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in
S.O.Y. Election
TODAY

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

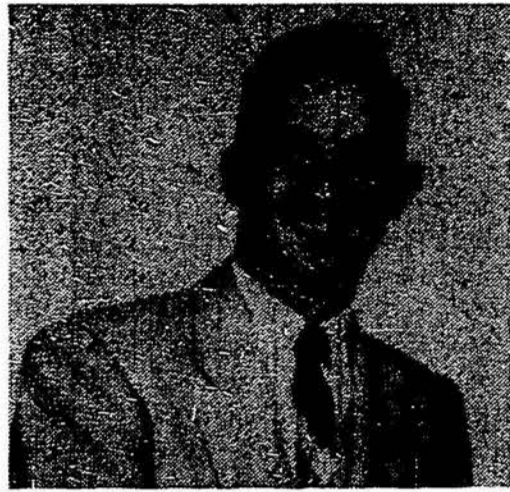
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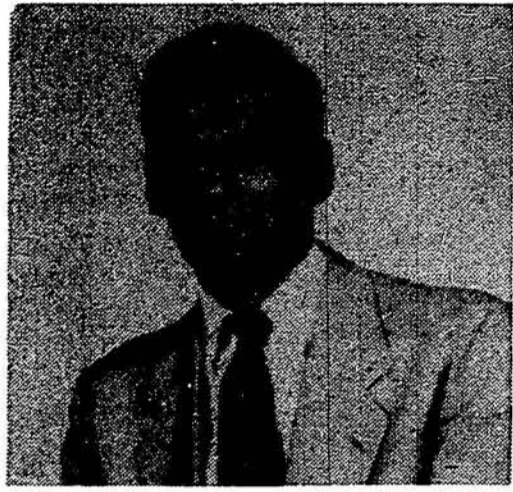
NEW YORK CITY, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1954

No. 5

Howard Spear Elected to Student Council Presidency



Howard Spear



Aaron Borow



Yakov Jaffe

Aaron Borow and Yakov Jaffe Chosen For Vice-Pres. and Sec'y-Treas. Posts

Howard Spear '55, was elected president of the Student Council for the forthcoming year at elections held yesterday, May 12. Mr. Spear polled a total of 303 votes to defeat his opponent Harold Scheinman '55, by 208 votes.

Aaron Borow '55, Yakov Jaffe '56, and Joseph Polansky '55, were elected to the posts of vice-president, secretary-treasurer and athletic manager, respectively.

In the vice-presidential race, Mr. Borow defeated Simon Cohen '55, on the second ballot, 226-151. Manuel Gold '55, was eliminated on the first ballot. The new secretary-treasurer defeated opponent Herbert Schreiber '56, 260-136. Mr. Polansky ran unopposed.

Class Elections

Class balloting resulted in Judah Harris '55, and Teddy Phillips '55, elected president and vice-president of the fall Senior Class, respectively. Mr. Harris received 58 votes to defeat Henry Hartman '55, and Al Sutton '55. Mr. Phillips garnered 56 ballots to defeat Gilbert Davidowitz '55, and Hersh M. Galinsky '55.

Julius Behrman '56, won the fall Junior Class presidency over Norton Nesis '56, and Emanuel Federbush '56, by a vote of 49-28-20. Martin Schube '56, the class vice-president-elect, defeated Melvin Zalefsky '56, a write-in-vote, by a count of 47-41. Also in the race were Joseph Book '56, and Harold Richtman '56.

Next term's Sophomore Class elected Nathan Lewin '57, and Josef E. Fischer '57, to the presidency and vice-presidency, respectively. In the vice-presidential balloting, Mr. Fischer polled 53 votes to defeat his nearest competitor, Marv Narushinsky '57, by 13 votes on the second ballot.

Active in Student Affairs

Mr. Spear, the president-elect, served as secretary-treasurer of Student Council during the past year. He campaigned on a program which included an expanded guidance system and a restoration of the assembly program. He urged continued cooperation between THE COMMENTATOR and Student Council. The newly elected president hails from Dover, New Jersey, and is a graduate of Manhattan Talmudical Academy. His major in college is Political Science and he is attending R.I.E.T.S. Mr. Spear is also captain-elect of the Fencing Team.

Mr. Borow, the vice-president-elect, is a graduate of the Akiba Academy in his native Philadelphia. A History major in college he also attends the Teachers Institute. Mr. Borow was a member of the Student Activities Committee in the past year, manager of the Tennis Team, a member of the Pre-Varsity Debating Society and the French Club.

Mr. Jaffe, the secretary-treasurer-elect, hails from Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended the Cleveland Heights High School and the Yeshivath Adath Talmud Torah. He served as president of his Sophomore Class, chairman of the Student Building Committee and chairman of Campus Improvement Week. Mr. Jaffe is a pre-med student at the College and attends the Teachers Institute.

