

The Observer

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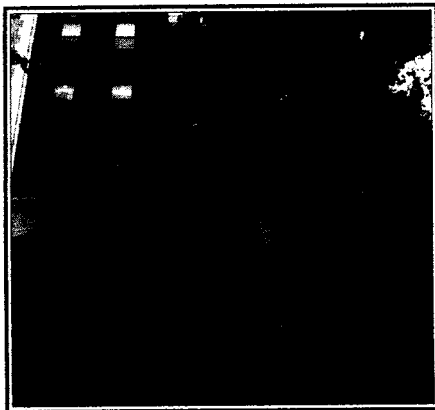
The Search Is Over Stern Buys a New Building

By Elisheva Wohlgenuth

After a long, arduous search, a new dormitory has finally been purchased to serve the ever-growing Stern student body. The eight-story building, located at 121 E. 29th St., will house roughly 170 students, said Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman.

"The search and purchase of an appropriate building was approved by all interested contingencies, which included members of the Board of Trustees, Directors, administrators, faculty, and students," Dr. Nulman said. The Student Life Committee, consisting of SCW Dean Karen Bacon, Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun, Director of Supporting Service Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten, Dr. Nulman and appointed members of class boards, were led on a tour of the new building last spring and asked for their input before any final decisions were made. Dr. Nulman stressed that "the purchase is for the students and it is necessary that it meets their needs and flexibility." Junior Class President Debbie Bielory, who was among last year's student leader tour, acknowledged that the acquiring of new housing was absolutely necessary and this building seems like a good opportunity, with a lot of good space to work with.

On one side of the building single rooms are attached by a bathroom, while on the other side larger rooms share a communal bathroom. Decisions regarding the layout of the building will primarily be determined by the Student



New Dorm Building at 121 E. 29th St.

Life Committee. Maximum space utilization, enrollment figures and student interests will play key roles in the building's development. Possible facilities housed in the new building depend on student input and preferences, "unless there are certain restrictions based on other factors," Dr. Nulman said. The building's architecture, zoning laws and current layout may not allow for choices all of the time. "The primary purpose is a residential facility," Dr. Nulman said.

"The purchase of a new dormitory is monumental," said Student Council President Ilana Barber. Much to the disappointment of the students, the new dorm will not mean an end to the overcrowding

in the Brookdale Hall, but rather it will most likely mean an end to the Independent Housing. Dr. Nulman said that the number of students that will be placed into the new building after current Independent Housing residents are relocated is all "a matter of figures driven by enrollment." The selection process for the new building has not yet been determined.

The cost of the building was roughly \$4 million. This figure does not include costs of renovation, repairs and upgrades.

The Schottenstein Residence Hall, named in recognition of a gift by the Schottenstein family of Columbus, Ohio, is scheduled to open either by spring or fall '96.

A Problem Worth Studying

By Lisa Meyers

The study halls in Brookdale Hall are full of students, but they are not studying.

It might be a little too early in the semester for most of Stern College to notice, but the study halls are temporarily housing students awaiting Independent Housing spaces to open up. This means that the 11th- and 18th-floor rooms which normally accommodate the library's overflow are housing students who are themselves facing an even bigger problem, namely, the wait for permanent housing.

This situation has been a constantly recurring one in the lives of Stern College students as the increase in the demand for housing has paralleled the growth in the student population over the last few years. There are 280 First

Time on Campus students (FTOCs) this year. Many of these students are presently residing in the study halls and in the infirmary, and have been trying to make the best of a bad situation until their apartments are ready.

The administration has already secured six new apartments this year and hopes to acquire a few more. As soon as each apartment is ready, the students will move out of the dorm. Everything is expected to be resolved by the holiday break. Some students are skeptical about the deadline. "I don't know what we're going to do during Reading Week. There aren't anywhere near enough desks in the library at SCW," said Rhoda Pagano, SCW '96.

Student reaction to the situa-

tion has been primarily negative. "If the school is going to keep the bedrooms this crowded, the spaces for study halls should be non-negotiable," said Caren Gottlieb, SCW '96. Some study hall residents have complained about the fact that they are being forced to live out of their suitcases.

In response to these problems, study space, now limited to the dorm's first-floor study hall, will be supplemented by opening a number of empty classrooms in the school building for use by students at night. According to Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students, "The good news is that we have a new [dormitory] building. We hope to be able to alleviate problems like this in the future."

Shabbat Enhancement Program a Hit

By Joanna Raby

Over the past few years at Stern College, there has been a growing sentiment among students and administration alike that the Shabbat atmosphere on campus needs much improvement. Although in the past, various student committees have sporadically organized Shabbatonim throughout the year, SCW lacked a consistent and comprehensive program. Despite a high level of energy on campus throughout the week, by Friday morning the lobby of Brookdale Hall would be full of garment-bag-toting-students headed for Penn Station.

