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The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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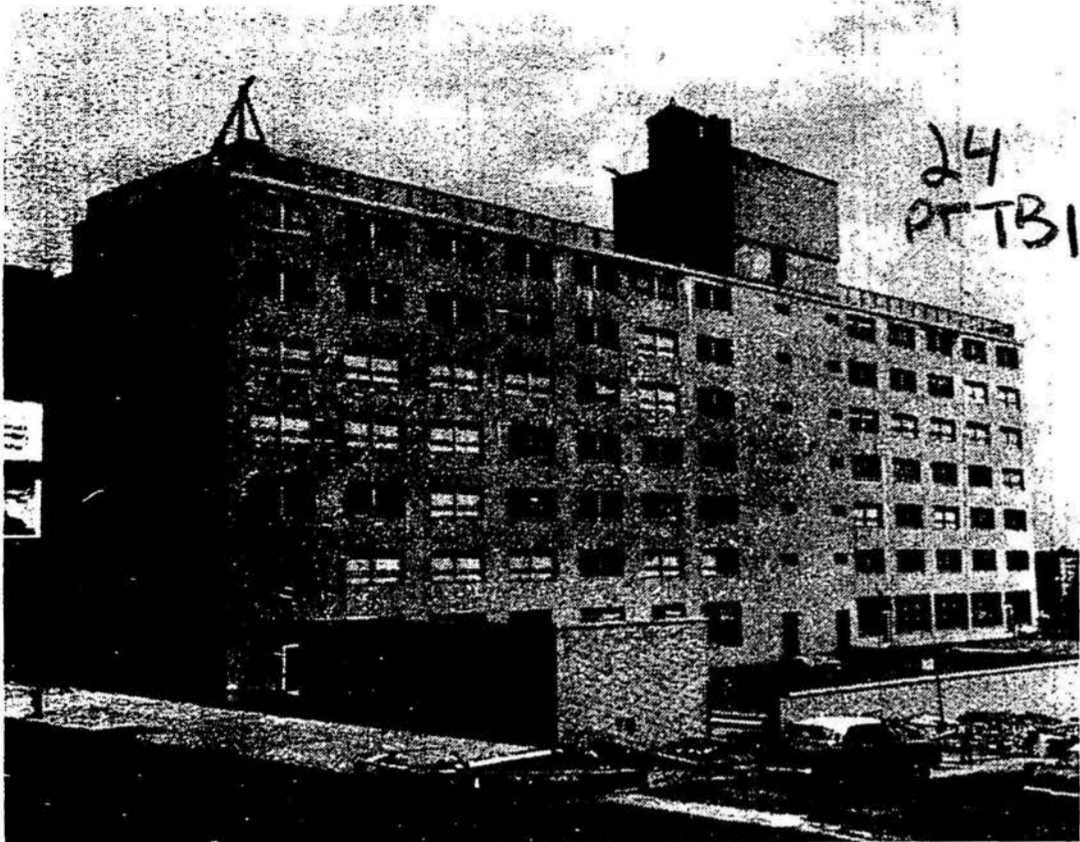
VOLUME XLV

NEW YORK CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1957

No. 4

Javits, DeLuca to Speak At New Dormitory Fete

The new dormitory will be dedicated Sunday afternoon, May 26, at special ceremonies to be held at the building site, Amsterdam Avenue and 184 Street, announced Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of



NEW RESIDENCE HALL: A view of the new dormitory from southwest corner of 184 Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

Yeshiva University.

The erection of this \$1,500,000 edifice marks the first step in the development of a new campus area at Yeshiva's Main Academic Center in Washington Heights.

Senator Jacob K. Javits (Rep. N. Y.) and Lt. Governor George B. DeLuca will be the featured speakers at the ceremonies. Patron's Certificates will be presented at the affair to those individuals who contributed funds for the dedication of rooms and other facilities in the new structure.

To Ease Conditions

The building, which will alleviate crowded conditions in the other dormitories by accommodating 300 students, occupies the south side of more than a square block of recently acquired University property. Present plans call for the razing this summer of the apartment house situated between the new building and the High School Dormitory, and the subsequent conversion of that area between the two buildings into a traditional landscaped campus.

The structure, exclusive of the upper six residence floors, includes a modern kitchen, a dining-room seating 500, a lounge and study hall, and an outdoor patio running the length of the building, which will be utilized for warm weather study and student academic and social activities. The building is serviced by an elevator. Space has also been allotted for faculty suites, administrative offices and an infirmary.

