

University to Build New Million Dollar Dorm

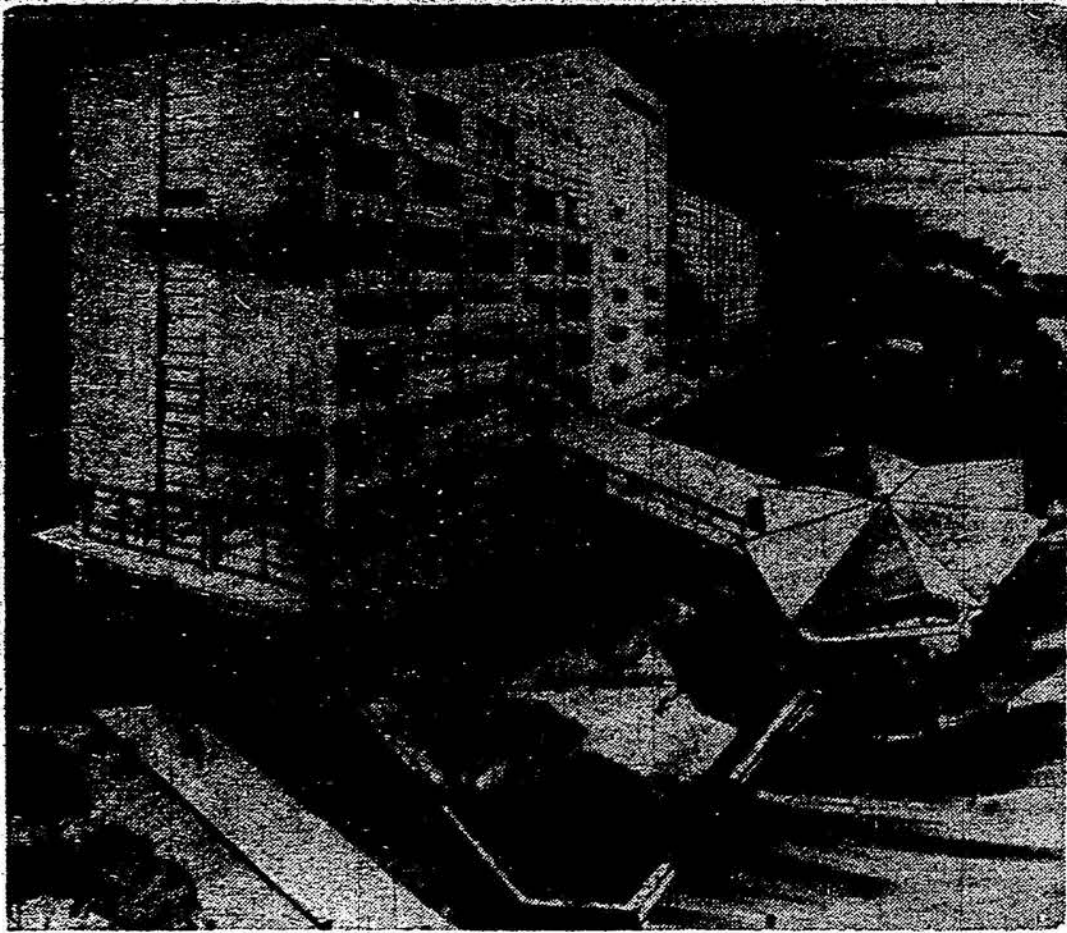
The Commentator

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PLANNED PARADISE: Shown above is an artist's conception of Yeshiva's new million dollar dormitory.

Federal Loan Finances Project; Building to House 288 Students

Yeshiva will soon build a new, six-story, 288-bed dormitory at Amsterdam Avenue and 186th Street, announced Dr. Samuel Belkin, president. Plans call for construction to begin this spring with the building to be ready for occupancy by September, 1956. The project is financed by a \$1,225,000 loan from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency.

"Erection of the new dormitory will alleviate crowded conditions in our existing facilities and provide on-campus housing for students now living off-campus," Dr. Belkin said.

Features Cited

The building, modern in design, will include an elevator, a study hall, lounges, faculty supervisor suite, a custodian's apartment and an outdoor dining terrace which can be converted into a *succa*. Plans also call for the construction of a synagogue adjacent to the building after its completion and allow for the addition of a seventh floor at a future date.

There will be two students to a room—no double deckers will be used—and each room can be subdivided into two private rooms, resulting in maximum flexibility in the type of accommodations.

Other Features

Other features include a prefabricated unit to provide organized storage for clothing, books and other personal items, foam rubber mattresses with built-in bedding and storage space for clothing under the bed. Lavatories and showers will be grouped on each floor and every room will be equipped with a stainless steel wash basin.

The main floor will consist of two faculty supervisor suites, a study hall and a lounge. Movable bookcases separate the lounge from the study hall thus allowing for enlargement of the lounge for debates and forums.

Brick Building

Out-of-town students, who remain at school weekends, will be housed on the lower floor, so that they will not have to climb the stairways on the Sabbath.

As yet, no definite decision has been reached concerning future use of the present main

dormitory but it expected that most of the rooms will be converted into offices, meeting rooms and classrooms.

Mr. Joseph Blumenkranz of Architecture Associated of New York designed the building.

Dim Prospect For Heaven Says Dean at Reception

By George Siegel

Some deans go to heaven, others got not to heaven; the dichotomy is purely academic. So said Dean Guterman at this year's edition of Yeshiva College's annual Dean's Reception. After admitting quite frankly his own standing as an "academic" dean, Dr. Guterman took his seat, and before him and some three hundred other faculty members, students, friends and whatnot who were gathered at the Charles Evans Hughes High School auditorium, there unfolded a panorama of Yeshiva talent.

It is a known fact that Yeshiva talent manifests itself in surprising ways. The first such surprise of the evening was the booming baritone voice that issued from soft-spoken Josh Miller '57. Master of Ceremonies Eugene Horn '55, and comedian Mannie Gold '55, provided the evening's second surprise in the realization that the show was apparently going to be good. A note of spontaneity was affected by the college chorus—even though it was at the expense of precision—after director Karl Adler finally gave up on the audience and let the chorus do the singing.