In response to this heightening sense of dissatisfaction, Yeshiva University has launched the Shabbat Enhancement Program. The program is designed to encourage students to stay in for Shabbat by providing them with innovative programs and a hospitable environment.

According to YU Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, the Shabbat program needs improvement "both quantitatively and qualitatively." He said that the University has dedicated approximately \$200,000 to the Shabbat Enhancement Program for the two undergraduate schools. "I've had this dream for years," he continued, "and many of my colleagues... and student leaders shared that outlook. That's why we pursued it."

Thanks to the University's financial investment in the program, students are now able to spend Shabbat on campus and enjoy reasonably priced meals with their friends. The cost per Shabbat is \$5 for students and \$10 for guests.

In addition to the lower price, students can also expect more exciting programs throughout the

year. In an effort to help build a sense of community, the first addition to the program has been to invite various faculty members and their families to spend Shabbat on campus with students.

If this year's first Shabbaton was any indication of the success of the new program, students can look forward to a promising year. The 200 students who attended the first Shabbat program were joined by Rabbi Saul Berman and his family. Rabbi Berman gave two shiurim, offered various insights into Shabbat minhagim and led the students in zemirot. "It was wonderful," said Rabbi Berman. "The spiritual atmosphere was absolutely captivating. There are times when a large number of people create an enormous distraction, but this Shabbat the spirit of *hadras melech* - glorifying Hashem's name - was sustained."

The Shabbaton provided a chance for students to get to know one another. "It was a good opportunity to meet people, especially for students like me who are from out of town," said Susan Jacobs, SCW '99.

In order to maintain a high standard for all future Shabbat programs, a committee has been established by SCWSC, SSSB and TAC to help implement student goals. The hope among student leaders is that the enthusiasm generated by this Shabbat has set a precedent that will continue throughout the year. Ultimately, the success of the Shabbat Enhancement Program will depend on student involvement. That means it's up to us to create a Shabbat environment we can all enjoy.



Go Yankees! SCW and YU Students at Orientation Week Outing

Editorials

Is One New Building Enough?

A big thank-you goes out to all who aided in finally buying a building, after years of student pleas. But before we rejoice, we must remember why all of the pleading began. The underlying problem has been, is, and apparently will always be, overcrowding in Brookdale Hall.

The new building will house approximately 170 students. It will accommodate only the majority of current Independent Housing dwellers, but will not alleviate the overcrowding in our main dormitory. Problems will persist: five people in a single room, lack of space and privacy, and overcrowded elevators. To make matters worse, study halls have been converted into dormitory rooms, making an attempt to find a quiet

place to study in Brookdale almost hopeless.

At this point, the students in the outside apartments enjoy the space, beauty and freedom that those apartments provide; the majority want to remain there. It is unclear how this new building will solve any problems.

Stern is proud of its largest enrollment ever, there are 280 new students attending this year. We have two recommendations. First, if there is nowhere to house students and the overcrowding problem in Brookdale Hall continues to worsen, the administration should stop increasing enrollment year after year. Second, make improvements in Brookdale, or there will be a new plea... BUY ANOTHER NEW BUILDING!

Move-In Day Kudos

In drastic contrast to last year's move-in day fiasco, this year's move-in process for new and returning students to Brookdale Hall ran very smoothly. Kudos to Residence Supervisor Alexis Levitt for doing so well in her first week on the job. We wish Alexis luck in her new position. Hopefully this seamlessly orchestrated beginning and the good work of all those involved- maintenance, facilities management, housekeeping, security and resident staff- will lead to a productive, equally smooth year at Stern College.

Do You Read Us?

Teachers seem to abide by an unwritten rule that the more challenging and interesting a particular course is, the heavier the workload must be. That means more readings, longer readings, difficult readings which take hours to complete. Some teachers are considerate enough to have the office prepare sourcebooks, containing all or most of the readings for the course, which we then purchase for the cost of copying. In

Continued on pg. 3

Photo-Op-Ed

By Shira Zupnik

What's your opinion regarding the changes at Stern College?



Nina Ritter, senior:

"I'm impressed that Stern bought a new dorm building. I'm concerned that the new building will take the place of the outside apartments but won't alleviate the overcrowding in Brookdale Hall."



Gila Mayerfeld, senior:

"I like the new entrance in the school building lobby - the carpeting and the paint job. I hope that the next improvements will take place in the dorm, to make the dorm building look a little bit nicer."



Shlomit Kushner, junior:

"The cafeteria looks good - the new signs for food, the fruit display. It makes the place feel like a cafe, not a cafeteria."