A dedication dinner will be held in the new dormitory dining-hall following the dedication ceremonies which will be attended by many civic, educational and religious leaders.

Registration Drops In Natural Science; Soc. Enters Top 3

Fifty-three per cent of Yeshiva College students are science majors, but interest in that area has declined for the first time in four years, revealed Professor Morris Silverman, registrar.

Basing his observations on an eight-year comparative study, Prof. Silverman pointed out that in last year's height of interest, 56% of the student body selected a natural science major. This year's drop, he said, reflects "a leveling off of a sharp upward trend toward sciences at the College in favor of increased concern for the humanities."

Pre-Med Still Leading

When the peak was reached last year, 27.6% of the students were preparing for medical or dental school. This year the study found 25.6% enlisted in the school's most popular major.

Professor Silverman's study also indicated a change in the ranking of the six most popular areas of concentration.

Political Science, the fourth most popular field last year with 8.6%, fell to ninth with 3.4%. Replacing it among the top six was Sociology, which rose from seventh to third place, from 6.0% to 10.2%. In addition to second ranking English with 12.3% (51 students), Premedical and Pre-dental (106), and Sociology (42), the following round out the top six: Chemistry 9.9% (41), Mathematics 9.9% (41), and Psychology 8.5% (35).

The college study was based on 414 students out of a total of 428.

Safety

Yeshiva is now observing National Safety Week, sponsored by the National Safety Council. Dr. Simeon L. Guterman, dean of Yeshiva College, urged all students to cooperate with the safety drive.

Cecil Hyman Will Speak Today At Independence Day Assembly

The Hon. Semah Cecil Hyman, Israel's consul general in New York and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, will be the guest speaker at this year's annual Israel Independence Day assembly to be held today in Lamport Auditorium.



Hon. Semah Cecil Hyman

Prior to his present position, Mr. Hyman was Israel's Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Union of South Africa. A member of the Jewish Legion during the first World War and a resident of Israel since 1922, Mr. Hyman is a native Londoner.

Yeshiva, N.Y.U. Agree On Engineering Plan

A combination plan in engineering has been worked out between Yeshiva College and the New York University School of Engineering, disclosed Dr. Simeon L. Guterman, dean of Yeshiva College. According to the plan, a student can qualify for a B.S. degree from Yeshiva and a degree in any one of a number of engineering fields from N.Y.U. after attending Yeshiva for three years and the School of Engineering for two years and one summer.

A coordinator for the program will be appointed by Yeshiva to advise students in the plan. At the end of the student's second year at Yeshiva, a report on his record will be sent to the School of Engineering.

Various Fields Offered

Students will be eligible for degrees in the following fields: aeronautical, chemical, electrical, industrial, mechanical, civil and metallurgical engineering, and engineering physics.

In addition to the regular requirements for admission to Yeshiva College, students applying for admission to the plan must have at least three years of mathematics, including trigonometry, and two years of natural science, one year of which must be in chemistry or physics. Any of the foreign languages ordinarily offered in high schools is acceptable.

Requirements in all curricula at Yeshiva are: Chemistry 1-2 or 9-10 (includes Qualitative Analysis); Physics, 1-2; Mathematics (through Differential Equations); Engineering Drawing and Physics IIa (Statics).

Visiting Dignitaries To Receive Degrees

Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United States and permanent delegate to the United Nations, will be the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Yeshiva University Commencement Exercises, Thursday, June 20.

Mr. Eban was to have been awarded the degree last year, but, because of the press of his official duties, he could not be present to accept.

Other Degrees Conferred

Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees will also be granted to Dr. James E. Allen, commissioner of education of the State of New York, and to Roy E. Larsen, president of Time, Inc.

William L. Laurence, science editor of the *New York Times*, and Dr. Harry M. Zimmerman, director of laboratory and chief pathologist of Montefiore Hospital, will receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Dr. Meyer Atlas Expands Biology Curriculum As Interest in Medicine Grows in Recent Years

By Elias M. Hirschmann and Norman A. Bloom

Although registration of science majors has decreased for the first time in four years, that of the Biology Department has continued to increase. In addition, since the arrival of Dr. Meyer Atlas, professor of Biology, at Yeshiva in 1938, the courses of study have grown to include Physiology, Genetics, Histology and Bacteriology.