Proper Atmosphere

However, the entire array of talent, including magician Morris Stillman '56, violinist Ron Roth-

Dr. Belkin Talks On Integration in American Jewry

"When theory replaces action and philosophy replaces deeds, the distinctiveness and meaning of Judaism are lost, and when Jews emphasize theology and put halacha in the background we are in danger of disintegration," asserted Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University. Dr. Belkin spoke before the student body Thursday, January 6, in Riets Hall, under the co-sponsorship of the Student Organization of Yeshiva and Student Council.

Speaking on "Integration and Separation in American Jewry," Dr. Belkin declared that "Judaism can survive only with strict adherence to *mitzvot maa'ssiot*." In order to accomplish this we must "transplant Judaism rather than translate it," he said.

Contrasts Jewish Periods

Dr. Belkin contrasted the Hellenistic Jewish community of Alexandria and the Jewish community of the Middle Ages.

The writings of Jewish scholars in the Hellenistic Period

(Continued on page 6)

man '57, and Joe Levine '55, who sang a beautiful close to the presentation, proved one thing conclusively—put a Yeshiva man on the stage before an audience in the proper atmosphere of an auditorium, tell him to perform—and he becomes almost unidentifiable.

While Yeshiva's famous "lack of time" prevented a more creative tone in the show, the atmosphere struck a mean between extreme formality and informality. Naturally, the consumption of food at the buffet tables after the performance was greatly hindered because only one hand could be used—the other one being forced to carry a hat and coat for which no checking space had been provided.

Without a doubt, the most amusing sidelight to the affair (but, admittedly, not the most creative) was the spectacle of four professors industriously engaged in finding the speediest method to unwind a roll of toilet tissue. Professors Fleisher, Silverman and Pleskin and Mr. Vogel participated in the competition. Mr. Vogel looked at his roll with an expression that seemed to say, "Red tape—toilet tissue, what's the difference?" and began methodically to unwind the paper. Experience, paid off, and Mr. Vogel, assistant registrar of Y. C., won top honors.

Rep. Celler Speaks Tonight; Eban to Talk Next Tuesday

Emanuel Celler, Congressional representative from the eleventh election district in Brooklyn, will speak at 8 p.m. tonight in Riets Hall, sponsored by the International Relations Society, and Abba Eban, Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli U.N. delegation, will speak Tuesday evening, January 18, in Riets



Abba Eban



Emanuel Celler

Dormitory Council Ceases Existence; New Vote Tonight

Elections for a new dormitory council will be held tonight, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the present council. The resolution, passed at a meeting held Tuesday, January 4, calls for the "dissolution of this council upon election of a new council."

The present council, which will cease to exist after the election results have been determined, further resolved that "all regulations adopted by this council shall remain in effect until revoked by the new council," and that the five-point plan for *minyán* attendance shall go into effect February 2.

Legality Questioned

The dorm council, which came into being November 10 as a part of the administration's overall religious guidance program, voted to dissolve itself after the legality of its existence was questioned.

THE COMMENTATOR first raised this issue in an editorial, December 30, on the grounds that the "Council members were not elected according to established democratic procedure" and that the Council gave voting privileges to the seven dormitory counselors who "have in no way been delegated by the students to voice their opinion."

Closed Ballot

In tonight's elections, four representatives from each floor will be chosen by closed ballot. A referendum on the question of allowing counselors voting privileges on the new council will be affixed to the ballot. Nominations (Continued on page 6)

Hall, co-sponsored by the Israeli Institute of Yeshiva University and I.R.S., announced Jacob Heller '56, president of I.R.S. "The Refugee Problem in Europe and North Africa," will be the topic of Representative Celler's talk while Ambassador Eban will speak on "Jewish History: The Toynbee Heresy."

Mr. Celler who has been in Congress for thirty-two consecutive years, has just returned from a tour of Europe and North Africa where he studied the refugee problem. While in Congress he sponsored the Displaced Persons Bill and visited Israel in 1948 and 1951.

Eban vs. Toynbee

In his lecture, Mr. Eban will refute the statements made by historian Arnold J. Toynbee. Professor Toynbee recently completed a ten-volume history of the world, in which he stated that Judaism performed its function when it gave Jesus of Nazareth to the world and its usefulness has since ceased. There is therefore no longer any need for the Jewish State or Religion, he declared.

Abba Eban represented Israel at the United Nations when negotiations for the partition of Palestine were in progress. Upon Israel's admission to the U.N., May 11, 1949, he became Israel's permanent representative to the U.N. When Ambassador Elath, first Israeli ambassador to the U.S. was transferred to London, Mr. Eban was appointed to succeed him.

Condolence

THE COMMENTATOR extends its sincerest condolences to the family of William Markowitz, former student at Yeshiva, upon his death. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of
YESHIVA COLLEGE

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Routine Boredom Broken By Jaunt To Highbrow Film

"Commie" mail is usually routinely dull. No one takes time out to write blistering "letters to the editor" anymore, so the daily post brings bills, very dull news releases, requests for free plugs and checks for advertisements—slightly more interesting. Recently, however, a letter from the Italian Film Export Releasing Corporation provided for a pleasant change in the usual fare.

The letter was a complimentary invitation to a showing of the first opera film in color, Sol Hurok's AIDA. Being accustomed to a strict diet of free Empress passes, this, though slightly highbrow, was certainly a change for the better. We grabbed our best slouch hat, stuck in a press pass and rushed down to the Little Carnegie Theatre at 57th Street where the film is playing.

Huddled in the shadows of gigantic Carnegie Hall, the Little Carnegie is reminiscent of so many of the midtown art theaters with its modern decor and furnishings. Upon arrival we were politely ushered into an adjustable plush chair—the Empress was never like this—furnished with a libretto—also free of charge—and sat back to take in Verdi's classic work.

After numerous vain attempts to read our libretto under the light of a nearby exit sign, we heard the reassuring English-speaking voice of the narrator who made a vocal appearance before each scene explaining the events to come. Between narrations, we found ourselves absorbed in the performance itself.

The lead parts are played by actors and not singers; the voices are dubbed in. However, we were so enthralled by the spectacular color and the stirring appearance of the principals that it was some time before we got around to noticing the music.

We became quite suspicious of Verdi as some of the score seemed vaguely familiar, very much like a piece from the "Kedusha" we had heard from a local cantor a few weeks back. Any suspicions as to Verdi's integrity were completely confirmed when we heard what was introduced as the "Triumphal March." Why, the music was plagiarized directly from the graduation march of our high school days.

The remainder of the music and story seemed quite original, however, and we sat contentedly through until the end of the performance.