Miryam Sandhaus, sophomore:

"I'm excited to hear about the new computers in the science lab and I'm looking forward to the advances in the Judaic Studies department as well."

The Observer

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Letters to the Editor...

Look - Don't Touch

Do the *issurim* of *shomer negiah* still apply? Last I checked, there were major forms of punishment listed in the Torah for the transgression of a *mitzvah d'oraita*. It seems these laws are overlooked in today's free-sex society, especially among our YU students. Public display of affection should be done behind closed doors, and not behind the glass ones in the Stern lobby.

The other popular "make-out" spot is the van stop uptown. When couples wait for the van together, they are already making a statement. We know that they are in love.

Why do they have to confirm this by kissing? I can understand that *shemirat negiah* is a difficult law to follow. But, there is no reason why we have to know which couples are transgressing. Also, even if there were no *issurim*, some things are not meant to be shared with the entire student body. It's rude and inappropriate behavior for our environment. If you get the urge to touch your significant other, please consider the feelings of the people who must watch you, and control that urge until you are alone! We would be most appreciative.

Sincerely,
Shomeret

Clean Up Your Act

After a trip to Kinko's tonight I sat down for a minute in the lobby of Brookdale to organize my papers before trekking up the stairs to my dorm room. I was more than a

little distressed when I noticed an empty soda can on the couch next to me. I took a quick look around and my view of the lobby was clouded by soda bottles, cups, empty pretzel/potato chip bags and styrofoam plates. There was LITERALLY enough trash lying around to fill a garbage can! It really bothered me that our lounge was such a mess. It took me only five minutes to collect and dispose of the evidence. But THAT is not the point. What upsets me is that people expect others to clean up after them. Aren't we beyond that? Didn't our parents teach us common courtesy? Also, that lounge area belongs to ALL OF US who wish to utilize it. What gives anyone the right to make our communal space such a pigsty? It's extremely inconsiderate to the rest of us. I think it would do all of us some good to have respect for others, and take the extra moment to clean up after ourselves.

A Concerned Student



Brocha Montal, early admissions:

"The yogurt machine looks very promising. The next change should involve the elevators in the dorm."

SSSB President

I would like to welcome SSSB students to Stern College for the academic year 1995-1996. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and is ready for the exciting year to come. YC SSSB President Sam Wald and I are in the midst of planning many events, including the Sy Syms Reception on September 12, a Shabbaton, and the annual dinner.

There are two programs which are available to all Sy Syms students. First, new this year, is the Big Sister Program. Being a new student in Sy Syms can be stressful and overwhelming. Whether you need to speak to someone to get another student's perspective on a class or a particular event, or even

just to talk with someone, there are senior SSSB students with whom you can speak. A second program available to you is the Student Tutoring Program. If you need help in a course on a regular basis or just for a particular problem or assignment, there are student tutors available free of charge. SSSB also has T-shirts and sweat-shirts for sale.

Your input is always welcome and if you have any questions regarding either of the programs or about anything related to SSSB, do not hesitate to approach me or any member of the SSSB board.

Barbara Pollak
SSSB President

TAC President

Welcome to the '95-'96 academic year. The year has begun with a mighty bang! Orientation Shabbaton was a real success. With over 200 women participating, we had the honor of welcoming Rabbi Berman and his family as our Shabbos guests. I certainly hope that this awesome level of participation signals a year of successful, fun-filled activities.

Club Fair provided all SCW students, both new and old, with a chance to get involved. TAC offers each student, regardless of educational background or abilities, the

opportunity to take part in Torah-oriented extracurricular activities. Although our school may seem small from the outside, the variety of projects that go on here is truly mind-boggling!

I hope to see the faces of all our students at our various TAC activities throughout the year. My door is always open for students who wish to offer suggestions, criticisms or just to shmooze.

Welcome back! I am confident this will be TAC's best year yet!

Rena May
TAC President

SCWSC President

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new students to Stern, as well as to welcome back all of you who are returning for another wonderful year.

Orientation was a great success, due to the efforts of Rebecca Rosen, Melanie Aron and Ilana Adler. Thanks to all of the Peer Advisors as well, for making the first few days at Stern a little bit easier. T-shirts were distributed, compliments of the Office of Student Services, and the three days were topped off by the SCWSC trip to Sportsworld. Continuing the fun later in the week was the free Yankee game, sponsored by the senior class. (At least the rain held out until we were on the buses.) Our first Shabbat together was inspiring and enjoyable, with our special guest, Rabbi Saul Berman. Another exciting event was the distribution of a preliminary edition of the Guide to the student body, due to the great effort of Editor-in-Chief Debbie Bielory and her staff who worked tirelessly this summer to make sure that we could get this indis-

penable resource as soon as possible.