Yeshiva Cops Highest Blood Drive Honors

Yeshiva University captured highest honors in a contest sponsored by New York University's Blood Drive Committee, with the best percentage of blood donors out of sixteen colleges and universities in the City, who participated in the competition.

The Drive, which culminated April 12, with the visit of the Red Cross bloodmobile to Reits Hall, netted a total of 155 donors. Although the turn-out fell below that of last year's drive, the 28% showing was enough to merit the award.

A letter sent by Mr. Charles Stearns, Red Cross recruiter, to Sheldon Kornbluth '55, Chairman of the Drive and Co-chairmen Bernard Pshoter '53 and Otto Newman '53, congratulating them for their work, read in part, "Thank you again for your splendid cooperation at the Blood Bank which was recently held at Yeshiva. Although I know you were disappointed at the final score, the 155 pints of blood are indeed appreciated."

Among the other schools participating in the contest were St. Johns and Columbia Universities and City and Manhattan Colleges.

S.C. Hears Report On Luncheonette

"The management of the College Luncheonette has been cooperative in meeting Student Council demands for improved hygienic conditions," announced Joel Balsam '54, S.C. president. Conditions at the Luncheonette have been a constant concern of the Council during the year, and after rebuking the management several times, the student representatives authorized the Executive Council to notify the Board of Health "in the event that the unhygienic conditions in the College Luncheonette are not corrected." Mr. Balsam indicated that if the present cooperation continues no such steps will be taken.

At a meeting held Wednesday, April 28, the Council passed an appropriation for the purchase of a plaque "to be presented to the most active club of the year."

Graduates Decide to Honor Dr. Churgin at Senior Affair

Dr. Gershon Churgin, professor of Hebrew, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Senior Award, announced Neil Hecht '54, president of the Senior Class. The Award will be presented to Dr. Churgin at the Senior dinner, for being "an outstanding example to the class in his ethical conduct and for the moral inspiration that he has instilled in the students."

The dinner will be held Wednesday, June 23, at Temple Zion in The Bronx. A program of entertainment has been planned and an orchestra has been engaged. The cost will be \$6 per plate.

Dr. Churgin, born in Russia, began instruction at Yeshiva University in 1939 and was promoted to Professor of Hebrew in 1951. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Columbia University, and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1939. He had several of his articles published in Bitzaron, Horeb, Talpioth and other scholastic publications.

In addition to Hebrew, Dr. Churgin also lectures in Ethics, Hebrew Literature and the History of Hebrew Literature.

Abrams Cited

Mr. Hecht also revealed that Mr. Norman B. Abrams, registrar of R.I.E.T.S., will be awarded the Senior Citation for outstanding service to the school and the Senior Class. This citation is presented to a non-faculty member of the administration.

Service keys will also be presented at this dinner. Seniors are invited to bring parents and friends.

Seniors are urged to place their invitations immediately with Mr. Hecht or Arnold Knoll, '54.

Commentator Receives First Class Certificate

THE COMMENTATOR has earned a first class rating in the Associated Collegiate Press Critical Service for its issues of the fall semester, 1953. The ACP reviewed a total of 444 college newspapers, in fifteen categories. THE COMMENTATOR competed as a bi-monthly publication of a student body of five hundred or less.

Praising THE COMMENTATOR for its coverage, content and physical properties, Judge Wallace Fulton commented, "I was impressed with the maturity of your paper. It shows staff concern for accurate reflection of college life."

Special Ceremony Cheers Dedication Of Sura Institute

A special ceremony was held Sunday, May 2, at Yeshiva University to celebrate the establishment of the Sura Institute in Jerusalem as a cultural link between Israel and America and to mark the publication of its first annual scholarly journal, "Sura," published jointly by the Institute and Yeshiva University.

"Sura," which is devoted to study and research in problems relating to Israel and the world in the past and present, is an instrument in the program of Yeshiva to further cultural and spiritual ties between the two centers of Jewish life.

Edited in Jerusalem by Professor Samuel K. Mirsky of Yeshiva University, the journal contains articles by twenty-six leading American and Israeli scholars.

Facilities Are the Last Word in Ease; Girls' School is Bureaucrat's Paradise

By Henry Kressel

We paid a visit to the Packard Junior College, whose building was recently acquired for the Stern College for Women, the other day, fearing that after the girls move in September, we may no longer be welcome there.

The first thing that struck us was the architectural design of the structure. We simply could not imagine a branch of Yeshiva University not built in Moorish or prefabricated style. Much encouraged by this sight, we stepped into the hall and climbed a marble staircase to the first floor which is almost entirely occupied by a large number of offices. We could not help but compare these with the offices at Yeshiva College where, we have always felt, the bureaucrats do not get the extensive facilities they deserve. We allowed ourselves a moment of pleasant reverie, contemplating how some of our most efficient school officials would look inside these imposing rooms, and

Charity Drive To Pass Goal, Says Kramer

"The Yeshiva University Charity Drive is expected to exceed its quota of \$5000," announced Abraham Kramer '54, chairman of the Drive. The students campaign netted a total of \$3000 while the faculty and administration drives will end in June.

