

# BARKLEY, JOHNSON TO SPEAK AT Y. U. CONANT, FIVE OTHERS TO BE HONORED

## Library Buys 2000 Books

The Pollock Graduate Library has recently acquired the Isaacs Judaica collection, consisting of over 2,000 books and pamphlets. The collection was purchased from Mrs. Ella Isaacs, the widow of the late Prof. Nathan Isaacs of Harvard University.

Included among the newly acquired books is the largest available collection of Jewish bibliography including a 75 volume set of Jewish bibliography by Moritz Steinschneider. Many of the books are non-duplicatable.

Plans are being considered for the renovation of the Mendel Gottesman Library and the partitioning of cubicles for private study.

The College Library announced that it received a \$200 donation from Miss Frances Greenspan and Mr. Frank Greenspan in memory of their sister. The amount will be allocated for the purchase of English literature books, including a set of Shakespeare's "Variarum."

## Debaters Conduct Two Team Tours

The Yeshiva University Debating Society sent two debating teams on tour April 5-7, reported Boris Rackovsky '50, chairman of the Society.

One team, consisting of William Frank '50 and Lou Lauer '50, won a debate against Temple University and lost one to Pennsylvania University. In both cases, the topic was "Resolved that the Federal Government subsidize tax-supported schools to equalize educational opportunities."

Joseph Yoshor '49, and Albert Hollander '49 debated two no-decision debates on the same topic against New Haven Teachers College and Boston University.

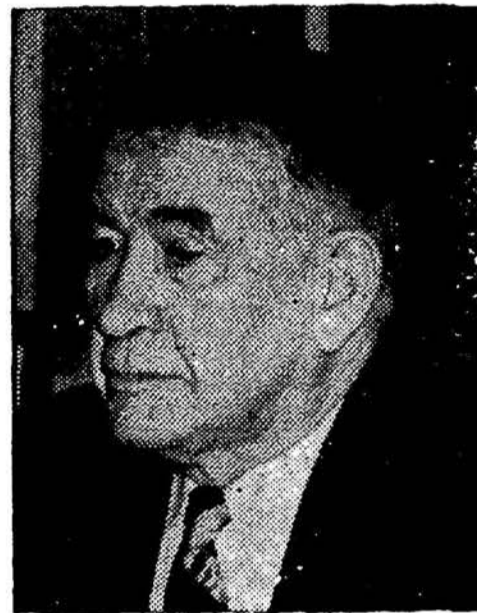
The Debating Society is now drawing up an expanded program for next year, it was announced.

## Senior Boat Ride

The annual Senior boat-ride will take place Sunday, May 29, Nahum Schulman '49, chairman of the boat-ride committee, announced.

## Congrats

The Commentator extends its heartiest congratulations to Rabbi and Mrs. Jung upon the marriage of their daughter Erna to Dr. Miguel Villa, to Miss Ruth Leibowitz and Miss Julia Horowitz upon their marriages to Abraham Silberstein and Melvin Klein, respectively, and to Melvin Bunim '50, upon his recent engagement.



Left to right: Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense; Vice-President Alben Barkley; Dr. James Conant, President of Harvard U.

## Class Night Set For May 16; Dramatic Society Plans Plays

This year's class night will take place on Monday evening, May 16 (Lag B'omer eve), in Lampport Auditorium, stated Wilfred Solomon '51, president of the Dramatic Society.

"The Magic Thread, a one-act play, written and directed by Joseph Yoshor '49, has been readied for the affair. Mr. Yoshor described "The Magic Thread", as "a serious play about the effects of the rise of Israel on the residents of a home for the aged in New York". He declined to state whether the play's ending was happy or sad.

### Yoshor's Fourth

Among those starring in "The Magic Thread" are Robert Kurtzman '50, Wilfred Solomon '51, Sol Steinmetz '52 and Aaron Landes '51. "The Magic Thread" represents Mr. Yoshor's fourth and last dramatic venture at Yeshiva. It will also mark the third time Mr. Solomon will play a leading role in Yoshor's production.

Phil Arian '50 has authored a one act character sketch entitled "Heart Strings," which is of a mystic nature. Mr. Arian, who will star in his own play, has had extensive experience in writing plays for Heshomer Hadati and at Yeshiva.

### Freshmen Also Participate

Perry London '52 has planned a light farce-musical about Bar-Mitzvas. He calls his work, "unconfirmed and untied." Mr. London's main difficulty was, "accommodating within my script the abundant talents of freshman actors."

A group from the Math Club, under William Frank '50, is preparing a revue. "It will not be abstruse," was Mr. Frank's assurance.

It is expected that musical renditions will be presented by the Yeshiva University Orchestra, with Alexander Petrushka '51 conducting.

Thirty-five cents admission will be charged, the proceeds going to the United Jewish Appeal.

## School Elections Set For May 24

Petitions for school and class officers must be presented to the canvassing committee by May 16, it was announced by Sam Glaser '49, president of the Student Council. The required number of signatures for school president and vice president are fifty. Thirty-five are needed for secretary-treasurer and athletic manager. Class officers need twenty-five.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 24 between 12:00 and 12:30 P.M. in front of the Student Council office. Pre-election campaign speeches will be delivered on May 19 at 3:00 P.M.

## New Scholarship Set Up At Y. U.

Hyman Kolko, noted civic and communal leader of Rochester, N. Y., has established a perpetual scholarship at Yeshiva University, Dr. Samuel Belkin announced. It will be known as the Hyman and Ada Kolko Scholarship and will be awarded annually to a high ranking student attending the College of Arts, and Science of the University.

Mr. Kolko, a member of the National Board of Directors of Yeshiva University, is honorary president of the Beth Joseph Center in Rochester.

## Pre-Med Society To Visit Hospital

The Pre-Medical Society of Y. C. will be the guests of Beth Israel Hospital on Tuesday, May 17 (Lag B'omer), it was announced by Arthur Schneier '51, president of the Society. The visiting tour was granted to the Society by Dr. Frank, superintendent of Beth Israel, who said that the group would also have complete access to the Hospitals Guide corps.

Both members and non-members of the Society, living within the vicinity of Yeshiva, wishing to attend will meet in front of the main building at 9:15 A.M. A second group will meet at 10:00 A.M. in front of the hospital entrance located at Stuyvesant Park and 17th Street.

## Forum Shows Film On Mental Therapy

Nearly a hundred students attended the presentation of "Feeling of Rejection," the eleventh in the educational film forum series conducted by the Audio Visual Society.