I hope that you all took part in Club Fair, and that you were able to learn more about extracurricular life at Stern. Kudos to Ayala Shapiro and all the club heads for a successful evening.

I urge all students to get involved! It only makes campus life more exciting and enriching for all of us. It is also important to read the SCWSC bulletin board to keep posted about upcoming events and important information.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Election class elections, as well as a Shabbat spent on campus with Rabbi Moshe Kahn. We will keep you posted on all the exciting goings-on at Stern.

The SCWSC is here to serve the student body. If you have any questions, problems or suggestions, please feel free to contact me in room 5E.

Good luck and have a great year!
Ilana Barber
SCWSC President

All the World's a Wedding

The Talmud quotes Shmuel as advising his younger contemporary R. Yehuda, "hurry and eat, hurry and drink, for the world we are leaving is like a wedding"—a remarkable and somewhat troubling simile. Is this a counsel of hedonism, of self-indulgence? And in what way is life like a wedding?

Rashi and others interpret that as an invitation to enjoy the legitimate pleasures of life which, like a wedding party, is all too brief: *chupah up, chupah down*, and it's all over.

An interpretation by the great Hasidic master, R. Yaakov Yosef of Polnoye, is even more engaging—especially for Yeshiva University's undergraduates: At a wedding, there is much activity—eating, talking, dancing, merry-making, music, photographs—but all of it is utterly meaningless, even grotesque, if one man does not say to one woman, *Harei at mekudeshet li!* With that expression of utter commitment, all else makes sense; without it, everything is chaos—and crazy.

Such is the nature of the world. It is a complex, dynamic, diverse, pulsating place. All of it, all of life, makes sense if at the center of it—the center that you as an individual occupy—there is a powerful, unshakable commitment to Hashem; in the words of Hosea, *ve'erastikh li le'olam*...a betrothal, as it were, to the Almighty Himself and to His Torah. Without it, however, all the pieces do not add up; all is madness—like a wedding party without a bride and groom.

It is worth pondering this lesson as we begin a new school year. Rosh Hashanah is

a time to step back and evaluate what and why we are doing. Yeshiva is a demanding and challenging experience—Torah and Mada, each on the highest level. But why subject yourself to this? Just to get into a better graduate school—or better job—or placate parents or friends—or without giving any real thought to the question?

Such answers are inadequate, even demeaning. The central theme of our life at Yeshiva must be the *ve'erastikh li le'olam* that animates and vitalizes our *talmud Torah* and our academic work. There must be a commitment to Hashem, to consecrating all we do—our college work and extracurricular activities as well as our Torah studies—to the ultimate purpose for which we were placed in the world. Without that spiritual core, all else appears disconnected and fragmented, incohesive and even incoherent.

I often rue the way too many students come into college with one overwhelming ambition—to get out as fast possible into the "real world." That so-called real world may not be so "real" after all, not if it lacks coherence and doesn't make too much sense. So, stay the course at Yeshiva. "eat" and "drink"—consume the learning and guidance, drink from the well of Torah and the fountain of knowledge—knowing that as you integrate your lives here, you will be better prepared to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives later on.

May 5756 prove to be a stellar year for each of you and all of you. Enjoy the wedding—and don't forget the *harei at!*

Norman Lamm
September 1995/Elul 5755

continued from pg. 2

other cases, however, lengthy readings—sometimes 100 pages or more—are simply put on reserve in the library, and we are expected to sit and read them there. This arrangement places an undue burden on us. Firstly, there is often only a small number of copies on reserve for use by a large number of students. Secondly, we are forced to read these long articles during library hours, instead of in the dorm or at home at our convenience. This is especially a problem for commuters. After all, who can afford to Xerox a 100-page article? Thirdly, even if we did have time to sit in the library and read, what are the chances that we would find seats?

Teachers should take these factors into consideration when deciding how to distribute readings. Only relatively short readings—up to 30 pages—should be put on reserve.

**The Observer
Welcomes
New and
Returning
Students to the
1995-1996 School
Year. We Wish
You Success in
all Your
Endeavors.
Shana Tova
U'Mituka.**

**In Our Next
Issue:
From
Ivy League to
Yeshiva League**

Yeshiva University

Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our returning and new students for the 1995-1996 academic year.

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Department of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools; or development of job search techniques, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns.

Last year the University established an Academic Advisement Center which offers a variety of advisement services to our students at the Midtown Center. We are pleased that the Center's services were widely used. Drop in soon and meet with the Advisers.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new semester begins, we wish you continued success in your endeavors.

