

GOVERNING BOARD SUSPENDS PUBLICATION !!

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

A
Happy ...

... And Kosher
Passover

VOL. XLVII

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No. 5

Seniors Take G.R.E.; Marks Count for Honors

Eighty-three prospective graduates of Yeshiva College took the Graduate Record Examinations Sunday and Monday, March 23-24, at the main academic center. Results of the two-day test, administered by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N. J., will stand as the representative eighth term grade in computing a student's honor credits.

Sunday's four-hour general examination consisted of tests in the Social Sciences, the humanities and the Natural Sciences. The specialized three-hour exams given on Monday tested the students on their "major" areas.

Most of the area tests were prepared by the Testing Service. However, the Classical Languages and Hebrew exams were composed by Yeshiva professors. Dr. Louis Feldman, assistant professor of Classics, prepared the test in that field. The exam in Hebrew was made up by Dr. Irving Agus, professor of History, Dr. Asher Siev, instructor in Bible and Dr. Milton Arfa, professor of Hebrew. These two tests will be marked at Yeshiva, while the others will be graded at Princeton, N. J.

The Graduate Record Examinations at Yeshiva College serves to rank Yeshiva's curriculum with those of other colleges by comparison of grades and also takes the place of four-year academic exams.

Stress Humanities, Dr. Morton Teicher Urges at Breakfast

"Educational institutions must not overlook the humanities despite the great stress on technological studies," stated Dr. Morton I. Teicher, director of Yeshiva University's School of Social Work, at a testimonial breakfast honoring Mr. Irving Brandon, at Beth El Community Center, New Rochelle.

Dr. Teicher further remarked that "human welfare and human relations must take precedence in the education of our youth even in the face of the great demands for engineers and scientists." Intellectual advancement, he felt, is as important as scientific progress.

The affair also featured the presentation of a certificate of award to Mr. Brandon, citing him for "Sympathetic understanding in advancing the spiritual and cultural heritage of Judaism." Also on the program were informal talks by three New Rochelle teenagers on various aspects of Yeshiva University life.

Proceeds of the affair will go toward the University's general maintenance fund.

Forty fellowships were awarded to students at the School of Education.

Four Instructors Added to Faculty

Four instructors have been appointed to the faculty of Yeshiva College, announced Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University.

Dr. Weiner J. Cohnman was appointed to the Sociology department; Alfred S. Golding to the Speech department; Dr. Walter H. Kaufman to the History department; and William W. Saffern to the Mathematics department.

Dr. Cohnman received his Ph.D. from the University of Munich and has taught at Fisk and Vanderbilt Universities at Nashville, Tennessee, and Brooklyn College.

Alfred Golding received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale and teaches speech at C.C.N.Y.

Dr. Kaufman received his Ph.D. from the New York School of Social Research.

William Saffern received his Masters from Columbia University where he had served as lecturer in Mathematics.

Summer Studies

"Blitzkreig" Summer Courses in Physics 1, 2 and Chemistry 11, 12 (Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis) will again be offered this year, announced Professor Morris Silverman, Registrar of Yeshiva College.

Dr. Eli Levine, professor of Chemistry, and Mr. Peretz Posen, instructor in Physics, will teach Chemistry and Physics respectively.

G-d's Close Contact with Man Stressed by Dr. Tendler in Talk

The Exodus from Egypt is a vivid portrayal of G-d's close contact, as distinguished from the philosophical view that G-d is "too busy" to concern himself with a sole human being, Rabbi Moses D. Tendler declared in a talk on *Hilchot Pesach*. This was the third in a series of Halacha Seminars sponsored by the Student Organization of Yeshiva. The seminar was held Monday, March 24 in the College Residence Hall Synagogue.

Rabbi Tendler concerned himself primarily with the problem of *Chometz* as "water mixed with any of the five grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye, and spelt) standing for eighteen minutes without manipulation." A definition of the word "manipulation" was requested and from then on the Seminar progressed into a lively discussion with all aspects of "chometz" being covered.

Other important and *halachic* topics discussed were the question of the proper *shiur* for eating

Dean Guterman Speaks On Students' Problems

Dr. Simeon L. Guterman, dean of Yeshiva College, stressed the problems Y.C. students face because of their double program, in a Fireside Chat in the dorm synagogue, Wednesday, March 26.

During a question and answer period following his address on "The Problems of the Yeshiva College Student Body," the Dean defended the institution's policy of counting G.R.E. scores for honors and awards. An English major who took the examination in this field pointed out that English courses offered at Yeshiva comprised less than 25 per cent of the questions on the G.R.E.

When asked about the grading policy of the college, Dr. Guterman replied that grading is left up to the instructor's discretion. He said, however, that five or six years ago a memorandum was sent to the faculty limiting A's and B's to 30 per cent of each class. This rule is no longer in effect. Presently, the instructor is recommended to attempt to conform to general grading practice and give no more than about 50 per cent of the class A's and B's.