Coinciding with this growth, the number of personnel associated with the Biology Department has come to include Rabbi Moses D. Tendler as Lecturer in Bacteriology and Dr. Victor Baden, recently awarded a grant of study at the Institute of Biology of Cornell University as Laboratory Instructor.

Increase Due to Pre-Meds

This increase in students interested in advanced biology courses is due to an increase of pre-medical majors rather than those

majoring in biology, revealed Dr. Atlas. "By the very nature of their course of study, premedical students are interested in the phenomena of living things and life processes in general. This is exemplified by the large increase of Histology students in recent years."

In conjunction with this, Dr. Atlas explained that he is interested in developing a deep understanding of the subjects he teaches rather than having them serve as a springboard for entering medical schools. Thus, he urges premedical students not to take courses here that they will repeat in medical schools.

Recommends Liberal Arts

"Although, I personally would recommend that premedical students avail themselves of the present opportunity to take a liberal arts course such as philosophy," continued Dr. Atlas, "I

realize the attractiveness of advanced biology and therefore I arrange my courses so that they emphasize an entirely different perspective from that stressed in medical schools. This is most noticeable in my genetics course in which basic genetics rather than human genetics is taught."

Dr. Atlas received his Bachelor of Science degree from the City College of New York and went on to receive his M. A. and Doctor of Philosophy degree at Columbia University, where he specialized in experimental embryology. It was during this time and in the ensuing years that he had several of his papers published. Before coming to Yeshiva he taught as an assistant at Columbia and as an Instructor at Brooklyn College and C.C.N.Y.

At Yeshiva, Dr. Atlas serves as Chairman of the Faculty Welfare and Admissions Committee and as

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Official Undergraduate Newspaper of
YESHIVA COLLEGE

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Candidates Have Their Say

JOSEPH CHERVIN

In the small space allotted to me, I would like to mention several of the innovations I would like to accomplish as president of Student Council. These are divided into two categories: how Student Council serves the student and how it represents him and his views.

First, I will institute a tutoring system organized and operated with assistance from the College's department heads. This will encompass review classes to be held at a suitable time prior to examinations.

Second, I will strive to organize and expand the committee on dormitory affairs. This committee will revitalize the Fireside Chats program, and will coordinate all activities in the dormitory.

Third, I will endeavor to get an out-doors recreation area near the new dormitory. This area will be a boon to the students, considering our meager athletic facilities.

Fourth, I will seek to establish a final examinations file in the library.

In addition, I will have periodic meetings together with the various class councils. These meetings will be designed to inform the student body in a more direct manner of what is being discussed in Student Council.

I will also have an agenda posted prior to each meeting. This will acquaint students with the issues at hand so that they can voice their opinions at meetings.

Finally, I will endeavor to create a T.I.—S.O.Y. column in THE COMMENTATOR.

My experience in student affairs has enabled me to draft this extensive program for your approval. I have served on Student Council as vice president of my class. I am presently the president of the Pre-Law Society, and Campus Manager of the Debating Society.

In this message, I have pointed out to you the measures by which our College can become improved. A vote at the polls for Joe Chervin for president of Yeshiva College Student Council will enable these benefits to be realized.



MONIS DACHMAN

THE COMMENTATOR has provided this space for me to state my views on the issues of this election. I could simply rattle off the same old hackneyed campaign promises which have been given each year. Of course, everyone would like to see improvement of the food, everyone would like to see improvement in the physical plant of Yeshiva, and all of us are in favor of revitalizing clubs and school spirit. These are, of course, important and every candidate for president should guarantee these.

However, the major issue facing Student Council next year is that of student-administration relationships. The chief task facing the next president of Student Council is that of revitalizing Student Council's strength and re-establishing its bargaining position with the administration. For if Council is weak, none of the previous goals can be implemented.

At present, Yeshiva University is in the process of expansion. During the time that any institution develops into a great educational center, many problems arise both for the students and administration. It is, therefore, imperative that during this period of growth, the administration be constantly kept in touch with the many problems of the students.

During this period it is unwise for Student Council to act blindly and hot-headedly in presentation of student problems. By taking rash action without forethought, instead of attempting to secure the cooperation of the administration, we only succeed in antagonizing, often even losing sight of the immediate goals.

