

This space is reserved for the Stern College insignia

The Observer

Volume II, No. 5
Thursday, September 19, 1968

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Observer Poll Subculture; No Culture

The results of a recently conducted student poll of Stern College students indicate that inadequacies in the Religious Studies department and mediocre Sabbath and counseling programs might be helping to perpetuate a subculture of non-observant girls at Stern.

The constant reappearance of a small but hard core percentage of students who often witness Sabbath violations and violate it themselves and who never leave the dormitory on weekends to visit with observant families, stands in stark juxtaposition with eighty or more percent of the student body who are under the impression that most everyone here does observe the Sabbath. Much of what the student notices at Stern depends on who is doing the noticing, and undoubtedly an uninformed beholder misses much that she would otherwise take note of.

The gnawing question is whether the beholder will ever become informed under present programs. An overwhelming majority of those polled indicated that Religious Studies courses do not answer their immediate religious problems. Over half did not find them relevant to their daily lives. Well over half never sought religious counseling, and of those who did forty-four percent felt that it helped them; fifty-six percent that it did not.

Another problem of tantamount importance to the interviewees is the inadequate intellectual atmosphere at Stern. A great majority graded Stern's intellectual atmosphere at C or below. No one gave it an A rating, only 16.50% gave it a B. As for academic standards, suffice it to say that Stern received a 2.32 cumulative score. Cultural atmosphere netted her a rather demoralizing 1.85 cumulative score.

A surprising number of girls have considered leaving Stern because of one or both of the problems cited by this survey.

Belkin To Introduce Mirsky At Reception

By CARMEL FRIEDMAN

"Meet the Dean" is the theme of the student reception for Dean David Mirsky to be held Tuesday, October 22 at the Ferkauf Graduate School.

The program will include Dr. Belkin's introduction of Dean Mirsky and a chance for students to greet, meet, and question the new dean over refreshments.

All students, past and present, and faculty are invited to this semi-formal affair sponsored by the Stern Student Council and Stern College Alumni Association.

According to Yanina Leitchman, program chairman, the reception will take place at the Ferkauf Graduate School, 55 Fifth Avenue (between 12th and 13th streets), at 8:00 A.M. in room 161G.

Registration Traumatic Required Classes Closed

By DEBBIE FRUCHTER and LOIS SCHWARTZFARB

Many Stern freshmen and sophomores were closed out of two or more of their required courses despite administration innovations at registration week. Eileen Garfinkel, a freshman, registered for nineteen and a half credits and was closed out of six courses. "I put in a request to see the Dean and had to wait fourteen hours," she said.

Sheila Gingold, a commuter from the Bronx, was closed out of three courses. She had to wait until 11:00 P.M. Sunday night before she was able to travel home.

An upper freshman who transferred from C.C.N.Y. said: "I sat for two days waiting to register.

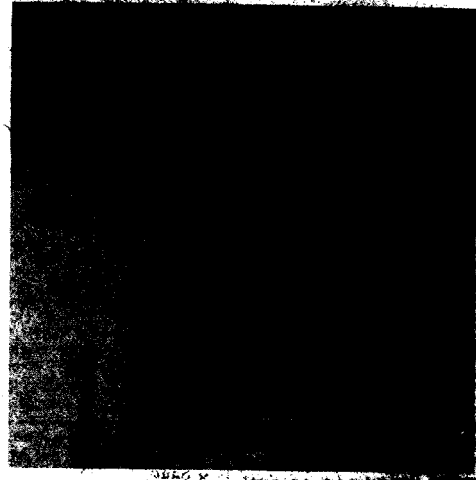
I transferred so that I could take religious studies, and because I'm taking religious studies I was closed out of five classes."

Gita Metzger, a freshman, said, "I did not receive an approved schedule until Tuesday, September 17, more than a week after registration, because courses were closed." A sophomore commented: "If the administration is going to make only one section of sophomore D Jewish history, they should at least keep it open for all the girls who are required to take it. I was closed out of four required courses."

Most students agreed with Rabbi Yaakov Zev, the Registrar, who said that registration went quite smoothly until about 6:30 P.M., September 8, when courses started to be closed. "We feel," Zev said, "that registration procedures were very efficient and well organized."

Most seniors and juniors said they had no problems registering. Shira Renov, a senior, said: "Registration was planned out, there was efficient service, and I wasn't closed out of anything."