Varsity Showpeace To Be Held May 7 At Joan of Arc

"Peace, It's Wonderful" is the title of the second annual Senior Varsity musical play to be held Wednesday, May 7th, at 8:30 p.m. in the Joan of Arc High School.

The play, a musical parody on the political situation existing between the U.S. and Russia portrays the humorous intrigues that take place in the armies of both countries.

The seminar Chairman is Melvin Sachs '60.

AN EDITORIAL

The right of THE COMMENTATOR to print articles, news stories and or editorials on any problems which are not limited to the college has been denied by Dr. Simeon L. Guterman, dean of Yeshiva College and concurred in by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of the university. A memorandum to this effect printed on page two of this issue specifically denies the right of this newspaper to mention a university problem which has caused much comment and many letters to the editor.

The Governing Board has voted unanimously to suspend publication of THE COMMENTATOR under this ruling. If the ruling is not rescinded there will be no COMMENTATOR.

It is the feeling of the Governing Board that THE COMMENTATOR is more than just a newspaper put out by a few individuals to print only college affairs. Rather, THE COMMENTATOR, the only student newspaper in the University above the high school level, represents the student body of the University. College students attend R.I.E.T.S., T.I., or J.S.P. and also live in the dormitory. The board is obligated to print editorials reflecting the viewpoint of student government and also to print the opposing viewpoints expressed by students.

This is the responsibility of our newspaper; it cannot be questioned, nor will we evade it.

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Pre-Rabbinics

The President of Yeshiva University has not announced approval of a Pre-Rabbinics major at the college. Dr. Simeon L. Guterman, dean of Yeshiva College, said that no such program had even reached the approval stage.

The last issue of THE COMMENTATOR had reported the approval of such a major. This report was based on a committee report to the Student Organization of Yeshiva, as recorded in the official minutes of the S.O.Y. meeting of Tuesday, March 18. The minutes stated that the administration had approved the projected major.

The members of the S.O.Y. who had been involved in the "negotiations" told THE COMMENTATOR that the Assistant Dean had been their contact in all dealings with the administration on this major, and that he had been their informant as to the status of the program.

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Official Undergraduate Newspaper of
YESHIVA COLLEGE

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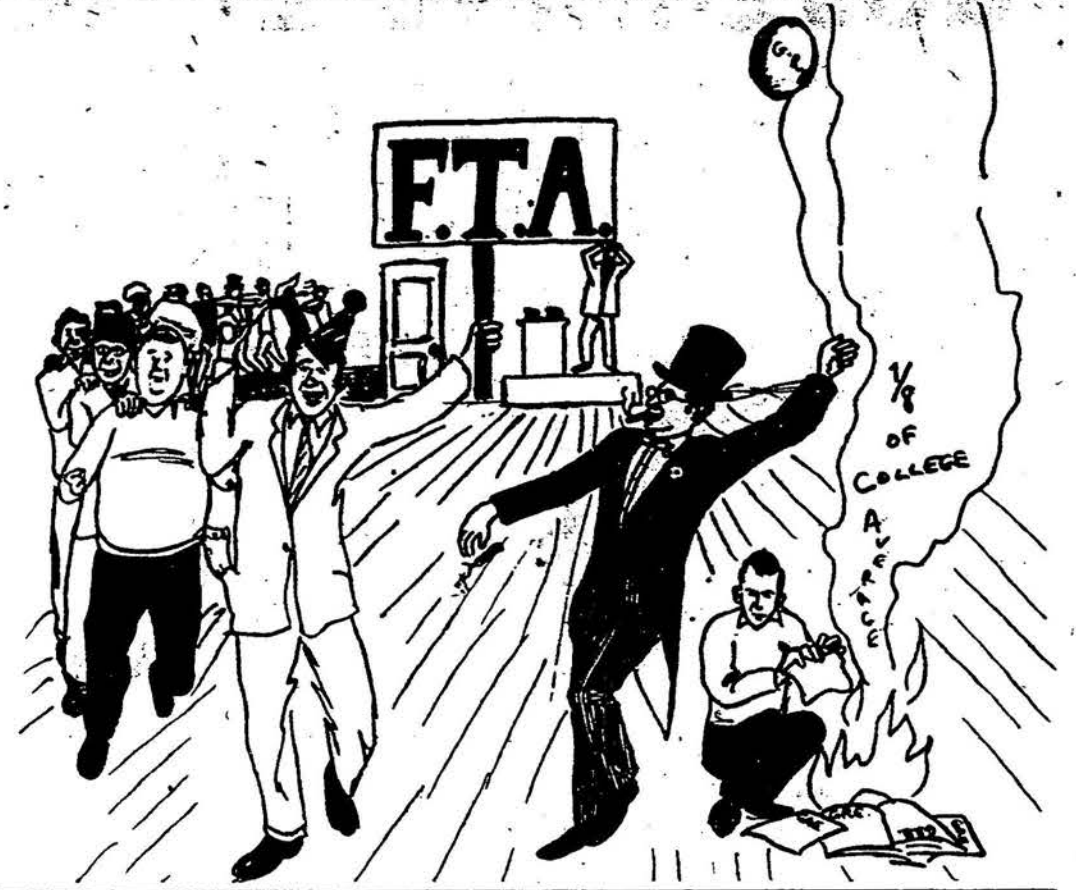
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The Living Talmud: A Case In 'Masechet Cafeteria'