Totals for the individual University branches are: R.I.E.T.S.—\$1400; Teachers Institute — \$600; Teachers Institute for Women — \$75; Central High School for Girls — \$450; and Brooklyn Talmudical Academy—\$400.

Rabbi Tendler's R.I.E.T.S. class whose collector was Paul Bell captured top honors with \$4.53 per capita. The largest amount \$183.12, was collected by members of Rabbi Cyperstein's class through Otto Newman '54. The Drive's top individual donation, \$300, was solicited by Sheldon Kornbluth '55.

Assisting Mr. Kramer in directing the Charity Drive were co-chairman Simon Cohen '55, Gilbert Davidoff '55, Mr. Kornbluth, William Kotkes '55 and Mr. Newman. Publicity directors were Freshmen Philip Fuchs and Joel Schrieber.

then proceeded onward.

We next stepped into the elevator and took a ride up to the top floor. We probably would have arrived there faster by walking but the luxurious feeling that we got from riding in a Yeshiva elevator was well worth the extra time. We were very much impressed by the spacious classrooms that we looked into and we readily visualized the innocent girlish faces that would soon be peering from behind polished desks. Tearing ourselves from this pleasant vision we moved on to the student lounge which was occupied by two ping-pong tables, a coke machine and a student bulletin board with notices inviting the students of Packard Junior College to a boat ride, a dance and a bowling party. The image of this notice was intently fixed in our minds, for after September, alas, such signs would never again be seen inside the building.

Back to the mezzanine we went

(Continued on page 2)

Let's Talk About

A Letter to the New President

By Joel Balsam

Howard Spear
President-elect of Student Council
Dear Howie,

Allow me to offer you my congratulations. You've been elected to a position that will keep you busy for a full year; one that will give you headaches and worries. At the same time, however, it will prove very rewarding to you personally, both in the experience that you will receive in dealing with people and in the satisfaction that comes from hard work and accomplishment. And for every headache and worry that you receive, I guarantee you many laughs, when you observe the antics of certain members of the administration and likewise of certain students, particularly those of the former. In this letter I shall outline my advice to you for next year's Student Council program. I shall intentionally omit certain items which will be covered in the next issue of THE COMMENTATOR when I review the activity of this year's Council.

School assemblies are one feature of former years that was missing this year. Last spring when we negotiated with the College office for the Thursday club hour, we did not realize that they would insist that we hold assemblies at this time; we assumed that assemblies would continue during class hours. Our first assembly held during club hours, the S.D.A. election assembly, fully convinced us that an audience could not be gotten at this time. Moreover, club leaders found it extremely difficult to induce prominent public figures to appear when they could offer them no choice of day or hour. Only twice, with the Yeshiva University Drive and the Student Council election assemblies, when unusual necessity was shown, did we receive permission to schedule them on class time. We must convince the College office that the good derived from these assemblies far outweighs the disadvantage of losing class time—especially when no class misses more than one hour over the entire year!

An active program of Fireside Chats should be resumed. I would like to see the chats devoted to matters of religion. We have among our faculty some outstanding thinkers in Jewish philosophy and history, and in halacha. The student body needs to hear more from them, especially in informal discussions.

In the past, mainly because we have felt that our problems, like our University, are unique, student government at Yeshiva has kept to itself. We have never participated in national or regional student government organizations. Nevertheless, next year we should participate in the National Students' Association. We might learn something from them and I believe that they will learn much from us.

We should also establish permanent contact with the Alumni Association. This spring they formed a permanent committee on student affairs and we should follow by forming our own committee to meet with them regularly. There is no telling the good that can come from a close relationship with an organization that has the potentiality of exerting its influence to help us.

Work closely with the next editor of THE COMMENTATOR. You and he are the only two students who have the opportunity, and hence the obligation, to acquire a complete picture of what is going on in the University. It is obvious that such a picture is requisite to guiding Student Council. It can only be gotten if the two of you confer continually with key members of the administration and keep your ears open.

This year, I believe, we have learned a lesson in student government that must be passed on to future student leaders. You will remember several times when it appeared to us that almost the entire University administration was united against us. Together with representatives of S.O.Y. and T.I. Council, we attended a series of meetings called by key members of the administration who wanted "to help us iron out the difficulties existing between the three student bodies." I shall never forget the surprise that we students handed them when we sat listening to points that might have stirred up friction among our organizations and replied with a united response to every point that was raised. Nor was this unity artificially contrived. In my many meetings with officials of S.O.Y. and of T.I. Council, no fact has been more obvious than that we think and feel alike about basic issues. Realizing the dangerous consequences to student autonomy that might have resulted from such meetings, we jointly resolved not to attend them. We have again seen that we have in Dr. Belkin a friend who did not hesitate to uphold our viewpoint on the occasions that we appealed to him.

