

A Happy  
New Year!

# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper Of Yeshiva College

Congratulations,  
Dr. Belkin!

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No. 1

## DR. SAMUEL BELKIN ASSUMES OFFICE AS NEW PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTION

### An Editorial

#### A WISE CHOICE

It is with happy and joyous hearts that the student body of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College greets the news of Dr. Samuel Belkin's appointment to the presidency of the institution. The appointment is all the more appreciated when it is realized that it fills a long-felt, if mute, need.

Since the death of our saintly leader, Dr. Bernard Revel, the institution has been like the proverbial body without a head. This is not to deny that progress has been made during the last three years. But that progress has been of a desultory nature, each department pursuing an independent course towards what it considered its goal.

We need one goal, and collective effort, if Yeshiva is to assume its rightful position in American Jewish life. And this collective effort must receive its direction from and be lodged in the person of one individual.

The appointment of a president is therefore happy news to all those interested in the welfare of the institution.

But that the choice should be a man of the qualities and capabilities of Dr. Belkin makes this occasion doubly auspicious.

Since he stepped into Yeshiva life in 1936, Dr. Belkin has endeared himself to students and instructors alike. As a teacher, he was one of the most beloved and respected on the faculty. As Dean, he impressed all with his conscientious work and sincere efforts in behalf of the Yeshiva. It is only necessary to point to the remarkable strides Yeshiva has taken during the last few years to prove, if proof need be given, the inspiring leadership virtues of Dr. Belkin.

But it is as President of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College that we think Dr. Belkin will write his most glorious page in Yeshiva history. His splendid Talmudic and secular scholarship will underscore every line; his rich sagacity and vision every verse.

So today we commend the Board of Directors on its wise choice and say to Dr. Belkin:

Congratulations! The student body of Yeshiva College pledges its whole-hearted support to you and your administration. We know that under your guidance Yeshiva will reach yet greater heights. We know that under your leadership there will be no room for political bickerings and behind-the-scenes manipulations. You are our leader; you have but to lead and we will follow.

We pray that the Almighty grant you strength and courage, physical and spiritual fortitude. They will be needed in the critical days ahead.

P. O.

## Council Speeds Plans for Student Court, Club Advisors

A number of important issues were discussed at the first official meeting of the Yeshiva College Student Council which was held last week in the Council office.

The most noteworthy development was the formulation of plans for a student court. It will consist of five members appointed by the president and approved by Council and will consider all charges brought against students. The court shall have the power of inflicting penalties ranging from denial of school privileges to barring the offender from holding school office.

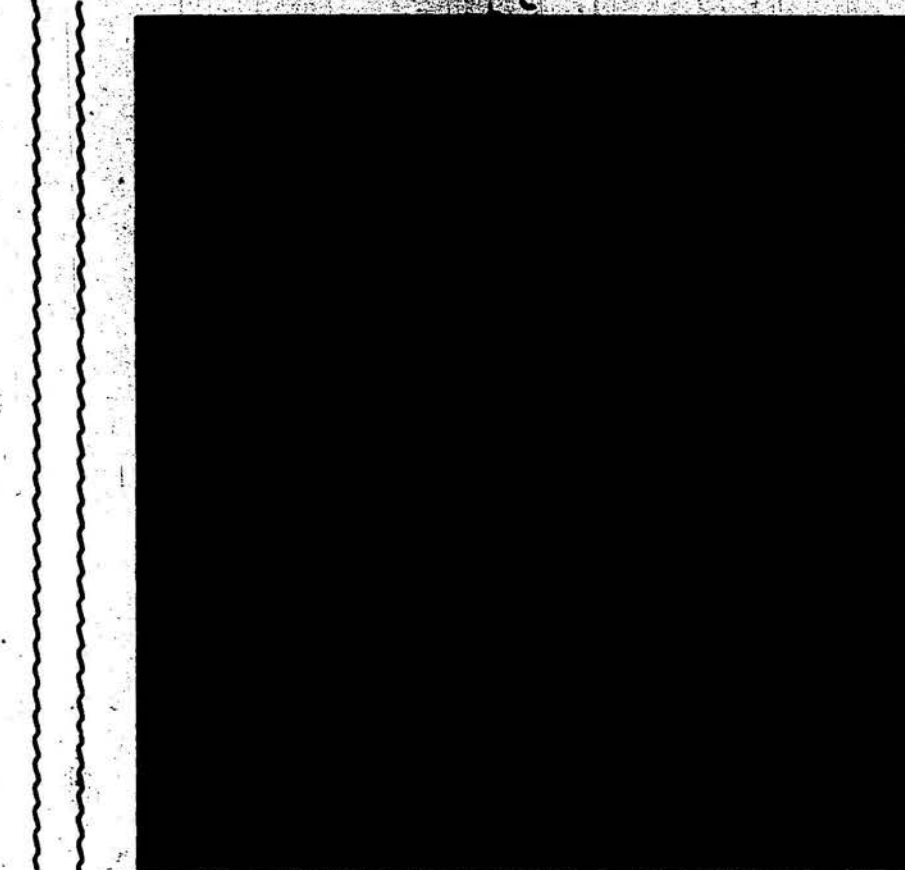
"Student courts have succeeded in hundreds of colleges throughout the country. I hope that it will prove successful at Yeshiva, for it is a great step to-

ward more progressive student government," stated Council president Jack Green.

#### Advisor Plan

This year, Student Council plans to appoint an advisor to each school organization. The advisor will coordinate the group with the student government and will cooperate with the members in the effort to make the activity a success.

There will be an Athletic Council of six this season. It will consist of Samuel Waldman, Athletic Manager, a representative from each class, and the advisor named by council. This arrangement is expected to insure a smoothly functioning athletic department.



## Prospectus for New Year Outlined by Dr. Belkin

A slightly perplexed student body greets the inauguration of the new term at Yeshiva. Old students are wondering about the administrative changes which have taken place. They are curious about the essence of the new policies which have been formulated. New students are in doubt as to the aim of Yeshiva and the position it occupies on the American-Jewish scene.