Hatzlachah Rabbah,



Efrem Nulman
University Dean of Students, F416



Zelda Braun
Assistant Dean of Students, MID 114

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-Law Advisement)
MID 1020

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg
(General Guidance)
MID 104

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
Assistant Dean, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
MID 905

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Services)
MID 923

Ms. Alexis Levitt
Residence Supervisor
(Housing Concerns/
Dormitory Living Issues)
BRH 1G

Mrs. Marga Marx
(International Student
Advisement)
MID 104

Mrs. Lillian Newton, RN
(Medical Services)
BRH 2B

Mrs. Ethel Orlian
Assistant Dean, SCW
(Academic Advisement)
MID 102

Dr. Eli Sar, M.D.
(Medical Services)
BRH 2B

Mr. Hal Tannenbaum
(Career Placement)
MID 923

Dr. David Weisbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
MID 110

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
MID 923

**Academic Advisement Center
MID 108**

**Mrs. Rachael Davis
Mrs. Susan Ostroicher**



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PG-13

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What's New Bio Lab Undergoing Makeover

By Andrea Snyder

Students returning from summer vacation have noticed many changes which have taken place at Stern. One major project is in progress on the third floor of the school building. Construction of the Rachel Sussman Laboratory for advanced biology instruction is underway, and is expected to be completed in time for the spring semester.

The lab, to be used by biology majors, will contain student stations equipped with computer capabilities. Each computer will be linked to the instructor's computer terminal. A video camera at the instructor's terminal will enable him or her to send microscopic images to each student's monitor.

Across the hall from the lab, a walk-in "cold room" is being built. Materials requiring refrigeration will be stored here, instead of in the small refrigerators in the old labs. This room will allow experiments requiring cooler temperatures to be conducted.

SCW Dean Karen Bacon said that the lab was designed with the biology faculty's advisement. They were involved

in every step of the design process.

Arrangements are currently being made to relocate the biology-for-majors lab for the fall semester. The biology majors will use the labs that are currently on the fourth floor as well as the general biology labs when they are not in use.

Many biology majors had not been informed that the new labs would not open until the spring. "I'm disappointed that we can't use them for the fall semester," said Courtney Marks, SCW '97. Either way, they are looking forward to the spring. "I'm excited to use the new lab," said Chana Katz, SCW '97.

Dean Bacon agreed that the fall semester will be difficult. "But the final product will be well worth the frustration the students and the faculty will face initially," she said.

The construction of the biology lab is only the beginning. School officials hope that new chemistry and physics labs will soon follow.

Who's New In the House

By Amira Rubin

Stern College has a new undergraduate Housing Supervisor. So what drew Alexis Levitt to her new post?

"I enjoy working with a college-age population in terms of what's relevant to this life stage," said Levitt. "It is important for me to work in an academic and Torah environment. I need to be at a place that is vibrant and alive in terms of intellectual growth. Stern is obviously not just an academic institution, but provides a full array of intellectual stimulation, both Judaic and secular."

This is not the first time Levitt is working with students to help them minimize the stresses of dormitory life. She was a Resident Assistant (RA) while majoring in Psychology and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. At the time, the dormitory advisory staff program at U of M was used as a model program for colleges across the country. "What I'm hoping to bring here is an emphasis on RA training, not just office duty and enforcing policy," Levitt said.

Levitt holds Master's degree in So-



cial Work from the University of Pennsylvania where she concentrated her studies on families and the college-age population. She also spent time learning at Nishmat in Israel.

Working at SCW will allow Levitt to put her expertise into action and "help foster and facilitate growth." She hopes to meet every student.

Her office is open from 9 am until 5:30 pm, after which time the Head RAs are on call. RAs have evening office hours until midnight.

In the Rabbi's Study

By Jessica Weilgas

Hailing from Jamaica Estates, Queens, Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg has joined the SCW faculty as the new *Mashgiach Ruchani* (spiritual guidance counselor).

Rabbi Hochberg is approaching his new position with a mission to "try to help each and every student at Stern enhance her religious and academic experience." He believes the academic experience coupled with the spiritual dimension holds valuable potential for growth.

By giving weekly *shivrit* and meet-

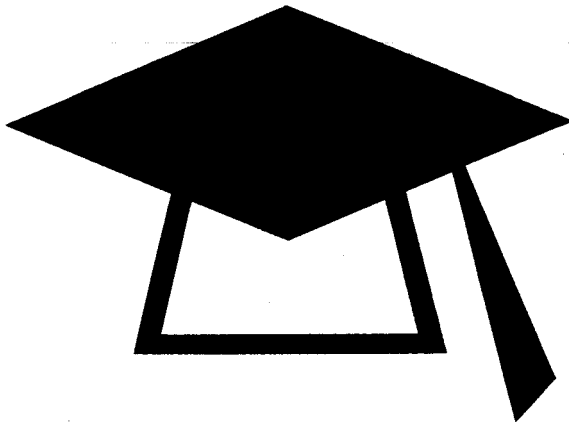
ing with students, he hopes to play a vital role in helping students realize this potential.

