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# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper Of Yeshiva College

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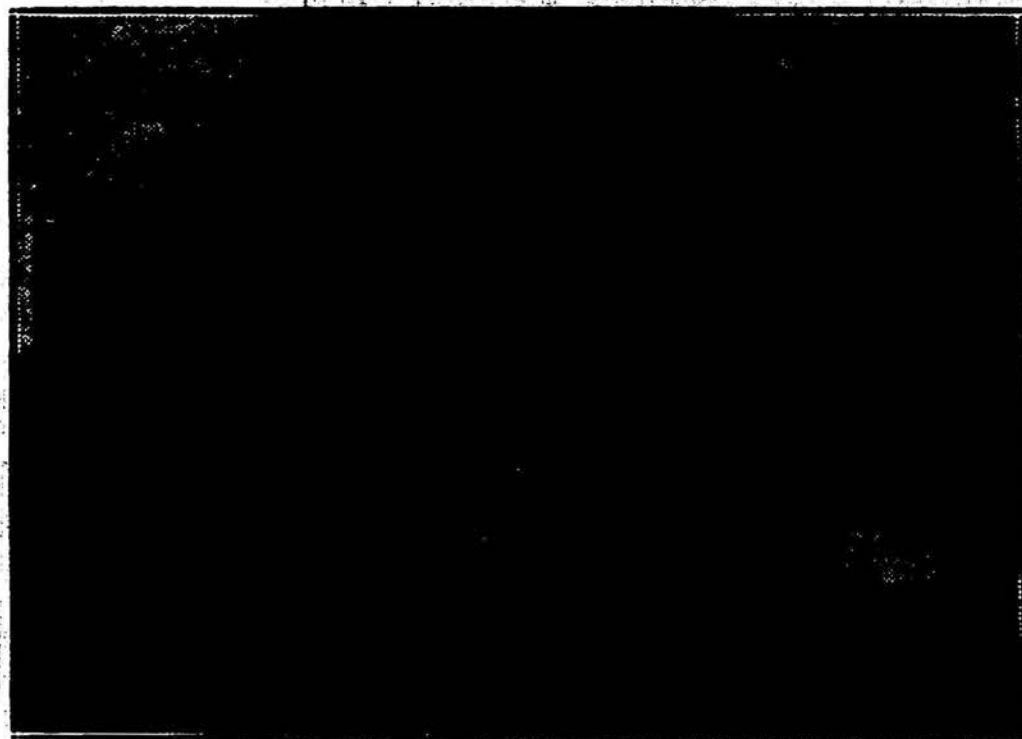
No. 8

## COUNCIL REJECTS MINIMUM PLAN; BERNARD WEISBERG CHOSEN EDITOR

### A New Five Man Governing Board Will Direct The Commentator

The new Governing Board which will take over the reins of The Commentator for the ensuing academic year will consist of Bernard Weisberg '45, editor-in-chief; Louis Bernstein '47, managing editor; Louis Firestein '48, news editor; Lewis Ginsburg '48, sports editor; and Joseph Appleman '47, business manager. Herman Tanenbaum '45, out-going editor-in-chief, announced.

#### OUTGOING GOVERNING BOARD



Left To Right: Bernard Weisberg, Norman Krasner, Herman Tanenbaum, Lloyd Tenenbaum, Joseph Appleman.

Bernard Weisberg '45, the newly appointed editor-in-chief has served on The Commentator since his sophomore year. Acting in the capacity of sports editor during the first semester of the 1944-45 season, he demonstrated his writing ability in penning "On The Sidelines." Weisberg, a native of Boston, Mass., was appointed news

editor in January, 1945.

After serving on The Commentator staff for two years as a reporter, Louis Bernstein '47 has attained the position of managing editor. Other extra-curricular activities to which Bernstein has given his services are the Dramatic Society and the Chug Ivri.

The incoming news editor, Louis Firestein '48, joined "Commie" as a sophomore and his meritorious work on the staff during the past year earned for him his new position.

The new penman of "On The Sidelines," Lewis Ginsburg '48, served his apprenticeship on the sports staff under Bernard Weisberg '45 and Norman Krasner '45. He is the first sophomore in "Commie" history to serve as sports editor.

Appleman Continues in Office  
Joseph Appleman '47, will continue to serve in his capacity as business manager, which office he assumed during the past year.

Tanenbaum also announced the resignation of Lloyd Tenenbaum '48, out-going managing editor, from Governing Board of The Commentator, who has relinquished his position in order to devote next year to honors work in mathematics.

Solomon Shoulson '47, Secretary-Treasurer elect of the Yeshiva Students' Organization, is the new circulation manager, replacing Seymour Katz '47, who has resigned to serve on the business staff. Sam Okun '47 and Aaron Feuerstein '47, have been appointed copy editors. Okun has served on the news staff since his freshman year, while Feuerstein joined the staff as a sophomore.

### Final Results Of Class Elections

Out-of towners captured the majority of offices in the recent class elections for the coming year. In fact, only Solomon Reichel '46, new senior president, is a non-dormitory resident. Robust "Terry" manages the coop store, and played in the last Varsity Show. He's not new to student politics having served as president of Talmudical Academy in 1942. Seymour Weller of Newark, reelected vice-president of the class of '46, serves as vice-president of the classical society.

Two Massachusetts boys are running the new Junior class. Joshua Epstein coming from Haverhill enters school politics as president of the class of '47. Vice-president Aaron Feuerstein from Brookline will also serve as copy editor for The Commentator.

Former T.A. president Charlie Siegal enters his second year in Student Council as president of the class of '48. The pride of Lancaster, Pa., is also interested in debating. "Commie" and the Classical Society. Rising to fame on his renowned crutches, Martin Louis Applebaum '48, gained the office of his class vice-presidency.

### ON RESPONSIBILITY

Once more as in October 1942 the faculty and administration of the college have undertaken to clamp a rigid minimum on an extra-curricular activity without making any attempt to consult those affected by the plan as to its feasibility. Once more the faculty and the administration have disregarded the primary and basic premise of all democratic government—that laws are made for the benefit of those governed and that those who are to obey these laws must have a hand in their formulation.

The administration has contended that Student Council has shirked its responsibilities, that student government is to be blamed for the mismanagement of basketball, that two members of the basketball squad played despite very low grades, that student government was "double dealing" and that there was no continuity between what one council and the next said and did. The faculty minimum plan was a direct result of these charges.

But now that emotions have had time to settle, and the issues and charges have had time to crystallize, we ask frankly and with recourse to facts:

Where does the responsibility for the present situation really lie?

In The Commentator issue of October 29, 1942 Student Council rejected unanimously a mandatory faculty ruling that placed a "C" minimum on extra-curricular activities and which asked for "character recommendations" from heads of the departments in which a student was registered. The matter was then referred to the Faculty-Student Relations Committee and it was decided:

(1) To remove the recommendation clause but to retain the "C" minimum.