AIDA, it turned out, is the story of a captured Ethiopian princess, serving as a slave in an Egyptian court, who is torn between her love for an Egyptian general and her love for her country. She betrays the general but apparently makes up for it by dying with him in an underground crypt.

We were invited to stay and participate in an interview with the world-famous impresario and producer of the film, Sol Hurok, but we had to turn down the invitation to rush back uptown to make an important Fine Arts class.

An opinion? Well, Crowther of the TIMES calls it "a major achievement." Who are we to argue?

The Editors

Wit's End

By Nat Geller

During the early portion of this semester, while in the throes of some charitable influence, many students were induced to donate "used" term papers to fellow students at other colleges. Now it seems these papers are just what the professor wants, and the boys are having a rough time getting them back.

Everything would have been quite simple had the Yeshiva men given their theses directly to the persons who had need of them. Instead, the papers were usually delivered through an intermediary, and the author, in many instances, had no idea as to the identity of the recipient of his masterpiece.

Letter Suggested

To accommodate these individuals whose academic fate hinges upon the return of several type-written pages, we suggest the following form letter, guaranteed to get results.

My dear Miss Coed,

The greatest thrill a girl can get is that of receiving a letter from an unknown admirer. In that fashion, you have never seen me, nor I you. Nevertheless, you are the possessor of such admirable qualities that I am forced to give way to my boorish instincts, and without benefit of formal introduction, send you this letter.

My name should be familiar to you even though I am sure that after receiving my term paper you promptly forgot your benefactor. To dispel uncertainty, I should like to present you with the following facts.

a) A Mr. of Yeshiva U. is a common acquaintance of ours.

b) Mr. asked me for a term paper on some highly technical topic. He said that you were trying to confuse your professor.

c) The paper was entitled, The Semicolon in 17th Century Literature.

d) You are at present the holder of said paper, and I am its author.

Obviously, the work (pardon my vanity) meets with your approval. The very fact that you have kept it more than four months is evidence of that fact.

This brings me to those "admirable qualities" that I mentioned before. I am forced to admire any individual who believes in the Machiavellian adage, "I for me, all for me." The benefits derived from such an axiom are too numerous to mention. But the fact remains that I am in need of that magnus opus (my vanity, again) and I am come a'begging after my own property. Besides, it should give you pleasure to know that you have shattered my belief in humanity, a credo not too firm to begin with.

To expedite matters and assist you financially, I enclose two three-cent stamps, money being no object. But, before I end, I should like to say that I am indeed flattered by your interest in my writing. Several of my more recent works are at present roaming about Brooklyn College. I suggest that you get hold of them; they make good reading.

Awaiting your reply, (and also The Semicolon in 17th Century Literature)

Name.....

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

In the article published about me, some of my answers to the questions put to me were abridged. I should like to clear up one specific item.

I feel that Rabbi Soloveichik, who is known as the "proponent of logical halacha," came out strongly on the matter of *mechitza* which is not specifically mentioned in the laws of the synagogue in the *Shulchan Aruch*. I stated that this matter, however, is an important section of the unwritten *Fifth Shulchan Aruch* and thus becomes basic also to the other four.

Being a great scholar, Rabbi Soloveichik finds the matter of *mechitza* basic to the written *Shulchan Aruch* and even to the Torah itself. His stand is certainly justified and correct and, as always, true halacha.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) Rabbi Jeruchem Gorelik

To the editor:

It is more than a decade since I was privileged to receive my *Smicha* and my College degree from Yeshiva. Yet, over this

span of years, I have not been able to shake off the spiritual loneliness which has gripped me as an alumnus.

I yearn to regain the old atmosphere—and now I have come to the realization that it can only come back to me if I will maintain some contact with Yeshiva men within the Yeshiva student framework.

The thought has occurred to me that Yeshiva students have much to gain from some formal contact with alumni. I am convinced that many problems that face Yeshiva students, in terms of personal synthesis and other dilemmas that appear on your editorial page, from time to time, may be solved more easily by regular contact with those who have successfully experienced these problems.

May I suggest that administration, alumni and student representatives join together to implement this idea in some immediate practical project. The writer will be glad to participate in this program.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) Rabbi O. A. Reichel '42

Dr. Belkin's Lecture

Once again the student body has had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Belkin speak. It is unfortunate, however, that his many responsibilities prevent him from appearing more often.

We sincerely hope that Dr. Belkin will be able to make his lectures a permanent feature in Yeshiva's academic calendar.

A Word to the Wise

At the beginning of this semester we commended Mr. Simon Weber, proprietor of the College Cafeteria, on his initial showing. We noted, however, that there were still improvements to be made and urged Mr. Weber to cooperate with the Student Council Food Committee.

Since then, not only have no improvements been instituted, but the quality of the service has steadily deteriorated and numerous complaints have been brought to the attention of the Food Committee.

May we remind Mr. Weber that it is to his own interest that he maintain the standards his customers demand.

Vote "No"

The decision of the dormitory council to hold new elections for a legally constituted body was wise.

Included in tonight's elections is a referendum on the question of whether or not counselors should serve on the new body as voting members. We feel that students should vote "No" on this issue for it is our opinion that a purely student-representative body is necessary for the council's proper functioning.

The Class of '57

The Class of '57 evidences a wholesome expression of school spirit that merits attention, respect and commendation. In its freshman year, members of this class voluntarily rearranged 15,000 volumes in the Pollack Library. It organized a class council, had many members active in all phases of school affairs and ran a social function, the Freshman Frolic. This year they continued the achievements of the past with the Shophomore Shindig and attracted attention by the large number of responsible positions they hold.

Why haven't other classes done the same? Certainly the Class of '57 faces the problems of time, programs and other difficulties that we all do. Yet they exhibit school pride and are active. THE COMMENTATOR congratulates them and urges other classes to take note and follow this excellent pattern.

Spotlight On Former Commentator Editors

Growth of Y. U. Elicits Comment From Former Journal Publicists

By Nat Geller

Most people are aware of the present, forget the past and know absolutely nothing about the future. A freshman entering Yeshiva today is well acquainted with the fact that Y.U. possesses a graduate division, a college for women and a medical school. He knows this is so, for he sees the various buildings that house these institutions and by touching their brick walls acknowledges the palpable present. Concerning the future, no one but a deity may comprehend its mysteries.

On the other hand, the past is too easily forgotten and like some voluminous work of antiquity is left on the library shelf to gather dust. In many instances, however, the past is often required to clarify our present state and to reflect upon its development. For this purpose the historian is brought into play and chronicles of the past written.

