Israeli leaders have ventured to say that without American aid, Israel could possibly face the threat of destruction. The only thing one can do when one hears such non-religious philosophy is to shudder. It is most disheartening to see Israel bowing obsequiously to Ford (a lame and dead duck) and our "friend" Mr. Kissinger.

We see the initial period of *Archata Degula* involving a non-religious oriented government is slowly coming to an end. In other words within the next 13 years you

will see some very interesting events in Israel, that a person nowadays cannot foresee. An underlying point:-

People, or shall I say Jews, are getting very excited over all the anti-semitism, categorizing of Zionism as racism, etc. — However, did it ever dawn upon those people that all this anti-semitism is serving as a deterrent factor against assimilation? Is it not interesting that the world has learned about "Yom Kippur," and "Zionism!" The fact that so many Jews spend the energies of their lifetime defending the negativism (fighting anti-semitism) and do not spend a great deal of time on the positive/constructive things-primarily: *Torah* and Eretz-Israel-is a result of a lack of leadership.

The problem is we have failed in our education. Where are our leaders?

I realize that for there to be successful leaders, understanding of *Torah* is imperative. A real leader is a scholar, a *Talmid Chacham*, a poet, a scientist and has a *kamun* of knowledge in other fields. (An example is Rav Kook who was a "Rav," a thinker, a writer, and was informed of worldly matters).

However, that is not enough. One must be endowed with spirit and inspiration. I'm very concerned with the fact that so many young *Talmidei-Chachamin* have a misguided view regarding Eretz-Yisrael. One must be aware of historical changes. A leader in Israel, especially, must be sensitive to the various timely phenomena.

# The Observer

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## "Z" Last Word

# "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet"

by Gail Zaret  
President of Student Council

As our first semester quickly draws to an end, I note, with great pleasure, that our student council has taken a few great strides forward.

Religiously, we're standing on solid ground! In the last semester, with a tremendous amount of help from the Glasser's and TAC, a Beit Midrash has been made available in the dormitory for all students. TAC lectures, given by prominent rabbis throughout the community, have taught us quite a bit concerning many different facets of halakha. Most importantly though, our Shabbat program has grown beyond even our expectations. The average Shabbat finds an average of over 70 girls eating in the cafeteria followed by *Divrei Torah* and a discussion group. Our annual Yavneh Shabbaton filled the cafeteria with about 225 students from colleges throughout the city. Among our most prominent guests were Dr. and Mrs. Lamm and their family. About 125 students spent Shabbat with the Lamm family in order to become better acquainted with Yeshiva's president.

Socially as well, Stern Student Council has made much progress. The calendar distributed at the beginning of the year promised many activities and we have been pleased with their accomplishments. Just to point out a few highlights, student council, with the generosity of the **Fredman Family** of St. Louis, was pleased to open a new student lounge in the main building. With the help of **Associate Dean Jablonsky**, communication with the Dean's office has been better than ever. Needless to say, different mesibot have been enjoyed by many.

On behalf of the entire student council, I want to wish all of you the best of luck on your finals. Have a very safe and enjoyable intercession. Most importantly though, we would like to thank everyone that helped to make our first semester a successful one and hope that you'll continue to give us your support in the coming months.

For example: this is the beginning of the Redemption. A leader in Israel must sense this in the "air". G-d spells this out in the reality; the forerunners of the Divine messages are the tidings that come with the wind!

A leader in Israel is one today only if he recognizes that the State of Israel is playing a major role in Jewish Destiny!

It is exciting!-The more I grow older the more I feel G-d around me and within me. More and more

I see how intricately He is involved in my life, and the lives of all of us. We must all experience this.

Let us only read Psalms: II. If we only knew that G-d is the Prime Mover of our present-day events!

Thus the problem today is leadership: people who can direct our nation which is much confused over religion and nationality. If there is any reassurance, it is the students of Yeshiva University and Stern!

Barry Gendelman

# A Salute to Majors

## Soc. is Tops

by Esther Schneider

Do you ever get the feeling that most of the people in this school are majoring in sociology? Well, your impression is justified; sociology is the most popular major at Stern College. Biology, which was previously ranked first, is now second. The third largest major is psychology, with Judaic Studies following in fourth place. Education and English are fifth and sixth; history and political science are closely tied for seventh place. Other majors include philosophy, Hebrew Studies, chemistry, and French. In addition, there are presently twenty-five students in shaped major programs.