(2) The administration of the ruling will be in the hands of the dean and the Faculty-Student Relations Committee.

This plan was approved unanimously by the faculty.

In other words, and this may come as a surprise to many, there has been on the books for the past three years a "C" minimum plan; its implementation rested with the dean and the Faculty-Student Relations Committee.

The responsibility for the present condition of the basketball setup was a joint one between the faculty and the dean, and the students. The student body cannot accept the blame for a situation in which it had only a partial responsibility. If the administration had implemented that plan as it stood, chaos would never have resulted in the basketball setup this year.

Furthermore, it must be pointed out that the two basketball players with poor records were lower freshmen at the time of their participation, and there was little basis for a just evaluation of their scholastic standing. As a matter of record, no faculty complaints against these students were registered until after the final exams. Although we feel that student leaders should follow closely, insofar as possible, the standing of students active in extra-curricular affairs these facts impel us to believe that in the case of these two students the loud cries of negligence and irresponsibility directed against student government are not justifiable.

The only conclusion to be drawn is that the inflexible 2.4 minimum on basketball seems to have been decided upon by the faculty as a punitive measure, and the stipulation that the minimum operate only on basketball seems to bear out this view.

The opposite is implicit in the Student Council plan. It was formulated to improve, not only the calibre of extra-curricular activities but also the calibre of the individual engaged in them. It not only applied to basketball but to all activities. Council realized its responsibilities and was willing to shoulder them, but at the same time took cognizance of the individual problems of the student by providing for the review of cases between 2 and 2.5.

For these reasons we believe the Student Council plan is a superior one. It provides for the welfare of the individual student, the activities, and the institution—of which they are an integral part. We strongly adhere to the view that the students' welfare and that of the institution are in perfect consonance.

The crux of the present issue rests on the unwillingness of the faculty and the administration to submit their plan for discussion by representatives of the student body. Why is it that the faculty did not present its plan before the Faculty-Student Relations Committee as Student Council was asked to do, and did? Is it not the faculty's job to educate rather than indoctrinate, to persuade rather than dictate, to generate confidence rather than suspicion? We think that it is, and the faculty by the very existence of a Faculty-Student committee tacitly agrees with us.

In the light of the above reasons which we believe to be cogent and valid, the student body cannot accept the rigid 2.4 minimum on basketball established by the faculty and take issue with the spirit in which it seems to have been offered.

If and when a better plan is presented through the recognized channels, we are prepared to accept it. Until then we are determined to press for the passage of our plan. We can do no other.

### Arbitrary Nature Of Faculty Plan Scored By Council

At a special meeting held on Tuesday night, June 5, the Yeshiva College Student Council rejected a faculty ruling requiring a rigid 2.4 scholastic minimum as a prerequisite for participation on the varsity basketball team.

The vote was unanimous.

Previously, Student Council had formulated a plan which called for a 2.5 minimum on all activities, carrying with it the stipulation that a student possessing an average between 2.5 and 2.8 would be considered by a student committee consisting of the president, vice-president, and secretary of Council and the president of the senior class. A vote of three of these four would be necessary in order to permit the student to participate.

The faculty summarily rejected the student plan and substituted instead the aforementioned faculty plan.

#### Rigid Plan Opposed

Student Council opposed the faculty regulation for the following reasons:

1. When the faculty members of the Faculty-Student Relations Committee asked the student representatives to formulate a rigid minimum plan, Student Council, being opposed to a rigid minimum, then suggested that the duties of the proposed Faculty Advisors to students be amended to include counsel on the advisability of a student's participation in activities, the final decision to rest with Council. This suggestion was submitted for discussion at the Faculty-Student Committee and was rejected by the faculty members.

Student Council then proposed another plan, involving a 2.5-2 point minimum.

The faculty then, without any consultation with student leaders, foisted a rigid mechanical regulation on the students.

2. Not only did Student Council resent the manner in which the plan was imposed but they maintained that Council's plan is superior to the faculty ruling. They pointed out that the faculty measure as it stands is inflexible and does not provide for individual cases.

3. Student leaders also pointed out that the chief value of a minimum plan is to elevate activities and act as a preventative. Consequently, they felt that no dichotomy should be made between basketball and other activities.

### BEG PARDON

In The Commentator of May 17, Dr. Rosenberg was referred to as "popular professor of German." His correct title is, however, "assistant professor of German." We regret the error and apologize to Dr. Rosenberg.

Official Student Newspaper of  
**YESHIVA COLLEGE**  
 Published bi-weekly throughout the College Year at Yeshiva College  
 Washington Heights, New York City

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## In Retrospect

by Herman Tanenbaum

Like the bulk of my ilk, I find myself an ex-editor suddenly released from the restrictive anonymity of the editorial "we" and allowed by the good graces of "Commie" tradition to speak my final piece as a singular, subjective ego.

Performing my first function, then, as an individual entity, I should like to express my personal gratitude to those editors of The Commentator to whom we pay tribute on the following pages—for it is their labors that have permitted my four years on "Commie" to be so enjoyable, invigorating, and educational. It is in them and in their work that I have found manifested the true spirit of progress and initiative at Yeshiva.

Looking backward, I am wont to say as so many editors have said in the past: "It wasn't a half-bad year". To be honest, candid, and objective, I must admit—at least to myself—"It wasn't a half-good year". So much need be done to establish our institution as it should be, and so little was accomplished. I have tried via editorials to focus attention on matters vitally important to Yeshiva and Yeshiva College, for were nothing said, then *de nihilo nihil fit* ("nothing comes from nothing"). But in spite of the edits, *nihil fit*.

### APATHY

It's the same old story, apathy, apathy, apathy. It's a streak that runs throughout the entire institution—it hovers in every office, every class room, every dorm room.

One of the most immediate problems is that of "integration" which I posed to the Yeshiva administration in my first editorial. A reply is still to be had. To my utter disgust, I have found that some of our most brilliant students are progressively becoming more confused as days go by—they are drifting (not steering) into the rabbinate (and for that matter, into Orthodox Jewish living) without conviction or enthusiasm. Only a sincere attempt to come to grips with the problem will prove of avail. Until now, only apathy or sheer neglect.

The streak of apathy runs through the college administration. My personal belief is that in regard to curriculum and program there has been only improvement of the forms (i.e., the technicalities) rather than a bettered appreciation of the ultimate

value of education. As matters stand now, a student may receive his B.A. without having taken one course in social sciences. It seems that we're turning out a Bergsonian "homo faber" instead of a wholesome, well-rounded, well-equipped individual. Then there's the laissez faire attitude toward guidance, vocational as well as curricular.