Fayge Butler, another senior, observed: "Last June students were told to inform the office if any anticipated conflicts. This worked out satisfactorily for us



Rabbi Yaakov Zev, Registrar, explains students' problems and finds solutions to schedule problems.

because it eliminated schedule problems."

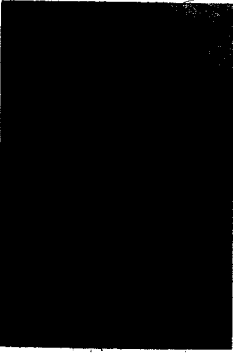
To be sure, there were some

hitches, even for seniors. Fayge Rosenblum waited for three hours while the office tried to locate her pre-registration form. Ruth Radzinski, a senior, remarked: "I live in South America and the preliminary registration forms did not arrive until two weeks before school started. The forms should have been sent air mail. I even wrote to the office over the summer and asked to have them sent air mail, but my letter was (Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

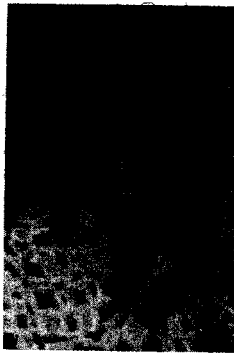
Court Judges

Judges of the newly instituted Dormitory Student Court have been selected, announced Meryl Swinkin, Dormitory Council President. They are: Ruth Levinson, Naomi Weiserman and Reggie Singer.

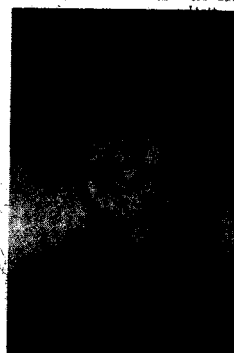
DORMITORY COUNSELLORS



Chana Lazarus



Rochelle Jaskol



Judith Dessler

a pert, easygoing brunette from Spring Valley graduated Stern with a B.R.E. and a B.A. in sociology, lived in the dorm for four years and is familiar with dorm atmosphere and with its most pressing problems. She is currently studying philosophy at Bernard Revel Graduate School and is eager to spend time with students and offer whatever counseling she can. She hopes to exercise some influence in planning the Sabbath programs since she is well aware of the inadequacies involved and feels that much can be done to make Shabbat at the dormitory a pleasant and worthwhile experience.

graduated last June with a B.A. in history-political science. She conceives of her job as an opportunity to add a touch of personal contact to the relationship between dormers and dormitory administrators. She hopes that she will be able to offer any girl who approaches her concerned and friendly advice in dealing with any of her difficulties. She is well aware that many girls who come to Stern encounter religious problems and hopes that they will not hesitate to come to her or to any of the other counsellors, all of whom are eager to offer assistance.

a former commuter who graduated with a B.A. in chemistry and is currently enrolled in the five year B.R.E. program hopes that dormers will feel more free to approach her and the other dorm counsellors since they are in fact their peers. She too feels that much can be done to improve conditions in the dormitory on Shabbat and make it pleasanter and more meaningful for those girls who stay.

Josephina Stepansky, '72, is at New York Hospital, 68th and York recovering. Visit her in room G7.

Freedom Boat To Sail Destination: Liberty

By BETH SPIEGELMAN

Freedom Boat is leaving New York. On Sunday, September 22, at 10:15 a.m. in Battery Park. A thousand people are expected to march on to the Freedom Boat — destination: Statue of Liberty.

A rally — including bands, dancing, singing, Theodore Bikel as "captain of the ship," and a Czechoslovakian diplomat of pre-Russian times — will be on the boat. All of this is to remind the world that all people should be free, including the Jews in Russia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

Tickets may be purchased in school from Soviet Jewry Club members for 75¢ (with four SSSJ New Year's cards, only \$1).

After the rally on the boat, participants are free to spend as much time at the Statue of Liberty as they want and then return on any departing boat without extra charge. It will be an enjoyable day for everyone there — a wonderful, fun way of showing support for "iron curtain" Jews. It is sponsored by Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

PERSPECTIVE '68-'69

This year, we plan to enter into phases of student affairs THE OBSERVER has never explored before. In these efforts, we have established two guidelines: First and foremost, by frequently using them, we will endeavor to preserve all channels of communication between administration and students. If we meet often and discuss matters of mutual interest, we help promote cooperation and understanding. This year we have already met with the President of the University, and with Dean Mirsky on numerous occasions.