Why is biology no longer ranked number one? One reason might be the difficulty in juggling requirements. Dr. Friedland, chairman of the biology department, told the *Observer* that a plan is presently being considered, whereby, only freshmen and sophomores will be permitted to take General Biology. This will keep the course open for them and thereby enable them to begin advanced courses without delay. Another reason offered is that a biology major requires money for the many lab fees, an expense not incurred by liberal arts majors. Another student pointed out that the lack of cooperation between the biology and chemistry departments holds back the programs of both departments.

Raisie Etkin, a sociology major, feels that the reason for the increase in majors in sociology is the B.A.-M.S.W. program with Wurzel School of Social Work. She also mentioned that the sociology major provides a "good stepping stone for future endeavors."

Buy why are some of the other

majors so small? According to a philosophy major, commenting on her field, "Philosophy is not practical in terms of a career." She also mentioned that the introductory courses to philosophy are "not sufficiently provoking or stimulating" and that "the level is very low." Another student pointed to the limited number of courses offered as a deterring factor. She also commented that while "philosophy is useful for graduate school, most people don't think it is practical for grade school."

A few education majors stated that the reason for the decline in education majors is due to a "personality conflict" in the education department. They mentioned that the courses at Ferkauf Graduate School are excellent, and this only proves that it is possible to have good courses in education at SCW.

Two math majors mentioned that the math courses here are too theoretical. If more courses concentrating on application were offered, then perhaps more students would be attracted to the math major.

According to Rabbi Berman, head of the Judaic Studies department, "even though the Judaic Studies major has been in existence less than three years, it has succeeded in attracting a large number of students. Furthermore, an increasing number of students are considering graduate work in various areas in Jewish Studies. This is a new and important phenomenon. This entry of women into the mainstream of Jewish scholarship may in the long run help Stern College move toward having more women faculty members in areas of Jewish Studies. These women would help provide more effective role models

to enhance the total quality of Jewish education at Stern.

"There should be an awareness that whatever graduate career the student is considering, the methods of textual analysis involved in intensive Jewish studies are important aids in every area of academic pursuit. Hopefully, the growth of the major will encourage the University administration to increase resources to intensify the program."

In a recent interview, Associate Dean Jablonsky, mentioned that the increase in number of students in the sociology department is "probably a reflection of the present interest in the social work profession and the opportunity that some of our students may have to enter the Wurzel School of Social Work in their senior year."

Dr. Jablonsky cited possible reasons for the large number of students in the Judaic Studies major, which seems to be "demonstrating the fact that many students who come to Stern College are not satisfied with the twenty course requirement alone but wish to specialize beyond the basics. Many of the majors here see themselves working in Jewish agencies, schools, and being able to convey the essentials of their own religion to their own children."

Concerning the different shaped majors, Associate Dean Jablonsky mentioned that "the potential for students to design meaningful programs for themselves is limitless, as long as the total can be subsumed under a liberal arts umbrella."

Clearly, the opportunities for fields of study at Stern are many and varied. Students who have not yet decided on their majors should make themselves aware of the possibilities. In addition, students who have already chosen their majors should consider going beyond their department's requirements. In many cases, classes in other departments can broaden the scope of one's own field. Associate Dean Jablonsky is more than willing to help students with problems in choosing and planning their majors.

## English/Communications is Growing

by Sara Kaplan

Stern students who are interested in communications can now pursue a major in that field through a joint program between SCW and The Fashion Institute of Technology. This new English/Communications major encompasses many areas of study. Emphasis may be placed on advertising, design and fashion, industrial technology, the fine arts, editorial, copy editing, production, broadcasting, business, media, publishing or journalism.

Plans for an English/Communications major had been formulating for the past two years. English majors in the past have urged for more courses that would enable them to better apply their studies to a vocational trade. As a result of this, last spring several new electives were offered in the English/Communications areas. These courses met with such great success, that the students urged the administration to set up a formal program that would allow them to work in the media professions. Several Stern graduates who did enter the communications field served as further incentives and inspiration for the students. One such example is Arlene Pianko, a Stern alumna who is presently associate editor for the *National Jewish Monthly*, in Washington, D.C. Another former Stern student, Judy Puterman, is presently an editor of the McMillan Publishing Co. In response to the tremendous interest shown by SCW students, the English/Communications major was established.