Concerning relations with the students, the apathy is found in the failure of the college administration to try to understand student government. Rather than encourage the educational process of self-government, the administration has preferred to wait until a *faux-pas* is committed and then "give 'em the ax!". Unless the powers-that-be develop a more understanding and cooperative attitude, perennial discord will surely have its telling effect upon our entire educational system.

### APATHY

Apathy is not alone relegated to the paternal administrations. In general, Student Councils of old have been vigorously active, almost to the point of effervescence—but this year, Student Council's Executive Committee has been as active as a South American peon lolling in the quietude of a siesta. My disparagement is not founded on personal animosity, for the closest friendly relationship exists between the executive members and myself. But objectivity eclipses friendship and objectivity brands this year's student leadership "weak, wishy-washy, purposeless". More time was devoted to the appointment of committees than to issues of real major importance. And more than once members of council showed more concern and offered more leadership than did the elected Executive Committee.

I do not mean to scoff student government. I wish to take to task this year's representatives who have given less thought to carrying out a necessary aggressive program than they did to their meretricious campaign promises. Particularly this year has there been a rugged individualism in which the leaders have accorded to their personal livelihood a higher value than to their responsibility to the student body.

I realize that this critique seems to be a sudden about-face in view of the fact that in a recent editorial I offered an *apologia* for the spiritlessness of the Executive Committee. If clarification of my attitude is necessary, then I must

explain my about-face by stating that at the time of writing that editorial, the issues at hand demanded unity; hence I squashed my personal feelings and opinions.

At this moment, I have a great deal more faith in next year's leaders and I look forward to their presentation of an aggressive, articulate stand.

### APATHY

The lethargic leadership this year gives credence to the maxim: "People get the type of government they deserve", for the student body, itself, has been one of the most plithoric in our history. Perhaps their apathy was the direct cause of the leaders' attitude—or vice versa. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that activities have reached an all-time low ebb; assemblies are empty in meaning as well as in fact; student government problems are of little real concern; general world issues, of still less concern. The institution of apathy has gained firm adherents.

Nor can our alumni be absolved from their guilt of inactivity. The "big brothers" have accomplished almost nothing for us. Their organization has become defunct

and degenerate. The spirit of apathy has pervaded them no less.

I have painted the scene as I see it, and I find it is black and sordid. Nevertheless, my account is objective; it is stripped of any saccharine sentimentalism or of a desire to make a grand dramatic exit.

What is the solution? I have no panacea for all these ills. But I do realize that the building of a university does not automatically solve the problems of the college. And I do realize that the fundamental prerequisites for curing our condition are a closer, personal relationship between President Belkin and the student body; a drastic change of Dean Isaacs' attitude, meaning that he understand that although the students are not the complete institution, nevertheless, they are the most integral part thereof and as such are possessed of certain definite rights and privileges for which they should not be forced to fight year after year after year, and that students CAN be right even though they are students.

Undoubtedly a great deal more

could be said but I don't want to obscure and weaken the salient points with excessive *impendo*. Suffice it to say that a dynamic and thorough reawakening must be had throughout the entire institution.

At this point, I must confess I feel like a pious Rabbi whose contract has expired and who has just chastised his congregation knowing full that there isn't much more he can do to make them "see the light". He fervently hopes his successor will continue the crusade, and he concludes with a poignant passage from the "good book", Volume IV, Number I, The Commentator:

"Jolting a school out of years of apathy and making it clear that the student must have a real part in the successful growth of an educational institution is more than the work of one or two years. It is a crusade that must be carried on unceasingly, if it is not to be so much wasted effort".

And so, my flock, I take leave. "The old order changeth, yielding place to the new...". The pulpit is yours, Bernie.

## In Prospect

by Bernard Weisberg

In the course of the three years I have been attending Yeshiva College, coming in contact with students and teachers, I have formulated certain ideas as to what the function of a student newspaper should be, and I forthwith submit them as a sample of what can be expected from The Commentator during the coming year:

1. There have been complaints registered by some of the students that as the organ of expression of Yeshiva College there should be more space allotted in The Commentator for discussion of Jewish topics, more comments on the Jewish scene, and more editorials on international affairs touching upon the problems of world Jewry. With this we, the editors, heartily concur, and all efforts will be made to widen "Commie's" perspective. It should be pointed out, however, that as the voice of the student body it is our duty to first consider those immediate problems peculiar to the students of this school. Basic issues such as the rights and responsibilities of student government and faculty-student relations, we feel, must receive top priority in our pages. If such vexing problems were not consistently dumped into our laps we would be able to devote more space to the aforementioned subjects.

2. As the organ of the students we shall present their viewpoint. But if at any time we feel that chastisement is necessary we shall not hesitate to offer criticism.

3. More participation by the students is heartily endorsed. The "Letters to the Editor" column is at their disposal to be made use of, to submit their ideas through the medium of this paper's col-

umns and shed light upon relevant topics that are neglected.

4. Our policy is to contribute towards the progress and advancement of Yeshiva College. To realize this purpose we shall seek to uncover those evils in our system which are blocking the school's progress and to bring these facts before the public eye.

5. As the post-war world begins to take shape, we intend to continue to enlist the mature wisdom of our faculty members in discussions of current problems. We plan this as a regular feature in "Commie" next year.

5. It has become increasingly clear with each passing year that the Yeshiva College alumnus has very weak ties if any, to his alma mater. The dormancy of the Alumni Association has long been felt at Yeshiva. We believe that the alumni have a very definite role and function in the progress of the institution, and we shall do our utmost to establish the relationship between that organization and the school on an active basis.

These are the bare outlines of The Commentator policy for the coming year. There is, however, another point I should like to make, and that is that "Commie" will continue as in the past to stand for complete freedom of expression, free from all "advisors" and despite all pressures of paternalism. In this connection I would like to cite the words of a former president of one of this country's greatest educational institutions, the University of Wisconsin, addressed to its student newspaper, The Daily Cardinal.

"The freedom of the press is never won. It is a right that must be continuously won, for the

forces that disbelieve in its validity and dislike its vitality are sleepless. And these forces surround and snipe at the amateur press of universities no less than the professional press.

"The freedom of the amateur press has most to fear from paternalism.

"A student newspaper that is not free, within the ordinary boundaries of decency and under elementary obligations of sportsmanship and good taste, is worse than useless. But the passion of paternalism is powerful. Maturity finds it very difficult to believe that immaturity should be trusted with freedom. Maturity dislikes to see immaturity make mistakes, despite the fact that much of maturity's wisdom was learned in the harsh school of experience. When a student newspaper speaks its mind freely about the persons and policies of a university, when it comments, skating on the thin ice of that discourtesy which marks the boor, the pressure upon the university administration to censor and control the newspaper is always insistent. But I am sure that censorship and control of the student press by university authorities is a last resort weapon that can find justification only in rare circumstances.