Second, we will advocate only rules that are not TIRCHA D'TZIBORA: only those that are equitable enough to be respected by the students. Any extraneous or burdensome regulations we will endeavor to abolish.

With the Director of Student Services and Student Council, we are sponsoring the SCW Insignia Design Competition. With the Faculty-Student Committee on Student Life, we hope to initiate a course evaluation, beginning fall semester. We will avidly encourage the embryonic Speakers Bureau. We will support the Faculty-Student Committees on Academic Affairs and on Student Life to our fullest. We will try to help make the dorm reforms, now in their experimental stage, effective and lasting.

We shall pursue a religious outlook. This is our uniqueness and we shall develop it. We wholeheartedly applaud Rabbi Shmidman in his efforts to intensify the religious atmosphere at Stern and TAC chairmen Mindy Kurland and Judy Klavan in their expansion plans. We look forward to close cooperation with Student Council, whose President will lead us to the Promised Land (B"H).

But when we get down to it, these plans are really secondary. THE OBSERVER of 1968-69 aims to get the University to recognize Stern College as its legitimate daughter and to devote to us the money, effort and time we deserve. We feel that the time has come for the people in the high posts to stop ignoring us. We feel that the time has come for Yeshiva University to give priority to the Jewish mothers of tomorrow — over the scientists of tomorrow, over the mathematicians of tomorrow and even over the doctors of tomorrow. What good will they all be if the products of Stern College drag their feet and mumble that they went to "a college on 34th St.?" To what avail will religious professional schools be if the Stern graduate, as a mother in Israel, seeing assimilation hanging at her door, opens it because Stern did not have a good Professor for Advanced Door Shutting 203?

We aim to imprint in florescence on the consciousness of every Stern student and everyone in the related community, the necessity of developing Stern's physical and academic facilities.

This is our project for '68-'69: Priority for Stern College. Progress. We deserve it.

AN INVITATION

Yeshiva College students suffering from curtailment of library facilities are invited to avail themselves of the newly expanded Sigfried Stern Library. The hundreds of volumes on the main floor are supplemented by triplicate copies of the most popular books, which are preserved in the school basement. You are welcome to take advantage of the newly inaugurated two hour extension of services on Sunday mornings.

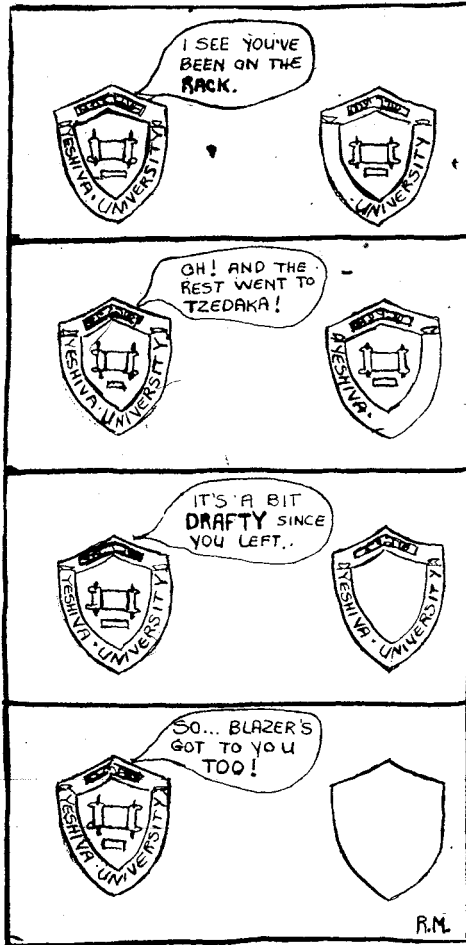
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Clean Up



Debbie Fruchter

SOCIAL LIFE

To the Editor:

I was at YU this past Sunday night to attend the announced showing of Israel Films, accompanied by folk music.

At 9:30, after sitting in a hot, crowded room for over two hours, I realized that something was being projected on the wall. At first it was hard to believe that they were showing the films which appeared hardly larger than television pictures. No one was paying any attention; people were standing up by their seats socializing, a heavy air of smoke permeated the room, and the Israeli music was drowned out by screams, clapping and laughter. The few people interested in seeing the film and gaining insight into Israeli life were unable to.