Rabbi Hochberg comes to Stern with a wealth of experience in the Jewish rabbinic and education. He is currently the rabbi of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. He is also studying for his doctorate in special education administration at Boston University. His previous experience includes 16 years as rabbi and day school principal in Lowell, Massachusetts.

COMMENCEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 11:00 AM

**THE PARAMOUNT
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**



**SENIORS, HAVE YOU
FILED FOR GRADUATION
WITH THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR?**

**IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE
REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS**

Join the Club(s)

By Elisheva Wohlgenuth

Koch auditorium was brimming with students eager to hear about this year's new and returning clubs. The annual Club Fair on September 6, sponsored by SCWSC and TAC, was a huge success, with nearly 30 clubs represented. Booklets describing the clubs and explaining their functions were distributed at the fair.

Planners of the event were impressed by the turnout. SCWSC President Ilana Barber said, "We are really happy to see so many students in Stern interested in extracurricular activities, and we look forward to working together with the club leaders to have a great year."

The student leaders' energy filtered down to the new students on campus, who responded very favorably to the club fair effort. Adina Lazarus, SCW '98, said, "I didn't know Stern had so much to offer; I was really amazed." Club Fair added a new perspective to students' perceptions of their school. Chana Benjaminson, SCW '98, said, "It's great that there is so much to be a part

of here. I'm looking forward to getting involved."

Student leaders sat at tables welcoming and seeking out those students who expressed interest in getting involved. Elissa Gross, in charge of the new Shabbat Club at Stern, encouraged people to stay in for weekends and help enhance the school's Shabbat atmosphere.

Based on attendance at Club Fair, student leaders are predicting a productive year for Stern students. Vice President of Stern College Dramatics Society Dina Maslow said, "If the amount of people in this room is a good indication of the people that will be involved, then maybe this year our student body will not be so apathetic."

Israel Club President Chaya Strasberg considered the event to be an eye-opening experience, giving students a "chance to see what our school can really do. And judging by all the enthusiasm in Koch tonight we are sure to have a really great year."

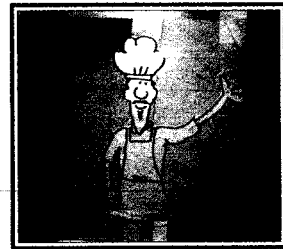
Guide Makes Early Appearance

By Elisheva Wohlgenuth

Thanks to the capable hands and diligent work of *The Guide's* Editor-in-Chief Debbie Bielory, a majority of the student population has already received the looseleaf that will contain the 1995-1996 telephone directory for Yeshiva University. "We are very proud that the Guide has been able to come out within the first week of school, and the phone numbers will be available as soon as possible," said Executive Editor Owen Cyrulnik.

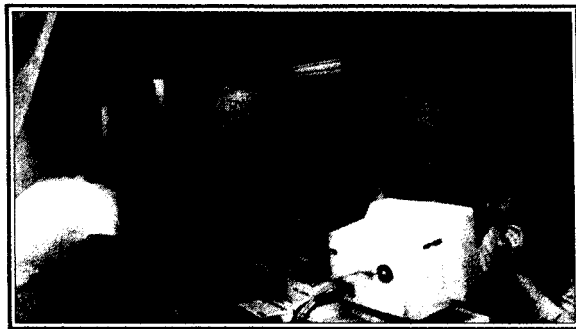
Students were impressed by the practicality of this year's *Guide*. Meredith Gaisin, SCW '97, said, "The looseleaf idea was excellent because it showed a lot of effort on the part of *The Guide* staff. This way we were able to use a lot of the vital information without having to wait for everything to come out on one."

This year's *Guide* boasts several new additions. Students can follow the *Guide's* mascot Pierre on his adventure through New York City. Research Editor Susan Kirshner said, "I think the end result is exactly what we had in mind. The new additions to *The Guide*, such as the price range of the restaur-



ants and free things to do in New York were both creative and informative". Bielory hopes that the innovative sections will be utilized for more than just student phone calls. "A lot of time and effort went into this edition and I hope that people will take the time to try some of the new places," she said. "Many people go through college living in one of the greatest cities in the world without ever taking the opportunity to explore all that the city has to offer. We live in the heart of it all and never get past the subway station."