Let me emphasize that by receiving the cooperation of the administration, I do not mean sacrificing student rights. A strong Student Council is absolutely necessary.

If you want a Student Council capable of acting strongly and with integrity in response to student needs, then remember when going to the polls—vote for Monis Dachman for your next president of Student Council.



Yom Haatzmaut

Israel enters its tenth year of existence with the Mid East situation as critical as the day it became a state. The latest crisis concerning King Hussein's shaky kingdom has sent the U. S. Mediterranean fleet steaming to his protection, with the Marines all ready for action. President Eisenhower has been quick to offer dollar aid to the beleaguered young king. Official pronouncements guaranteeing the integrity of Jordan issue forth from the State Department.

It is no secret that for the past five years Israel has been attempting to obtain similar guarantees from the U. S. Despite regular visits by Abba Eban the U. S. has refused to "take sides" and sign a pact guaranteeing Israel's security. But suddenly, as quick as a gushing oil well, Secretary Dulles cries "Hands off!" and gallantly gallops to the aid of Jordan.

All of this must be ruefully viewed by the Israelis and others who fail to see any justice in the double standard being applied by our government.

The Israelis have learned the hard way to depend only on their own forces and efforts. The "impossible" things which this young state has accomplished in so short a time are readily evident—the absorption of a million immigrants, the development of the Negev, the formation of a new culture rejecting the ideas of the *galut* and forming new values based on life on its ancient land, and most important of all, its emergence as a lusty, young, growing democratic state in a desert of despotism.

Despite present day troubles, Israel's leaders look ahead. They dream of a peaceful, economically secure country into which there will be a complete ingathering of the exiles. As *Yom Haatzmaut* is commemorated we hope that Israel's remarkable achievements in the past will point the way to the realization of Israel's future plans and dreams.

An Improvement

The administration is to be commended for reducing the seemingly endless number of forms to be filled out for registration by "mechanizing" this process through the use of automatic carbon copying devices. This, and the change to annual, instead of bi-annual registration, should result in the saving of much time for the administrators and the students.

The substitution of individual grade record cards for each course for the obsolete report cards should serve to rescue the student from the predicament of having his grade held up by one instructor who is late in reporting his grades.

It is to be hoped that enough personnel with the authority necessary to approve registration will be provided at the proper times so that full use of the advantages of the new system may be realized.

JERRY WOHLBERG

There are many reasons that make one run for school office. I believe my reasons to be unique. My views on student government are well known. Mutual respect and trust must exist between the student government and the administration. We may not always agree as to what is in the school's and student's best interest, but our disagreement should be honest. A student government which makes little noise and accomplishes much is the ideal one.

A large group of student *now* seem to favor these views. But I can honestly say that I have *always* supported these views in Student Council even though I was in the minority. I have no fear of putting up my voting record in Student Council for public scrutiny. I have always stood for what I believed in, and not for political opportunism.

For too long students have been dissatisfied with the way our student government was being run, but have been too discouraged to attempt to better the situation. Rather than casting aspersions on Student Council or on the administration when things do not go well, we should make our voices heard in our student democracy, and, after thoughtful consideration, adopt a course of action in the best interests of the school and the students.

I'm not going to promise you the world. I have continually fought for the student's best interests, neither running away from an argument not looking for one. After thoughtful consideration I hope that I will have your support in my campaign for Student Council President. If elected, I can promise you not absolute government but true student democracy.

'Commandments' "Total Failure": Reviewer Decries Story Fabrications

By Nathan Lewin

A recent issue of THE COMMENTATOR featured a rather irregular and flippant review of Cecil B. de Mille's latest *magnum opus* "The Ten Commandments." The review was written by your Feature Editor, an admittedly inexpert Bible scholar and amateur movie critic. Since THE COMMENTATOR'S pages have thus suddenly been opened to the representatives of the Unlettered Muse, I, who profess to ignorance at least equal to that of your critic, claim the right to see my views in print.

From my perch in the balcony

(at the self-same showing of the movie which so impressed your representative) "The Ten Commandments" seemed a total failure.

Mr. de Mille is the acknowledged master of the shallow, the superficial and the stupendous. "The Ten Commandments" is representative of these three qualities: it is a three-and-a-half-hour sequence of stereophonic and technicolor banalities interrupted by one thoroughly refreshing intermission and by occasional worthy spectacles.