I don't know how long the film lasted and I don't know what it was about. I do know, though, that I "contributed" one dollar to see it. I hope the dollar goes to Israel but if it doesn't, the evening was a complete waste.

Topping everything was mixed Israeli dancing, something that I did not expect here. It had been my impression that girls dance together and boys together. I could see the expression of girls whose feet begged them to dance but couldn't because of the mixed dancing!

In the future, I feel that there are many improvements to be hoped for. One of these is traditional orthodox supervision of social functions within a school under orthodox Jewish auspices.

Bonnie Kuahner

Letters to the Editor

FUN ON HIGH

To the Editor:

Tired and hot, we stumbled over the rows of suitcases and finally got to be assigned to a room. To our chagrin, we found there was no form for requesting roommates. To keep ourselves together, we sacrificed convenience and resigned ourselves grudgingly to placement on the nineteenth floor, the isolated nineteenth floor where there were no girls except for those in our room. Our mild resentment grew when we found there were no lights or functioning outlets. However, when we saw our private porch, our spirits lifted a bit — but not for long. When we came back at night we found our way to our porch blocked — all the windows and doors were locked. We still can not figure out why such precautions were taken. There is more than one way to commit suicide! — like the quick moving elevator door which always manages to grasp you in its clutches as you try to make it in or out of the elevator; or flight from the window in time to escape the stares of the factory men across from our porch, or taking a trip in the Shabos elevator to the lobby at 1:00 a.m. only to discover there was no way back up the nineteen flights! Of course there are a few

nice things, like friendly faces, carpets, a nice shower, and lights in the bathroom, if nowhere else. But even these benefits have their drawbacks; for instance, how will the five of us fit into the lighted bathroom when the time comes for study? Your suggestions will be accepted in 19 B, after 10:00 p.m.

Hendi Letzter

BOOK LOOK

To the Editor,

As soon as classes started, sloppy sheets of notebook paper began to bloom off the walls of the dorm. Each upperclassman posted a personal list of the books she wanted to sell. Papers appeared everywhere — on the main bulletin board in the dorm lobby, on the phone message board (covering up all the messages, of course), on the soda and candy machines, and in the elevators.

Paradoxically, I constantly heard girls run through the halls asking: "Where can I buy a history book?" or "Do you know anyone who wants to sell a physics book?" In

We would like to thank Liz Kesten for her column, which appeared in last issue, entitled "Campus Guide" and to apologize that her byline did not appear at that time. We're sure that everyone found her opinions useful and informative. She would like to thank the S.O.Y. Kashrus Guide for the list of restaurants.

Registration to be Reformed

TA Council Envisioned Replaces TAC

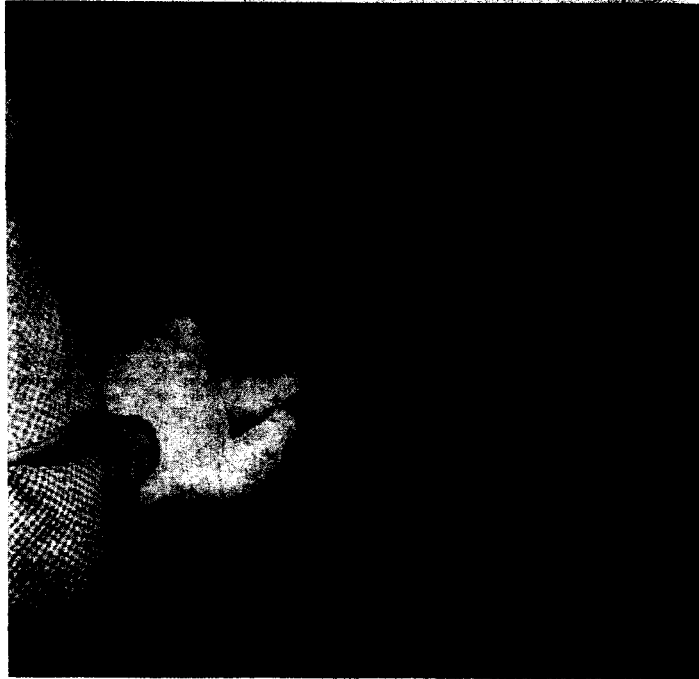
(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5) neither acknowledged or answered. When I actually did register in September, I found that it was very well organized. It took only fifteen minutes."

