

# judaic studies begin next fall

by Eric Keitel

The Harpur College Council overwhelmingly voted that a Judaic Studies program be established here by September, 1973. The Educational Planning and Policies Committee (a sub-committee of the council) had earlier recommended that the council approve the resolution for the creation of the program.

The major issue debated by the committee, according to Alfie Bendixen, Chairman of the committee, was the source of the money. "Resources are very tight, but we are going to get a new faculty line. I'd be surprised if the program didn't start by September." (A faculty line refers to the teaching requirements of one full time faculty member. It can be filled by more than one person.)

Although the program will start with only one faculty line, it is expected that a specialization in Judaic Studies will be established when the full time staff grows.

Daniel Fallon, Assistant Dean of Harpur College, emphasized that the program must justify its own growth. The petitions that have been circulating around

campus, seem to indicate that student interest is strong.

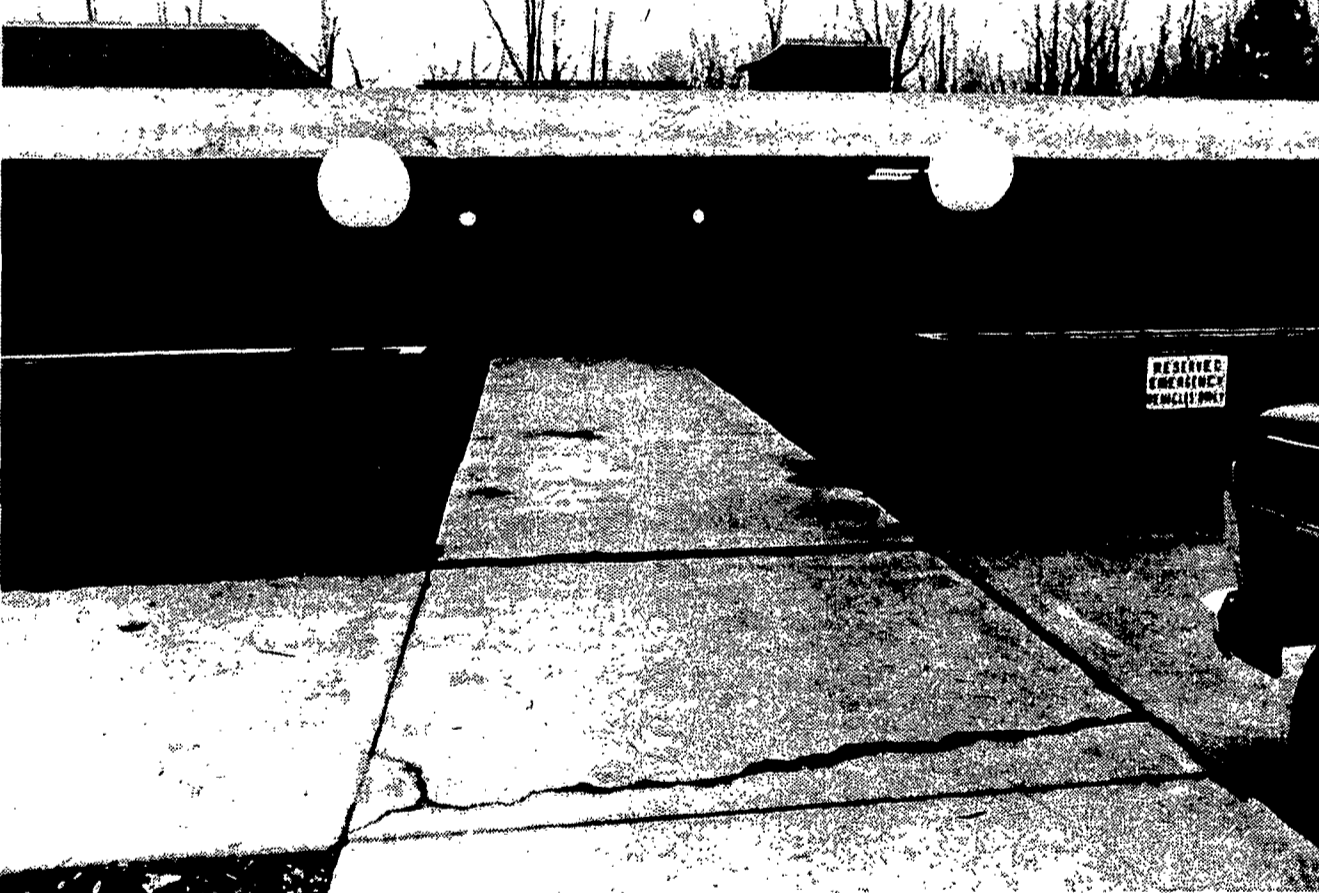
Various departments related to Judaic Studies, for example, Hebrew, Yiddish, and History, that are recruiting faculty for next semester, have been told to look out for possible professors who would be interested in teaching courses in Judaic Studies. For at least the first semester, most of the faculty will be members of other departments.

Fallon commented, "It is not likely that we'll have a person not connected to another department; he will most probably want to be part of an already established one." When the faculty grows, and professors with the necessary qualifications arrive, then the department could be established on its own. The growth of the program is contingent on the available resources. Once the faculty has been designated, they will confer with the Judaic Studies Committee, which will be appointed by Fallon in the near future. They will discuss such matters as courses to be offered, requirements for a major, and the other specifics necessary to the commencement of a program. There will be many members of the committee, who were originally involved in the proposal for these courses, possibly Professor Leon Goldstein of the philosophy department, and History Professor Helen Rivlin, along with various students.