The twenty-minute sound film traced the causes of the maladjustment of a 23-year-old girl and showed how psychiatric therapy helped her gain new status in her own eyes, and in those of her friends. The factors in the girl's upbringing which led to her maladjustments were discussed for more than an hour before the film was presented for a second hearing.

Sidney Pleskin, director of the Society, announced that this film started a new trend in the series in that it was the first of many to be sponsored by both the college and high school administrations.

Mr. Pleskin also announced his completion of a pamphlet entitled "Techniques and Suggestions for Film Forums."

## Graduation Set June 17

Vice-President Alben Barkley and Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson will be the principal speakers in a series of exercises to be held during Dedication Week, June 12 to June 19, Dr. Samuel Belkin announced.

Secretary Johnson will open the week as the main speaker at the outdoor exercises to be held Sunday, June 12, on Amsterdam Avenue, in dedication of the new buildings. Other speakers who are expected to attend include Representative Jacob K. Javits, from the Federal Government, State Housing Commissioner Herman Stichman, from New York State, and Mayor William O'Dwyer, for the city. The new dormitory hall, as well as Science Hall, Graduate Hall, and the Pollack Memorial Library, will be dedicated.

Vice-President Barkley will be the featured speaker at the dedication dinner to be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Sunday, June 19, which will open the week-long program of festivities.

Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at Yeshiva University commencement which will be held Friday morning, June 17. Dr. Joseph I. Schwartz, European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee, Dr. J. Hillis Miller, president of the University of Florida, and Dr. Benjamin Fine, Education Director of the New York Times, will be given the honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters. Rabbi Jacob Levinson, Zionist statesman, and Dr. Leo Jung, Professor of Ethics at Y. U., will receive Doctor of Divinity degrees at the same ceremony.

The week, in addition to the dedication ceremonies, the victory dinner, and the commencement exercises, will include two educational conferences, a day set aside for the annual meeting of Yeshiva University Women's Organization, and the day for the Rabbinical Alumni of Yeshiva.

Charles H. Silver, trustee of the University and civic leader, will head the Dedication Week campaign. He will direct a hundred man committee which will include outstanding industrialists, civic leaders, and religious spokesmen.

## Commie Rating

The editors and staff of the Commentator are again proud to announce the receipt of an "A" rating from the Associated Collegiate Press. The award, covers the period of September '48 through January '49.

# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of  
YESHIVA COLLEGE

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### Stephen S. Wise

The death of Stephen S. Wise has come as a source of much grief to all freedom-loving men. To the American public he was prominent as a champion of the cause of righteousness and there were many who would be guided by his word. His voice of protest was always among the first heard whenever an act of social injustice was committed. He preached tolerance towards and equality for the Negro; he rallied to the aid of the persecuted Armenians at the end of World War I; he deplored the widespread use of child labor and fought for social legislation.

Within the Jewish camp, Stephen S. Wise introduced Zionism to the United States. He advanced the idea of a Jewish State at a time at which the leaders of the American Jewish Community and the Reform Rabbinate, to which he belonged, condemned any form of Jewish nationalism. He ignored their opposition and became one of the architects in the building of the state of Israel.

As founder and president of both the American Jewish and the World Jewish Congress, Stephen S. Wise gave concrete expression to his notion of Jewish unity, dignity and democracy among ourselves. His pulpit in the Free Synagogue was a platform for complete freedom of speech; his Jewish Institute of Religion, an honest attempt to educate Rabbis for all the religious groupings of American Israel.

We mourn the loss of Stephen S. Wise, a great Jew and a great Liberal.

### Required: Scholastic Guidance

In a recent article, Sam Glaser, president of The Student Council, asked for a "system of guidance in scholastic affairs." The need for such a system is obvious. Many students have no idea of what subjects they should like to major in; numerous students, after finding themselves majoring in some course, to their own surprise, have no understanding of the reading necessary to give some insight into the subject matter.

A Liberal Arts College is responsible to its students. It must aid them in choosing their fields of concentration; it must guide them in planning their college education intelligently, not leave everything to chance and to inertia. A "system of guidance in scholastic affairs" is necessary. The students must have it, if they are to derive any benefit from their four years of college.

Mr. Glaser, in the aforementioned article, outlined a general plan for facilitating this system. "The heads of each department," he wrote, "should be required to meet with the prospective members in their fields to discuss their future course planning. This should continue at definite periods, i.e., twice a year (at least), until the student's senior year, when the meetings should be more frequent."

The plan is coherent. It fits within the framework of the curriculum, which is organized about fields of concentration. Thus, the technical difficulties for realizing this plan become nil. All that is needed is the co-operation of the faculty and of the administration.

Having the frequency of the meetings increase during the senior year is an excellent, if novel, idea. Strange as it may seem, too many seniors have no understanding of their major, often no idea of their future. The present vocational director should expand his area of activity, advising the students on the nature of various professions, etc. A special scholastic guidance director, however, is necessary.

To quote Mr. Glaser again, "one individual is needed to supervise the entire plan; that position would best be filled by Dr. Litman, who has acted in the capacity of advisor so many years." Mr. Glaser's modesty may have compelled him to write his column under a "Mabe I'm Wrong" heading; he was right, no doubts involved.

The students require aid. They should receive it from qualified people. Dr. Litman, with his wide scope of knowledge and with his history of devotion to the students and to the institution, is best capable for supervising a scholastic guidance system. The students require its institution.

### Said The Haji Naji: Returned In Disgust

It all began about a year ago when we got a letter from Seyid Yusif Haji Naji (c/o Minister of Education of Iraq) asking to be added to the Commentator mailing list. It caused a minor stir in the Commentator office at the time. However, fearing retaliatory measures, we decided to send Commie to Haji Naji free. Besides, he might need the education.

Anyway, he got the next issue. That was one of our better ones; the headline read "Yeshiva Rejoices At Birth Of Israel; Zionists Applaud Historic Occasion."

#### Commies Returned

Well, today, a year later, two Commies were returned, replete with Iraqi stamps and Arabic scrawl.

Had Haji Naji found out we were Zionist?

Or did they have an Un-Iraqian Affairs Committee?

But why waste time in idle speculation when we can investigate. So we took the envelopes to Dr. Finkel, who would be in the library, of course.

#### Dr. Finkel Blushes

"Excuse me, Dr. Finkel, would you translate a few words of Arabic for us?"

"Why, surely."

"These are just Arabic postmarks."