Some of the registration assistants cited technical difficulties not directly connected to registration procedures. Barbara Taylor, one aide, said: "This is the first year we had to use a microphone in the auditorium. The noise was so loud that girls could not hear their names being called after their cards had been processed. Also, a number of girls did not send back their preregistration forms who did send in the forms changed their schedules when they arrived."

"Many girls wanted courses opened only because they refused to take certain teachers," Rabbi Zev said. "By simply rearranging sections many girls were able to take all the courses they needed. In the future we will attempt to have special registration aides to refocus schedules. Presently registration aides serve a purely mechanical function."

"We underlined and emphasized the fact that students — not registration aides — are responsible for all errors. Yet right now there are dozens of program change requests on my desks because girls did not check over their I.B.M. cards before leaving the registration check-out," the registrar

Another complaint was voiced by Susan Weiss, freshman. "Many freshmen did not know which courses are required for graduation or for certain majors. We should have received catalogues in the mail over the summer along with the pre-registration forms." The last Stern catalogue was published in 1964.



Upper Classmen confront Rabbi Zev with Registration requests. Difficulties increased as required classes closed and students were forced to revise their schedules.

SAMPLE STATISTICS FROM OBSERVER SURVEY

When asked what characterized the "image of the Stern girl"

- 15.5% said "sloppy"
- 33% said "well dressed"
- 55% said "intellectually narrow"
- 10.7% said "community minded"
- 54% said "strictly marriage-minded"
- 12.6% said "interested in intellectual pursuits"
- 7.4% said "All-American"
- 47% said "Yenta"
- 70% said "apathetic"
- 13.3% thought that the image of the Stern girl was good, and conformed to it.
- 4.4% thought that the image of the Stern girl was good, and did not conform to it.
- 21% thought that the image of the Stern girl was bad and conformed to it.
- 61.3% thought that the image of the Stern girl was bad and did not conform to it.

Do R.S. courses answer your immediate religious questions?

- Yes: 22.5%
- No: 77.5%

Are they relevant to your daily life?

- Yes: 42.3%
- No: 57.7%

Are they spiritually elevating?

- Yes: 40%
- No: 60%

Have you sought religious counseling?

- Yes: 36.8%
- No: 63.2%

Of those who did, 43.5% felt it helped them while 56.5% felt it did not.

78.3% of the students go away for Shabbat while 21.7% do not.

Rings & Things

ENGAGEMENTS
 Connie Hirsch to Avraham Fuxzbruner
 Yasmina Lichstein to Gordon Haas
 Klara Yanar to Harvey Silberstein

MARRIAGES
 Helena Moshe to Jol Sharot

BIRTHS
 Mrs. Dina Potashnik Einhorn — a boy
 Mrs. Chavi Potashnik Fever — a boy
 Mrs. Esther Metshik Lazarus — a boy
 Mrs. Sheila Posner Sheintz — a boy

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THE RESTAURANT FRONT

By RUTH LEVINSON

The Observer, spokesman for the student body of Stern College, is sponsoring a Memorial Dinner on the twelfth. The dinner will be a tribute to all the Stern women who have fallen in combat in the school cafeteria since the eruption of fighting on September 3, 1968.

Trouble began in the cafeteria region in September 1965 when close to two hundred infiltrators appeared disguised as members of the nationalist group "Class of '68". Raiding has been intensified each autumn since then. This season, as the monsoons approach, the attacks are worse than ever.

Heightening of tension resulted recently when the guerrilla forces were bolstered by the arrival of fresh T's, trained in the vicious methods of subway combat.

The following are the most recent accurate figures available for the period September 3 - September 10:

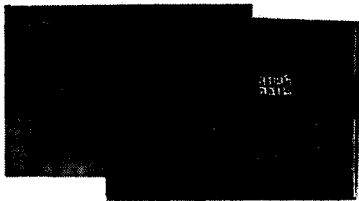
Dead 57
 Wounded 352

The numbers of starving refugees from the stricken region are still too enormous to calculate.

The dinner will not only honor those fallen in battle but will be a benefit for the wounded and hungry. All SCW and YU students and administration are invited. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted. Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All those interested in joining the Observer staff, or presently on staff in any capacity, please get a copy of the book "How to Observe: by Trying Harder," or "Torah Chaim; the Gospel According to Howard," by U.S., 1968, from Liz Kesten (5A)

How to say Happy New Year sweetly, tastefully.