"When university authorities maintain a censorship of a student newspaper, it ceases to be a student newspaper and becomes an administration newspaper. In which case, why not publish an official paper and be done with it? I hope The Daily Cardinal will always be a student newspaper, proving that it appreciates its unhampered freedom, by mastering the art and amenities of a clean, courageous, and critical journalism."

These principles may be regarded as the *sheqes men* of peaceful and sincere student-faculty relationships anywhere. We would like to see them in operation at Yeshiva.

With these thoughts in mind I would like to wish you all a very happy summer—see you in September with the first issue of The Commentator!

The first volume of the year 1935-36... The Commentator, in its first year, consistently attacked the anti-religious policy of the "Hatsadrut." But resented most was the inactivity of Orthodoxy. Orthodox rabbinical activities were sharply reprimanded for their aloofness from Zionist affairs.

Since its inception "Omniah" has faithfully mirrored the feelings and expressed the opinions of the students of Yeshiva College with telling effect. It has pulled no punches, where the welfare of the students or the school was at stake. It has never backed down on any issue. It has never

been... The very first issue of the new volume carried an editorial denouncing all runners to the effect that a "weekly adviser" to the "Omniah" would be appointed. It greeted the incorporation of the Hebrew department into the college, a program that was due in no small measure to the southern editorializing of "Omniah" on that subject.

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1935-36

On March 1, 1935, The Commentator made its first appearance in Yeshiva College. The Governing Board and staffs included names which are now famous in Orthodox Jewish circles. Moses I. Feuerstein '36 was the founder and first editor-in-chief, Max Bernstein '36, associate editor, Simon Novick '36, managing editor, Mordecai Gabriel '37, news editor, William Kaufman '36, sports editor, and Seymour Kornfeld '36, business manager. In the first editorials, "Omniah" insisted that petty quibbling should not interfere with plans commemorating Matanias' octocentennial. In another editorial, the lethargy of Orthodoxy in regard to Zionism was deplored.



FEUERSTEIN

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On April 8, 1935, "Omniah" was able to publish that the lectures on Matanias would be given. It began an intensive campaign to introduce Hebrew, Jewish philosophy, and Jewish history into the curriculum of the college. When Yeshiva authorities were considering instituting a Department of Business Administration, "Omniah" objected claiming that before expansion in that direction was feasible, it was necessary to integrate, more closely the college and Jewish studies.

In one of its earliest issues, The Commentator cried out successfully against a threat of censorship by the administration. It suggested several constructive criticisms aimed at raising Yeshiva's scholastic standing. For the first time, a suggested Faculty-Student Relations Committee attracted serious attention by both the students and the administration.

mentator found almost the same Governing Board with "Mos" Feuerstein continuing as editor-in-chief. Mordecai Gabriel was promoted to managing editor, and the position of news editor was filled by Gershom J. Feigen. It was at this time that the Governing Board formulated its constitution.

The very first issue of the new volume carried an editorial denouncing all runners to the effect that a "weekly adviser" to the "Omniah" would be appointed. It greeted the incorporation of the Hebrew department into the college, a program that was due in no small measure to the southern editorializing of "Omniah" on that subject. The Governing Board first welcomed the appointment of Dr. Samuel Berlin to the faculty on November 21, 1935. In the same editorial, however, it opposed the addition of another instructor to the philosophy department. It pointed out that because of limited classes, it would be more advantageous to the student body to introduce instead much-needed courses, such as education and embryology.

"Omniah" did not neglect the every day problems of the student. It constantly advocated editorially the installment of a locker room, the improvement of the library, and was consistently concerned with the physical appearance of the school. The first presentation of the Dramatic Society, "Journey's End", was given an enthusiastic reception by the student body and "Omniah" kept the students informed of the progress of the production.

The Governing Board continued its demand for increased Orthodox participation in Zionist affairs, and it editorially commented that the Hapoel HaLeumi is the "only true national Jewish party." It lashed out against the executive board of the Agudath HaRabbanim for declining not to participate in the World Jewish Congress. The editorial stated that by their "in-sincerity and self-own opposition to Zionism, they had directly contributed to the spreading of Palestine in an American spirit."

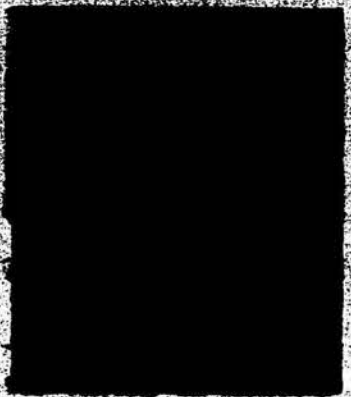
Yeshiva students always advocated peace and participated actively with national student movements in mass demonstrations against war. September Day, 1935, saw a huge assembly peak the Langport Amphitheater to listen to faculty and student representa-

tion... The student body, in conjunction with the alumni, began a drive for the appointment of a dean to relieve Dr. Revel of the laborious executive work of the college. A campaign to hasten registration was also inaugurated by "Omniah". It appealed to the students for support of the library. Increased participation in extra-curricular affairs, such as Debating and the Dramatic Societies, made the first page.

1936-37

The Governing Board of 1936-37 was continued with one of its most able members, however, was promoted by the faculty—the five year plan. Mordecai Gabriel '37, was the new editor-in-chief, Simon Novick '36, became managing editor, Gershom Feigen '37, news editor, Abraham Novick '37, sports editor, and Myron Seal '36, business manager. In December, 1936, Student Council unanimously passed a resolution concerning the five year plan. The faculty's ambitious plan which would have permitted our best students to graduate in four years was rejected as unworkable. A strong student demand resulted in the gradual substitution of the five-year plan by the adoption of selective attendance generally.

One of the new spots in Yeshiva for a long time was the position of organizing an efficient dining and living room service. "Omniah" advocated cooperation between Student Council,



GABRIEL

S.O.V., and T.I. Student Council to achieve this end. It demanded student representation in administering the dormitory.

The week between April 7 and April 14, 1937, was highlighted by the jubilee commemorating the establishment of the Yeshiva, and was given much space in "Omniah". Two thousand children made a pilgrimage to the Yeshiva and some of the most outstanding Jews in America participated in the celebration, which also honored Dr. Revel, of sainted memory.

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1937-38

The numerous editorials urging the selection of a dean, started the year before, finally resulted in the appointment of Dr. Moses I. Isaacs to the position. After "Omniah" had protested time and time again the interference of faculty members in the S.O.V. election, it, in conjunction with "Hatsadrut", succeeded in solving the problem satisfactorily. The editorials of that year not only dealt with school affairs but also with such varied topics as the use of foreign troops in the Spanish Civil War, the oppression of the Yiddishim, the Japanese acts of aggression in China, the anti-aphidic drive, British colonial policy, and the threat of another world war. It sponsored a course in journalism for its reporters, and suggested that a course in the history of Zionism be required for graduation.