Yeshiva also, at one time or another finds it desirable to consult the past and in so doing can

reflect upon its steady growth, expansion and development, both physically and idealistically. Although no history of our institution is yet available, THE COMMENTATOR files, or better yet, the past editors of THE COMMENTATOR may be used as sources. For they, above all, can best evaluate the Yeshiva University of the present in the light of the past.

Differing Views

As may be expected, the former COMMENTATOR editors have each viewed our present condition through different colored glasses. They do, however, find agreement on one premise; that Yeshiva has come a long way since the first ivy vine was planted. One ex-editor sagely states, "Mine were the horse and buggy days. Today, Yeshiva has branched out into many new and promising areas." "Besides," continues Rabbi H. Chanover, "there seems to be a better public relations setup."

Actually, it is the rapid expansion of Yeshiva, its dynamic development over the past dec-

ade, that has prompted much comment.

"In line with the great growth of Yeshiva College," writes Rabbi F. Karasick, "I feel that there is less emphasis on those principles upon which it was originally founded; namely, there appears to be more emphasis upon secular activities and less worry about the religious development of the student."

Similarly, Rabbi J. Miller seems to think that Yeshiva has outgrown its adolescence and is becoming "a big and complex enterprise," and the rabbi has his apprehensions about "spreading out too thin."

Rabbi Morris A. Landes, in concurring with this opinion, states that the strides which Y.U. has taken toward development may make for "preoccupation with bigness for bigness' sake and eclipse the main purpose of Yeshiva."

These negative opinions do not stand unopposed among the ex-publicists of COMMENTATOR. Some are firmly in favor of the development that has come to pass since their undergraduate days at Yeshiva. "Am extremely happy to see Yeshiva grow" is a sentiment echoed by a great number of those individuals who spent many a sleepless night in the COMMENTATOR office.

Favor Growth

These men do not believe that the growth of Yeshiva will harm the founding principles of this institution. On the contrary, Dr. A. Leo Levin, professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, remarks that the development of the College is "most

(Continued on page 4)

Commie's Former Chiefs Apply Crafts Gained Here

By Larry Kirshner

What has happened to former COMMENTATOR editors and their staff members since they left those three tile-floor rooms in the lower depths of Yeshiva? We recently found out some of the answers to this question when the aforementioned men mailed us their replies to our query.

Moses I. Feuerstein, first editor of THE COMMENTATOR, was recently elected president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. An active member of the Young Israel of Brookline, Massachusetts,

editor during the same year, was also at one time a member of Horizon's editorial board. Rabbi Landes has served on the National Administrative Council of the American Jewish Congress and is now the spiritual leader of the Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Pittsburgh where, he informs us, he is putting his journalistic experience to good use these days by publishing his synagogue bulletins.

Horizon Again

A. Leo Levin, editor during the '38-'39 year, is now professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, Vice-chairman of the Allied Service Council and chairman of its Standing Committee on Jewish Education. Professor Levin is another graduate into the big leagues of Horizon.

One of "Commie's" former editors broke this pattern set by his predecessors and graduated instead into the editorship of Yeshiva's *Alumni News and Views*, serving at that post during 1948 and '49. Rabbi Joseph Karasick '43, was the leader of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal until 1947 and is now president of the *Bar Ilan* chapter of Mizrahi and a member of its *National Vaad Hapoel*.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, editor during '46-'47, served as an army chaplain at Fort Meade and in Heidelberg, Germany. Upon his recent return from the army, he took the position of rabbi of the Kissena Park Jewish Center. Rabbi Bernstein, who returned to the "tradition" of joining Horizon's editorial board, is very proud of his "Commie" experience and states that it was "extremely valuable in making contacts with broad streams of Jewish life and taught me a skill and knowledge of a technical subject practically unknown in Orthodox circles."



Moses I. Feuerstein

he formerly served on the Board of Governors of the Young Israel Jewish Institute for Adult Studies and was vice president of the Hapoel Hamizrachi.

Horizon Farm System

After leaving Yeshiva, Rabbi Arnold J. Miller, editor of the '38-'39 paper, took his M.A. from Brown University, LL.B. from Harvard and Pvt. from the U.S.A. He has since been a practicing attorney in Worcester, Massachusetts. Rabbi Miller was once a member of the editorial board of *The Jewish Horizon*.

It seems that "Commie" has been functioning as a farm system for *The Jewish Horizon*, for Rabbi Morris Landes, news

Rabbi L. Bernstein States Chaplaincy Program Need

Editors' note—Rabbi Louis Bernstein was editor-in-chief of THE COMMENTATOR during the academic year '46-'47. He has recently returned from Germany where he served as chaplain in the armed forces of the United States and now holds the position of spiritual leader of the Kissena Park Jewish Center. Rabbi Bernstein also teaches at Yeshiva's Central High School for Girls and the Teachers Institute. We asked Rabbi Bernstein to discuss the preparation for the chaplaincy he received at Yeshiva.

By Rabbi Louis Bernstein

It has always been a pleasure to write for THE COMMENTATOR (although consequences were occasionally unpleasant) and this occasion is no exception.

Certainly every aspect of the formal education I received at Yeshiva (including extra-curricular activities) were of value in my preparation for the chaplaincy and the general rabbinate. Nonetheless, something was lacking during my years, and is perhaps still lacking today, in the Yeshiva program, to make us aware of the practical problems of the chaplaincy; little, if anything, was done to make us aware of the current problems of Judaism.

Problems Described

Such issues as mixed pews or mixed choirs were heartily condemned by our rabbis during our student years. Yet, the young chaplain may follow a Reform or Conservative rabbi on an army installation and find himself in a delicate situation requiring tact

accumulated only from experience or previous instruction.

The Orthodox chaplain can not afford to make concessions if he wishes to retain the respect of his men. Fortunately, Yeshiva life, lacking any definite pattern or direction, bred in us an instinctive drive for self-preservation



Rabbi Louis Bernstein

allowing us to emerge unscathed after some initial floundering.

Training Academic

Even our actual halachic training was essentially academic in nature and shied away from practical issues. A wide gulf separates the theory of the *Bet Hamedrash* from the reality of a military installation.

Most Orthodox chaplains agree that a few sessions in basic halachic problems would have aided them greatly. An introduction to *Even HaEzer* might also be wise because Jewish chaplains must deal more regularly with marital problems than with questions of kosher meat.