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THE NAME BARTON'S IS YOUR GUARANTEE IT'S KOSHER

By MINDY KURLAND
 Judy Klavvan and Mindy Kurland, co-chairmen of the Torah Activities Committee, plan to distribute their responsibilities among the girls so that T.A.C. will be run by the student body.

The first step toward the realization of this goal will be the institution of the Torah Activities Council, composed of 32 representatives, including two from each Hebrew level. By establishing a cross-section representation, T.A.C. hopes to bridge the gap between the different Hebrew and religious levels, as well as to replenish its labor force. The council will have regular open meetings and will work in close cooperation with Rabbi Schmeidman, T.A.C.'s advisor, (Director of Religious Guidance.) In addition, the dorm counselors, the Dorm Council, the Stern alumni, and Student Council will be consulted. The co-chairmen hope that this council will serve not only as a central planning group for all T.A.C. functions but also as a sounding board for religious grievances, and creative suggestions to enhance the religious atmosphere.

Each representative will be the head of a T.A.C. sub-committee (Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, Zedakah and Davening sub-committees, to name just a few). The T.A.C. representative will choose the members of her sub-committee and delegate duties among them, and publicize T.A.C. activities in her class Hebrew level. The floor chairmen will designate their floor bulletin boards every Shabbat, awaken girls for Shul on Shabbat morning, and collect Zedakah on their floors. Every Friday night a different floor will host an Oneg Shabbat with refreshments and a skit in the 9A lounge.

This year, T.A.C. has instituted daily davening in the Orange Lounge from 8-10 A.M. Monday thru Friday and Sunday. On September 14, it sponsored a Selichot Minyan, led by Rabbi Schmeidman and attended by over 150 girls.

Among T.A.C.'s other plans for the year include:

- 1) The distribution of halacha bulletins before every chag.
 - 2) Weekly Parshat Hashavuah Studies.
 - 3) A weekly Parshat Hashavuah class, led alternately by two Y.U. graduate students and headed by Brenda Bornstein.
 - 4) A weekly class in Tanach led by Rabbi Metzger.
 - 5) Weekly Thursday night Mishmar led by R. S. faculty members and outside speakers.
 - 6) Special Rosh Chodesh programs, including community prayer, assemblies, special speakers and performances by the choir and dramatics club.
 - 7) A series of religious forums on questions concerning religious problems and controversial religious issues, will culminate in a Forum of the Religious Studies Department at the end of the year delving into one of the major issues brought up by the small forums.
 - 8) A fund-raising cantata or play in cooperation with the school choir — proceeds to go to charity.
- Underlying all of these activities is a basic goal: to complement the academic atmosphere of college life with the unity, good deeds, and respect for Torah observance and the Jewish ideals of a religious institution.

New Faculty Members Introduced RAV BELKIN'S YOM TOV MESSAGE

By LOIS SCHWARTZFARB
 It was here in 1954 that he was the first instructor to teach the first class on the first day that the liberal arts women's college under Jewish auspices opened with an enrollment of thirty-three students. Dr. Vogel finds Stern to be a little more crowded and hectic than he remembered, but he sees "no change in the seriousness of the students' desires and goals." He served the college as registrar and then as Dean of Stern College from 1958 until 1967. He is especially happy to return to his first love, teaching, where he explains that he feels "like a fish back in the water."

Biblical Influences

Dr. Vogel enjoys teaching at Stern, which he describes as "a school with a distinct social, religious and academic purpose." He utilizes the opportunity to deal with the Bible in his courses, as it has had the greatest effect on world literature. Because Stern College students have a knowledge of the Bible, Dr. Vogel is able to teach literature with an extra tool at hand. In this respect he feels he has more freedom than his colleagues.

Boys More Expressive

Dr. Vogel prefers teaching in an institution which endorses separate education because he believes that this creates a greater freedom of expression by eliminating rivalry between male and female. Dr. Vogel, who has taught at Rutgers University, City College, Yeshiva College, Stern College and Hebrew University, has observed that female students are less apt to express themselves in class. "Boy," he notes, "display more readily the spark of intellect."