Some of the suggestions for courses have already been made. They include: Modern and Ancient History of the Jews, History of Jewish Thought, and various Hebrew and Yiddish literature courses. Although, at first, there are going to be only a few core courses available, it will still be enough for a certificate program. Courses in History, Hebrew and Yiddish will be used for requirements for Judaic Studies.

The final goal is to establish a separate Judaic Studies department. This should be possible if the enrollment in courses is sufficient, and even more important, if there are enough resources to expand the program.

photo by rosie



The Infirmary

# infirmary healing itself

by Helen Lipman

"I only regret that I didn't come to the infirmary before seeing a private doctor," stated one student who had been an in-patient for five days. "My only complaint is that visiting hours are over-extended," said another. Pipe Dream in an investigation of the quality of health care at SUNY-Binghamton, found that the students staying at the infirmary regarded the staff as attentive and competent, and were favorably impressed with the treatment they were receiving.

"Laboratory services have been expanded to relieve students of the high cost of these services," said Dr. Werner Lipman, Director of Health Services. In addition, two nurse clinicians, "personnel with training beyond that of required registered nurses" and a gynecologist have been added to the infirmary staff.

Why then is the infirmary viewed with a jaundiced eye by many students and endowed with an infamous reputation in some circles on campus?

Some people believe that it is human nature to complain when all does not function smoothly. Incidents of ineptitude and callousness, therefore are publicized, while little mention is made of exceptional medical care.

Secondly, once a reputation has been gained, deserved or otherwise, it is often difficult to shake.

"Students tend to come to the infirmary with every little complaint because it's free. They would not go to their doctors at home so often," Lipman claimed. Several students interviewed stated that they did not go to the infirmary until they were certain that their illness merited treatment.

"Limited funds and personnel" is the explanation given for patients being

examined by a nurse rather than a doctor, when they first visit the infirmary with a specific ailment. However, this attitude that students will go to the infirmary when they really don't need medical care has caused certain problems. In one instance, a student who declined to have his name printed, was feeling nauseous, running a low fever and was exhausted after having slept for eighteen hours. He dragged himself over to the infirmary where a nurse advised him to go back to sleep. No one bothered to take his temperature. Students are occasionally shunted off in this manner.

Incidents of discrimination and reluctance to admit students intoxicated with alcohol or who have been abusing drugs, are reportedly decreasing. "Infirmary personnel have perhaps become more accommodating to the needs

of college students," according to one observer. The official policies of the infirmary do not, of course, condone discrimination of any sort.

The infirmary has been accused of handling emergencies poorly. Campus Security usually checks with the infirmary to determine whether accident victims require hospitalization. As infirmary personnel rarely rush to the scene of an accident, Security must transport the victim to the infirmary which may waste valuable time. Furthermore, the Security men do not always know the proper way to move an injured person. "The men on the Force would like more medical training to be able to deal with such emergencies," said a Security Officer.

The infirmary's insistence that students have their medical histories on

file and present I.D.'s before they are treated is maddening to the dizzy student who left his I.D. on the third floor of Cleveland Hall and who has eaten an apple a day for the past five years, rather than see his physician. However there is method in this madness. "Proper diagnosis and treatment of an illness often depend upon adequate knowledge of a person's medical history, and the infirmary cannot thoroughly examine every student," stated Lipman.

Medical treatment comparable to the infirmary's treatment, according to Lipman, at any private institution such as Wilson Hospital in Binghamton would cost a minor fortune. Increased flexibility and attunement to student needs, however, are needed to build the widespread confidence in the infirmary which it deserves, one observer noted.



# ASK MR. ACTION

Ed. note: "Ask Mr. Action" is a new Pipe Dream feature designed to answer students' questions and to help them with their problems. Anyone who would like help from Mr. Action can contact him at the Pipe Dream office, x2515, or Box 2002.

Dear Mr. Action:

One of my friends told me that if I don't pay a campus parking ticket my records could be impounded and my graduation could be delayed. Is this true?

Dear J.R.:

The Registrar, Thomas Endrusick, has informed me that any student who has an outstanding financial delinquency to the University will have his or her records withheld until that debt is terminated.

What this means is that if any fee, no matter how small, is owed by a student to the University, the University will refuse to forward grade transcripts and recommendations to prospective graduate schools. The Registrar has also informed me that any student who has not paid sufficient tuition or who owes any money is not considered an officially registered student and will not receive academic credit until all tuition and fees are paid.

The fee can be of any kind: a university parking ticket, room and board, an overdue library book, or a loan from the ombudsman. The Registrar explained, "This is one of the so-called hammers we have to make sure we collect what's due us."

When the University realizes that a student or ex-student owes money, that person is informed. If there is no response, the matter is turned over to the State Attorney General, who can sue to collect.

J.R.

While the Registrar know of no specific cases in which students were notified too late to avoid problems with graduation, he conceded that it was "possible" that this had occurred. He attributed problems like this to students who change address without informing the college. "We're constantly sending notices to the wrong place. The address thing is a serious problem. We try to contact people, but if we can't find them we're going around in circles." Students can avoid hassles of this sort by making sure the college is always aware of their current address.

The withholding of records by the University is easily remedied. Simply pay what you owe. When the Registrar's office is notified that your debt is cleared up, your records will be released and all credit that is due will be received.

-Mr. Action