Controversy has centered around the first portion of the

film which was devoted to a meticulous depiction of the probable "loves of Moses." Mr. de Mille was perfectly willing to accept literally the most extraordinary miracles described in the Bible. He never flinched from portraying the splitting of the Red Sea; he did not hesitate to spend thousands of dollars and months of labor on depicting a realistic burning bush; he felt no compunctions about his cinematic re-enactment of the Slaying of the First-Born, but could not imagine that the same Divine Hand, capable of creating such

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Varsity Musical to Be Postponed; Ducats Go on Sale for June Show

The Senior Varsity Show will be presented Monday, June 17, and Tuesday, June 18, at the Barbizon Plaza, the show's producers announced.

The postponement from Sunday, May 19, was due to a delay in making certain arrangements with the Alumni Association which is co-sponsoring the show.

Second Show Sold Out

Tickets are available for the Monday performance. The Tuesday show has been sold out to the Yeshiva University Women's Organization.

Political satire, depicted in musical comedy form, is the theme of the show, entitled "Choose to Run."

David J. Hammer '57 will portray Senator Alexander S. Nixhead, the chief character of the play.

The show is written, produced and directed by Joshua Miller, Joel Schreiber and Nathan Lewin.

Cantorial Institute Gets Music Library

The musical collection of Cantors Zeidel and Elias Rovner has been donated to Yeshiva University's Cantorial Training Institute by Mr. Henry G. Morrow, revealed Dr. Karl Adler, music director of Yeshiva. The collection has been established as the Zeidel and Elias Rovner Cantorial Library.

In addition to several printed works, the collection includes many manuscripts of compositions and arrangements. The library will be opened as soon as cataloguing is completed.

Novice Debaters Tour Philly in May

The pre-varsity debating team will tour the Philadelphia area during the third week of May, announced Joseph Chervin '58, Debating Society campus manager.

On the one-day tour, students chosen from the pre-varsity will debate colleges in and around Philadelphia.

The varsity debaters have added two wins and two losses to their season's record. They were defeated by West Point in two debates held at that school, Tuesday, April 9. Yeshiva picked up two wins by default when Seton Hall debaters did not appear at Yeshiva as scheduled, Monday, April 29.

Among the colleges the pre-varsity will face are Bryn Mawr, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, St. Joseph's, Villanova, Haverford and Swarthmore.

Ten Commandments

(Continued from page 2)

miracles, could choose and mold an individual qualified to withstand a slithering Egyptian princess.

If we obstinately refuse to admit that Mr. de Mille and his historical researchers could sink to such a shallow level, we are We must then assume that the Biblical narrative was intentionally distorted to gain popularity and ticket sales for the film. This is no major crime, particularly if viewed in the context of most modern Hollywood productions.

But we are left absolutely speechless if we attempt to reconcile not only this individual portion of the film, but the other perversions, corruptions and outright fabrications included in the story of the "Commandments," with Mr. de Mille's saintly and pious prefacing address. The film's producers must be judged guilty of either blatant hypocrisy or gross vulgarity.

But it must be admitted that "The Ten Commandments" is a unique film. From an original source with a potential of many interesting and provoking characters, the movie has somehow managed to appropriate none.

And then there are always the spectacles to awaken the spectators. Of these, the best by far is the panoramic view of the Exodus, with its few interesting, though hackneyed, "human interest" scenes. Otherwise, we are treated to spectacle for spectacle's sake alone, and, though the first attempts may revive some spark of interest within us, the others aid in the general soporific effect. If "The Ten Commandments" were not quite as dull as it happens to be, it might even be funny.

A.C.P. Rates Commentator As First Class College Newspaper

THE COMMENTATOR has received a First Class Honor Rating from the Associated Collegiate Press for the fall semester of 1956-57, announced Jacob M. Lebowitz '57, editor-in-chief. According to A.C.P., a First Class rating is "comparable to excellent."

Scholarships

Fulbright Scholarships for study in Israel are available to college graduates and seniors. Applications, obtainable from the Institute for International Education, must be submitted to the Institute by May 31.

Dr. Atlas

(Continued from page 1)

a member of the Premedical Committee. At present, his research program centers around the metabolism of developing organisms and the chemical changes taking place during development.

"Teaching itself doesn't suffice in giving a person a broad view of the subject he teaches," Dr. Atlas explained. "As a result one should do as much as possible on his own."