Deadlines Have Had Their Humorous Moments Too

By Allan J. Scher

Nocturnal life at Yeshiva, for the initiated few who are COMMENTATOR staff members, is not solely one of study and preparation for exams. There are bright spots in the gloom—occasional moments of mirth and merry-making called deadline nights.

At the time of its inception, COMMENTATOR appeared as a weekly and so exhausted the founding fathers that the only clear impression A. Leo Levin '39, third "Commie" editor, carried away with him was "the regular recurrence of one night a week without ever getting to bed."

COMMENTATOR has never had smooth sailing for too long, and every now and then an item appears in its columns which attracts objections from various quarters. One such article offended officials of a certain religious organization and they protested to the administration—with the result that the editors were requested to submit the paper to "not censorship, but

just to look it over by Yeshiva people with a Yeshiva outlook." Luckily, the editors were able to talk their way out of this requested "improvement."

Purim issues make for pleasant reading, but an enormous amount of work goes into the making of those colored pages of print. Although work commences on these issues months in advance, "Commie" editors have been hard pressed to present an issue to delight the students and deride the administration. One such issue went so far as being set up at the printer minus the main story, for lack of one.

The editor, thumbing idly through some of the printer's picture files, noticed a print of a lonely little building in the middle of a field. Inspired, he proceeded to dash off a story on the expansion of Yeshiva University and presented this picture, as a view of the first completed building. He later learned that the edifice was in all probability an outhouse.

In 1943 a special issue of

COMMENTATOR was published dedicated to the Jews of Europe who were being exterminated by the Nazis. The first page consisted of a drawing of a grasping hand sinking into murky waters and the quote from *Psalms* "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord." Upon seeing that page, Dr. Isaacs, who was then dean, and with whom COMMENTATOR had several differences of opinion, exclaimed, "What have I done now?"

About five years ago, on a deadline night, the news editor walked into THE COMMENTATOR office at 2 a.m., with a *gemorrah* under his arm and explained that he had been learning in the *Bet Hamedrash*. This remark so shocked a staff member (obviously from T.I.) that he lost control of himself. In a futile imitation of the flight of a bird, he launched himself from the highest filing cabinet, spraining his ankle. This doesn't happen anymore—"Commie" is now run by R.I.E.T.S. boys.

Music and Drama, Beer and Soda Hold Spotlight At "Shoph" Shindig

By Josef E. Fischer

The Council of the Class of '57 held its second stag affair, in Riets Hall, Tuesday, December 28. The old standby, food, was featured, and it was so plentiful that enterprising "Shophs" were selling beer and franks long after the affair had dissipated into isolated hiccups.

Those "Shophs" that attended the stag were entertained exquisitely. A very well-planned program was climaxed by the presentation of a play, entitled "The Tragical History of John Fasthorse, Y.U.," written especially for the occasion by Nat Lewin '57. The play is a take-off on "The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus," by Christopher Marlowe.

Major Dilemma

Written in rhyme, the play concerns a young man who is in doubt as to which major to choose. He is about to decide, when a devil, with mannerisms strongly reminiscent of those of a member of the administration, enters the scene. The devil promises John Fasthorse straight A's in Chemistry if he will sell his soul to the administration. The student agrees and leads a life of leisure. True to the original, at the end he repents having made the agreement, but to no avail.

Also featured in the program were several acts of entertainment. A quartet, consisting of Marvin and Barton Weitz '57 and '58, respectively, Louis Wohl '57, and Josh Miller '57, playing piano, trumpet, drum and clarinet, respectively, started off the proceedings. Josh Miller then gave a fine rendition of "Old Man River" in a bass voice that rocked Riets Hall.

"Shophs" Shuffle

At eight o'clock a group of "Shophomores" shuffled in, surveyed the surroundings and sauntered out, some never to return. Those that did, took their seats quietly and awaited the advent of more "Shophs."

While the entertainment was going on downstairs, a group of "Shophs" were busily swearing at a pot of water which had been put up to boil at five p.m.

The water refused to boil; nevertheless, the first batch of franks, although only lukewarm, caused a spontaneous intermission anyway.

After the play was presented, the water in the cooking room surprised everyone and boiled, and more franks brought an end to the program.

Rabbi S.Z. Siegel Delivers Message To U. S. Senate

Rabbi Stanley Zalman Siegel '52, delivered the invocation before the United States Senate, Tuesday, November 30. In his statement, Rabbi Siegel called upon the Senate to possess "a sense of justice greater than a sense of fear."

Rabbi Siegel was ordained by Yeshiva's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary three weeks prior to his appearance before the Senate. While a student at the College he was president of the International Relations Society and a member of the Yeshiva University Debating Society.

Book Review

By Bialik Lerner

The Pedlocks, by Stephen Longstreet, New York, Simon and Schuster, 433 pp., \$3.50.

One recent description of Jewish family life in the New World which received wider circulation than usually accorded books on this topic, due in part to its reprint in the popular pocket edition, is Stephen Longstreet's treatment of the chronicles of an American Jewish family over the past eighty years in *The Pedlocks*.

Longstreet has done a fine job of depicting Jewish life in the new country as inextricably bound to the military, financial, social and cultural progress of America. In addition, the narrative is permeated throughout with a free usage of Yiddish and Hebrew phrases, the gastronomic delights of the Jewish kitchen and detailed descriptions of the Jewish holidays and customs. The author digresses frequently to tell us of the Yiddish theater and the Zionist movement among upper-class Jews, (even going so far as to fit Theodore Herzl and Israel Zangwill into his conglomerate work).

From a superficial standpoint one might conjecture that *The Pedlocks* is an American-Jewish novel *par excellence*, but this is a false impression for, as the years pass, its Jews become progressively less and less Jewish (with the exception of the Sontag family, descendants of a Reform rabbi, who return to Judaism). The reader is confused as to the author's purpose in whisking him through eight decades of Pedlock annals and is utterly perplexed as to Longstreet's conception of Jewish life in America and its future possibilities.

His portrayal of the assimilation

of German Jews is calculating and exact which leads one to believe that the author projects his own story and personality into Peter Manderson Perry, who appears as a natural product of the Pedlocks in an American environment. And so it is that Ralph Pedlock, Peter's father, changes his name to Perry and enjoys such indulgences as Virginia ham and fox hunting on Long Island. The Pedlocks recognize the danger of assimilation yet do nothing to prevent it. Selma, one of the warmest and most sympathetic characters of the novel, declares, "We Pedlocks are Jews but we don't carry it around with us... We blend without making too much effort..."