In a recent interview, Dr. Samuel Belkin, newly elected president of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College, discussed the Yeshiva of '43-'44 with a view toward clearing up some of the uncertainties.

No changes have been made as far as the various departments and deans are concerned. Three new Roshes Hayeshivos have assumed posts in the Yeshiva department and Rabbi Marcus has been appointed chairman of the permanent, already functioning, Placement Committee.

#### Grad School Enlarged

Courses in the Bernard Revel Graduate School have been increased and intensified. Dr. Joshua Finkel is now a permanent lecturer on Semitics. A course dealing with the traditional evaluation of the Torah with commentaries is being offered for the first time. Dr. Zeitlin, eminent historian, has given up his college position in order to devote his time to the Graduate School.

In reference to the renewal of seminars which aroused to much favorable comment last year, Dr. Belkin stated, "As the occasion warrants seminars will be arranged for graduate students."

The smicha requirements are identical with those of last year. The knowledge amassed during years of study in the lower and upper divisions and an intensive Talmudic background will count toward smicha aspirations. No

student may begin the study of Chulin before having been graduated from college.

#### Yeshiva Policy

Dr. Belkin then proceeded to discuss several general matters pertaining to Yeshiva policy.

The purpose of The Commentator, as Dr. Belkin expressed it, is "to serve not merely as a secular paper for college activities but as the representative of the Yeshiva man in his entirety. It is my conviction that the college should in no way be separated and treated as a distinct unit. One cannot divorce himself from the essence of his being in the afternoon after having devoted the morning to Torah."

"The college as founded by our late Rosh Hayeshiva, Dr. Revel, of blessed memory, serves a double purpose. It gives the Yeshiva man a secular education in a Jewish environment; and, by being a Yeshiva college emphasizes the greater ends and purposes of learning which above all mean the moral and religious form of life. We hope that Torah knowledge will influence the character of the student body and that our students will realize that the purpose of their secular studies is to supplement and complement the essence of religious life."

#### War Problems

Turning to pertinent war problems, Dr. Belkin reported that the greatest number of Orthodox chaplains in the armed forces are Yeshiva-ordained. He added, "We encourage our young graduates to enlist as chaplains."

As President of Yeshiva, Dr. Belkin is concerned with the improvement of the institution as a whole. The complete harmony existing between the president and various deans and faculties of the departments will facilitate the continued progress of Yeshiva.

## Former Dean Named In June

Beginning with the school year, Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin assumed duties as President of the Yeshiva and Yeshiva College. His election to the post was announced last June 23, 1943, by the Hon. Samuel Levy, former Borough President of Manhattan and Chairman of the institution's Board of Directors.

Dr. Belkin, who is thirty-two years old, is the second president in the fifty-seven year history of the institution. He succeeds the late Dr. Bernard Revel, of sainted memory, the founder of Yeshiva, who died in December 1940.

#### Studied At Mir

The new president received his early Talmudic training under the Chafitz Chaim and at the Mir Yeshiva in Lithuania where he was ordained at an early age by leading rabbinical authorities. In 1929 he came to America for his secular studies at Brown and Harvard Universities. He received his Ph. D. degree in Semitics at Brown University in 1935, and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa, national honor fraternity.

Before elevated to the presidency, Dr. Belkin was professor of Talmud and Hellenistic Literature at the Yeshiva and Professor

An article, especially written for The Commentator by Dr. Belkin, will appear in the next issue.

of Greek at the College. He was also Dean of the Yeshiva, Chairman of the Faculty of the Bernard Revel Graduate School, and a member of the Executive Board of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College.

#### Authored Book on Philo

Dr. Belkin is the author of "Philo and the Oral Law," published in 1940 as part of the Harvard Semitic series. He is also the author of "The Alexandrian Halakha in Apologetic Literature," published by the Jewish Publication Society. In addition, he has contributed many significant articles to scientific journals on Talmudic law.

Dr. Belkin married the former Selma Ehrlich of Philadelphia, grand-daughter of Rabbi B. L. Levinthal, dean of the American Rabbinate.

#### Levy's Statement

In commenting upon the election, the Hon. Samuel Levy said: "Our new president is a worthy successor to his illustrious and immortal predecessor, Dr. Bernard Revel. In his own person he symbolizes the philosophy of Yeshiva College which is the synthesis of Jewish learning and worldly wisdom. Under his leadership our institution is looking forward to an era of growth and expansion as the leading Torah sanctuary on the continent."



### It's Tradition

It seems that registration at Yeshiva College wouldn't be itself unless confusion and aggravation accompany the procedure.

This year the duties of the Registrar were trebled by placing the burdens of the dormitory and cafeteria upon his shoulders, and this year, registration headaches were also trebled. If hardly seems right to assign so many tasks to one man so that his office begins to resemble Grand Central Terminal. At a time when the Registrar was so busy, why could not the heads of departments and members of our faculty be utilized in aiding the student in planning his program?

During the few days allotted for registration, a few hours of each day is devoted to visiting the Bursar. Must the whole student body crowd into this two-by-four office during these rush hours? It has become almost traditional to disregard the minor conveniences which usually lead to a systematic registration. It is time the administration began to bring a little order into this chaos. Let's be unprecedented.

J. I. G.

### Fresh Linen

Dormitory life should be a happy and pleasant one this year under the recently instituted counsellor system headed by Prof. Jacob I. Hartstein and Director, Rabbi Abraham Cassell.

A plan such as this has long been wanting in Reits Hall and much credit must be given to those who have brought it to life. Simple wants and needs which heretofore bothered the dorm resident for weeks before they were taken care of, will, under this new system, be handled quickly and efficiently. The old Yeshivaite—as well as the new—will be able to take his particular problem to the experienced counsellor assigned to his floor, and will be given sound advice and necessary help.

This set-up promises to be a boon to the life of the Reits Hall resident, for in the student counsellor can be found one who has been "through the ropes" and one who can appreciate all of the problems that will inevitably arise. He can understand the questions concerning Minyan attendance, food problems, and he will be in a position to remedy the serious case of "midnight hustle and bustle".

The counsellor system will make the need for any curfew unnecessary, for this plan will provide proper supervision. But the student need not fear stringent regulations as were imposed upon him in past years, for student government representation will prevail in the dormitory, and the student's viewpoint will be understood and appreciated.

