

Research Presented at Student Symposium

By Nina Paul

Early on a hot Saturday morning, students, faculty, staff, administrators, family and friends came to the Natural Sciences building to attend the first annual Student Symposium. On April 24, twenty-four science students, most of whom are seniors, from Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, and Psychology departments presented their research. The guest lecture was provided by Purchase alumnus, Dr. David Groopman.

The purposes of the symposium were to laud all Senior science students, provide students with experience in scientific speaking, inform juniors about research available to them, and expose the campus community and industrial affiliates to the breadth of science student research.

Dean of Natural Sciences, Dr. James Utter, introduced President Grebstein for a welcome address, who upon receiving applause, joked "This has been the first place I've been where no one has booed. Wait until you get to know me better." Grebstein then expounded the advantages of a liberal arts education, and praised the L & S department, calling it "the best kept secret around."

Each student spoke for fifteen minutes, using slides, transparencies, and blackboards to illustrate their points, and then ran a five-minute discussion. There were six sessions, with four papers each, chaired by Drs. Lee Ehrman, Suzanne Kessler, Andrew Klemmer, Martin LeWinter, Nicole Schupf, and Joseph Skrivaneck.

Speakers and Their Topics

Mathematics: Most of the mathematics presentations were computer and business related. Database theory, management information systems, and microcomputers were discussed by J. Seeman, D. Russo and R. Zuckerman respectively. S. Green presented "Circles and Tangents (Analytic Geometry and the Problems of Tangency)."

Animal Behavior: Biology students D. Meringolo and M. Gentilluci discussed reproductive advantages and mating successes of different insect, *Drosophila*, populations.

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Reproductive success and territorial behavior of campus mockingbirds was studied by L. Pearson, of environmental science. D. Caubisens, of Psychology, researched time discrimination in chickadees and nuthatches.

Biochemistry: The red blood cells of rabbits were the basis of ganglioside composition and biosynthesis studies respectively by J. Bonforte, Biochemistry, and R. Vitti, Chemistry. A. Glass, Chemistry, looked at patterns of gangliosides in rabbit and goldfish retina. S. Loggins, chemistry, sponsored by Clairol, studied the binding area of a layer of skin using

to estimate human exposure to flouride. C. MacDonald found that road salts can leech into nearby waters, creating environmental problems. The role of carbon availability in a regulation system of a blue-green alga was studied by J. Grover.

Psychology: Two Psychology majors, C. Schaeffer and L. Nirenberg looked at brain hemispheres to understand depression and reading disability in humans. Trends in personality research and pain were analyzed respectively by L. Chidsey and B. Moss.

Moss' "Pain: Symptom, Syndrome or Stigma," was a "critique of the medical profession's current attitudes towards pain and pain management." During her talk, the guest speaker, Dr. Groopman, seemed both amused and agi-



thermal analysis.

Biology students N. Paul, J. Luban, and B. O'Loughlin, used rats to study the effects of a whole antibody, a part of an antibody, and an antibody-antigen byproduct in the brain. **Literature reviews:** J. Fink, biology, did an extensive literature review on "Theories of Aging." Another review was prepared by L. von Mechow, Environmental Science, on the "Toxicity of Plastic Bottles as Beverage Containers." She looked at FDA and other studies on the carcinogenicity and toxicity of plastic particles which migrate into soda and other beverages. She found that "recent test data could be interpreted as evidence for positive carcinogenic effects but were disregarded by the researchers and by the FDA." **Environmental Science:** A. Seeley used a dietary analysis

tated, and a heated discussion between the two followed with Dr. Groopman vigorously defending his profession.

Dr. Groopman spoke about both his days at Purchase, when there were "few buildings except the mansion" and his present career as an emergency care doctor. He felt that his education at Purchase had provided him with a broad biological background, and exposed him to philosophical and bioethical issues. He ended his talk with advice to students on the pursuit of happiness through satisfying inner needs as well as through career goals.

The First Science Student Symposium ended successfully as speakers received positive feedback on their research presentations, and interested people who attended, walked away having learned some of the "best kept secrets around."

Senior Week; Activities are Planned

By Linda Chidsey

The Commencement Activities Committee has planned three events for the week before graduation.

On Wednesday, May 19th, movies will be shown behind the Administration Building from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. In the event of rain, the movies will be shown indoors. This event is being funded by the Alumni Association.