Yet Ralph, who tries to escape, and Peter, whom we see groping and looking for a way to lead his own life devoid of any ancestral bonds, experience great difficulty in completely avoiding their Jewish background. Manderson Perry heaves a sigh of relief at the sale of the family portraits, feeling that he has finally severed all connections with the Pedlocks.

Is Judaism in America on the brink of disaster through complete assimilation? Author Longstreet seems to answer this question in the affirmative. Still, one gets the feeling that he is afraid to make this prediction stick. The contradiction inherent in the Perrys and the Sontags is quite difficult to comprehend.

Longstreet's narrative consists of heterogeneous short episodes and flashbacks which are at times ambiguous. The spicy bedroom scenes and illicit adventures of his characters are a mediocre attempt at realism and clearly indicate the influence of Hollywood on our author.

Council's Funds Insufficient States Finance Committee

"Fees afforded the Yeshiva College Student Council are insufficient," concluded the Student Council Committee on Finance and Appropriations in a report submitted to Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of the University.

"The University registration fee has risen concomitantly with the cost of living, while the fee received by the Council has remained the same. The percentage of the registration fee received by the Council has been halved," revealed the Committee.

Standard Oil Grants \$3,500 to Yeshiva For Academic Work

Yeshiva University was among 138 privately supported colleges and universities to receive unrestricted grants from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey to be used for undergraduate study. Mr. Holman, chairman of the board of Standard Oil, explained that the recipients were selected after an independent study by two groups—one consisting of company executives, the other comprising prominent educators who served in an advisory capacity.

In a message to Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University, Mr. Holman said that the gift of \$3500 was based on the belief that "the material, intellectual and spiritual development of mankind rests on the accumulation of knowledge."

The largest gift was \$5000, and among the institutions included in the grants were Columbia, Princeton, Yale and other top schools.

At present, Council receives \$3.85 from the University fee, a dollar of which goes to the Athletic Association. The Committee recommended an increase of \$1.50.

The report also called attention to the "increase in the scope and complexity of the student activities," citing as examples Fireside Chats, movies, guest speakers, a newly formed Psychology fraternity, Latin and French fraternities and twenty clubs, ten of which meet every week.

Israeli Institute Begins Lectures

"The Ethnic Study of Israel," "Israel and the Lands of the Dispersion," "The Social and Political Institutions in the State of Israel" and "Biblical Commandments Referring to the Land of Israel" are the four principal themes being lectured upon by specialists in Israeli-Hebraic fields before the first seasonal session of Yeshiva's Israeli Institute.

Dr. Raphael Paltai, professor of Anthropology at Columbia and Dropsie College and author of a recently published book, *Israel Between East and West*, lectures on the first topic. This involves discussions of problems confronting the State of Israel due to its present intermixing of the cultural elements.

The second category, headed by Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky, dean of the Institute, concerns the historically and halachically formed modes of establishment of bonds between Israel and the Diaspora since the destruction of the Second Commonwealth.

Editors' Opinions

(Continued from page 3)

encouraging." He continues, "The assumption of responsibility for the general strengthening of Torah in this country is particularly heartening."

While the following opinion, as stated by Rabbi Gerson Appel '38, is not representative of all the ex-editors, they share the hope that he expresses. "I am very happy and proud to witness the great expansion and growth of Yeshiva. I sincerely hope that THE COMMENTATOR, the students and everyone concerned with the direction of Yeshiva will continue to regard this great institution, of learning, from one fundamental perspective, namely, that Yeshiva must provide leadership and guidance for Torah Judaism in America."

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Scribe Sings Praises of Beckman, Elefant, Geller

By Julie Landwirth

Though publicity and acclaim mark the big-time all-American hero, there lie, modestly hidden in the hot, humid shadows of shower rooms, many athletically minded young men whose unheralded feats have been no less than herculean. As this is true in virtually every sport and within the ranks of any team, so is it the case with the basketball team at Y.U.

Familiar names in the Yeshiva box score would normally include Sodden, Blumenreich, Citron, Gewirtz, etc.—all stars in their own right. Unknown to most fans, however, is the fact that the high scorers and most prominent ball-handlers on the team are men who have yet to be mentioned in print, but go about their jobs with such ingenious self-confidence and calm that never have the amateurish beads of sweat been seen to break out on their resourceful brows.

Yeshiva is fortunate enough to be thus thrice blessed in the persons of such individuals as Mark Beckman, Marty Elefant and Nat Geller. They form that key group known as team managers. Sparked by leading-scorer Beckman, the threesome has tallied 615 points in eight games, averaging 76.9 shots—spectacular indeed. Shooting from way outside—as a matter of fact from out of bounds—these high scorers carry out complicated plays with a one-fourth inch box area. They romp all over their red, cardboard covered, spiraled court, more commonly known as the basketball score-book.

Good Ball Handlers

Granted the priceless of such high scoring, every coach knows the value of good ball handlers. Where, then, are there team men who handle the ball more consistently and with greater precision than Messrs. Beckman, Elefant and Geller? So indispensable are these three that Coach Sarachek must insist on at least one of them being present at every practice session.

But the mark of a true sportsman is undoubtedly a sincerely altruistic outlook on life. In this, our heroes excel beyond words. Before the eyes of all the spectators, they have been known to completely disregard their own welfare and unselfishly wipe perspiration from the backs of their fellow teammates.

Kidding aside, though, the efficiency of a scrimmage session and of the functioning of a squad depends to a great extent on the work done by the managers. All this demands time, something rationed at Y.U., and a keen interest in the team's welfare, discouragingly rare at Y.U. Since giving credit where it is due is always in order, a little hat-tipping should be given these three boys along with the managers of the other athletic groups.

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Coach Candid

By Moses Berlin

Fencing at Yeshiva seemed at first to be an impossible achievement, for it requires a knowledge of the sport different from the way it is performed by Hollywood actors, and it demands constant practice. But in selecting Coach Arthur Tauber to tutor the squad, the brain-trusts of Yeshiva athletics found the solution to their problem.

Mr. Tauber, top amateur fencer in the country for three years, is recognized as one of the unparalleled coaches in America. He is equally known for his work on mental and physical rehabilitation at the Veterans Administration.