You, Howie, have an advantage that few Council presidents have had. You were present with me at many meetings with Dr. Belkin and other high University officials and you do not have to spend your first few months in office learning what it's all about. Delegate as much responsibility as possible, so that you will have time for conferring with the administration, a task that is very time-consuming and cannot be delegated.

This year I have worked very closely with you and have seen you assert yourself at meetings with the administration. I know that you possess a mature and responsible attitude concerning student government and am confident that you will do a good job next year.

Good luck,

J.B.

Stern Building

(Continued from page 1)

to look at the library before leaving. It is small but very neat. We also passed through the second student lounge (large but not very neat) where we tipped our hat to two chaps playing cards with great con-

centration. We received no response.

Locating an exit we gingerly stepped out into the sunlight, took one last look at the building, shrugged our shoulders and thought of Tennyson's very appropriate lines:

"The old order changeth
And gives way to the new."

Hapoel Hamizrachi Head Rebukes Agudah; Seeks Application of Halacha to Daily Life

By George Siegel

Editor's Note: This article is the last in a series of interviews with leaders of the major religious movements.

Decrying those who would "discredit the Israeli government for their own political gain," Rabbi Alex Rose, national executive director of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, declared in an interview with your correspondent that "organizations such as the Agudath Israel, in chastising the Israeli government, only serve to embarrass Israel in the eyes of the world."

Citing the question of *sherut leumi* in Israel, Rabbi Rose remarked that "the Agudah, for instance, took issue on this piece of legislation (which the Mizrachi organizations had accepted), not so much for the claimed halachic reasons, but primarily for political gain and to cast aspersions upon Israel and Hapoel Hamizrachi's work there."

The facts of the matter in regard to the issue of conscription of women, as Rabbi Rose stated them, are that a women's draft system was set up several years ago because of

the manpower shortage. At that time, Hapoel Hamizrachi was decidedly against the plan and urged its defeat. The Agudah, however, compromised on the issue and favored the plan as long as women could be exempted on religious grounds. The Hapoel Hamizrachi did, however, back the new program of *sherut leumi* which gave women the opportunity to serve Israel in a civilian capacity in hospitals, agricultural settlements and similar institutions. The Agudah then initiated an attack upon the plan and upon the Hapoel Hamizrachi, charging that no authoritative religious sources proffered halachic grounds upon which this legislation could rest. Rabbi Rose was quick to point out that Hapoel Hamizrachi had always followed the guidance of the Chief Rabbinate in Israel which agreed that all possible safeguards have been taken to assure the rights of religious women. "The Agudah, on the other hand," remarked Rabbi Rose, "is continually endeavoring to foist upon world Jewry its own private body of rabbis which has never been recognized as the highest authority by the *yishuv* or the Diaspora."

Rabbi Rose then went on to discuss Hapoel Hamizrachi's guiding principles and organization. He declared that the entire program of the organization is based on the concept of *Torah V'Avodah*. This concept, he explained, embraces not only Torah study but its application in every walk of life, including government, labor and personal conduct. Rabbi Rose averred that the Torah can be, and has been applied even in the army, air-force and diplomatic service, and that all military installations in Israel accord religious personnel the opportunity to observe all religious practices.

Continuing on the theme of *Torah V'Avodah*, Rabbi Rose said that it is vitally necessary for us to take Torah out of a "strait jacket" and not allow it to be limited to the *Shtibel* or *Bet Hamedrash*. Torah in order to be preserved, he asserted, does not have to be confined to the ghetto but must be reflected in every undertaking and activity in life.

Emphasizing the need for Torah in the lives of Jews everywhere, Rabbi Rose stated that "Judaism could not live without the Jews, nor the Jews without the Torah." The State of Israel, likewise, could not exist without Torah, he declared. In cognizance of this Hapoel Hamizrachi has pioneered in establishing *kibbutzim* and *moshavot* in Israel and has served as the protector of the religious element in Israeli labor. In the Knesset, Hapoel Hamizrachi is represented by eight of the fifteen religious representatives. The organization has also set up the only religious labor union in Israel. In

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Maybe I'm Wrong

By Fishel Pearlmutter

Editor's note: "Maybe I'm Wrong" is the traditional, and unfortunately too infrequently used, column open to any college student to express his views on any issue—views which may differ from those of the Governing Board of THE COMMENTATOR.

One of the most mysterious and yet most discussed problems in Yeshiva this year has been that of marks. To put it in different words, the grade distribution in our institution has been questioned frequently by both students and administration. It seems to me that there is much confusion on the subject, and much yet to be stated for each party to fully appreciate the problem in its many implications.

According to the College office, Yeshiva has an average of A's and B's well above the national one. Furthermore, we are told that unless the number of high marks declines, the College office believes that we stand in danger of losing our accreditation.

Exactly what the problem is basically has not been stated. We have been presented a superficial situation, that of high marks, without the causes underlying it. A solution to the alleged problem that has been tried in the past lies in issuing orders to the faculty to lower the number of high grades. This, to me, seems neither the real problem nor the real solution. I think it unfair to set a limit, actual or psychological, on the number of A's and B's an instructor is to issue, and fruitless to correct the alleged improper distribution of grades in this manner.