A semi-formal and breakfast is planned for Thursday, May 20th in the Butler Building. Dancing will begin at 9:00 p.m. with an open bar and music, provided by Kathleen Abrams. At 2:00 a.m., a light breakfast will be served.

Friday will feature a picnic on the Great Lawn, with music, food, and drink. The picnic will begin right after the commencement rehearsal, and will run until dusk.

Thursday's and Friday's events are being funded, in part, by the Student Senate and the Purchase College Association. A single ticket, priced in the range of five to seven dollars, will cover admission to all three events. Tickets will be on sale in the mailroom on Wednesday, May 12th, and Thursday, May 13th, from noon until 1:30. After that, they will be on sale at the Info Booth, and also at the dance itself.

Admission is restricted to seniors and their dates. However, Juniors who volunteer to help set up, serve, and clean up, can attend at no charge. Junior and Senior volunteers are needed for each day. Remember, events are after the end of classes, so don't let today's hectic pace prevent you from volunteering. Volunteers can sign up at the Info Booth. Also, we are still taking suggestions for a theme for the dance may also be submitted to the Info. booth.

Yiddish Explored

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secluded culture.

In the European shtetl (Jewish village), Jewish traditions and values achieved a character distinctly their own. The shtetl was the fortress of Ashkenazic culture. There the people were poor, fundamentalists in faith, earthy, resisting secularism of. The complexities of the human condition are often transformed in Yiddish literature into simple tongue; at the root of which are two primary emotions; sorrow and joy. I.B. Singer

In a traditional Yiddishkite song, "Rozhinkes Mit Manlen" ("Raisins and Almonds") one sees a characteristic of simplicity. The last verse of the song go:

*Under Yidele's cradle stands a baby goat,
The goat has been trading raisins and almonds.
That will be Yidele's calling, too.*

So sleep, now. Yidele sleep.

There will come a time...

When you too will earn great wealth.

But, even when you are rich,

Yidele,

Remember your mother's lullabye.'

In the shtetl the Jews produced an independent style of life and thought. They drew their style from the homespun prose of Talmudic sayings. I.S. Singer

One might say, in the heart of the Yiddish tradition, lies humility in the sight of God. It's much like the meekness spoken about to the Christians by Jesus in the New Testament. In reference to this attitude, Isaac Bashevis Singer says, "It (the Yiddishkite attitude) could only exist among a people with a deep faith and humility. It reached its apex among Jews when they were completely bereft of worldly power and influence... History will surely record the shtetl as a phenomenon worth remembrance. It was a world isolated from time, living on the daily edge of fear. It was a triumph of human endurance, a crucible from which flamed a brilliant effervescence of scholarship and literature."

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The United States Jewry who refused to assimilate are responsible, perhaps, for the survival of Yiddish culture, again, without a homeland. Rheinstein is observing one of the dictates of Yiddishkite, a love for learning. This love for learning if preserved in an old Yiddish song called "Afin Prepetchik." This is a song, passed down through the generations, which my own grandfather taught me, whose mother he says sang it to him as a little boy. The first verse tells the story of a group of children sitting around a fire learning their A, B C's in Hebrew from the Rebe (Rabbi):

*The last verse of the song goes:
Ven ir vet kinder elter ver,
vet ir a leyn sar shtdyn
vijl in doi yes ligh tiern,
un vitl ge vegn.*

which means, "how many tears are in the letters and how much weeping."

Rheinstein explains, "What it means is when you look at these letters, is remember what these people have gone through to safeguard them. That is the case for preserving Yiddish. What kind of pain and joy and everything have they gone through to make the language what it is. To say, 'Oh, well, because it's not the most scholarly language; it's not longer spoken widely, and the Jews of Israel speak Hebrew, and there's no Yiddish country, is ridiculous. Because it still is a beautiful language. It is a 'hat-sik' (heartfelt) language, and it's one of the languages of the Jews."

Today, one sees a resurgence of Yiddish culture promoted by such programs as YIVA, and the Workman's Circle, films like "Fiddler on the Roof," literature like that of Isaac Bashevis Singer translated from Yiddish to English. Phil Rheinstein, by teaching a Yiddish class at Purchase, is contributing to the restoration of a rich cultural heritage, which has left behind pages of history to explore.