At Yeshiva he has brought about, through his popularity as a teacher and friend of his students, a lively interest in fencing. His students, most of whom never held a foil before joining his class, now number more than forty-five, including twenty non-varsity members. Their instruction includes active dueling as well as blackboard sessions on the theory of fencing.

Jayvee Trimmed In Opening Game

A tall New York City Tech varsity hoop squad proved too much for the Junior Mites, in the latter's season opener, as the Y. C. jayvees were trimmed, 92-68.

The jayvees, in the losing cause, were sparked by Allen Helfer and Ira Steinmetz who scored 24 and 16 points respectively.

The Blue and White led early, but before long the Tech squad took over and never relinquished its lead.

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Fencing Team Drops Match To Kingsmen

Brooklyn College toppled Yeshiva's fencing team 18-9 in a well-fought match Wednesday, January 5, in the Yeshiva gym. The Y.C. squad jumped to a 2-0 lead, but Brooklyn pulled ahead 11-7 in the second round.


The Yeshiva squad did not show the spunk and spirit which carried it to victory over St. Peters in its first match of the season. The foil team won four and dropped five. Seymour Greenfield, who fenced his last bouts for Yeshiva, won two and lost one.

Howie Spear had his twelve-bout winning streak halted when he dropped his second match of the evening, 5-4. The saber squad took three bouts while losing six, while the epee contingent eked out two victories and dropped seven. Barnet Liberman, the

Getting Even

YESHIVA (9)		BROOKLYN (18)	
Won Lost		Won Lost	
Foil			
Spear	1 2	Glatter	1 2
Chill	1 2	Mlornik	1 2
Greenfield	2 1	Frostik	3 0
Saber			
Katz	1 2	Paul	3 0
Ingber	1 2	Gross	3 0
Peysler	0 1	Katz	0 3
Danzger	1 1		
Epee			
Liberman	1 2	Solomon	2 0
Siegel	0 2	Rothman	1 1
Taub	1 1	Barrucas	2 1
Wthelmer	0 1	Grissefild	1 0
Fischer	0 1	Maxon	1 0

mainstay of the epee squad, also fenced in his last match for Yeshiva; he copped one of the epee wins.



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Hoopsters Defeat Rider; Norm Palefski Scores 24

Norman Palefski and Irwin Blumenreich took care of the scoring, Abe Sodden the rebounding and "Abby" Gewirtz the playmaking as Yeshiva's Heighters trounced Rider College, 84-70. The contest took place before a very sparse crowd at the Needle Trades gym, Saturday, January 8.

Ridden

YESHIVA (84)			RIDER (70)				
G	F	P	G	F	P		
Sodden	4	4	12	Adams	3	0	6
Blumenreich	12	4	32	Krol	3	0	10
Palefski	12	0	24	Pitrowski	2	0	4
Citron	4	0	8	Karp	3	2	18
Green	0	2	2	Grube	6	4	16
Chaiken	1	0	2	Simon	5	0	10
Orlian	1	0	2	Walsh	1	2	4
Schlusset	1	0	2	Mulrain	1	0	2
Steinmetz	0	0	0				
Leibowitz	0	0	0				
37 10 84			31 8 70				

Liberman, Greenfield End Fencing Careers

By Aaron Freiman

Co-captain Barnet Liberman and Seymour Greenfield both fenced their last matches after three varsity seasons of the sport. Immediately after the match, Coach Tauber announced the appointment of Mr. Liberman as assistant coach of the fencing squad.

Liberman, a major in Political Science, has become the fine fencer that he now is only by his own perseverance. He has in past seasons been an invaluable asset to the epee squad. His record this season stands at 5-2 and he has posted a three season record of 19-11. There is no better percentage, for an epee man, in the Y.U. record books.

Greenfield, who majored in Biology, exhibits the finest fencing form ever displayed at Yeshiva. His overall record, as a foiler stands at 25-15.

At the outset Citron and Palefski put the Mites ahead 4-0 and a successful zone defense employed by the Sarachekers never gave the Trenton squad a chance to catch up. Yeshiva kept its foe at bay, but led by only three with only five minutes of playing time left in the first half. A field goal by Schlusset and four more by Blumenreich, however, gave the Mites a comfortable 42-29 advantage.

Palefski Continues

The second half saw Rider close the gap to as little as seven points, but constant scoring power, sparked by six more field goals by Palefski, most of which came on one handers from the corner, again built up the Blue and White lead to twenty points, 73-53.

At this point the newer members of the squad were given a chance to show their wares, and of the freshmen who entered late in the affair, Ira Steinmetz, Seymour Leibowitz, and Al Chaiken showed evidence of being able prospects.

When it was all over Blumenreich had 32 and Palefski 24. Gewirtz scoreless—he did not take even one shot—was nevertheless invaluable because of his playmaking which reached a new peak.

Sodden Rebounds

Sodden, who continued being high man under the boards, especially on defensive rebounding, tallied twelve.

One outstanding factor which may be responsible for the decisive victory, was the use of a zone defense, rarely employed by Coach Sarachek. The Rider squad did not have any outside shooting ability and could not crack the zone, keeping the contest one-sided from the opening minutes.

Yeshiva Downed By Panzer Five

A desperate last-minute rally by Yeshiva fell short as the Mites dropped an 85-81 decision to the Panzer Panthers. The game, played Wednesday, December 22, took place in East Orange, N. J.

The Blue and White, behind by 13 points with three minutes to play, picked up speed and with Jay Citron and Abby Gewirtz hitting on their shots narrowed the lead down to two points. But a pair of Panzer foul shots put the game out of the Mites' reach.

Yeshiva opened the scoring as baskets by "Red" Blumenreich and Abe Sodden together with three foul shots scored by Norm Palefski put them in front 10-3. However, Panzer scored back and knotted the score. The score changed hands seven times during the half, and a late splurge by the Panthers gave them a sizeable half-time lead.

Religious Relics Reclaimed From Nazi Loot On Exhibit

By Sidney Goldstein

Recently an exhibit of religious articles was placed in Riets Hall and this reporter was sent to gain some historical background in reference to it. The materials in this exhibit are part of the Nazi loot which was taken from synagogues and *yeshivot* and recovered at the end of World War II. A special committee was established to determine what should be done with the priceless adornments which survived. Professor Aaron Margalith of the Political Science Department was a member of that group.