The head of the Biology Department lectures in all of his courses (16 hours per week) without the use of notes. He does this to prevent the courses from becoming stagnant and so that he can emphasize modern discoveries. In this way he feels they will be most beneficial to his students.

Although his time is divided between research and lectures, Dr. Atlas makes a practice of marking all his examination papers.

"Since I can't spend the time I'd like to with my students in the labs, this gives me some knowledge of what a student is gaining from the course," he explained.

When questioned about the "Yeshiva student," he said that he found him to be of the same caliber as students elsewhere. He dispelled the "all for marks" theory while observing that he finds students in general interested in the subject matter.

Expects Understanding

Dr. Atlas does not expect anyone to accept the viewpoint of the biology texts on evolution, but he does expect his students to understand the viewpoint of the study of evolution. In discussing the limitations of science, he stated that protoplasm, being as complex as it is, will never be prepared synthetically by human beings.

Looking to the future, Prof. Atlas would like to expand the curriculum of the Biology Department and offer courses in botany, invertebrate zoology, ecology and field biology.

When asked how he would fit additional courses into his already overcrowded program, and still continue his research work, he replied, with a shrug of his shoulders, "Well, I try to do my work."

Judging THE COMMENTATOR, Mrs. Peter Pafiolis, former editor of the College Reporter of Mankato (Minn.) State College, commended the newspaper for its "interesting features" and "excellent coverage."

Mrs. Pafiolis further cited THE COMMENTATOR for its "excellent" editorials. Sports coverage was criticized as lacking objectivity and not having "sufficient variety."

Condolences

THE COMMENTATOR extends its sincerest condolences to Mr. Seymour Lainoff, instructor in English, upon the loss of his father, and to Mr. Zev Hymowitz '54, director of the University's Youth Bureau, upon the loss of his father. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Ex-Commie Chief Edits Law Review; YUHS Pupil Top Scholarship Winner

Arnold Enker '55, former editor-in-chief of THE COMMENTATOR, has been chosen editor of the Harvard Law Review.

A senior at Yeshiva University high school of Brooklyn, N.Y., Press, has received the highest score in the New York State Scholarship examinations. In addition to winning this \$2,000 four year science scholarship, he was also awarded a \$6,000 National Merit Foundation scholarship. He is expected to enter Yeshiva next fall.

Mr. Enker, a Hebrew major and an outstanding student at Yeshiva, received a scholarship to Harvard Law School. The first Yeshiva alumnus to reach the position of Law Review editor at Harvard, he will receive his law degree in June, 1958.

Chess Team Wins, Loses, Ties 1 Each

The Yeshiva University Chess Team won two and lost two games for a tie in a match with St. Peters, held at Yeshiva, Thursday, April 4.

Meeting Columbia's Chess Team on its home ground, our chess players bowed by a 4-1 score.

The Chess Team's record now stands at 1 win, 1 loss and 1 tie.

Annual Registration Starts This Week

A new plan for annual registration for the College was disclosed by Rabbi David Mirsky '42, assistant registrar. Registration for both the fall and spring semesters of 1957-58 will take place on the following dates from 1 to 5 p.m.: juniors, May 8-10; sophomores, May 12-15; freshmen, May 16-20.

A week during November will be set aside for those students who must make changes for their spring semester programs.

"We feel that if those concerned with this procedure, will cooperate," declared Rabbi Mirsky, "it will benefit both the office staff and the students."

Dr. B. Kisch Speaks On Life and Death

How humanity sought to find the secret of life and death, how science has advanced throughout the centuries, and how medicine has become what it now is, was explained by Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch, professor of Philosophy and History of Science, in a lecture at State medical school of Brooklyn, Wednesday, April 10.

Speaking on "What Keeps Men Alive? a Survey of the History of Thoughts About Life and Death," Dr. Kisch listed the scientific philosophies and milestones in the history of mankind. He stated that he would subscribe to the vitalistic approach to the theory of life. This is the doctrine that the functions of living organisms are due to a vital force distinct from physical forces.

Y. U. Charity Drive Nets Half of Goal

Half of the Yeshiva University Charity Drive's goal of \$5,000 had been reached by mid-April, announced Philip Fuchs '57, and Joel Schreiber '57, chairmen of the Drive. They stressed the necessity for each student to fulfill his quota, particularly in view of the current situation in the Middle East. The Drive will run until Shavuot.

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