"Uh-huh, and this one?"

Gentle Dr. Finkel blushed, his eyes widened. "Couldn't we just say it is—um—uh—an arabic version of 'refused with disgust'?"

Mmm. Could be Haji lost his Naji?

### Jewish Education Series III

## Philadelphia Jewish Schools Improved By Centralization

By Abraham Segal

(Editor's Note: The author is consultant for the Philadelphia Council on Jewish Education.)

About 12,000 children attend Philadelphia's 100 Jewish schools. To the superficial observer, there seems to be no over-all pattern at work among these children or among these schools. Beneath the surface, however, strong currents have been flowing, all leading toward a smooth-running, organized educational system. As a goal, such a system is still far-off, perhaps; but we are on the way toward it.

There are several ways to classify our Jewish schools. From the point of view of financial support, we have, first, the "community" schools. These are maintained almost entirely by funds from the Allied Jewish Appeal of Philadelphia. Such schools include the Jewish Folk Schools, Gratz College, Hebrew Sunday Schools, United Hebrew Schools and Yeshivos, and Workmen's Circle Schools. The other group of schools, which we may call "congregational", are supported by synagogues of various ideologies: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform.

From the point of view of educational program, we can group our schools differently. The United Hebrew Schools and Yeshivos are "intensive" Hebrew schools, with a Conservative-Orthodox approach, providing up to 10 hours of instruction a week, and emphasizing the role of full-time, professional, Hebraically-

## Jewish Groups Need Unity, Says Dr. David Petegorsky

By Ludwig Nadelman

"The theory that the way to fight discrimination is by cultivating good will or preaching one to another is outmoded. The problem is too profound to be solved by exhortations or persuasion; we must transform the social practices that aid it."

So said Dr. David Petegorsky, short, dark, dynamic executive secretary of the American Jewish

their rights as American citizens.

#### Jewish Unity

But, he continued, the Jews are split among themselves. The differences are not just matters of organization or technique; they are rooted in deep ideological conflicts between groups who have no philosophy of Jewish life, and those who believe in the eternity of the Jewish people and the worth of positive value.

Those groups who share a positive approach, being divided by no fundamental differences could and should unite. Besides eliminating duplication, it would make it unnecessary for each to prosper only at the expense of the other. This union would not abolish the organizations but would merely subordinate them to a higher body.

#### The Job Of Yeshiva

Asked to discuss Yeshiva, Dr. Petegorsky began, "To me, one of the most important developments of the last ten or twenty years has been the tremendous broadening of the whole field of Jewish politics. There has been an extension of Jewish civil service in defending Jewish rights, in international negotiations, in relief and rehabilitation. But the great weakness," he continued, "is that the people with the type of background to enable them to bring sympathetic understanding to the Jewish problems have lacked the requisite technical

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Dr. David Petegorsky

Congress. Sitting restlessly behind the desk of his small informal office, he nevertheless managed to speak deliberately.

We, he declared, must work for laws and public practices which do not permit discrimination. The Jews must not ask for tolerance; it is the worst kind of snobbery. They must stand up and demand

ber. The rabbis of these schools, most of whom are graduates of the Isaac Elchanan Seminary, are members of a "Rabbinical Council" but there is no director or central office, no organization of the schools as such, and no central authority or control. There have been forward steps taken in these schools—such as the use of the Council on Jewish Education's Consultation Service (see below)—but there is definite need in this field for concerted effort at co-operation and integration.

We also have a few "independent" or "semi-independent" schools, such as the Beth Jacob All-day School, Akiba Academy (all-day progressive junior-senior-high Jewish school).

#### Jewish Education Council

The foregoing classifications show how our Jewish schools, in general, satisfy the various needs of groups within our community. Nearly all of the 100 schools have joined, furthermore, in an overall organization, the Council on Jewish Education, supported by the Allied Jewish Appeal. The Council guides and advises all schools, regardless of support, program, or type of internal organization. Through its Director and staff of Consultants, the Council offers a Library, an on-the-spot expert consultant. In every field of education, and city-wide, all-pupil activities in Jewish and Hebraic culture.

The Orthodox congregational schools, whose rabbis are Yeshiva graduates, are (organizationally and educationally speaking) our newest and youngest group. During the past few years, these schools have more and more come to realize that they must play a role in the community as a whole, and also that the whole community has much to offer

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# N. Y. REJOICES ON ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY CROWD OF 2,000 HEARS RABBI DR. HERZOG

## Advocates Unity In Israel, in U. S.

On Monday, May 2, at 8:30 P.M., Rabbi Dr. Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Israel, delivered an address to an audience of two thousand people gathered in the Lamport Auditorium.

Centering his talk upon a plea for a united orthodox Jewry throughout the world, the Chief Rabbi assured American Orthodoxy of a possible religious fulfillment yet in Israel, emphasizing however, "a state of Israel according to Torah is dependent upon a united orthodox Jewry."

### Torah in Israel

"The spirit prevailing in the brave soldiers of Israel is derived directly from the spirit of the Torah," said the Chief Rabbi. He further claimed that "it is not correct to divide the Jews in Israel into two groups, religious and irreligious. Even the unorthodox have managed to obtain a high ethical Torah standing."

Of the importance of Torah in Israel, Rabbi Herzog repeated that he heartily endorses what has been said before of the Torah institutions of Israel as the life blood of the country. He reaffirmed that the firm establishment of Torah in Israel was an undeniable reality.

### Endorses U. J. A.

Directing his words then to an immediate problem, Rabbi Herzog spoke of the duty of the American Orthodoxy in the future building of a religious Israel. He forcefully reminded that "orthodox Jewry in America, with its Torah centers and yeshivas, perpetuators of our tradition, is a decisive factor in the strengthening of a religious yishuv. With this, he broadened his meaning to include all that is being done to build the land. Specifically, he endorsed the needs of the U. J. A. and the necessity of aiding its work in order to achieve a part of our objective, a religious Israel."

The Chief Rabbi thanked the assemblage for the honored welcome accorded to him, remarking that the last time he spoke here, nine years ago, was as Chief Rabbi of Palestine and now it is as Chief Rabbi of Israel.

Officially greeted by the Rabbinical Council of America, the Chief Rabbi was presented to the audience by the presiding chairman of the evening, Rabbi David Hollander, Vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America and a graduate of Y.U.