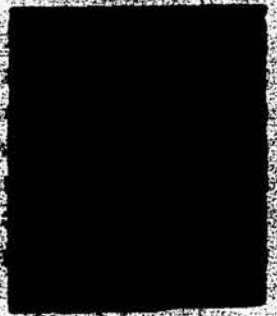
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1938-39

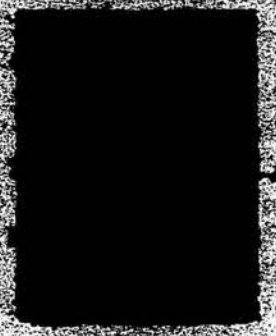
The numerous editorials urging the selection of a dean, started the year before, finally resulted in the appointment of Dr. Moses I. Isaacs to the position. After "Omniah" had protested time and time again the interference of faculty members in the S.O.V. election, it, in conjunction with "Hatsadrut", succeeded in solving the problem satisfactorily. The editorials of that year not only dealt with school affairs but also with such varied topics as the use of foreign troops in the Spanish Civil War, the oppression of the Yiddishim, the Japanese acts of aggression in China, the anti-aphidic drive, British colonial policy, and the threat of another world war. It sponsored a course in journalism for its reporters, and suggested that a course in the history of Zionism be required for graduation.



LEVIN

In February, W. Earl Freed '38, resigned and Jerome Kestenberg '38, was made news editor, Morris A. Landes '38, became sports editor, and the position of business manager was still held by Jacob Goldstein '38. With its editorial office active, The Commentator kept on behalf of the students of a Whittaker list in the health center, the establishment of a Yeshiva Loan Association, and the offering of the entrance requirement to the Graduate School, founded in 1937.

Under the editorship of Hyman Chasover '41, the following were elected to the Governing Board of The Commentator for '39-'40: Ephraim Mandelbaum '41, Julius Rosenthal '42, Abe Karp '42, and Philip Gurdator '46.



CHASOVER

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1939-40

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(Continued from Page 3)  
 Abe Karp, "On The Steepens" spoke enthusiastically of "the great event in Yeshiva's sport life", the scheduling of I. L. U. The sophomore men's while he bagged the intramural crown.

That year banquet was planned; viz. Professor Jehiel Ginsburg was honored at a 50th birthday celebration for his contributions to the fields of mathematics and Hebrew literature. A galaxy of theatrical stars and political personalities provided the entertainment and speeches for Yeshiva College's annual Astor dinner.

The Commentator urged "Let Us Support Dramatics" and gave impetus to the production of Folio-land's "The Wolves". The De-bating Society went on a lengthy tour and drew the plaudits of the critics.

Among the accomplishments of The Commentator that year was aiding in the lowering of the ten dollar registration fee, and in the establishment of a Faculty-Student Vocational Guidance Committee. The latter was a committee whose need was long felt among the students at Yeshiva.

### 1940-41

The Commentator of 1940-41 had the heart-rending task of proclaiming to the world the demise of Rabbi Dr. Bernard Revel, of sainted memory, founder, Rosh Hayeshiva, and president of Yeshiva College. A special memorial issue was jointly sponsored by the Yeshiva College Student Council and the Student Organization of Yeshiva. In answer to Dr. Revel's last words to his students, "The Yeshiva is yours to build", The Commentator voiced the feelings of the entire student body in vowing to perpetuate the ideals which



MANDELORN

he embodied, as a lasting tribute to his memory.

Shortly after this, the student body was again shocked by the passing of Rabbi Moses Solovitchik, of sainted memory. "Rab Moche", senior Rosh Yeshiva for eleven years, was the inspiring teacher and beloved father of generations of Yeshiva students.

The Commentator was under the able leadership of Ephraim F. Mandelcorn with Julius Rosenthal, Abraham Karp, and Joseph Sokolow comprising the Governing Board.

Smear Campaign Exposed  
 The Commentator again and again stressed the importance of careful deliberation and level headedness in the selection of those who were to fill the vital positions in our institution. Its policy to obstruct any attempt on the part of individuals or groups to further their own interests where the welfare of Yeshiva was involved, was manifested in its exposure of the Agudah Horshonim's attempted smear campaign. In the course of the academic year, the faculty adopted a resolution to name Professor Moses L. Isaacs as Dean. He was supported by "Commlie" because of his constant work in the students'

again stressed the importance of activities past and future within Yeshiva's walls. The paper's extra-curricular activities at that year. Every copy of The Commentator was replete with description and announcement of

### 1941-42

The Commentator inaugurated its activities for the 1941-42 school year with Julius Rosenthal '42 handling the reins as editor-in-chief. Rounding out the Governing Board were Jacob Walker '43, Erwin Herman '43, Henry Margolis '44, and Al Weisel '43.

That year the publication claimed editorially for the clear outlining of the duties of the Dean of Men, for the appointment of Mr. Sar as fulltime Placement Director, and for a college alumnus to succeed to the post of Head Librarian. It urged the extension of the unlimited absence privilege



Left To Right: Henry Margolis, Erwin Herman, Jacob Walker, Julius Rosenthal, Alfred Weisel (inset).

of the man—Dov Ber Revel." The "Eidenu" in memory of Dr. Revel was published under the editorship of Rabbi Bernard Poupko and declared to be "the most distinguished expression of student sentiment ever to issue forth from the institution."

Dr. Isaacs became Dean of Yeshiva College and "Commlie" hailed the appointment and commented, "Only time will tell whether the new Dean will fulfill all of his brilliant promise." Dr. Aaron Margalith succeeded to the post of Head Librarian and immediately began a systematic

to upper seniors, for the alumni's playing the role of "big brother" to the undergrads. It commended the Board of Directors upon the selection of Dr. Belkin as Dean of the Yeshiva and praised Mr. Maurice Plotnick and the Women's Organization of the Yeshiva for their efforts on behalf of the social hall and the dormitory. "Commlie" also spoke out vehemently against assimilationist Jews.

"Eidenu" Published  
 On the occasion of Dr. Revel's Yahrzeit it commented, "...in living Torah—true lives we are holding aloft that flaming torch of the spirit which was the essence

### 1942-43

Early in the '42-'43 academic year, The Commentator was faced with two administrative rulings which threatened the basic rights and liberties of the students. A ruling placing arbitrary restrictions, on all extra curricular activities and its news organ, The Commentator, "Commlie", protested against the essential injustice and unwarrantability of the ruling and condemned the high-handed manner in which it was presented to the students. The faculty then clamped a curfew upon the residents of the dormitory, manifesting the administrator's lack of faith in the responsibility of the student body. The administrator's exclusion of student representatives from the discussion of measures which vitally affected them was vigorously denounced. The editorials demanded that regulations should be built on discussion, not repression. With full student approval and united support The Commentator successfully combated these rulings.