If it is true that the solution lies not in arbitrarily ordering a reduction of high grades but, as has also been suggested, in the demand for higher academic standards, which can be gained only by more stringent demands for work upon the students, then I believe that it might portend the end of Yeshiva University as we know it today. More stringent, or more demanding instruction would necessitate the curtailment of student activities and in many cases the abolition of entire fields of student endeavour. The Yeshiva man would be placed in the difficult position of attempting to simultaneously maintain an increasingly difficult college program, an intensive Yeshiva or Teachers Institute program and extra-curricular activities.

Yeshiva is founded on the belief that its students can handle the double program and be active contributors to their school at the same time. Under a more intensive program in the College, however, very few students, if any, will be able to continue their present extra-curricular activities, and the

morning studies of many will suffer.

One currently proposed solution is that of extending the length of the college career to five or six years rather than the present four. This answer does not meet the problem squarely and has many implications which are unpleasant. Such a plan would deter students from entering Yeshiva and would slow the progress of those who did enter in relation to their eventual choice of profession.

Another idea has been to decelerate the Yeshiva or T.I. program. To me this idea is untenable for it would imply that the religious studies are secondary. I cannot accept such a hypothesis at Yeshiva.

There is much evidence, in the records of our graduates who have continued their education in other schools, of the high standard of education at Yeshiva. There is little doubt that our graduates have accomplished the job of giving Yeshiva a fine name in graduate schools. Still there is also evidence that the grade distribution at Yeshiva is abnormal in comparison with other schools around the country. I submit that finding out why this is true, and what measures can be taken to protect both the student and the University, be made a top priority project.

This project should be undertaken by an investigating committee composed of men familiar with and trained in the field of Jewish education; men who have the capacity for sympathetic understanding of the stresses placed on the Yeshiva man. The committee must study Yeshiva's problem not from the viewpoint of the College alone, but rather on a University level. These men must face the issues squarely and must find a solution; one that will not tend to lessen the intensity of secular training, religious education or extra-curricular activities.

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of YESHIVA COLLEGE

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On the Sidelines

**Reflections On
the Pugilistic Art**

By Bernie Hoenig

The fight was over. The one time champion Randy Turpin lay sprawled out on the ropes, victim of a twenty-eight second K.O. in the first round. The Italian Mitri had thrown one punch and Turpin was sent down to the canvas to dream of his White Cliffs of Dover while the birdies were pleasantly chirping.

"I just couldn't see no one boxer out there," Randy later explained to his managers. "There were four blurred figures moving around. I couldn't see, I just couldn't see."

And that was it. The beginning of the end for another fighter who had taken one too many blows to the head, in this supposedly manly "sport of sports." While the various athletic organizations have compiled scientific rules for this game, the rules of the ring as practiced are still the same as when they were developed years ago in the unwritten constitution of the pugs. Rule 1) The object of our little game is to knock the other bum out—as "gently" as possible, of course. Rule 2) For best results, punch hard to the head so that you will loosen his brain and it will float around like a frog in a bottle of formaldehyde. Rule 3) Hit him in the stomach, chest and face, and spread his pretty nose all over his face to match the style of cauliflower ears. Rule 4) If you meet failure in this sport, you can always go to the Bowery to join the other punchy pugs.

All of which brings me to the announcement that Yeshiva University is going to form a Boxing Club next year. Now, of course, it should be understood that I have no intention of discouraging those "Hurricane Cohens" who intend to follow the pugilistic profession. It's only that I can't seem to see this type of "sport" in any college, Yeshiva or otherwise.

Most of the bouts in the big arenas remind me of a prize-fight I once saw in the Prospect Park Zoo. Two apes were tangling with each other and the humans outside of the cage were shouting for blood and "Moider the Bum." The regular bouts aren't any different. Two men fight inside a roped cage, while the "animals" outside cheer when one of the competitors is half dead or boo when the fighters just aren't dying quickly enough.

Back in Yeshiva, I must admit that the school spirit might be boosted with a boxing club or later, on an inter-collegiate team. After all, who wouldn't cheer at an old fashioned fist fight, especially if your best pal is winning and your worst enemy is getting all the *Gemorrhah* knocked out of his head.

Then again, we should look at this situation in a practical sort of way. Pity the poor professors when those bells start ringing during classes and the punchy boys suddenly come out of their corners to take on all comers. Chaos and confusion would reign supreme throughout the stately halls of Yeshiva U.

Perhaps the only result of this column will be the discovery of yours truly in the ring, taking on all opponents of his pugilist philosophy. Nevertheless, I cannot see boxing as a decent competitive sport, as a means of instilling in a student self-confidence or as a means of self-defense. When attacked in the alleys by a gang steeped in the art of street-fighting, your scientific boxing isn't worth a cent. On the other hand, with the knowledge of the gentle Japanese art of ju-jitsu, one is taught coordination and balance, and is most certainly given an extra dose of self confidence. That should be taught in Yeshiva and not dropped in the middle of the semester.