Among the other speakers who carried greetings from the various elements of American Jewry were Rabbi Tabak, President of the Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbi Dr. Raphael Gold, President of the Mizrahi Organization of America, Rabbi Chadash, vice-chairman of the Poale Agudat Israel, Elias Stein, President of Young Israel Council of America, and William B. Herlands, President of the United Jewish Orthodox Congregations of America.

## CHIEF RABBI AT YESHIVA



Left to right: Chief Rabbi Herzog, Dr. Belkin.

## Speakers Urge Admission To U.N., Present Problems Facing New State

New York Jewry celebrated the first birthday of Israel, on the fifth of Iyar, May 4, by a mass rally in Madison Square Garden. More than one hundred fifty thousand cheering people jammed the small park and neighboring blocks.

The site of many a protest rally was converted into a festive birthday party which was concluded late in the evening by a concert in Carnegie Hall.

Young and old came to partake of the festivities. Here and there one could see the scarlet cap of the Jewish Legion which had fought with the Allies in World War I. White-bearded patriarchs came to see "the Jewish Kaysar" with their own eyes, and both young and old came to pay tribute to the fighting Army of Israel, the Hagana.

### Rabbi Herzog

The first to arrive was the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Isaac Halevi Herzog. He was greeted by shouts of "Yechi Harav" (long live the Rabbi). The rally was opened by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President of the Zionist Emergency Council, who introduced Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Professor of Sociology at Yeshiva College, and the Mizrahi representative.

Rabbi Lookstein delivered the benediction and called for Divine protection for the government of Israel, and its institutions. He was followed by Chief Rabbi Herzog, who, in flawless English, recalled the past events of Jewish history and the Divine participation in the national re-birth. He compared the spiritual values contributed by the Jewish people in the past to those they are creating in the present. "The skeptics who doubt faith should turn to the Prophets and they will realize that the prophecies of antiquity are being realized today," he said.

Turning to the Holy City, the Chief Rabbi asserted, "Israel and Jerusalem are inseparable." He pledged Israel to protect the Holy Places of all faiths.

### Other Leaders

Dr. Emanuel Neumann reviewed the progress of the new state during the first year of its existence. He stressed the great needs of Israel and the responsibility of American Jewry in successfully completing its task of helping Israel.

The chairman of the Zionist Emergency Council, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, recalled the historic occasion one year ago when he read the proclamation of Jewish Independence to the Political Committee of the United Nations. The existence of Israel proved the Jewish contention that only a sovereign state would terminate the Displaced Persons Camps. The tiny state of Israel has succeeded, where the mighty nations, with their vast expanses of land, failed, he asserted.

Mayor William O'Dwyer received a rousing welcome when he stated, "If justice still resides at Lake Success, Israel will be the fifty-ninth member of the United Nations." He was followed by Representatives of various Zionist movements, and Mr. T. O. Thackeray, former publisher of the New York Post.

### Dr. Weizman

Suddenly the blaring police sirens announced the arrival of the President of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizman. Cries of "Yechi Hanasi," (Long live the President), fused into the Hatikvah. When Dr. Weizman reached the platform, he thanked the crowd for the magnificent welcome and voiced the appreciation of Israel for the contribution of American Jewry during the past year's period. He called for its further

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## An Editorial

Israel has gone a long way in the past year. Although the Jewish State has been beset by many enemies, both overt and covert, it has not only survived, it has grown and prospered. It has forced back its foes, it has extended its boundaries, it has begun to consolidate its fruits of victory. It has selected its government and formulated its policies. It has laid the foundations for a stable, lasting state.

But much remains to be done. Israel's foes fight on. The accompanying building of the land has just begun. The majority of D.P.'s, though already in the country,

are as yet unsettled. They have to be re-adjusted to normal life. They have to be integrated into the Israeli society. In addition, the influx of immigrants has resulted in a major housing problem. Each task completed reveals more duties and more opportunities.

Today, looking back proudly at a year of accomplishment, we must once more resolve to continue the battle, we must rededicate ourselves to go on working unflinchingly for the ideal of a firm, fruitful democratic Jewish state.

M. F.

# Rabbi Berlin Devoted Life To Zion, Hebrew, Orthodoxy

By Lou Lauer

Thy beauty, O Israel, upon the high places is slain!  
How are the mighty fallen!

(Samuel II, 1:19)

On April 17, 1949, the second day of Chol Hamoed Pesach, Rabbi Meir Berlin, honorary president of the World Mizrahi Organization, died; he was sixty-eight years old. His death symbolizes the end of a tragi-victorious period of Jewish history and the beginnings of a new age in which a Jewish society may realize the ideals of the Jewish tradition.

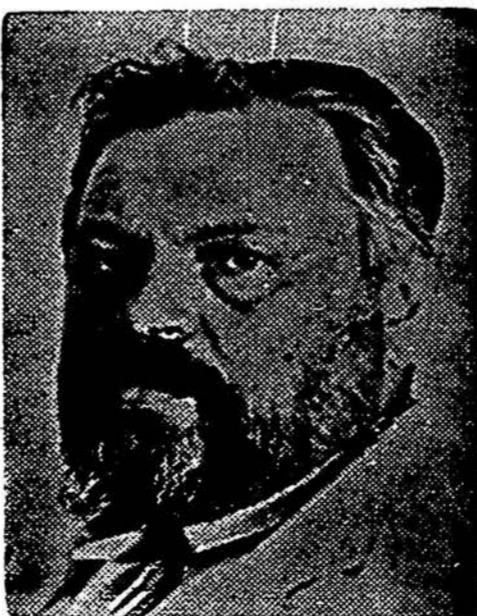
Rabbi Berlin represented the period of Jewish intellectual activity in the Yeshiva of Volozhin, when he devoted himself to the study of the Talmud. His training never left him, nor did the love for scholarship which it inspired in him. During his last few years, in spite of his work on behalf of the Zionist movement, he was trying to publish a new edition of the Talmud Babli.

### "Hazofe"

He also symbolized the era of Hebrew literature during those years. The two movements were intimately related, as Rabbi Berlin demonstrated. In 1908, he founded a Hebrew weekly which he edited in Berlin. Later he moved the paper to New York. When he

settled in Israel, he established the Hebrew newspaper "Hazofe" that was published daily. It is still functioning.

His interest in contemporary Hebrew literature was as unflinching as his love for previous Hebrew literature. For him, as for us, Hebrew is the tongue of the Jewish people. With the rebirth of Hebrew literature, he found a correspond-



Rabbi Meir Berlin

ing rebirth of Jewish nationhood. (From 1920 through 1922, he was acting President of Yeshiva. He also established the Teachers' Institute.)