Dean Vogel, who received his BA from Brooklyn College, his MA from Rutgers University, and his Ph.D. from New York University, has published eight or nine articles on American and Jewish literature. He is presently working on a book dealing with the concepts of tragedy in American Literature.

HERMAN LEADS ANNEXATION

Remodeling plans for the new Student Center in the annex include a co-ed lounge to entertain guests, stereo, television, ping-pong tables, Student Council offices, meeting rooms for Student Council committees and clubs, a snack bar, study halls, and possibly music rooms.

The Student Council committee for this project is headed by Lucy Herman and Regina Meyers. Debbie Fruchter and Rachel Markowitz are chairmen of the Student Council steering committee. Lucy Horn offers two methods for decorating the co-ed lounge: "Stern students could make their own painting part of a permanent décor. Or perhaps Stern could show the work of a contemporary artist on the lounge walls every six weeks. At the beginning of the display period, we could host a tea for the artist and he could explain his technique."

Special thanks to: Burt Jacobson of Public Relations for his time and help in the design of our new flag; David Jaffe, the graphic artist; Sam Harstein Director of Public Relations, for his cooperation and generosity.

Dr. Silver comes to the Stern College English department with a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Teaching only women is not new to her, since she taught at Vassar.

From her experience at Hunter College, Dr. Silver finds teaching coed courses very similar to teaching women exclusively. The only difference she discovered is that men may have different experiences to relate to their studies.

At Stern Dr. Silver is teaching freshman and sophomore English as well as electives. The courses for majors which she will cover are American Romanticism and Victorian Writers.

Professor Silver came to Stern looking for a small college in the metropolitan area. Teaching in a school which is under Jewish auspices will not alter her approach to the material she presents. Because of our background, though, she will feel more confident in making analogies and allusions to Judeo-Christian themes as they appear in literature.



Mrs. Cohen, English Dept.

By DEBBIE FRUCHTER

Mrs. Cohen, one of the three new English instructors, emphasizes quality over quantity in literature. The aim of an English course, she feels, is not simply to cover a certain number of creative trends. She firmly believes that teachers should use every aid to get students immersed in the subject matter. A student should want to read on his own when he completes the course.

"I see myself as a literature teacher and a humanist," Mrs. Cohen stated. Since communication through written words is one method of bridging gaps between people and nations, she considers a knowledge of good English a basic necessity for existence on this planet.

Mrs. Cohen feels that teaching

in the cultural climate of New York offers an opportunity for fuller courses. She intends to supplement her classroom curriculum by taking advantage of cultural opportunities in New York. Her sophomore English literature class, for example, will be writing papers on the unicorn priestesses at the Cloisters.

Mrs. Cohen, a graduate of Bernard College, received her master's degree in English at the University of Pennsylvania. Her field of interest is twentieth century English literature and she is presently preparing her Ph.D. on D. H. Lawrence. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg College, and Cuttington College in Liberia, West Africa, where her husband was serving in the Peace Corps.

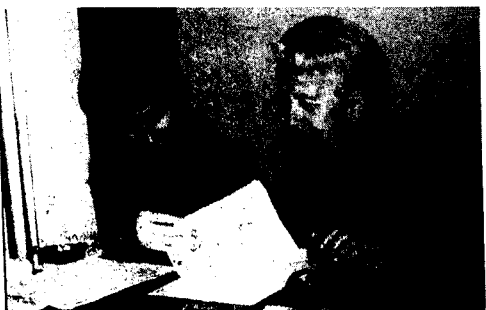
History Dept. Addition

Miss Chan, a native of Hong Kong, has chosen to spend her first year of teaching at Stern. She attended Catholic schools all her life and decided to remove herself from the Catholic atmosphere and learn about a different culture. She heard many favorable things about Yeshiva University from her roommate, who attends Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Miss Chan is teaching Western Civilization and Far Eastern History. She is especially interested in teaching in China where she is not limited to the text. "It is inevitable," she remarks, "that I do bring into the classroom many of my own personal experiences." She hopes that being part of the Asian civilization will be to her advantage in helping Westerners understand her country. She is excited about the mutual relationship she shares with her students. "We learn from each other," she confides. "I learn about the Western civilization from them."

Miss Chan attended grade school and high school in Hong Kong. She was encouraged by her high school teacher to pursue a career in the field of history. She came to the United States where she attended Marian College in Indiana and received her BA in history. She received her MA in European history from Fordham University. She is presently working for her doctorate. Last year she went to England to gather material for her thesis on the Policies of the Great Powers Toward the Chinese Revolution of 1911.