And so, we have a few things about which to think during the summer vacation. To box or not to box? Before making any decision, study your face in the mirror. Do you like your nose this way or that way? How do you like your eyes? Sunnyside up or evening black? Think these things over seriously. Then let me know your decision.

Tennis Team Best Yet, Says Coach

By Paul Rogoway

Despite a loss to Drew University last Wednesday, Yeshiva's tennis team has established itself as the best raquet squad in Yeshiva University's history, according to Coach Eli Epstein. The netmen defeated Iona College 5-4 and overwhelmed Pace College 8-1 before dropping the Drew match 6-3.

The big difference this year seems to be the reserve strength of the team. A total of eleven men participated in the first three matches. With one exception, the six singles spots have been filled by the same men each week, but Mr. Epstein has done a considerable amount of juggling with the doubles positions in search of combinations which will work well as teams. The squad won only four of

the nine doubles matches against Iona, Pace and Drew. During fall and winter practices, the netsters concentrated on singles competition and many of the men have not had too much doubles experience.

In the Iona match, Captain Dave Lifshutz, Bernie Freedman, Irv Aronson and Leon Esterowitz won their singles matches, while Lifshutz and Freedman combined to win a victory in doubles to clinch the match for Yeshiva. All of Yeshiva's wins were straight set victories.

Sweep Singles

The Y.U. raquetteers swept all six singles matches and took two of the doubles matches in trouncing Pace. Two of the singles victories went three sets and Pace's only win was an exciting, close contest that

also lasted three sets.

Powerful Drew University captured four singles matches and two doubles matches in handing Yeshiva its first loss of the season. Captain Lifshutz won one of his team's two singles victories and is undefeated at his number one position in the first three matches. Freshman Herbie Hoffman played in the number five singles position against Pace and Drew and thus far also possesses a clean slate in collegiate competition. Others who saw action in the three matches were Sam April, Gene Horn, Stan Rosenberg, Sigmond Sobel, Kurt Borenstein and Paul Rogoway.

A match against Queens College, scheduled for April 28, was postponed because of rain and will be played at a later date.

Sport Lite

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles on the personalities working behind the scenes for Yeshiva sports.

We take it for granted that a team should have a competent coach, that an athletic program should be run by a well-organized association and that fund raising should not be an athlete's dilemma. Yet Rabbi Abraham Avrech '40, chairman of Yeshiva's Athletic Association and associate director of Y.U.'s Community Service Division, can well remember when Yeshiva's teams adopted a "coach-a-week" plan. He can even remember when there was no Yeshiva Athletic Association and the players scheduled their own games. And how many times did Abraham Avrech and his team-mates dig up cash to pay their team's bills! There aren't many who can remember these phases of Yeshiva sports and even fewer who ever tried to do anything about them, as did Rabbi Avrech.

Although this series has been primarily devoted to the "student behind the scenes," Rabbi Avrech's work for Yeshiva athletics most certainly merits a place with those in the "Spotlight" of the University.

In 1933, Freshman Avrech began his long career by playing with the Talmudical Academy Baseball Team. As a youngster he played ball on a neighborhood club with his close friends, one of whom he particularly remembers. As it turned out Abe Avrech came to Yeshiva and his friend, Sid Gordon, went to the New York Giants. In his second year of high school, basketball moved in to share his athletic talents. The speedy, sharp-shooting hoopster was dubbed "Atom" Avrech, a title which he carried through his college days as one of the top ballplayers in Y.U. history.

Besides playing ball, the Rabbi served as College Athletic Manager in his undergraduate days. During this time, in 1937, a COMMENTATOR Sports Scribe actually predicted that Abraham Avrech would one day be the head of the Athletic Association. As Chairman of the A.A., Rabbi Avrech sought to lift the athletic standing of Yeshiva to a high level. Today, besides his chairmanship, Abraham Avrech has been using some of his "atomic" powers to really boost the Boosters Club by raising the very needed funds and by rounding up members, and more members.

Catalog Joke Not So Funny; Students Splash to Diploma

By Aaron Frieman

Thumbing through the famous blue and white college catalog—not to be confused with that of Sears, Roebuck and Co.—I came across the sentence, "Beginners swimming test required prior to graduation." I immediately told Professor Hurwitz that I approved the placing of this bit of humor in the catalog. He, in turn, laughed loudly explaining to me that it would be even funnier if they would have to hold up my diploma, since in June 1955 this would be no joke. "No swimmer, no leavee Y.C.," as the Chinese sage has said.

Now of course, this presented a problem. What would happen if I couldn't swim by graduation time? Don't laugh. These things do happen, you know. Not taking any chances, I decided to see the great opportunities offered me at the George Washington High School pool, where swimming instruction is given.