There are now twenty-six students enrolled in the program. This is a very impressive number considering the fact that this is the first year that the major is being offered. Since this is *not* a shaped major or a five year program, students fulfill their requirements as with any other major, and upon completion of their four years at SCW receive a B.A. degree in English/Communications, and are prepared to do advance work in the field. In the junior and senior years students must take twelve credits at Stern in the English/Communications areas, and twelve

credits at FIT, which is located at 227 West 27th Street. Presently the courses offered at SCW to be used toward this major are: Pop Culture and Its Sources, Seminar: Love in the Western World, Modern Drama, Creative Writing Seminar, Journalism, Mass Media and Communications, Modern American Literature, English 1.1, English 3-4, and Modern Poetry. Some of the courses to be taken at FIT include: Advertising and Promotion, Marketing Demos, Mass Communications, Idea Visualization, Advertising Copywriting, Audience and Media, Publicity Workshop, and Photography and Advertising Design. It is also possible to have a minor in English/Communications. This requires eighteen credits, English 1.1, English 3-4, English 9, and an additional nine credits to be taken at Stern College.

The first review of this new program has brought highly enthusiastic responses. Dena Zeller, a Stern student interested in the Business/Management field, describes the FIT program as a fabulous experience. "Having gone to Yeshiva my entire life, I find the classes at FIT especially enlightening. The staff there is really happy to have SCW in their program, and they are sensitive to the heavy workloads we carry. Whenever Sam Tovim conflict with the FIT school calendar they give us our assignments in advance and make every effort to cooperate. I must add that the SCW Office of the Dean has been very helpful too. They supply us with a schedule of courses early, so that any conflicts between our Jewish studies and general requirements and classes at FIT can be ironed out. I thoroughly enjoy the program." Paula Langen, who is interested in Business Management found the faculty at FIT to be understanding when a final conflicted with one of her Jewish Studies courses taken at Stern. They rearranged her final without any hesitation. Carol Reisman also spoke highly of the program, "I am interested in the field of children's (Continued on Page 4)

## English Department Innovates Internship Program

by Esther Furman

The English/Communications departments has developed three different internship programs designed for the student interested in the field of communications. These internships will be instituted in the spring and will be worth one credit. Those who participate in any one of the programs will have the opportunity to learn skills from professionals, and will be expected to put those newly acquired skills to practical use.

The first internship program is in the area of graphic arts. A student involved in this program will learn to do layouts, mechanicals, paste ups, typographic and visual designs, and other production skills related to graphic arts.

The second program teaches editorial skills such as copy editing and proof reading. Students who will participate in either of the aforementioned internships will be apprenticed to the Department of Public Relations of Yeshiva University, a professional working office.

A third internship of the spring semester is in the field of media technology. It is under the auspices

of the Bureau of Jewish Education which will house the program. There, the student will learn the theory and practice of video tape, camera, projectors, film strip systems, sound/film systems, audio systems, and audio slide systems, and will then use these skills to aid the bureau in planning and executing adult-education programs.

Each student involved in any of the three internship programs will be assigned a supervisor on the job, as well as an in house supervisor from the English department. To preserve the academic integrity of these programs, the supervisor from the faculty of the English/Communications department of Stern College will design readings and facilitate the development of her skills. The department will select students who they feel will qualify for these programs. Any inquiries should be directed to Dr. Plotkin, the department head.

These three internship programs are the beginning of a projected series of such programs. The English/Communications department (Continued on Page 4)

## Senate Reviews Registration

by Sharon Efrogson

As freshmen were putting the finishing touches on their registration forms on Wednesday, December 29, the Senate met and discussed registration in general and freshman registration in particular.

Two topics discussed concerned a questionnaire to be handed out to the freshman class on Thursday, December 30, and the formation of a committee to investigate possibilities for an alternate registration procedure for the entire student body.