### Became Zionist

The Zionist movement, Rabbi

Berlin believed, was in accord with the religious aspirations of our people. Consequently, although many orthodox Jews disagreed with him at the time, he joined the Zionist movement. During World War I, he was vice-president of the American Central Relief Committee, the president of its cultural committee, and a member of the Joint Distribution Committee. He was also a member of the Zionist Action Committee, and its president from 1926-1930. He headed the American Mizrahi from 1916-1927. At the same time, Rabbi Berlin was a director of the Jewish National Fund. In 1926, he was named president of the World Mizrahi Organization, a position that he occupied until 1934, when he was elected honorary president. He held this position until his death.

### A Scholar

Rabbi Berlin was a scholar, an intellectual. He was, at the same time, actively involved in the life of the Jewish people. With courage and vision, he strove to realize his ideals in the world of events.

During his lifetime, the state of Israel was founded. His activities insure him a secure place of honor in its history. It is our task to enlarge his vision, to make of Israel a society in which the ideals of the Torah and of the Prophets may be practiced.

## Chief Rabbi Talks On Halachic Topic

On Monday, May 2, at 1 P.M., over a thousand rabbis, students, and laymen gathered at Lamport Auditorium to welcome Rabbi Isaac Herzog, chief rabbi of Israel. Rabbi Herzog delivered a halachic lecture on the topic of "Smichas Dayonim Mumchim."

"American students of Jewish law should spend five years of study in Israel," suggested the Chief Rabbi. "Such action would be beneficial both to Israel and to the Jewish community in the United States."

### Torah In Israel

In discussing the new Jewish state, Rabbi Herzog said that although Israel did not as yet accept the Torah as the state's legal system, he saw great hope of such an acceptance since the laws of the Torah concerning marriage and divorce have already been adopted.

In his halachic lecture, Rabbi Herzog posed the problem of whether it is obligatory from the Torah that a "Dayan Mumche" be ordained in Eretz Yisrael, or is the requirement only rabbinic and not to be strongly enforced. After having delved into a great number of sources, quoted from memory, Rabbi Herzog concluded that ordination in Eretz Yisrael is required by the Torah itself for a "Dayan Mumche."

The Chief Rabbi also urged that Yeshiva students study the laws of the "Even Haezer" quite extensively.

Dr. Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, in introducing the Chief Rabbi, expounded on the various levels of holiness existent in Jewish life, and compared Rabbi Herzog to the High Priest of the Temple.

## Anniversary

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co-operation to help win the peace as it had helped to win the war.

In the evening, Carnegie Hall was filled to capacity to hear seventy-five members of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra play Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony. The Vinover Chorus and Bracha Zefira also entertained briefly.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, after describing the political, military and economic victories of the past year, presented the current problems confronting the Israeli Republic. He introduced Senator Paul Douglas and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge.

### Major Eban

The concluding speaker was Major Aubrey Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations. Major Eban traced the political fight for UN recognition. He touched the Arab DP problem and asserted that Israel was ready to do its share in helping them, but this in no way indicated acceptance of responsibility for their plight. He claimed that it was international indifference which forced Israel to protect the one hundred thousand Jewish residents, and the Holy Shrines of Jerusalem.

Governor Dewey spoke at a United Jewish Appeal dinner, held to pay honor to Dr. Chaim Weizman. He urged the admission of Israel to the United Nations and expressed the hope that a universally satisfactory solution will be found to the problems of Jerusalem.

## Chief Rabbi's Message

To the Student Body of Yeshiva University:

Your drive on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal is of major significance for it reflects your willingness to take an active part in the solution of the problems of Israel. Israel's immigrants look for your support; they look upon American Jewry as the material mainstay of world Jewry.

I am confident that your drive will be a complete success.

*Isaac Halevi Herzog*

Chief Rabbi of Israel

## Staff Of Masmid Named For 1950

Matthew Katz '49, editor of the '49 Masmid, announced that the governing board of the '50 Masmid will consist of the following: Boris A. Rackovsky '50, Editor in Chief; Henry Keller '51 and William Frank '50, Associate Editors; Sanford Frank '50, Managing Editor; Herman Potok '50 and Arthur Rosenfeld '50, Literary Editors; Al Morgenstern '51, Photography Editor; Howard Danzig '50, Business Manager. The business staff will consist of Morton Kula '52, Nathan Krieger '52, Paul Ritterband '50, Calvin Soled '51, and Isaiah Hertzberg '50.

Mr. Rackovsky served as an Associate Editor and Mr. Morgenstern as the Photography Editor of the '49 Masmid.

Mr. Katz, the outgoing editor, announced at the same time that the '49 Masmid is still in need of funds and urges all students to bring in ads.

## Rabbi Finer Reports

# West Coast Jewry Grows Despite Dearth Of Leaders

**By Rabbi Morris Finer**  
(Editor's Note: Rabbi Finer, a rabbi ordained by the Yeshiva, is the director of Yeshiva's Community Service Bureau. He recently toured the West Coast on behalf of the Yeshiva. The following article is a report on his tour.)

The first fact to strike the notoriously provincial New York visitor to California is the numerical magnitude of the Jewish community. Los Angeles has already become the third largest Jewish community in the United States. A conservative estimate puts the population figure at a quarter of a million Jews. There is certainly quantity here, even if quality is not always commensurate. San Francisco is another city with a big Jewish population; the most recent census lists approximately 50,000 Jews.

The second observation is that for such a large Jewish community, the number of properly trained and qualified rabbis and teachers is pitifully small. Many of those who were prompted by a spirit of adventure to strike out for the West were, unfortunately, religious quacks and mountebanks who have only done the cause of Judaism a disservice by representing themselves as leaders of Orthodoxy. Bonafide "musmachim" in Los Angeles could be counted on the fingers of two hands.

The situation is, however, by no means hopeless. There are many fine synagogues in California, a number of able and idealistic

## \$5,000 Goal Set For U.J.A. Drive

Yeshiva University's U.J.A. drive for \$5,000 commenced May 1 and will be in effect until May 31, Ernest Rapp '50 and Boris Rakovsky '50, co-chairmen of the drive, announced. The chairmen declared that they are expecting a minimum of \$5 per student.

It was also announced that speakers would visit all classes in an effort to step up the drive.

A special Teachers Institute U. J. A. assembly is scheduled for the morning of May 10. An Israeli representative is expected to speak at the assembly.