At the pool I was immediately confronted with more than a score of singing and splashing Yeshiva students in the showers. I tried to escape, but student director, Gerald Nissenbaum '54, kindly permitted me to join the "merry shower boys" and together with them I reported to the pool for inspection, conducted by the inimitable "Doc" Brown. Fail that inspection and you're sent back to the showers for that ghastly thing called "the brush."

Freezing Water

Following inspection, I reported to the three "commandants," Joel Balsam '54, Chet Berschling '55, and Morty Kwesiel '56, who promptly urged me into what they termed the "pleasantly warm springs," but what I call three feet of freezing ice water. In due time, they guaranteed, I would learn the various strokes — which sounded like a United Nations treaty—Australian crawl, American side-

stroke, Canadian kick and that foreign jack-knife dive that some show-off was doing on the other side of the pool.

Well, believe it or not, before long I was doing some sort of a swim. "Hey ma, look no hands!" Anyway, those three guys were good life-savers.

But as far as the swimming course is concerned, it's really quite good. The course is run completely by undergraduate students of Yeshiva University, all holding Red Cross Instructors' certificates. So if there are any students who, at present, cannot swim, remember that in Yeshiva you are given a guarantee that you will learn swimming. If the regular methods of instruction fail, I hear they have a sure automatic cure. You're placed in one end of the pool and at the other end one of the instructors holds your cap, gown and diploma two inches over the water, ready to let go. If you don't swim then, you never will.

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Hapoel

(Continued from page 2)

fact, stated Rabbi Rose, the organization has become "part and parcel of Israel in every respect."

Rabbi Rose then touched on Hapoel Hamizrachi's work in America, declaring that its program here is designed to make American Jews more conscious of Judaism and of themselves as Jews. Naturally the organization's main efforts consist of intensive educational projects. He feels, however, that orthodox Judaism is at present in an anarchistic state and is in great need of a central authoritative religious body. He said that "there is far too much scorn directed at Orthodoxy because of its decentralized and haphazard status."

At the conclusion of our discussion, Rabbi Rose referred to Yeshiva University which he feels has already made its imprint upon the American Jewish community despite the fact that, thus far, it stands merely on the threshold of its work to establish a truly Jewish community. Rabbi Rose, who is an alumnus of Yeshiva College as well

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Congrats

THE COMMENTATOR extends its heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Ida Dobkin, tutor in Chemistry, upon the birth of a son and to Mr. Herman Wouk, visiting professor of English, on the birth of a son.

THE COMMENTATOR also congratulates Marvin Pachino '55, upon his engagement to Miss Judy Danoff and Calvin Soled '51, upon his engagement to Miss Tziporah Rapaport.

as of R.I.E.T.S. voiced his hopes that the Yeshiva's increased emphasis upon the training of lay leadership will not detract from its efforts to produce a capable rabbinat, for "while a cognizant lay leadership is necessary, an effectual rabbinat is certainly crucial for the growth of Judaism."

Club Notes

French Club

The fifteenth anniversary of the founding of "Le-Cercle Francais," the Yeshiva University French Club, was celebrated Monday, May 3. Joe Levine '55, presented a program of French songs and was accompanied on the violin by Ori Schonthal '54.

Also featured on the program was the showing of "La Grande Illusion," a full length French Film Classic, and an address by Dr. Sidney Braun, professor of French.

I.R.S.

The Yeshiva University International Relations Society was represented by a delegation of five students at the annual conference of the National Association of International Relations Clubs held April 19-24 at Hunter College. The main topic, "Why the United Nations?" was subdivided into four panels.

Neil Hecht '54, president of the Society, and Jack Heller '56, secretary-treasurer, attended the panel

"Nationalism and Self-Determination"; Vice-President Sheldon Rudoff '54, was present at the "Collective Security and Pacific Settlement" group; Eli Lauer '55, participated in "The U.N. and the Sovereign State" discussion and Emanuel Federbush '56, was representative to the panel "Development of Undeveloped Areas."

Dr. Aaron Margalith, faculty advisor to the Society, was chairman of this last group and introduced the Pakistane Ambassador to the U.S., the Honorable Amjad Mohammed Ali.

Sociology Society

Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky '32, director of Torah Umesorah, spoke before the Sociological Society Thursday, April 8, on the growth of yeshivot ketanot outside the City of New York. Dr. Kaminetsky emphasized "the great contribution of the Orthodox Hebrew Day School in bringing Judaism back into non-orthodox homes and in raising the standards of Jewish education throughout the country."