Varda Rosenfeld and Aviva Grossman, members of the committee on Freshman Registration composed a questionnaire that will be distributed to freshmen. The questionnaire concentrates on evaluation of registration procedures. The responses to the questionnaire should help the committee evaluate whether or not

freshmen felt fully informed about the format for registration and the availability of specific courses. The questionnaire also asks if "big sisters" were helpful in planning a schedule. The last part requested suggestions to be implemented in future registrations. The Committee on Freshman Registration reported that it planned to distribute the questionnaire at freshman registration on Thursday, December 30. The committee will report the results at the next Senate meeting.

Along with a discussion of freshman registration the Senate also discussed the general problem classes are having with registration due to the inconvenience time in which it was scheduled. Under the current system, students must register during two hours on a specific day. If a student has a class during that time, she must miss the class in order to register. Missing a

class at this point in the semester creates a lot of pressure on the student since the teacher covers a lot of material as the terms nears its end.

Relative to this problem, several suggestions were made. Registration could be scheduled for two weeks prior to the end-of-the-semester which would alleviate the problem of term-end pressure. Suggested was to have registration aids check students' forms for mistakes during evening hours. Then students could drop off their forms in the office the following day which would totally relieve the students of the problem of missing classes. A third suggestion was to give a student a number, which would be determined alphabetically. Students would have their forms checked the night before for mistakes. On registration day, students with (Continued on Page 4)

### TAC Commences Drive for Brookdale Beit Midrash

The Torah Activities Committee of the Stern College Student Council has announced a drive for increasing the number of seforim available for student use in the Brookdale Beit Midrash (Room 2D). Mr. Irwin Lowi, a native of Beverly Hills, California and a recent YC alumnus has graciously presented a substantial gift in memory of his grandparents, Joseph and Leah Lowi z"l.

TAC feels that the library should be increased through student participation. Often there are many occasions which lend themselves to the presentation of seforim. The Stern College Alumnae Association has been contacted regarding this effort, and TAC trusts that they will play a major role. A record of all donations will be kept in a book in the Beit Midrash, and a committee with Rabbi Saul Berman as its advisor will decide on all additions. Dedications will be inserted in the front cover of all new seforim. The selection of seforim

for the Beit Midrash will accommodate Stern Students on all levels and interests. As we prepare to return home for intercession, students are encouraged to search out sources for seforim, as many people have doubles in their homes.

We are pleased to announce the following additions to the Beit Midrash as the result of the generous donations of Mr. Lowi and several friends of TAC: *Torah Timimah*, Hirsch Chumash, *Oruch Hashulchan*, Rambam on Chumash (English), *Mishnah Berurah* Encyclopedia Talmudit, *Talmud Yerushalmi*, *Turei Even Chidushei HaRashba*, Ramban on *Shas*, *Sefar Hamitzvot*, *Igros Moshe*, *Shulchon Oruch*, and *Tur* (on order).

We hope that not only students, but all members of our YU family will assist TAC in advancing the aura of learning in the Dorm. Please direct your interest to Nomi England (Room 11D). Chairperson of TAC.

## "Magen Ha'am"

"Magen Ha'am," newly formed action arm of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, in cooperation with the West Bronx Jewish Community Council, has recently taken steps to establish ongoing relationships with the thousands of elderly and poor Jews isolated in the West Bronx. This group has committed itself to assisting Jewish poor throughout the lower Bronx, bringing religious, social, medical and other services to needy Jews.

On Sunday, December 19, 1976, Magen Ha'am, in English rendered to mean, "Shield of the People," sent teams of young concerned Jews into the South and West Bronx visiting Jewish shut-ins, bringing Chanukah menorahs, gifts and songs. The group plans to spend minimally one Sunday a month visiting various Jewish homes in the lower Bronx, in addition to maintaining a telephone

reassurance program and dealing with everyday problems and emergencies as needs dictate.

In the future, Magen Ha'am plans to provide escort, shopping and transportation services to the needy, as well as conducting fund raisings on behalf of the more than ten thousand elderly, isolated, and forgotten Jews living in terror and poverty in these South Bronx neighborhoods. Also in the planning stage is an Outreach effort, geared towards seeking out the many Jews hidden away and unknown of, receiving no services and assistance, wasting away in decaying apartments.