Of course, this arrangement will remain but "an arrangement" unless the dormitory residents comply with the necessary regulations and give the officials their fullest cooperation. Once harmony is achieved, there are no bounds or limits to the possible advantages for the students.

All right, counsellors. The students are behind you . . . now it is up to you . . . Good Luck!

H. T.

### The Kiss of Death

It seems that when the student body shows its appreciation for the services of any man, he is sure to be demoted.

Take, for example, the case of Mr. Matz. For some years now, the student body has held that a grave injustice was being committed in not utilizing Mr. Matz's unquestionable qualities as a scholar and teacher of mathematics. We have continually protested that Mr. Matz be appointed as a regular instructor with regular courses and regular teaching hours.

Result: Mr. Matz has been "relieved" of his pedagogical "burdens" and assigned the very mathematical task of computing the various monies taken in by the institution.

Exhibit B: The Yeshiva College student body has been, for many years, fortunate in having as an inspiring teacher and true friend Dr. Alexander Litman, professor of philosophy. Last year, the students felt that their appreciation should assume some tangible form. Accordingly, they publicly presented the professor with an award expressing their feelings.

Now, we are informed that Dr. Litman is no longer a member of any administrative committees. Student approval seems to be the kiss of death.

Perhaps we should present an award to, say, Prof. Hartstein. . . .

P. O.

## NAT—WIT

BY NAT ROSENBAUM

**Fresh Bosh.** . . . Our heartfelt condolences go out to some sixty odd youngsters who have just entered the Yeshiva College of liberal hearts and sinuses. I, too, was once a freshman and I, too, realize the things you have been facing lately. However, don't despair because your teachers aren't handsome. It's the head that counts and before many lectures have passed on, you'll wish that you had their heads.

Whatever course you may be talked into taking, don't under any circumstances take the downward course. Be a credit to the school so that even the bursar may treasure you.

**Sophistry.** . . . Last year's freshmen . . . yesterday's children . . . today's sophomores . . . tomorrow's men . . . the future leaders of Yeshiva College. . . . Dr. Fleisher, of course, should be commended for being the ambassador of knowledge to these youngsters. He and Chaucer are doing such a man-size job that it won't be long before the boys begin to take the hair on their chests seriously.

**Hey, Junior.** . . . Upperclassmen at last. It took a summer of deep concentration in camp to develop some of the latent talents of these oldsters. But now that they have sprung forth, it's hard to keep them down.

In taking a blanket survey, it is pretty difficult to name all those who have grown up over night or over at Mohaph. If censorship wasn't what it is these days, Ike F. H. W. M., Bert M., Max K., "Uncle" Leo and Jo-Jo Rottenberg would be seeing their names in print.

**Seniority.** . . . Just to show that not all Y. C. seniors are men about town—or about hotels—here is a true anecdote about one down and under, under-graduate.

"Who's the speaker of the House?" roared the political science prof. during an oral quiz. "Mother," responded the senior brain bust. . . .

Masmit Art Cohen, basking in the glow of the Flambeau—and Frenchly speaking, joining the Flambeau staff is a good way for a freshman to start off now—in the first lap of his career.

**A Joke's A Joke.** . . . Bursar Debbie Wiesenthal pretty happy these days now that things are beginning to look black again. . . . a famous dramatic personage around Y.C. dropped his wig the other day and when a freshman returned it, quote:

"Thanks, kid. You're the first genuine hair restorer I have ever seen. . . ." And speaking about getting up to the Minyan, a Rosh Yeshiva was confiding to a senior student:

"When I was a young fellow like you, I thought nothing of getting up at eight o'clock in the morning."

"Well, I don't think so much of it myself," retorted the promulgator of absenteeism. . . . First Y.C. secretary to second Y.C. secretary:

"What did you get on your birthday?"

"A year older."

**For Popular Consumption.** . . . In their effervescence, the Yeshiva College undergraduates have succeeded not only in making the

administration take cognizance of the prevalent opinion that it would be a feasible idea to abolish final examinations, but their persistence has won them such acclaim that even the medical department is seriously contemplating wiping out its semi-centennial examination.

Of course, the medical authorities do not intend to do away with the 4F examination this year. As a matter for consumption, it has already been announced that the medical examination will take place some time in the "future". That the future may be brighter than expected may yet prove to be the ninth wonder of the world—the eighth wonder being the counselor system, which shall yet make history, to be sure—(meanwhile the examination remains a military secret.)

**Spies of Life.** . . . The F.B.I. is busily investigating the whereabouts of one Norman B. Abrams. The mysterious disappearance of

his office is causing no little concern to occupants of the Beth Medrash who think that the roll has been reclassified (to those who think that his office has been drafted—no it hasn't—It has only drifted.)

**Hair-breadth Chaskel.** . . . Around Yeshiva, one doesn't need a calendar as a guide to the seasons. When moustaches begin to sprout under Yeshiva noses, it is not necessary to be up to date on the calendar to realize that Rosh Hashonah is in the air. Because many an immature brain has exposed his labum to a growth in order to secure a position, professors are enjoying some repose as they don't have to take any lip—for a while anyhow. To the moustache clique which is undergoing its present hair-raising experience, we use the words of the most clean cut man—of our day—philosophically speaking of course—"Give it up."

**Brain Conclusion.** . . . All those having suggestions and ideas "for the cause", please preserve them in cucumber juice, as this column is in a pickle as it is.

## DRAMA TICKS

### "Land of Fame"

Tuesday night a new play dealing with guerilla warfare, in Greece opened at the Belasco; full of sound and fury and signifying only that by now playwrights should know better. Although "Land of Fame" is replete with the earnestness and sincerity of its authors, Albert and Mary Bein, it proves anew a point that has been iterated time and again by the failure of almost every anti-Nazi play presented on or off Broadway, to wit, that while it is indubitably true that people have died and continue to die in the struggle against the Nazi ubermensch, merely to say so, in terms however melodramatic, does not make for impressive theatre.