The committee decided that one third should be given to Israel, a third to the various Jewish institutions and theological seminaries in the American Hemisphere and the final third to the rest of the world.

The articles put on display here are only a small part of those given to Yeshiva University. Some are from the collection of the notorious anti-Semite Julius Streicher who intended to use them as symbols of his triumph over the Jewish people. With these articles came notations made by members of Streicher's staff.

The Torah mantlepieces and the Passover trays are of Hungarian origin some dating as far back as 300 years. They are perhaps a small but significant memorial to those who perished under the heel of Nazi tyranny.

Pre-Medical Group Voices Objection to Proposal of College

The Pre-Med Society opposes the proposal of the college administration which makes it mandatory that pre-med students receive a single letter of recommendation from the Pre-Med Faculty Committee, revealed Chet Berschling '55, president of the Society. In the past these students obtained letters of recommendation for medical schools from the professors of their choice or from the Committee.

Under the administration's proposal, all letters of recommendation for both pre-med students and pre-dental students may be obtained only from this committee.

Members of the committee are Professors Saphire, Fleisher, Lowan, Levine and Lisman.

Dr. Belkin

(Continued from page 1)

have not been incorporated into the Jewish tradition and have become source material for non-Jews, while those of the Medieval period have become part of our heritage. The reason for this, explained Dr. Belkin, is that the Hellenistic Jews were away from the origins of Torah and relied on secondary sources. Medieval Judaism, however, featured a transplantation of Jewish Learning and Religion. The Talmud and Mishna were studied in the original.

Stresses Observance

Stressing that symbolic Judaism cannot function, Dr. Belkin declared that "observance is the foundation of Judaism. We must know what the Torah demands of us, for the essence of the Orthodox Jew is that he accepts the Divine Authority of the Torah as interpreted by the Oral Law."

"The Jewish community in the non-Jewish world must be one that integrates itself into the community; one that works together with its neighbors but realizes its separate function and preserves its heritage and separation," asserted Dr. Belkin. "The Torah must be the main source for perpetuation," he said. It was with this ideal that Yeshiva was founded and expanded to university status. "Yeshiva represents the symbol of holiness and the University represents that of integration" said Dr. Belkin.

Calls for Tolerance

Stating that University policy will be set by those who bear the responsibility for it, Dr. Belkin said that all religious Jews have something in common, that they endeavor to live within the requirements of Torah. In keeping with this ideal, we must be tolerant in our ideas and not make hasty decisions, he said.

In concluding, Dr. Belkin revealed plans for Yeshiva's improvement. A campus is being created with the erection of the new dormitory, and the main building is being renovated.

A Guidance Department is being created to "give direction." Dr. Belkin also noted the reorganization of the Community Service Bureau which will help establish Orthodox synagogues in new communities.

Grad. Requirements

THE COMMENTATOR has been asked to publish the following as a service to students who plan to pursue graduate studies.

Most graduate schools require a knowledge of two foreign languages for a Ph.D. French and German are normally required though substitutes—Russian and Spanish are the most common—may be approved. Kansas and Michigan allow no substitutions.

In the Physical Sciences and the Humanities, Chicago University requires two foreign languages, while Columbia University accepts advanced mathematics in lieu of one language in Economy, Sociology, Business and Government schools. Northwestern University seems to be the only institution that requires only one language.

Dorm Council

(Continued from page 1)

and elections for the respective floors will be held between 7 and 8 p.m. in the following rooms: Second Floor — Dorm Social Hall; Third Floor — Room 404; Fourth Floor — Room 431; Fifth Floor — Room 405, all in the college building.

The ballot will include the following statement of administrative policy from Rabbi A. Pelberg, dormitory administrator: "The Dormitory Council is a democratic body which will meet to discuss and seek solutions to dormitory problems and to assist in the implementation of these solutions. This body is to consist of elected representatives of dormitory residents, the counselors and the dormitory administration. The Dormitory Council will thus be able to work together with the administration to enhance the welfare of the student body."

The present council appointed a canvassing committee consisting of Earl Hollander '57, Charles Patt '58, Ralph Schuchalter '55, Aaron Skaist '52, and Alfred Thee '54, for the election.

Board of Trustees Adds Five Members

Five industrialists and leaders in Jewish communal life and civic affairs have been elected to the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University, it was announced by Max J. Etra, chairman. This brings the total number of trustees to twenty-one.

The new additions include Sol Furst of Forest Hills, N. Y., president of the Circle Wire and Cable Corporation; Louis J. Glickman of New York City, real estate investor; A. Phillip Goldsmith of New York City, president of Julius Kayser and Company; Hyman Kolko of Rochester, N. Y., head of the Kolko Paper Company and Isadore Nadel, Tulsa, Oklahoma oilman.

Club Notes

Biology Club

Harold Scheinman '55, spoke on antibiotics at a meeting of the Biology Society, Thursday, December 30. Mr. Scheinman discussed methods of isolating antibiotics and demonstrated some of the techniques used.

Dramatics Society

"Modern Hebrew Drama" was discussed by Rabbi David Mirsky, assistant professor of Hebrew, Thursday, December 23, before a meeting of the Dramatics Society.

Mr. Seymour Lainoff, instructor in English, lectured on *Hamlet* at a meeting of the Society, Thursday, January 6.

Le Cercle Francais

Professor Germaine Bree of New York University addressed a joint meeting of Le Cercle Francais and Pi Delta Phi on the philosophy of André Gide, Wednesday, December 22, in the Dorm Social Hall. The speaker discussed Gide's philosophy as an atheist.

Mademoiselle Bree, who spoke in French, is Professor of French and Chairman of the French Department at New York Uni-

versity. She is the head of the Romance Language department at N.Y.U.

Math Club

Harry Furstenberg '55, president of the Math Club, delivered the first of two lectures on "Geometric Construction," Thursday, January 6.

Choral Society

The Yeshiva University Choral Society gave performances before the Manhattan Chapter and the Washington Heights branch of the Yeshiva University Women's Organization December 21 and 22, respectively. The repertoire consisted of songs appropriate to *Chanukah*. Dr. Karl Adler, professor of Music, directed the performance.

Eranos

A dramatic reading of Euripides' *Ion* was presented by the Eranos Classical Society, December 29, in Graduate Hall. The reading was the first of a series of two meetings devoted to comparing Greek and modern drama. The second meeting will feature the reading of T. S. Eliot's *The Confidential Clerk*, a modern version of Euripides' drama.

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