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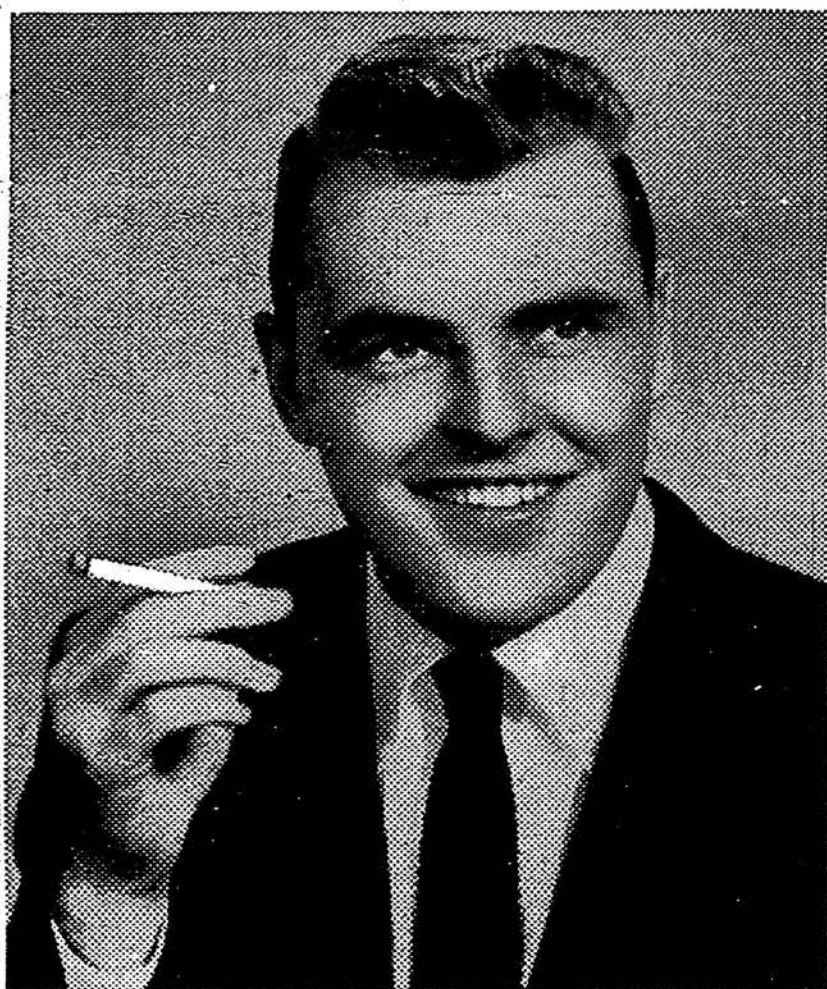
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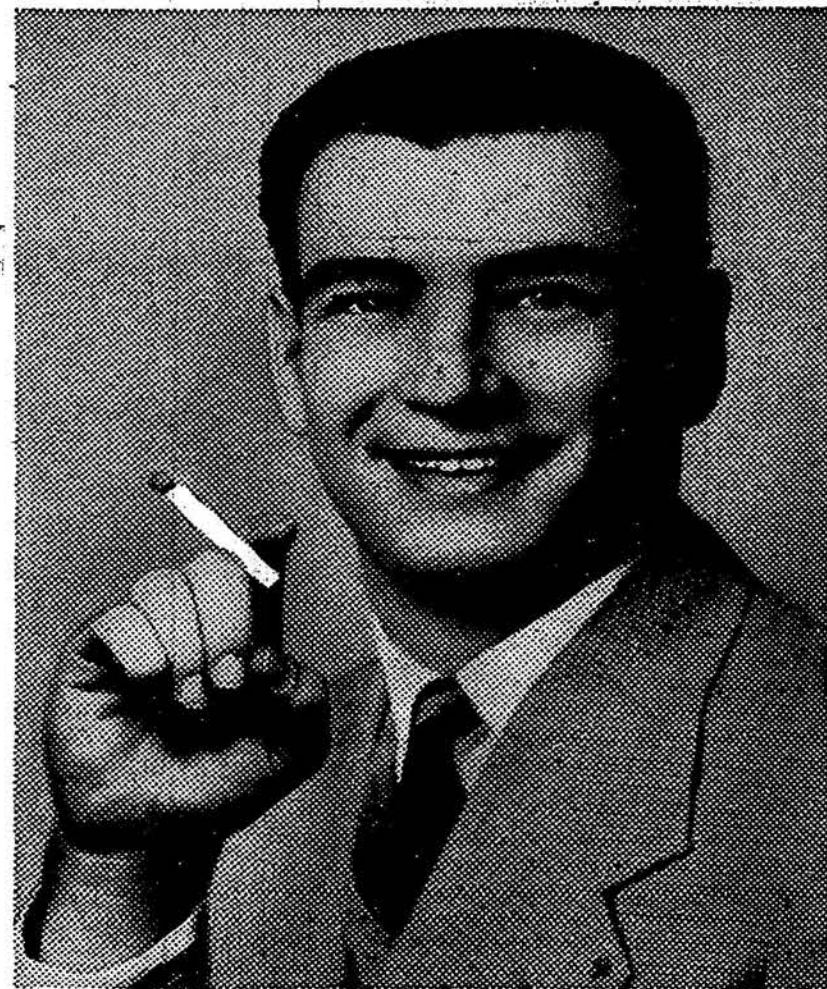
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