#### The Story

The story of "Land of Fame" has been hashed up in countless grade B films in a form practically indistinguishable from its present version. Currently Greek guerillas, who are harassing the German army of occupation, are spurred by the story of Thermopylae and lure the enemy into a death trap, whereupon the Nazis turn to so many mounds of quivering jello. And herein lies the aforementioned defect of the drama. The Beins have written in terms of black and white. The Nazi general is a bloated fool who dashes about yelling: "We've shot Greeks for less than that!"

The village matriarch brandishes her stick and spits dramatically: "There will be a day of reckoning, I promise you!"

#### The Acting

Most of the acting is on a par with the writing. Beatrice de Nurgard, portrays old age by gripping her side as if she were suffering from acute appendicitis and generally comports herself like the Old Witch. Whitford Kane's fame will continue to depend largely on his perennial portrayal of the first Gravediggers. Stefan Schnabel emerges with the only bit of interesting character study as the intellectual Gestapo agent who dies offering to go over to the Greek side.

But perhaps it is not the fault of the players involved. For, as my critical colleague, Mr. George Jean Nathan has noted, an actor without a playwright is like a hole without a doughnut. And Mr. Bein's direction, of the variety in which a crowd stands about posturing and bzz-bzzing until the leader jumps upon a handy rock and, shouting, "Stop", thereupon delivers a five minute peroration on freedom, does not help very much.

The Greeks who were present in abundance at the premiere doubtless had a word for it. So have we.

M. E.

## The Commentator

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# FRESHMEN ORIENTATION PAGE

## An Editorial

### Welcome, Freshmen

This week has been designated Freshman Orientation Week by the Student Council. These few days will suffice to impress you, the men of '47, with the spirit of fellowship which prevails at Yeshiva College. As you come to know your fellow students, a feeling of warm and lasting comradeship will leave its imprint upon you.

But ideals are much more rigid than men. No one week can acquaint you fully with the meaning of a term such as synthesis. No one week will bring an awareness of the fact that, in times such as these, you are privileged to pursue a liberal education. The nebulous does not assume hard and fast outlines as speedily as we might suppose.

We do, however, hope that a few words on our part will hasten the process of definition and explanation. First, in attempting to bring a cold and distant concept such as synthesis closer to us we must not water it down. An anemic synthesis is no synthesis. The only red-blooded usage of the term implies a steadfast application of religious values to all studies. Our secular learning must be firmly fitted into the framework of our faith. This rigid assertion of the religious perspective admits of no compromise.

Secondly, we must recognize that society, in exempting us from military service, in lending us our lives and minds, expects the redemption of that debt in terms of social values. If our liberal education is to crumble before the unrelenting logic of the moral, that is the social, act, we may as well forget about knowing. If, however, our learning is to fulfill itself in the doing, we shall have discharged the debt to society and ourselves.

The ethical and logical consistency of this doing depends upon our stern adherence to the first principles of the Jewish faith. These first principles insure the unity of our actions. These first principles insure the social import of our actions.

Any welcome we extend to you, the freshman class, must take the above into account. Now it is for you to take yourselves to account.

A. M.



## Student President Greets Freshmen

As President of the Yeshiva College Student Council, I should like to welcome you to our institution and to its educational facilities. I think it appropriate to add several words of advice and suggestion to you, so that your life at Yeshiva may be happier and more beneficial.

Yeshiva College, in contrast to other collegiate institutions, offers you a double burden of education, religious and secular. This fact in itself should bring the realization home to you that your responsibilities are many. But you must also realize that your rewards will be many.

When you will have been graduated from Yeshiva College, we expect you to personify, in accordance with your own abilities and conscientiousness, a synthesis of Jewish and secular learning, the synthesis for which Yeshiva stands.

But life at Yeshiva is not all work. The various student clubs and organizations appeal to any interest a student may have. Practice in self-government is supplied by Student Council, journalism experience by The Commentator and Masmid, theatrical work by the Dramatic Society. Every extra-curricular interest of the student is kept alive by providing him with the proper club or society. I urge you to take advantage of the existing facilities.

I must caution you, however, not to allow your extra-curricular work to interfere with your curricular work. Your studies are obviously of primary importance.

May I say, in closing, that I hope your stay at Yeshiva will be a most pleasant and happy one. Good Luck!

JACK GREEN.

## Dean's Message

To the students of Yeshiva College:

Everyone is already hard at work at Yeshiva College, striving to make 1947-48 a year of achievement and purpose. The newcomers are fitting in very nicely into the difficult program, and it will not be long before the tutelage of the upper classmen will make them true sons of Yeshiva College. The faculty, too, is ready for the work of the coming year, and, with the cooperation which has always existed, this next year, the sixteenth in the history of the college will be our best.

MOSES L. ISAACS,  
Dean

## Frosh On The Griddle

Question: What were your first impressions of Yeshiva?

Douglas L. Wilensky, St. Johns, Newfoundland:

My first impression on arrival at Yeshiva College was that it was very big and it overwhelmed me. It certainly is large compared to what you see in St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The boys of course, were very strange to me but they really are all very nice. After awhile my newcomer's shell cracked and now I get along quite well with all I know.

Arnold Singerman, Detroit, Michigan:

Yeshiva College definitely lived up and surpassed my expectations, both in my Jewish and College classes. Before entering, I heard both good remarks, and I am sorry to say, bad remarks. My first impressions were definitely the former. But I do believe that the registration system should be a bit improved. I hope that the future freshmen won't have to wear out their suits waiting in line.

Israel Zeifman, Toronto, Canada:

Yeshiva College, its staff obviously overburdened as a result of war conditions, still seems to be carrying on with a great measure of success. As a freshman with no previous college experience, it is difficult to compare Yeshiva College with similar institutions. But the quality of its professors and graduates, and the great quantity of diligence demanded from its students should place it high among the list of the nation's best colleges.

Aaron M. Festerstein, Brookline, Massachusetts:

The absence of hazing in the Yeshiva College impressed me as an outstanding accomplishment in behalf of the student body. I say this for two reasons: first, because hazing is undemocratic, and secondly, because it endeavors to crush rather than build friendship between the upper and lower classes. I hope that this initial friendly spirit will continue to prevail.