Presently Miss Chan expects to devote her full attention to teaching, but in the future she would like to do historical research.



TRANSITION: Mrs. Naomi Meyers, night supervisor before the recent change in dorm regulations, (presently day supervisor) reviews records with Chana Lazarus, a dorm counselor.

"As we prepare to enter the new year 5729, with celebration of Rosh Hashanah and the ten days of penitence, it would be wise to reflect on the lessons inherent in the alienation of so many young Americans today.

"No longer impressed by the material advantages endowed by an affluent society, they are demanding, unfortunately at times in unacceptable ways, a spiritual rebirth of a nation. They are challenging us to practice what we preach. Unhappily, they do not seem to believe it is possible that we ever will.

"So as we search our souls on the High Holy Days, we must recognize that the very well-being of our nation as well as the continued development of the Jewish community are inextricably linked to our ability to make credible to the young our own commitment to the transcending values of our heritage.

"As the first of G-d's children to abide by Him and His laws, the Jewish people have a special responsibility. We must affirm on this Rosh Hashanah our quest for the spiritual renewal of our nation and ourselves. We must commit ourselves through deed as well as word to a deeper faith in the Almighty who graced man with His own likeness.

"At Yeshiva University, we enter the new year with a continuing dedication to the search for knowledge that will help man find a better life, yet to remain always aware that our love of man ultimately is dependent upon our love of G-d.

"We thus dedicate ourselves especially to instilling in young people who come to our university an even fuller appreciation than they already possess of the sacredness of the human personality and the infinite worth of the individual. And we shall instill this appreciation not only by exhortation, but example.

"For these are the concepts which are deeply imbedded, irremovable and irreplaceable cornerstones in the moral and religious structure of Judaism."

Yeshiva University Seminar is a Religious Experience

By GINNY HABERKORN

The typical Seminarian is a person who senses a "something" missing in his daily experience, a "something" he can't exactly pinpoint until after having lived the Y.U. Seminar. His religious background is generally not extensive; often times the Seminarian arrives little knowing what to expect within the coming week. These facts, however, only make the rapidity of his adjustment all the more incredible. Imagine, for a moment, coming to a strange place, where people have the most uncanny habit (among others) of hurling you out of your chair at meal time, and flinging you into the strangest steps, and all singing, at times almost roaring, the very same words over and over again with all their might. If you are able to conjure this image, then you have captured a bit of what the Seminarian feels, at first blush, for that which "experiences" Jews call "ruach."

Most assuredly, Seminar involves a great deal more than simply this. Each day brings sessions, lectures, discussions, and recreational activity as well. Yet Seminar is none of these things, either individually or in combination. Perhaps it can best be described as a week during which the participant is an integral part of an atmosphere totally charged with Shabbat. As soon as the Seminarian assimilates into this atmosphere, a crucial change begins inside him. The previous senselessness of Seminar song and dance is now transformed into a vehicle of expression for a deep-felt religious fervor. The words to simple Hebrew melodies, if not literally understood, are now nevertheless strongly sensed by those who have partaken of the Seminar experience.

Some Seminarians might find that for them the essence of Seminar is a casual stroll down the road with a fellow Seminarian; others might find it is a midnight chat in the bunk with a member of the Rabbinical staff. Still others might find it in the removal of barriers which ordinarily make



Rabbi Shlomo Riskin at Seminar

relationship between man and G-d as well as man and man, grossly superficial. But all Seminarians have in common the desire to further pursue their novel experience. They are not religiously satiated with simply coming to Seminars. Each Seminarian takes with him the portable parts of the Seminar world; he gradually builds upon them according to his own capabilities.

It is a unique Seminar spice which enables even the deeply religious Jew to experience new dimensions of piety. Davening with a Seminarian in the face of a beautiful sunset undoubtedly heightens the tefillah experience. Putting on one's Tefillin becomes so much more meaningful after one has just finished helping a Seminarian on with his own pair. In a more general vein, there is great fulfillment obtained in successfully communicating to a fellow Jew the essentials of Torah Judaism so much part of your own self. It is this kind of fulfillment which revitalizes even the most fervently religious Jew. The jewels of Torah are not spent when given of to others; they only continue to amass with added intensity.

Repent