The students' drive was preceded by a U. J. A. campaign among the faculty, at which individual donations up to \$500 were signed.

## Student Service Offers Positions

Mark Brener, chairman of the Yeshiva Student Placement Service, announced that all types of counsellor positions in summer camps are now available. All students interested in obtaining such jobs should apply immediately at the Placement Service office in Dorm Room 223, Monday through Thursday between 12:30 P.M. and 3 P.M.

At the same time it was announced that the SPS is also in charge of obtaining High Holiday positions, hotel jobs, and tutoring positions. Applications are available in the SPS office.

# Symposium Studies Jewry In America

## Speakers Discuss Present Status, Consider Possibilities For Future

On Tuesday, May 4, at 8:30 P.M., a symposium on "The Future of the Jew in America", celebrating American Jewish History Week, was presented in Riets Hall. Lou Lauer '50, Morris Cohen '49, Lawrence Nesis '50, and Norman Lamm '49 participated in the discussion, and Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein, Registrar of T.I. and Associate Professor of Jewish History at Y.C., acted as moderator.

Mr. Lauer opened up the symposium with a view based primarily on the economic position of the Jew in America. He declared that Jews, as mostly middlemen, strive toward the establishment of a socialist state in America, thus insuring physical survival. Zionism will provide Jewish awareness and orthodox, religious life.

**Traditional Judaism**  
Concerned primarily with the future of traditional Judaism in America, Mr. Cohen emphasized the need for strengthening and expanding the day-school system throughout the land, providing the coming generation with a well rounded religious and secular education. Commercialism and lack of idealism among the rabbinate is a sad commentary on Judaism in America and must be rectified. The future of Judaism depends also upon properly educated religious laymen, he stated.

Israel, once more a nation among the nations, provided Mr. Nesis with an optimistic viewpoint of the future of American Jewry. Now an equal among equals, the Jewish position will be enhanced. Since in Israel, the Jewish homeland, the religious bloc received a very low percentage of the votes cast, he feels that religious life in America has a limited future.

**Dr. Grinstein Leads Discussion**  
In presenting his views, Mr. Lamm felt the topic too broad and dealt only with the future of religious Judaism. He commented that, based on facts and Jewish historical trends, Jews do as their Christian neighbors do. Fear of Communism has caused a return to religion; Mr. Lamm predicted a similar trend among Jews. What branch of religious Judaism will most benefit, Mr. Lamm did not say. However, he presented a pessimistic view of orthodox chances and pleaded for religious integration within the ranks of orthodox Jews, especially within the four walls of Yeshiva University.

Before opening the question and answer period, Dr. Grinstein summarized the salient features of the various speeches. He endorsed Mr. Lauer's view of socialism, in general, and was glad to see socialism present in Israel. In America, he felt, it would defeat us in the long run. History has proven the contribution and source of Jewish institutions are from the middle class and not the laboring class.

When his children begin to approach school age, there is the problem of finding for them a Yeshiva K'tana. Pulpits in the larger Eastern Jewish Community are becoming increasingly scarce and more difficult to obtain. California provides the ideal spot for the Rabbi in either of the above two contingencies. During the next few months, the Community Service Bureau will exert every effort to place several good men on the West Coast.

(Continued on Page 6)

**Y.U. Students Hear Agudah Spokesman**  
On Thursday, April 7, Mr. Aaron Noah Blasbalg of Poalei Agudat Israel of America, addressed a public gathering in Riets Hall, under the auspices of Zeirei Agudath Israel of Yeshiva University. Mr. Blasbalg, speaking in Yiddish, traced the history of Poalei Agudat Israel from the time of its inception, only a short time after the establishment of Agudat Israel in 1912, till the present day.

"Poalei Agudat Israel was not meant to introduce a new ideology but has stood solidly for the active implementation of the Kattowitz program of 1912," said Mr. Blasbalg, concerning the party's political views.

After the affair, Mr. Blasbalg remained to answer in detail questions concerning the program of the movement and the nature of Kibbutz Chofetz Chayim.

Mr. Yerachmiel Chorrowsky of Petah Tikva, speaking in Hebrew, gave a brief homiletic address on the achievements of the Jews in Israel. He praised the self sacrifice of the chalutzim in the upbuilding of Eretz Israel, stressing the obligation resting upon us to copy their fiery devotion.

**Synagogue Conference**  
The main project which occupied my time and attention was organizing the Southern California Synagogue Conference, composed of 18 congregations (with a potential membership of over 30) to represent the orthodox synagogues in the Los Angeles area and to coordinate their programs and activities so that they might act with greater efficiency and dignity. The conference was launched most auspiciously under the aegis of Yeshiva University and will go far toward establishing a close relationship between the Yeshiva and the West Coast Jewish Community.

There are at the present time six to ten pulpits available in California. A rabbi motivated by idealism and prepared to work hard cannot only do a good job for Judaism but can create for himself a bright and prosperous future.

**Go West, Young Rabbi!**  
The typical Yeshiva "musmach" has a marked preference for the large Jewish community. When he is still a "bochur" there is the problem of the limited social opportunities in the small town.



Rabbi Morris Finer

rabbis; Los Angeles boasts two Yeshivot K'tanot and is a community where one can live a full Jewish life, religious as well as cultural and social. Potentially, the possibilities for achievement and creative work are limitless. The stimulus and inspiration which a few additional pioneering rabbis might provide, could not alter the entire complexion of the Jewish community and make California a thriving center of Torah and traditional Judaism.

A thrilling experience was unexpectedly running into many former students of the various schools of Yeshiva University. Not only did these encounters provide an effective antidote for homesickness, but the role which Yeshiva has been playing this past half century in training and educating intelli-

On the Sidelines

**Camp Jobs Galore,  
Seminar Invaluable  
For Inexperienced**

By Sol Blumenfeld



With the summer recess within sight a good percentage of our students are packing their trunks and preparing to hop a freight to camp, where they overnight assume the magic title of Counsellor. A Counsellor is assumed to possess, in addition to a sound genial personality, the learned psychology of "camping". Among those in our school aspiring to counsellorship are students unlearned in camping, which demands much versatility and assorted knowledge of various games, activities, etc.

It has occurred to me that a Seminar program would be beneficial to all, especially those unable to take advanced P.T. There certainly are men within these walls well qualified to acquaint the students with the everyday needs of camping. The most appropriate sponsors of this Seminar would be the A.A. or Phys. Ed. offices.