## Large Freshman Enrollment Marks New School Year

### Commentator Offers Journalism Course

A series of five lectures on journalism has been arranged by The Commentator for incoming members of the staff. Instituted with the aid of the English department, the course will serve to acquaint the pen-minded men of '47 with the various elements of newspaper work.

The talks will be delivered by members of the Governing Board. Each member will comment on his special field of endeavor and the particular problems pertinent to his own post on "Commie." The schedule for the series follows:

Wednesday, Oct. 27—"Introductory Lecture."

Monday, Nov. 1—"The News Story and the Style Sheet."

Thursday, Nov. 4—"Make-up and Layout."

Monday, Nov. 8—"Feature Writing, Sports Stories, and Special Assignments."

Thursday, Nov. 11—"A Day With 'Commie,'" general review, and a practice session.

Freshmen interested in any phase of newspaper work, may obtain application for The Commentator staffs in the Co-op Store at the beginning of next week.

Applicants may file their preference for either news or sports reporting, business work, or circulation work. All aspirants are requested to return their applications to Co-op Store.

### Orientation Week Program Arranged

As Yeshiva College entered its sixteenth year, sixty-two freshmen began their first year of college studies. The class, with members hailing from localities as varied as Montreal, Los Angeles, and Newfoundland, will hold its first assembly today. In addition to the assembly, the Orientation Week program, instituted by Student Council, included a senior-frosh smoker. (See story below).

While seventy percent of the newcomers come from New York State, high schools from Hollywood High to Manley H. S. in Chicago are represented. Talmudical Academy contributes sixty-seven per cent of the class.

Sidney Steiman '44 and Jerome Blum '44, vice-president and secretary of the student body, respectively, head the Orientation Week Committee. Among the frosh they are now orientating is a fourteen year old, Douglas Wilensky, from St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The standards of Yeshiva will be well upheld by the newcomers, judging from their previous academic records.

Mr. Abrams Yeshiva Registrar

Mr. Norman B. Abrams, newly appointed Registrar of the Yeshiva, announced that this year's Yeshiva registration was one of the largest in the history of our institution. More than 160 new students coming from all parts of the country were accepted into the Yeshiva.

## Frosh, Seniors Huff, Puff As Mixer Goes Up In Smoke

The table was laden with delicacies; the floor of the social hall was spotless; the air was clean and serene. All was quiet on the dormitory front. Then it happened. Out of the darkened corridors they came; from their penthouse rooms on the fifth floor, in they pranced. The street outside emptied happy bodies into the lap of the second floor.

The freshman, sophomore and junior smoker was on. Sophisticated seniors too, lent their presence to the festivities. The student body in its entirety was out to welcome the freshmen and to partake of the fruits of labor of the Student Council appropriation. Food was swept from the table into the open gullets of the whole of the student body. A mouth to mouth campaign was started and the warm soda gurgled into the cups, thence to the parted lips and finally into the parched throats of lusty freshmen.

Miller Recites

It was then that the food for thought entered into the picture and was received far from negatively. Hal Miller gave a recital which received such an ovation that Vachel Lindsay is probably doing a little conga in his grave. The Great Impersonator, the imitable Sam Jaffe, brought forth

his special brand of humor which is not only difficult to imitate but which will go down in history, to be sure.

Although the faculties of the institution were not present in body, they were represented in fine spirit by self-appointed proxies who formed an administration of laugh-getters. Mordecai Efron in his initial performance this term, gave a perfect imitation of a Bostonian rabbi. Not to be outdone was Yussel Wer-muth, whose solo side-splitting stint was an "oi" opener to the freshmen. The M.O. of the evening put in a smooth performance and directed the theme of the humor to the ivory soap slogan.

Eats and Laughs

The audience ate up everything Tuesday night and all elements present suffered a compound case of laughing sickness which even our medical department couldn't cure. The Senior-Frosh clam-bake was one Mixer which wasn't mixed up. Soda and jokes spurted forth profusely, but its constant stream whet only the appetites of the assembly who yelled "More, More" and had to be informed that there was no more on.

N. R.



## Metro Lion To Roar About 'Peter Pan, The Magic Man'

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer and Warner Brothers are negotiating the purchase of a release of the life of "Doc" Abraham Hurwitz—the man "who does the work he likes, and likes the work he does..." Yes, it's the truth. First it was the newspapers and magazines, then the radio, and now it's the silver screen...

A picture such as this should be of Academy Award calibre for it would cover a story as colorful, as interesting, and as educational as any fictional script produced by the cineminds. Probably, the camera would first be focused on that period of our gym instructor's life when he was director of Camp Hacoa. It was there that he engaged the great muscle-man Charles Atlas as his athletic counsellor and it was there that he worked with his "employee" on the latter's "Theory of Dynamic Tension".

### Worked for Benny Leonard

Life was indeed swift for our compact Jack-of-all-trades for soon after his first camp venture he found himself working for Benny Leonard, famed member of pugilistic history. Immediately afterward, in 1927 "Doc" was engaged by the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society for Problem Children to supervise their recreational and educational activities.

The script writer for the moving picture organizations could pause at this point and devote quite a portion of his work to this particular phase of "Peter Pan's" life. It was at this institution that he got his bent for teaching education through magic, and here, too, he coined the expression which paraphrased the ideal to which he is devoting his life.

"To release the unduplicated excellence in an individual...that is my ideal!" stated "Doc".

### Ideal An Inspiration

And it is that same ideal which aided him in securing the posi-

tion of playground director in New York City; and it was that same ideal which inspired him to organize the first orthodox summer camp in the country—Camp Machnaim. But one can't fit into the picture the importance that ideal played with his acceptance of the "housemastership" of the Yeshiva dormitory in 1929. Anyway, "Doc" is a victim of his own convictions for in himself he has "released the unduplicated excellence". While attending to his manifold positions he still managed to complete courses for his doctorate at N.Y.U. and he has written a thesis on "The Vocational Choices of Jewish Students".