Orientation '95



Check-in at tent outside Brookdale Hall

By Andrea Snyder

Orientation '95 had an explosion of new students to serve. Nearly 300 First Time on Campus students (FTOCs) moved into the dorms on Sunday, August 27. Students returning from a year in Israel as well as incoming freshmen embarked on their first experiences as SCW students. The students were met by Resident Assistants (RAs) and Peer Advisors and began their journeys to secure room keys and beds.

Although the lines were long, confusion was avoided by moving the check-in desk to a tent located outside Brookdale Hall. In previous years, check-in took place in the University Housing Office, creating much unnecessary traffic in the entrance to Brookdale. This year's modification of the system "alleviated congestion inside the building tremendously," said RA Shira Sukenik, SCW '96. "Students checked in at the computer outside, got their key, signed a package card and got an orientation pass allowing them into the building. Only then were they helped to bring their luggage upstairs."

The three days of orientation were jam-

packed with activities. After a variety of placement tests were administered, FTOCs headed to the cafeteria to partake in a new student/Peer Advisor get-together. FTOCs became acquainted with their Peer Advisors and asked questions about Stern life. "As a Peer Advisor, I tried my best to make the new students feel comfortable," said Ilana Bruger, SCW '97. Peer Advisors were available throughout orientation to help the program run smoothly.

After a TAC-sponsored Chagiga, FTOCs faced the last hurdle: registration. Long lines and closed-out classes greeted each student as she walked into the gym. Students were kindly reminded by Peer Advisors that this was probably the hardest registration they would face and that things get easier each year.

After that it was fun, fun, fun a night at Sportsworld, a Yankee game and a dynamic Shabbaton brought Orientation '95 to a close.

FTOC Rena Loew, SCW '98, said, "I'm glad that I was given time to ease into the college experience."

Summer School: Not Just for Students

By Esther Barry

When the school year ends, the SCW office staff starts an entirely new semester. The Stern office was open this summer, as it is every year, for students to call with questions, visit and even make schedule changes. Hours were the same as during the school year and, say the administrators, so was the workload.

"It's just as busy in the summer as it is now," said Florence Miller of the Registrar's office, pointing to the mob of girls crowding the front desk on the first day of classes. "It's just a different kind of 'busy.'"

While during the year there is more interaction with students, the summer work entails a lot of planning and paperwork. Most of the work falls into two categories: things done to close up the previous semester, and things done to prepare for the upcoming semester.

Both procedures require a lot of work. At the Registrar's office, Dean's List letters had to be sent out, transfer credits had to be evaluated, summer school forms had to be processed, Israel registration had to be entered and records had to be updated and reviewed. In some cases, letters had to be sent to inform graduates of missing courses or requirements to be made up. In others, Israel returnees had to be notified of schedule close-outs and changes. The purpose of the background work is to make the transition into the fall semester a smooth one for the students.

At the Office of Student Services, planning for the new semester begins as early as April, when orientation procedures and lit-

erature are prepared. In addition, mailings must be organized and sent to the appropriate students. One packet goes out to new students, a different one goes out to Israel returnees and still another version goes out to returning students.

Meanwhile, at the Dean's office, other projects were in the works. The purchase of the new dormitory building was Dean Karen Bacon's focus this summer. She also directed the redecoration of the SCW lobby, as well as the renovation of the new biology laboratory. These improvement projects made this summer unusually hectic.

Members of the office staff have differing opinions regarding the summer work.

"It's a more relaxed pace in the summer, but it's still very busy," said Livia Turkell, the office manager of the Dean's office. "There's much more creative planning done in the summer, since it's quieter and calmer than during the year."

Grace Rivera, secretary to the Assistant Dean of Students, agreed that it's quieter in the summer, but said, "I personally miss the girls in the summer. It's much more exciting when they're around."

According to Ethel Orlan, Assistant Dean, the summer is busy, but not as busy as in the fall when the students return. "Although the fall is hectic and exhausting, it's a new beginning, and very exciting."

"I like the idea of change, so the different paces in different seasons are invigorating," agreed Dean Bacon. "I also am very excited when the students and faculty come home."

Fox Socks Box Observer
Observer in box. Fox in socks.
Observer on fox in socks in box.
Socks on Observer and Observer in
box.
Fox in socks on box on Observer.

* * * *

Anyone interested in writing rhymes
like Dr. Seuss, contact Random House,
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Anyone interested in writing for The Observer, contact Marcie Schneider.