That year of progress in "Com-

reorganization of library affairs.

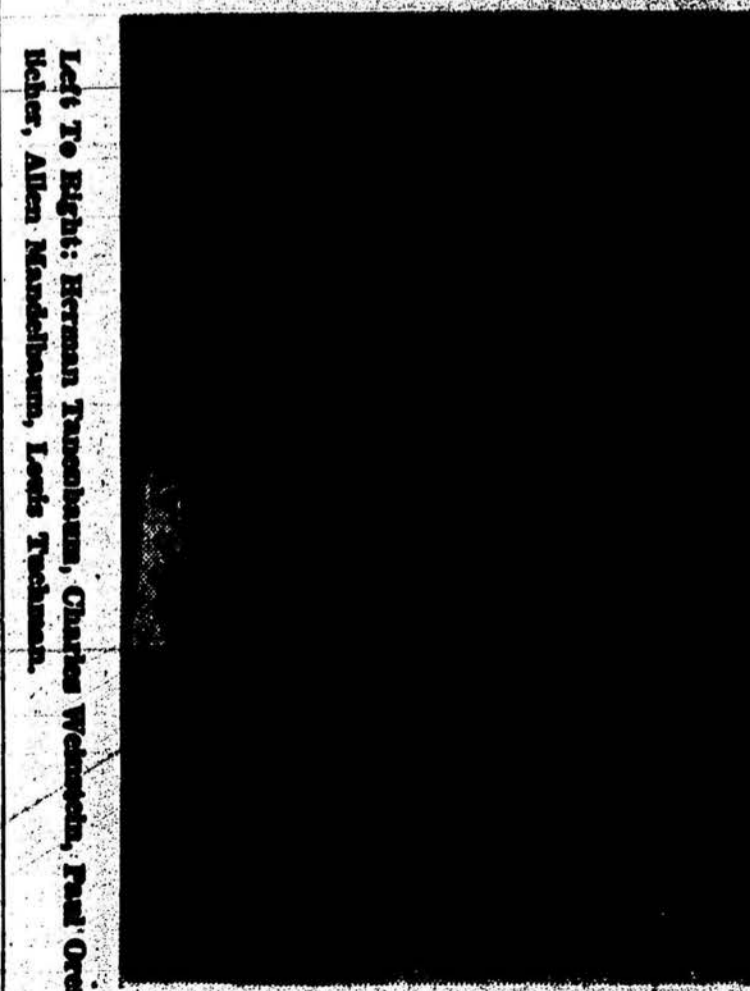
### Let Freedom Ring!

The Commentator printed a rollicking Purim edition which cast jokes good-naturedly at the students and faculty alike. The issues which followed urged all-out student support of the Red Cross Blood Bank, and the war effort in general. A stirring editorial entitled "Let Freedom Ring" declared, "From this day on let each one of us lend his every thought and effort toward ultimate victory. Let each one evaluate, in his own heart, what his contribution toward that victory shall be."

### Seminars Urged

A series of articles entitled "American Orthodoxy in Review" appeared, touching upon the problems of Orthodox Judaism. It was stressed that seminars on vital topics of Jewish interest, both of intellectual and practical value, should be held for graduates and students of the Yeshiva.

An undertaking which received much credit was the special protest issue of The Commentator in which the students demanded of the United Nations positive action by the various means at their disposal to stop the German butchery of our brothers. This, perhaps the finest issue "Commlie" had presented, pointed to the student body to the problems of their brethren and their quest for action in the midst of despair.



Left To Right: Erman Tannenbaum, Charles Weinstein, Paul Orest Heber, Allen Mandelbaum, Louis Tushman.

### 1943-44

This academic year commenced with Dr. Samuel Belkin assuming his office as the new president of the institution and concluded with his inauguration at a highly colorful and impressive ceremony. The Commentator joined with the student body of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College in greeting the news of Dr. Samuel Belkin's appointment and pledged its wholehearted support to him and his administration. At Dr. Belkin's inauguration, Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone and Rabbi Isaac Rubenstein, former Chief Rabbi of Vilna and member of the Polish Senate, were recipients of honorary degrees.

Paul Orentlicher '44, the new editor-in-chief, hid devoted himself to The Commentator since his entrance into Yeshiva College. Aiding him on the Governing Board were Allen Mandelbaum '45, Herman Tannenbaum '46, Charles Weinstein '44, and Louis Tushman '44.

At the passing of Chaplain Louis Werfel, the "Flying Rabbi", the student body mourned for the first Orthodox chaplain to lose his life in this war, and The Commentator joined in the tributes to his memory.

### 1944-45

With Allen Mandelbaum '45 serving as editor-in-chief and Herman Tannenbaum '46, Lloyd Tannenbaum '46, Bernard Weisberg '46, and Joseph Appleman '47, holding Governing Board posts, "Commlie" entered its tenth year of publication.

It was the sorrowful duty of the year's opening issue to report the passing of the venerable sage Rabbi Judah L. Weil, of sainted memory.

The Commentator, in one of its early issues, published a letter to Dean Isaacs containing the findings of the Student Council Committee on Curriculum and Program, and possible solutions for a number of difficulties confronting the college. A later edition of "Commlie" carried a front page letter to President Belkin seeking clarification and definition of issues vital to the student body. This letter was a direct consequence of the ban placed by President Belkin on all dramatic societies. Dr. Belkin's reply in the form of a prospectus occupied the front page of a succeeding edition.

For the first time in The Commentator's history a new Governing Board took over in mid-year. Herman Tannenbaum '46, directed the policies of the publication for the latter half of the year assisted by Bernard Weisberg '46, Lloyd Tannenbaum '46, Norman Kramer '46, and Joseph Appleman

friction between the Administration and the student body culminating in the presentation of the students' case by Jack Green, president of Student Council, in The Commentator. The paper backed Green and the student body to the hilt, printing a detailed history of student grievances against the administration.

Listed among the grievances were the rejection of Dr. Litzman on a number of faculty committees, the setup of the Faculty Student Relations Committee and the unwholesome attitude toward student government in general. At this critical point a regrettable split among student leaders resulted in the resignation of editor-in-chief Paul Orentlicher and in the breakdown of student plans for the resolving of these problems.

Director Plans Presented  
 This split was soon mended and a united student body presented to the administration an eight-point Director plan which it believed was the answer to the difficulties presented them.

A special Teachers' Institute page was written by Carry Charry and Lloyd Tannenbaum '46, marking a quarter-century of history-making years in Orthodox Jewish Education.

'47, Nat Rosenbaum reached his "Viv's End." "Commlie" presented an interview with Mr. F. H. Samuel, travel correspondent for "The Jewish Chronicle" of London. The interview illuminated the students with the Anglo-Jewish scene.