Magen Ha'am can only continue and expand its programming with greater manpower and financial support. We welcome all inquiries, suggestions and sincere offers of help. Please contact: Eric Levine at "Magen Ha'am" 796-4730.

mitzvot may no longer be acceptable to us.

When regarding mitzvot in this way, we are guilty of the same reasoning which led to Adam's expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

It is not at all wrong to search for reasons for mitzvot. But we must remember that the very first law in all of history teaches us that in performing mitzvot, our first consideration should be "I'm doing it because G-d commanded it." Having accepted this approach, the reasons for the mitzvot will eventually become clear to us.

### Jewish Concepts

(Continued from Page 1)

made no moral judgments. With the command about the tree of knowledge, Adam was able to view subjectively the unequivocal truths; he now attributed moral judgments of *tov* and *rah*—good and bad instead of *emet* and *sheker*.

Rabbi Blech pointed out that we often view the *mitzvot* from a subjective perspective of *tov* and *rah*. This is dangerous, for often we can formulate for ourselves seemingly reasonable excuses why a

# Touro College Under Investigation

by Esther Gross

Touro College's special adult programs are being investigated by two separate New York State agencies and by Federal authorities. Questions have been raised as to the admissions requirements for students who wish to enroll in these programs, as well as to whether these courses are in fact, college level courses.

According to Eileen Dickinson, president of the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, the primary admissions requirement for these programs seemed to be the students' eligibility for state and federal tuition assistance. A qualified, full-time student can receive up to \$1500 from the state and an additional one thousand dollars from the Federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program. This money goes directly to the school.

Dr. Bernard Lander, president of Touro College, denied that the special programs were set up not as serious educational ventures, but primarily to make money. As reported in the *New York Times*, Dr. Lander stated that the college was taking steps to improve the programs, adding, "We want to

## English/Communications

(Continued from Page 3)  
media, I never imagined that it would be possible for me to pursue this interest. Thanks to this program I can really do what I want. Being a senior, I found myself unsure of what it was I really wanted to go into. The English/Communications major encompasses such a broad area, that I now have the opportunities to really find out."

The students are also very appreciative to Dr. Plotkin for the individual attention he has given all of them.

All the reactions to the new major have been very positive on the part

of the students, the administration, and the English department here at Stern, and on the part of the FIT faculty and administration. Any student considering any area of English/Communications should meet with Dr. Plotkin in Room 823 between the hours of 10:00-11:00 on Mondays, 10:30-1:00 on Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00 on Wednesdays, or by appointment. He will be happy to assist you.

Judging by the tremendous and ever growing interest SCW students have in the English/Communications field, Dr. Plotkin sees the possibility of establishing our own English/Communications major here at Stern in the very near future.

State investigators cite the credit system of the Retired Adults Program as appearing disproportionate. Each course is offered for six credits per semester and three hours per week. Because of this, students who took only two courses qualified for full time status and were thereby eligible for state tuition grants.

Many students enrolled in the program could not read or write English. Many more had no formal education beyond the early grades. All students did, however, speak enthusiastically about their courses.

Two years ago Touro figured in an aborted deal to buy and lease back four nursing homes owned by Eugene Hollander, who was then chairman of the College's Board of Trustees. The publicity from the leaseback deal cost the College a great deal of financial and political support. This also set back Touro's plans to open a law school.

Dr. Lander said that the Retired Adults Program had been started in response to an appeal by the State Board of Regents to colleges to help meet the educational needs of the elderly and other neglected minorities. State investigators, however, believe that the special programs were chiefly motivated to generate income which would offset financial reverses.

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### Senate

(Continued from Page 3)  
certain numbers would have to have their forms in by a certain time. This system would eliminate crowds of students collecting in front of the Office of the Registrar and the subsequent annoyance of having to wait for hours for their schedules to be checked. Senate appointed a committee composing of Rabbi Berman, Rachell Klavan, and Roxanne Huberman to investigate the problems encountered during Registration. The next meeting of Senate will be in February.

promise to be interesting and motivating.

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The Editor-in-Chief and the entire staff of the *Observer* join the student body in wishing a hearty Mazel Tov to Dr. Larry Grossman upon his upcoming marriage.

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