SCW SPORTS

Lady Mac Tennis Schedule for '95 Season

September 11 vs. Mt. St. Vincent	Away	4:00pm
September 17 vs. St. Joseph's (LI)	Away	2:30pm
September 21 vs. Brooklyn College	Away	4:00pm
October 25 vs. Baruch College	Away	3:30pm
October 29 vs. Steven's Tech	Away	2:00pm

**Come show your school spirit
by cheering the Lady Macs to victory!!**

Book in a Box

By Miriam Rosenblatt

As many an English Lit major will attest (and attest quite loudly, I might add), society as we know it has been shaped by great works of fiction throughout the ages. *Beowulf* comes to mind, as well as *Macbeth*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Iliad*, *The Awakening*, *The Client*—all masterpieces of literary creation which have molded our very daily existence. And now, for the edification of the *Observer* reader, a review of another one of the great classics: *Fox in Socks*.

This phonetic masterpiece by the great Dr. Seuss was a staple in the childhood of millions (or mine at least), but I feel this publication deserves a second, more mature look.

At first, one is struck by the sheer defiance of the laws of grammar. The entire text of the first page is almost cocky in its temerity. It reads, "Fox Socks Box Knox," without even a period or a comma as one turns the page. However, this does serve to introduce the two central characters of the novella, namely Fox and Knox. One must admire Seuss's style in naming his chief characters with merely their species titles (A Knox, for the uninformed, is a long-eared, pink-collared, mittened, fuzzy-footed, yellow intelligent beast, who stands on two legs and has a pug nosed. He is prone to mispronounce tongue-twisters. He can be found in Dr. Seuss literature and on the Lower East Side.)

The book continues with the activities of the said Fox and Knox. At first, they cavort with socks and boxes, which rhyme much better in the singular form. Seuss, in his genius, realized this, and used their singular. The early stage of the book is third person narrative, brief and to the point. For instance, the line "Fox in socks," quite concisely verbalizes the accompanying picture. When one remembers that this book was originally intended for perusal by toddler, this straightforward style makes sense. However, soon the lines become dialogue, as in, "Look, sir. Look, sir. Mr. Knox, sir.

Let's do tricks with bricks and blocks, sir." Once again, the reader is forced to admire Seuss's direct mode of narration.

During the entire socks, box, chick, brick, block and clock periods of the book, the illustrations depict Knox's becoming more and more despondent at the arrival of further rhyming characters and inanimate objects. One is concerned for Knox's mental state until his only concern is his own inability to pronounce glibly. His frustration and lack of confidence in uttering tongue-twisters must appeal to the young readers, who no doubt are still unsure in their own vocalizations. This however, is an instance of Seuss's ability to reach every reader. Even now, in our digitized society of E-mail and faxes, is not one of the most common fears that of public speaking? Dr. Seuss truly proves himself a man of our times by realizing this widespread paranoia.

In his treatment of Knox's fear, however, Seuss presents an alternative solution to coping with our own fears and limitations: plunging our chief aggressor into a full-fledged tweetle beetle noodle poodle bottled paddled muddled duddled fuddled wuddled bottle battle. Seuss is not, as might initially be thought, suggesting that mankind use violence or cruel and unusual beetle battles to solve its problems, but rather that those who feel action is needed should seize the problem by the Fox (or rather by the socks) and manage as best they know how.

Appealing to the child in all of us, *Fox in Socks* cries out to the battered tongue in the mouths of all our souls. At any time of emotional turmoil, freshmen and Seniors alike crave empathy from the written word. And just as *The Bridges of Madison County* appeals to those SCW students who must leave their boyfriend for the duties and responsibilities of college life, so too can *Fox* provide that heartstone for students in the midst of back-to-school blahs and new-class stress.

Goldstein Serves as Tennis Coach

By Rachel Hellman

The SCW tennis team has a new head coach, and court is now in session. Evan Goldstein played number-one singles for the University of Vermont for three of his college years. He was once ranked number eight in the New England region. He also played in several national tournaments.

This will be Goldstein's first time coaching tennis at the college level. He does have experience in tennis instruction from serving as head tennis pro at a country club. He will also serve as the assistant Men's basketball coach.

This year's tennis team is composed of 13 players. The team was announced on Thursday, August 31 after tryouts were held the previous Tuesday. The roster for the team is: Lara Frisch, Shaindy Frankel, Rivka

Gershon, Jennifer Gluck, Jennifer Jaye, Andrea Katzenstein, Aliza Krause, Yael Malik, Carley Nathanson, Sharon Rabin, Miriam Safier, Rachel Shightz and Liora Shoeng.

Goldstein announced at the tryout that this season will be "more intense" than past seasons but at the same time he hopes it will be "a fun season." Goldstein and the players are excited about the upcoming matches (see schedule).

Practice will be held once a week at the Midtown Tennis Center for the duration of the fall semester. During the spring semester, Goldstein will teach a tennis class for the Physical Education department. Aspiring players, stay tuned.

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