Resurrect Memorial Issue  
 At the passing of Franklin D. Roosevelt, The Commentator published a special issue dedicated to the memory of the departed leader. Its pages, edged in black, mourned the passing of a great friend of the Jewish people and of all oppressed, minorities the world-over.

Plans for Yeshiva College's becoming Yeshiva University were front-paged in the newspaper as the \$6,000,000 drive for funds got underway. The proposed expansion of the Talmudical Academy with the opening of a Brooklyn branch was a lead story, in another issue.

### No Compromise!

The issue of student rights rose to the fore often during the course of the year. When the freedom of student government was endangered the publication clarified the student's stand and declared, "We are the backbone of the year, student representatives have been backbone and have made suggestions and proposals in order to obtain and maintain representative government and leadership backward-ary of the past."

## Off The Sidelines

by Norman L. Krasner

As I turn the editorship over to Lewis, I want to look back for a moment at the hopes and aspiration that were expressed in these columns in former years.

"The team hasn't won a game thus far, but this in itself is relatively unimportant. The problem is to find the weaknesses and eradicate them."

and again  
"The idea of a coach is not an impractical dream...."

or  
"It is unanimously acceded that the present variety is the strongest thus far although many skeptical connoisseurs claim that the pinnacle has been reached."

These are from the "Commie" of Fall, 1935, and are ample evidence as to the long strides sports has taken at Yeshiva. Now we not only have a coach, but he is one of grade A calibre. The present variety, though it has achieved a good record, has not reached its pinnacle. Finally, the weaknesses have been found, and they are being eradicated.

And now the year is finished. I've tried to pitch a good inning and there's a good man on the receiving end—there's a new pitcher warming up on the sidelines.

## On The Sidelines

by Lewis N. Ginsburg

With the publication of this, the fourteenth edition of "Commie" for the school year, your neophyte sports editor takes up the cudgel on behalf of athletics at Yeshiva College. After a year's tenure as a sports reporter under sports-eds Bernie Weisberg and Norman Krasner, we add our signature to the list of those who have preceded us and set out on our own gambol among the verbs and adjectives.

For the past decade "Commie's" sports scribes have maintained a vigil "On The Sidelines" while athletics at Yeshiva experienced growing pains. Keeping an anxious eye trained on the Mites' fluctuating fortunes, they have lent a word of approbation or remonstrance as circumstances demanded. They prescribed for themselves the role of guardians of the maturing sport, and theirs was a considerable contribution to the Quints' climb to basketball's big leagues.

Now all eyes are to the fore as we ponder the hoop season that is in the offing. With basketball prospects among the most promising in Yeshiva's court history, we seek to devote our pages to the team rather than to administrative bickerings. With us "the play's" the thing."

We hope that a greater interest can be churned up in intramurals at Yeshiva. Inter-scholastic sports have their place, but at Yeshiva we seek participation in athletics by a majority of the student body. There are numerous benefits to be derived from active participation, and we can thereby prove that "not only can we pray, but we can also play."

This writes fins to the sports scene for the '44-'45 editions of "Commie". Opportunities loom large before us in the future. Let's make the most of them by pulling together.

A pleasant summer vacation to all!

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## WIT'S END

by Nate Rosenbaum

Friends, members of the faculty, and seniors, lend me your years. For I come to bury my past four ones at Yeshiva College, not to praise them.

For some time now my pen has had the faculty, the administration, and Yeshiva policy in general—for it certainly has not been particular—in turn, up against the whipping post and when the occasion demanded it, my point was always on somebody else's toes ready to find its mark. Many who read my columns were of the opinion that my pen was merely blowing its tip and that the stories I wove were the result of dizzy tale spinning at "rantom" with no other purpose in mind than to force a few chuckles from an issue.

To those who have always given my "illiterary efforts a "misconstrue" job, I say "good night, good night! parting is such sweet, sorrow?"

Out, Out Brief Candle!

However, to that fraction of one percent which has read between my lines and has always understood that my jests were not merely in fun but in rigor mortis earnest—that they were sound truths heaved as rolling gall stones to gather the mass, I say that although my candle is almost out, I shall continue to burn and when a difficult situation arises I shall wax hot and my flame will on no account "lick" at the oppressors.

Now that I stand with one foot in the door to keep it from shutting me out, I might forget about all previous discomforts and shake hands all around. Having no axe to grind, I should be glad to bury my hatchet if someone would only find the right spot.

Before my jig is up then, permit me to trot out some infamous last words—this courtesy before I end my dance in this life.

Meet The Senior

Perhaps the only permanent fixture at Yeshiva whom I haven't nailed as yet is our college senior. To think that I have neglected him when some of my best friends are seniors—especially one called Nat Rosenbaum.

When we first entered the burly gates of Yeshiva we were anaesthetized only to emerge four years later completely synthesized. We

are not the psychologist's dream of the split personality; we are rather our own nightmare of a hyphenated creature. My friends and I are the Yosele-Joe brand of Yeshiva's staple product.

The mud of which we have been fashioned is not the ordinary clay of mortals. Neither are we the kind of people whom the vulgar edge of society refers to as "all wet." The sudsing, rinsing, and wringing, through which we were put, has dried us up so thoroughly that our joints have begun making bones about it.

Who Dat Man?

People look at us and say to their children, "look, dearie, that's not the bogey man, it's only a Yeshiva boy." Women gase at our semblances and exclaim—"Yeshiva boys! They're all alike." (Aha, that must be some of the few who have lived to tell the tale). Both men and mice cannot compare to us for the cheesecloth of which we have been tailored is materially as well as idealistically different.

Flesh to us is not fantasy but neither is the spirit.

We shave with electric razors but we're smooth, nevertheless, at parties.

Wearing "tsitmith" doesn't prevent us from listening to a solid band playing "Holiday For Strings." All of us pray three times daily but we also prey on the Empress and the Coliseum where it's possible to take in a good movie.

We study Talmud for a number of hours but we also like to study astronomy in Central Park.

"Chulin" is a must at Yeshiva but "Kiddushin" is a must with us.

This is the Yeshiva man. This is Yosele-Joe. Sometimes a little more Yosele and more often a bit more Joe.

To the world we offer up a silent prayer—"Take us for better, but please don't make us any worse."

Going . . .

Well, I see by the clock and by the word count that I have reached the end of my line. I'll hang on just long enough to say that it is Life that is parting me from

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Yeshiva College and I shall always think of Yeshiva as a stage upon which I was one of its players . . .

I had my entrance and now I have my exit. And in my time I played many parts.

My acts having been four years—which seemed like seven ages . . .

At first as an infant freshman mewling and puking at my professors' lectures. And then the whining sophomore with my cram books, cradle notes, and apple-shining face, creeping like a small unwillingly to school.