Our "Peter Pan, the Magic Man"—or "Million-Kid Magician", as many national journals have characterized him—has not as yet published his thesis for he has been occupied with carrying out his ideal. He has produced results and has "released the unduplicated excellence" in Jerry Bergman, a protegee, who is now receiving nearly one thousand dollars per week at the Hurricane night club for a skit that was originally taught him by our gym instructor. Larry Weeks, a performer in Irving Berlin's Broadway hit, "This Is the Army", owes his success to "Doc" who taught him his first juggling act.

### A Busy Man

Yes, the list of accomplishments of our well-liked instructor are practically endless. At this moment he is teaching recreational therapy to the A.W.V.S., and is engaged by the Air Corps to instruct night flying pilots in mental gymnastics.

No wonder "Doc" is being given so much publicity. He's a great guy...and the only secret to his success is that "he does the work he likes, and he likes the work he does..."

H. T.

## Alumni Journal Goes To Press Next Week

With the expectation of raising close to one thousand dollars in Willig '32, member of the Alumni Association is going to press on September 27, Rabbi Jerome Willig '32, member of the Alumni Executive Committee announced.

The publication, arranged under the supervision of Rabbi Hyman Muss '32, chairman of the Journal Committee, will contain messages from Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin, Dr. Moses L. Isaacs, and Mr. Samuel L. Sar. In addition to Moses I. Feuerstein's, outgoing president, and Rabbi Joseph Kaminetsky's, incoming president, messages, there will be a complete report on the status of Yeshiva, and a directory listing each alumnus, his year, and address.

## POET'S CORNER

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of the mute, mewed eyes  
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in artistic guise.  
auricle and ventricle  
choked with clotted life  
are but the filigree  
congealing blooded strife.  
lips once lushly limned  
in desire-dampened fresco  
with skilled brush are  
outlined in parched secco.  
note that heavings  
of sternum centered breast  
with but one deft stroke  
have been half-toned to rest.  
flawlessly the Fashioner  
designs the seal ring signet  
to stamp the molten life  
into cooled wax death vignette.

A. M.

## Council Establishes Rabbi Krutman Fund

The Student Council has established the Rabbi Seymour Krutman Memorial Fund to aid The Commentator financially during the coming year. The untimely passing of the late Rabbi Krutman '40 is also to be commemorated on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. in the Harry Fischel Synagogue.

Among the groups to participate in the memorial gathering are the Yeshiva Alumni Association of the Bronx and the Alumni Associations of the Yeshiva College and the Teachers' Institute.

Rabbi Krutman, one of the most brilliant mathematics students ever to attend Yeshiva, had published a textbook in high school trigonometry shortly before his death. Plans are underway for the posthumous publication of his poems.

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## Meet the Faculty

## New Psych. Instructor Has Wealth of Warmth and Wit

By HAROLD SCHULWEIS

Clearing away the dense smoke in front of me, I spotted the corpulent, bespectacled Stanley Levin, instructor of psychology. The smoke was slowly curling out of Mr. Levin's curved, black pipe which was held tenaciously in the psychologist's mouth.

"Mr. Levin?" I asked nervously. "You are psychologically correct!" he replied.

"Mr. Levin, I should like to interview you for the outstanding publication at Yeshiva — 'The Commentator' . . ."

"Oh, yes! I've heard of that. . . . Nevertheless, won't you tell me something about yourself? Your hobbies, education, pet peeves, and such . . ."

"Well, to be frank with you. . . . And as he spoke I began to feel a definite warmth and sincerity in his approach; a friendly, informal attitude towards the interviewer. He spoke in a quiet, easy manner and I felt no strain whatsoever while talking to him. We swapped jokes and in this he showed himself to be quite the wit.

### The Academic Side

On the academic side, he told me that he had "puffed" his way to a B. S. from the College of Arts and Pure Sciences, an M.A. in psychology from the School of Education at N.Y.U. and that, at present, he was but two credits short of a doctorate in psychology from the N.Y.U. School of Education. Advancing him the two credits I asked, "Dr. Levin, are you married?"

"Happily married," he merrily replied.

"My son, Melvyn, is now nine months old," he told me with paternal pride.

"And I'm not using any psychology on him," he quickly added.

At present, Mr. Levin is the Director of the Child Guidance Department of the Pride of Judea, a home for orthodox Jewish children. He has been working as

clinician there for quite a few of his 26 years of age.

### Course Discourse

I proceeded to ask the young Bronx-born instructor what sort of courses he would give—or like to give—in his psychology classes. Mr. Levin, smoking his black pipe in philosophic serenity, began eagerly to tell me of his wonderful plans for his present term psychology classes with verbs, nouns, and adjectives packed solid with enthusiasm.

"What we need here is a 'Direct Application' course in psychology. Yes, sir, a practical course in psychology which will help the student in his profession and in deciding the important issues of his life. Why, take the 'modern' American rabbi! He surely must have a great knowledge of psychology in dealing with the problems in his community. He must integrate the wisdom of the Talmud with the practical in psychology. The modern rabbi is a spiritual leader and a social worker in his community. Psychology will help him inestimably."

### An Eclectic

Mr. Levin, I soon found out, is an eclectic—that is, he does not believe in teaching psychology in accord with one school in psychology—whether it be Gestalt or Behaviorism. In this, he carries over his liberal-mindedness to the teaching of psychology. His liberalism politically, by the way, is about P M's speed—which is pretty good . . .

The jovial clinician tells me that he has not found it hard at all to orientate himself at Yeshiva and he claims that this is mostly due to the friendliness of the students here. Oh, yes! Mr. Levin has an aversion towards people, particularly students, who persist upon talking authoritatively on I. Q. tests! Watch it, fellows . . .

Well, a hearty welcome, Mr. Levin—and we'll be seeing you!

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## Waldman Expects Successful Season Freshmen Prospects Bolster Hopes

Amiable Shmuel Waldman, presiding at his first official press conference of the '43-'44 basketball season in his capacity as the newly-elected Athletic Manager of Yeshiva, reflectively considered the questions asked him by this reporter.