A wave of fear sweeps up the spine of inexperienced unaquatic mammals as they approach the business end of the diving board, look down 20 feet into the watery basin and brace themselves for the plunge. Experience lessens the fear. So it is with the writer on the brink of prognostication, and your scribe with loads of practice if not brilliance in basketball prophecy as he again looks into a crystal ball. Strangely enough, there is no faltering in my urge to laud, rave, become unnaturally exhilarated when meditating about things to come. I feel sure (as sure as a final in chemistry) that we're going to have the best squad in the history of our Alma Mater.

The sounds at spring practice are the same but the constancy of purpose is new. Everybody from Captain Howie Danzig down the line knows that a varsity berth is no laughing matter. Coach Bernie Sarachek with more material on his hands than he can possibly use shows the demeanor, which foreshadows success.

Without the slightest hesitancy, I predict that there are going to be upsets galore, a surge of publicity for Yeshiva, and general consternation in sports circles during the next hoop season.

If wrong, I promise to stand on the top of the highest dome of Yeshiva and eat every available copy of this issue of Commentator, without ketchup, mustard, or sauerkraut.

As the readers of this column know, I have constantly deplored the lack of a Director of Athletics at Yeshiva. This need was recently satisfied by the appointment of Hy Wettstien by the Athletic Association to the post. He assumes his office without the usual fanfare and was immediately faced by an unseemingly insurmountable mass of red tape.

Now, a few weeks after having assumed his position, the wonderful job he has done becomes apparent. The basketball schedule is nigh complete, the soccer, fencing, and tennis programs are cleared through his office.

He has shown great enthusiasm and sincerity in his desire that Yeshiva athletics keep pace with the institution's expansion while being kept at a high level.

Although late, we would like to welcome Hy to our midst and congratulate him on a job well done to date.

**Drew Netmen  
Love Yeshiva  
In 7-0 Match**

The tennis squad of Yeshiva University bowed before the excellent play of the veteran racketeers of Drew University at Madison, New Jersey, Wednesday, April 27. Five singles and two doubles were dropped by the Y.U. racket wielders as they lost seven-love on the victor's clay.

In the single arrays Chayim Shulman was first man; Joe Feder, 2nd; Julius Parness, 3rd; Samuel K. Wohlgerlenter, 4th; and Jake Schonfeld, 5th. Shulman and Wohlgerlenter teamed up for the first match in the doubles while Feder and Parness composed the second set.

Veteran Captain Shulman stated that of the new comers both Wohlgerlenter and Parness showed great promise in their exhibitions against the seasoned Drew players.

He also stated that his yearling team did surprisingly well considering that they only had five practices in the past two months. He expects the newcomers to display their potentialities in the next two matches to be held on the Y.U. home clay, at the River-view Courts.

**Yeshiva Wins Two Chess Matches  
From Fordham Teams, 4-3, 3½-2½**

Yeshiva University players defeated the Fordham University chess team in matches held on Sunday, April 10, and Sunday, May 8, by scores of 4-3 and 3½-2½, respectively.

In the May 8 match, held at Fordham, first-board Harry Yanofsky '49, won from E. Tully in fifty moves in a French Defense. Bob Rozen '53, on second board, defeated Robert Harper in a Slav Defense which lasted forty-eight moves. On fifth board, David Scheinfeld '52, also employing a French Defense, mated Grabien of Fordham in twenty-two moves. Bernard Koenigsberg '51 and George Kenny played an Alekhine Defense to a twenty-one move draw.

**Commerce Kickers  
Boot Blue Varsity**

On Friday, May 6, the newly formed Yeshiva University soccer team lost a hard fought game to the High School of Commerce by the score of 3-1, at Van Cortland Park. Throughout the first half, the Yeshiva booters were on the attack moving the ball far into the opposition's defense, but fell apart as they reached the goal where a spirited Commerce squad foiled all attempts at scoring.

Both teams exhausted by the blazing sun managed to score one goal apiece in the second half. The lone Yeshiva goal was booted by Jack Eisenberg of Talmudical Academy.

The team has scheduled games with Stuyvesant High School and the High School of Science.

**Steinberg, Scheinfeld Win**  
Capt. Arthur Silver '51, resigned his game to William Canapany after fifty-one moves. Yeshiva lost another point when it failed to seat a sixth player in the scheduled six-board match.

In the earlier match, held in Riets Hall, David Steinberg '51, on second board, defeated Cummings of Fordham in a forty move Ruy Lopez game. Sixth-board David Scheinfeld, playing a French Defense, forced his opponent, George Kenny, to resign on the twenty-second move, when the latter was caught in a forced mate.

Elliot Eisenbach '51, blundered into a mating trap and lost his game to Fordham's Capt. Sullivan at the end of forty-three moves. Bernard Koenigsberg lost to Edward Sweeney in a thirty-nine move Ruy Lopez. Yeshiva's Danishefsky played a Guico Piano and lost to Canapany in twenty-seven moves.

Yeshiva, though dropping three out of five games played, won the match due to Fordham forfeitures on first and third boards. Harry Yanofsky and Bob Rozen were credited with these wins.

**Spring Hoop Sessions Begin;  
Neophytes Show Much Talent**

The '49-'50 version of the Mite basketball machine was unveiled on April 28th in the Y. U. gym when the veteran-filled team began a rugged practice schedule.

With Coach Red Sarachek at the helm, the squad went through its tune-up paces. Emphasizing the fundamentals of the game, the team, captained by Howie Danzig, went through the various practice routines which make for coordination of mind and body.

Lettermen on the squad include Danzig, Danny Komsky, Ruby Davidman, Hilty Dryspiel, Red Fredman, Natie Krieger, Artie

Stein, Billy Tepper, Red Kupchik, and Enoch Novosellar. Neophytes who turned in sterling performances in their debuts were Murray Mayer and Seymour Eidman, stars of last years T. A. Varsity. Several prospective candidates are expected to make their bids during the coming week.

"We're determined to build a winning quintet," stated Sarachek, "and the large number of prospects should serve to give the varsity members the push that is needed."

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# Meet The Seniors



**Schorr, Seymour** — People don't often boast that they come from deep in the heart of mosquito land (Joisey, to you) but not Sy. He claims that there are two sides to the tracks and he's from this side — Camden. His avid attention to pawn-pushing for the varsity team has carried over to his school and social activities. He has pushed himself quite far in school — he is now a senior — and has succeeded in pushing himself into all the "Y" functions in the city. Sy especially wants us to make note that, contrary to popular opinion, he does not suffer from tonsorialities (need of a haircut, to you) but that he has been frequenting a self-service barber shop and has a lot to learn.