Getting . . .

The third age my junior year, I found the spurt of life again only to discover it as a water bubble. With spectacles on nose and paunch in front of me, my big manly voice turning again to childish treble so as to conform to the tones my instructors employed.

Last scene of all that ends this strange eventful history is second childhood. I am child enough to believe that friendships formed at Yeshiva will last and grow more secure as the ropes of time twine themselves about us; that I am glad to leave Yeshiva so that I can become a member of the Alumni Association and spend the rest of my life in oblivion, dedicating myself to the task of staying away from "the place," that only the rabbin returns to his alma mater because he has to use Yeshiva if he wants to earn his bread—and so he returns to the bakery. However, if he wants butter with his loaf, he has to know where to do the smearing.

Gene!

I am also child enough to believe that the exciting faith that the administration hasn't in the student's body will result in its spirit being corked in the not too distant future; that only Yeshiva could do the miraculous by building a University before it had a College.

I am still a child and so I still believe in these things.

For me, the scene is now mere oblivion. Sans teeth—sans eyes—sans taste, sans everything—but my sense of humor. And so believe me when I say I am not at my Wits . . .

End.

The Student Council of Yeshiva extends its heartiest congratulations to The Commentator on its tenth anniversary. May all student endeavors be as successful as "Commie."  
Jack Green, Pres., Nathan Dunn, Vice-Pres., Solomon Shoulson, Sec.

## EMPRESS THEATRE

Monday - Tuesday, June 11-11  
John Wayne - Jean Arthur  
"COWBOY AND THE LADY"  
plus  
"I WAS FAITHFUL"

Wednesday-Thursday, June 12-14  
Gene Tierney in  
"SUNDOWN"  
also

"UNDER WESTERN SKIES"  
Friday to Sunday, June 15-17  
"PRISONER OF ZENDA"  
Plus Associate Picture

Starts Monday, June 18  
"IN OLD CHICAGO"  
plus  
"SOUTH OF TAHITI"

# Meet The Seniors



**Marvin Tushnet:** When one looks at Bert he is going at a big man "Who's Who Among Students." Despite the fact that he majored in science, Tushnet's uncomprehending gift to Yeshiva found time to serve as president of his sophomore class and twice as proxy of the Japs Dramatic Society. . . . H.T.'s outstanding work on The Commentator for over three years was crowned with his appointment to its editorship this past semester. Marvin has handed it to a lot of fellows in his day, but now is the time for all unbending backs to hand it to him.

**Nathan Tushnet:** "Star-like, star bright I wish I had . . ." Gay, carefree, always ready to crack a song or a joke, Nat is the only senior who laughed his way through college. As the personal research expert for Professor Brody, Nat has looked up many things in the last four years. Although Nat loves Brighton's boardwalk, he makes time in his crowded schedule to attend lectures in room 504, and prepare discourses on Kant for his Sunday evening philosophy group.

**Samuel Waldman:** As former athletic manager of the school and as next semester's graduate chief "Shmuel" proves beyond the shadow of a "gallitaper" that he can play ball with the student body. Besides meat packing, Shmuel's other hobby is holding Macy's notes. Because he believes in the principle of things, Shmuel's interest in the social science department is limited to political science and Dr. Brody. One of the "swellest" fellows in the Beth Medrash—and its pretty tough to find any kind of fellows down there—Sam is now catching up on his sleep and his attendance.

**David Weisenberg:** By the time you meet this senior, he may have his "smicha" already. It's due any hour now. When Dave was serving as "Gabbai" of the Beth Medrash he found his work so stimulating that he began taking philosophy as a sedative and now of course he is sitting there. Having from Worcester, Mass., Dave is a genuine Masnid whose interest in Jewish affairs exceeds only his search for a certain someone—his roommate for whom everybody comes a-knocking. Once he becomes a rabbi, Dave promises to

settle down and enjoy a quiet peace.

**Solomon Zeldes:** If Sol can be hooked on anything it is for poring as the very capable assistant librarian of the college library. "Shaboshe Sam" as he is fondly known by his roommates, Sol spends his days and nights cataloging the several thousand books on Yeshiva's well stocked shelves, so that you may know for what books we have to travel to 42nd Street. As an English major, Sol employs prismatic glasses with his fourteen or "Chamitha-Ozer" spectacles. Sol's ambition is to spend the rest of his life in bid cataloging books—under the covers, of course.

**Marvin Zolkowitz:** One of the most talked about seniors is Marv—class gentleman, class best dressed and possessor of one of the best senses of humor in the school. High scorer for this year's basketball team—that is he recorded the team's high score. Marv's room is the center for all unofficial senior transactions. At the present time, it's Bert who is getting most of the business. Marv who is terribly overworked these days is burning the midnight bulb in his radio. An ardent supporter of political science he is also carrying the ball for Prof. Brody. Marv's silence like his unblemished character is "golden."

**Nathan Zemel:** Nat is a fellow who is interested in languages. Yes, he's an English major. As president of the Classical Society he has studied all about Cataline. Yes, Zemel is a member of the "Agudah." Although he dorms in Yeshiva Nat makes constant trips to his home in Newark—this he does with the advice of Sholom Singer. Another member in the silent group at Yeshiva, Nat is saving his words for the future.

**Joseph Zwielsbaum:** Last but certainly not least we come to Jimmy who can now dispense with his secret fears of not being included in the "Meet the Seniors" series. When it comes to Chemistry, Jimmy feels at home—although not as much at home as he does in Pinky's boarding house. As a homespun philosopher, Jimmy's remarks are always a delight to lend an ear to. An active participant in the science club Jimmy is now working on a plan that will make him a mint—he is trying to only speak when spoken to, and coin scientific phrases.

- Rabbi Isaac Feinstein
- A. Finkel
- Rabbi Moshe Korman
- L. A. G. Levin
- Alan Mandelbaum
- Rabbi David DeSola Pool
- Chaplain
- Edward Rockman
- Jerry Robbin's Mother
- Shirley Weis
- Samuel Weisenberg
- Charles Weisberg
- Joseph Zwielsbaum
- LOUIS BERNSTEIN

Contributions to The Commentator are solicited for the coming year of publication from The Student Council of The Teachers' Institute.

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**IRWIN FINKELSTEIN,** Vice-Pres.

**LOUIS BERNSTEIN,** Sec.

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The Commentator

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The Student Council of Yeshiva College extends its sincerest congratulations to its publication.

**THE COMMENTATOR**  
on its anniversary. We are sure that its splendid work in the past will continue in the future.

We are proud of the student organ of expression and we are certain future student leaders will find it to be proud of it, too.

**HAROLD MAYER, President**  
**LEO LAMDA, Vice-President**  
**MORTON SHIMMEL, Secretary**

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