"Well, Yeshiva is no different than any other college this season in that it is suffering from a lack of several of its key players, Abe Avrech, Sam Rosenbloom, and Pat Friedman, will not be with us this year. That leaves us with these members of last year's squad: Red Kalb, Stan Doppelt, Bedo Scharfstein, Harry Liebb, Hy Pomerantz, Irv and Marv Fredman, Jack Green and Aaron Perlow. Doppelt should continue to give his usual fine and steady performance.

If Red Kalb can keep up the brilliant brand of play he showed in the latter half of last season he will be a tremendous asset to the Quints. Hy Pomerantz, and Marv Fredman in particular, with a year's experience under their belts are a pair to keep your eyes on."

### New Talent

When the subject of new talent was brought up Shmuel brightened considerably. It seems that in the short space of time since school began our Athletic Manager has shown some real energy and initiative in uncovering fresh material. Joe Beinhorn and Sam Waldenberg are two newcomers who have seen service with the Mesifita quintet last season. These two have kept in trim by playing at their respective summer camps.

A possibility is Alex Kaplan from Brooklyn, where he starred for a flashy New Utrecht High team. Shmuel waxed really enthusiastic about a bright prospect named Earl Klein, who hails from Hollywood, California. Melvin Friedman, brother of Pat Friedman, completes the list of newcomers known to Shmuel at the moment.

### The Coach Problem

By far the most serious problem facing Yeshiva this season, underlined Waldman, is the matter of acquiring a coach.

Since Bernard Sarachek has left us, the importance of selecting a competent man as his successor was emphasized by Wald-

## New Set-Up Planned For Intramural Play

An innovation planned for this year's revived program of intramural activities is the Yeshiva College Athletic Council. As a chartered organization it will hold regular meetings, draw up schedules and have full responsibility for all inter-class competition. The council is to consist of each class athletic manager and will be headed by the school Athletic Manager, Samuel Waldman.

Each class athletic manager will have his specific duties. Two of the managers will be in charge of the playroom. A third will direct intramural basketball, while the fourth will supervise intramural ping-pong. These activities are scheduled to begin in the middle of November.

The date of the initial council meeting will be announced to the respective managers.

man. Once this difficulty is overcome we will be well along on the road to a successful season.

The schedule is going to be a real test of Yeshiva's mettle. Already definitely on the books are Brooklyn College, Long Island University, and Cathedral College, all class AA teams. Hofstra and St. Francis are fairly certain additions to this list, while N.Y.U., St. Johns and Columbia are expected to be heard from soon. A few games with important and highly touted out-of-town teams are brewing but Shmuel was very reticent on this subject and would not disclose any names.

### A Question Mark

The facts add up to this: The future of this year's varsity is a question mark. It will be composed mainly of newcomers and last season's second stringers, with a strong backbone of experienced men. These experienced men are going to aid the newcomers in the practice sessions. The schedule shapes up as a really tough one. It is the first season that Yeshiva has taken on such strong rivals, and it will take a lot of sweat on the part of the players plus loyal support from the student body to give Yeshiva a winning team. Student support, emphasized Waldman, can make or break any team.

"All fellows who are interested, especially those who have had some experience with the game, are strongly urged to attend practice sessions."

B. W.

## Team Poised For Basketball Season Summer Practice Proves Beneficial

Much play, a little ordinary proletarian work and lotions of sports endeavor smacks of the general description of our basketball squad's summer escapades. With but one exception, our lusty ballplayers lopped on enough meat to their previously bony beings causing O.P.A. to stand up and cry bloody murder.

The point above and below this line will stand as a record of a well-meant attempt on the part of athletic enthusiasts to graft a limited "shimush" plan into the realm of sports. Members of the team were to "enlist a camp or hotel as potential practice ground for team basketball play."—The Commentator, May, 1943. This is what actually happened.

### Stan Leads

Stan Doppelt, star and garter of last year's quithoops, led a whole camp in his particular line of activity. Stan and the councillors at Camp Mohaph organized a team which entered inter-camp competition. The team functioned nicely defeating a camp aggregation which consisted wholly of Madison High varsity members by a score of 30 points. Stan has a jump on the rest of the fellows in the way of practice.

Marv Fredman, the six feet two inch Peoria power, worked time and a-half at basketball with his two brothers to pile up much needed finesse and experience. When a diversion from basketball was opportune, Irv and Marv knocked a couple dozen synthetic rubber tennis balls out of their "bounceless" predicament.

Bedo Sharfstein rose to unpatriotic heights by depriving the government of several valuable pounds of fat. "I didn't see a basketball this summer" clearly explains his present physical state.

### Other Basketeers

Hy Pomerantz and Harry Liebb served chicken charlmaine and leather basketballs to unsuspecting hotel guests. Meanwhile, the two stalwarts gained needed practice feeding the ball into the net. Hy says confidentially, "I hope to warm the garden bench this year."

This quote reiterates the attitude of our boys who are gunning for a match in Madison Square Garden. Let's hope.

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## On the Sidelines

## Tough Schedule Warrants Need For Large Squad

By Charles Weinstein

Come on you freshmen—we are appealing to your fighting spirit! This is the story—A rip roaring basketball season is on the calendar with the Quints in line for tilts against such court greats as L.I.U., Brooklyn and Cathedral. Hold on to your seats and breath hard 'cause it's signed and stamped with legal entries in the books of our aggressive athletic manager, Samuel Waldman. This column has been aiming to book top teams and crying out that we can face 'em. There is no hurdle that we can't straddle and this time we are giving you frosh a chance to break the tape. Here too is your opportunity of a life time to puncture the sophomoric conceit with pointed effort.

We need you, frosh, to add height (we've seen some tall newcomers), to add more frosh gusto to the spirit of our youthful stalwarts of last year, and to fill out empty positions so pleadingly demanding attention.

"Let's show New York that there's a college on Washington Heights that is making basketball history!" With a piping dose of this attitude Yeshiva can and will reach high altitude in the limited big time inter-collegiate circles. Our dauntless Quints expect bolstering from down under and full team support from the rest of the students and fans when carrying the Yeshiva banner against Brooklyn, L.I.U., Cathedral and the supposed undefeatables of Metropolitan glory.