**Shapiro, Irving** — Irv did himself up quite Braun in college. While we poor sufferers were under the impression that it was summer in France and consequently sweated properly, Irving just had to open his mouth and breeze through. But don't get us wrong; he did the same in every course. Irving is going to be one rabbi who knows how to give a handshake. Most of the learned clergymen give you dead fish for a hand; Irv gives a clam. His weight-lifting and grip-improving exercises are really something to watch. And don't underestimate the thumb workout in the Beth-Medresh either. He claims that that has a lot to do with his strength also. We predict a tower of strength in Irv some day.

**Shavrick, Cyrus** — Pretty boy Cy

with the Clark Gable ears really improved his lot at Yeshiva. He rose from being voted the "Most Handsome" in high school to being elected senior class president. Cy is one of our Baltimorons with an ear and eye for music — Southern Bell(e)s. This business manager of Masmid teamed up with his boss in the dorm this year and now we have a true kats chorus, "Bring in ads, bring them in." Cy thought that he had a novel idea when he decided to have the senior class go on a boat ride up the river. I guess he doesn't know that most of the seniors are up the creek already and would appreciate a change in scenery.

## Jewish Education

(Continued from Page 2)  
them. Increasingly, these schools have been taking part in city-wide programs.

These schools, locally, face many problems still—buildings, membership, equipment, program, curriculum, qualified personnel, and so on. In addition, they must build a real organization, by which they can share one another's problems and solutions. Finally, they must come of age as an important, integral part of the Council on Jewish Education, contributing to it and drawing from it. Obviously, none of these needs can be met in isolation; each bears on the others. Every step so far taken on one of them, materially forwards the others.

## Synagogue Pamphlets

The Community Program Office has published a special Synagogue service on the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish state.

## Dr. Petegorsky

(Continued from Page 2)  
skills, while the people possessing the technical skills have lacked the broad insight into communal affairs, particularly as regards the relationship of the Jewish background to the general background. The job of Yeshiva and similar institutions is to bring these two abilities together.

"Incidentally," he added, "I hope the revolutionary spirit still continues at Yeshiva." We do, too.

## Rabbi Finer

(Continued from Page 4)  
We need more rabbis who should be prepared to make the sacrifice of going into communities where there is no ready-made Jewish life but where it is necessary to create the elementary institutions of Judaism such as "Shabat Minyan," "Kashrut," Jewish education, etc. Yeshiva rabbis can bring about a renaissance of Torah Judaism in this country only if they will get out and do "grass roots" work.

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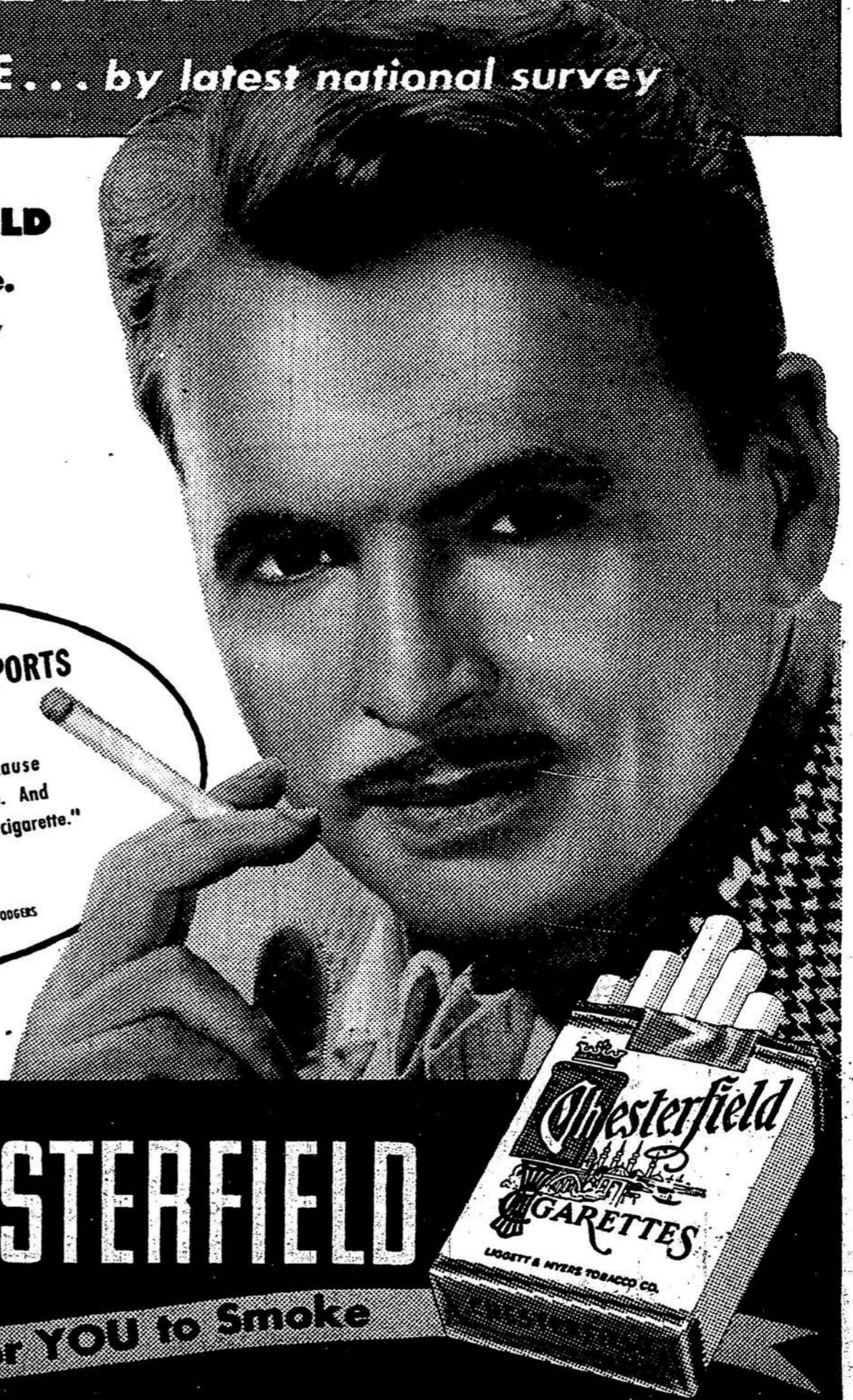
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