All appears in line for smooth running except for one important item—Coach Sarachek. Called upon to mentor the greatest team ever organized in our history, Bernard Sarachek leaves us for his duties with the American Red Cross. Perhaps overseas Sarachek will exert the same soulfelt influence upon the men working with him as he had among his students and friends here at Yeshiva. Stan, Marv, Red—all the boys are going to miss his able coaching, his quiet perseverance and his strong undaunted spirit. They pledge to live up to his expectations of team unity, and team play. "No prima-donna stuff, Coach, we promise!"

Let's hope it will be a "quickie" in Europe with Bernie Sarachek and the rest of our fighting men back home battling it out on the basketball courts instead of on battlefields.

While we are on the subject of service to country, Shimmy Katz's name bobs up. This summer Shimmy enlisted in the Navy. There, he will be given plenty of opportunity to show his colors, and if we know the boy—a power on the basketball court—the Navy is getting a package of fearlessness and fight.

In Yeshiva sports circles, this sixty-four dollar question is posed: "Who is going to fill the coaching position?" Doc Hurwitz and alumni advisor Red Kasten, are collaborating in their quest for the answer. With an abra-kadabra and a screen of smoke from Doc, and very red, Red Kasten contributing the flash of fire it should not be especially difficult to pull the rabbit out of the hat and come up with a coach. Seriously, much thought and consideration will necessarily be required for the hiring of a capable man. Doc and Red know it.

Season practice opens next week. Candidates for the basketball team will be required to show their stuff, but only before the eyes of an experienced and knowing coach. For this reason, plus the stiff schedule ahead of us, practice must begin early in the season. We urge Student Council to speedily cooperate when the question of obtaining a coach comes to the floor.

Luckily, no problem exists in the athletic managership set-up which has prospects for smooth riding. Relieved of his duties in intramural activity by the formation of an athletic council, Sam Waldman will be free to give much time and effort to intercollegiate sports. Admitted, it's no easy matter to type and mail literally hundreds of letters in order to capture a few teams for our schedule. But athletic manager Waldman has a formula—he says,

"You gotta make calls if you want to get results." We agree it is a mighty important conclusion because of one thing—it works!

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## Dorm. Counsellor System Instituted

The Yeshiva College Dormitories, now in a process of reorganization under the supervision of Prof. Jacob I. Hartstein, have been placed in charge of Rabbi Abraham Cassel, who will serve as Director. He will be aided by Mrs. A. Ginsburg, health office director.

A new type of internal organization is being effected in the form of a counsellor system. Eleven dormitory residents, candidates for ordination, have been assigned to various sections of the building. In their capacity as counsellors they will maintain a close cooperative relationship with the younger students who will be urged to discuss personal problems and headaches with their counsellors.

Because of the large influx of students from distant states, the dormitories will be unable to satisfy the additional demands. Plans are therefore being prepared to insure an equitable arrangement by serious considerations of means and facilities of each applicant.

### Fees Increased

An increase in fees has been instituted to enable improvements of facilities and maintenance. Within the near future, sections of the dormitories will be renovated and vital appliances will be serviced.

A principle aim of the present reorganization is to create a spirit of cooperative self-discipline within the dormitory. A move in this direction is the abolition of the nightly lights-out rule in recognition of the ability of the Yeshiva student to apportion his time in such manner not deleterious to dormitory discipline.

## EMPRESS THEATRE

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### "Eyes of the Underworld"

## Administrative Changes Disclosed by Dean Isaacs

Changes galore have taken place in the administrative organization of Yeshiva College during the past summer.

Dean Moses L. Isaacs revealed a complete list of revampings in the institution. To the belated registrar, Prof. Jacob I. Hartstein, have been added the duties and responsibilities of caring for the dining room and dormitory. Under this new set-up, however, the allocation of stipends will be handled by the Women's Organizations of the Bronx and Manhattan, Dr. Samuel Belkin, Dr. Pinkhos Churgin, and Mr. Samuel Sar. Dean Isaacs stated that the operation of the cafeteria this year will be a taxing task for "it is very difficult to secure ample help and prices of utensils and food have soared."

### Faculty Changes

The college, itself, has also undergone many changes. On August 27, Dr. Abraham Luchins of the Psychology Department was inducted into the army and his position will be filled by Mr. Stanley Levin, psychologist at the Pride of Judea Home of Brooklyn.

Dr. Kenneth F. Damon, Associate Prof. of Speech and Music, has been granted a leave of absence in order to continue his particular assignment in essential war work. During this semester, his classes will be taught by Dr. Thonnes, Associate Professor of Speech at C.C.N.Y.

### Mats New Bursar

"The internal finances of the school will be coordinated now more than ever before, since Mr. Joshua Matz, formerly of the mathematics department, is devoting all his energies to the position of Bursar of the entire institution," the Dean announced. This vacancy will be filled by two

graduate students, Harold Kanatopsky, '43, and Morris Chernofsky, '42, who will act as assistants to Prof. Jekuthiel Ginsburg, head of the mathematics department.

At the last meeting of the faculty, Mr. Sidney D. Braun, instructor in French, was elected to the position of Secretary to the Faculty. The Curriculum Committee announced at that time that permission for honors work was granted to Arthur Cohen '44, in Chemistry, and to Allen Mandelbaum '45, in English. Cohen will work under the guidance of Dr. Eli M. Levine, while Dr. David Fleisher will supervise Mandelbaum's research.

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The Yeshiva College Student Council wishes to express its heartiest congratulations to

## Dr. Samuel Belkin

on the occasion of his appointment to the Presidency of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College.

Our felicitations are accompanied with a pledge of cooperation with the new President in his efforts towards the progress of the institution. Our hands go with our hearts.

We are certain that Dr. Belkin's close relationship to the student body in the past will continue in the future. We are certain that this bond will become even more firm and secure.

JACK GREEN,  
President  
SIDNEY STEIMAN,  
Vice-President  
JEROME BLASS,  
Secretary

The Students' Organization of Yeshiva offers its heartiest congratulations to

## DR. SAMUEL BELKIN

on the assumption of his new duties. As president, Dr. Belkin will command the same respect and affection which he commanded as Dean. We, his students, stand ready to aid him in any endeavor.

OSCAR REICHEL,  
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