By Michael Frank

The following is an excerpt from the *Gemorah; Masechet Cafeteria, Daf 84*:

Maaseh Shehaya: A man who had been employed for a number of years as a worker for a certain company had eaten most of his meals during that time at the company cafeteria. The meals were not very good but the prices were moderate. Occasionally this man would take his meals at another cafeteria some distance away. Here the food was slightly better and no more expensive, and the portions were big. But there were two disadvantages—First, there was some distance between this other cafeteria and the company and travel was inconvenient, especially during the rainy season. Secondly, this other cafeteria served no meat meals.

Now, as a result of this unsatisfactory situation this same man, along with many of his co-workers, requested new eating facilities from the company. After much argument these facilities were finally arranged. In fact, unlike the old cafeteria which was run by a caterer from the outside, this new cafeteria was going to be under the personal supervision of the manager of the company himself.

When the new cafeteria opened the food proved to be quite a bit better, the eating accommodations far superior and the prices—much higher. This same man was still dissatisfied. He claimed that it was financially impossible to manage on his wages, the new prices being what they were. (See *Masechet Stipends, Daf 21*) When his pleas went unanswered this same man brought his employer before *Rav Menachem Hadayan* for the purpose of having a *Din Torah*.

Rav Menachem had never be-

fore encountered such a case and so brought the matter up in the *Bet Medrash* to find out the opinions of the other *Rabonim*. *Rav Chaim* claimed that since the new cafeteria was intended for the advantage of the workers the prices should not have been raised. *Rebbe Velvel* took exception to those *Rabonim* who agreed with *Rav Chaim*. His objection was this: Why should the new cafeteria be forced to lower its prices when no one is forcing the workers to eat there? "Do they not have another cafeteria nearby where they can, by their own admission, get fairly good food at moderate prices?"

Reb Isser retorted: "It is known that this other cafeteria is hard to reach, especially during the rainy season and, in addition, it serves no meat meals." One of the *Talmidim, Schmelke Der Frayser* brought a question to light: "Whether it be justified or not the new cafeteria charge such high prices is a separate issue. However, we cannot demand the manager of the new cafeteria lose money. The quality of the food went up and *mamayluh* the prices had to rise."

"The *Rosh Yeshiva* summed up the matter thusly: "A slight increase in price could be excused although not condoned, for whereas the old cafeteria was run as a profitable business the new one should be a non-profit undertaking. However, under no conditions should the prices have increased to a greater degree, proportionately, than the quality of the food increased. *Rav Menachem Hadayan* having heard these diverse opinions, once again came before the *Baalay Din* and passed judgement.

"*Tayku*."

DISHING IT OUT: Ira Steinmetz, captain of the basketball team, Joseph Chervin, president of the debating team and Abraham Shapiro, editor-in-chief of THE COMMENTATOR, (l. to r.) behind the counter on opening day.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

To: Dr. Belkin

DATE: April 1, 1958

FROM: Dr. Guterman

SUBJECT: Commentator

1—Minyan question is "out of bounds" from now on. The next scheduled issue of Commentator which deals with it will have to be drastically revised or scratched.

Needed: A Transcript

This past semester the administration unveiled a new system of reporting grades. Although the new system is not perfect (for example: sending marks only to parents of out-of-town students) it is a step in the right direction. Along these same lines we feel that there is one area that is grossly neglected.

At present, students in the latter part of their junior year are informed of their cumulative average, and the credits needed for graduation.

At no time does a student ever see a copy of his transcript. The first time a student sees his transcript is when he applies to graduate school and orders a personal transcript, and sometimes not even then. This situation

leaves itself open to human error. This year so far two students found that marks they thought they received in their freshman year had been changed.

There was no positive way to definitely check the exact mark, and the faculty member is no longer present. Another student found that six credits of C had been given to him in his freshman year for two courses he never took. This problem can be alleviated by having a photostat of his transcript issued at the end of each semester to each individual student. In this manner we can avoid the human error, and stop some unfortunate accident that could foreseeably prevent or hamper a student's chances at graduate school.

The Advisor and the Educational Process

An integral part of the educational process of a university is allowing the student to take on gradually increasing responsibility. The school newspaper should fit into such a pattern by making its editors take complete responsibility for it, and consequently giving them a free hand on the editorial page. However, THE COMMENTATOR, our official Yeshiva College undergraduate newspaper, still functions under an anachronistic advisory system, which in itself had to be accepted by the students in order to avoid complete censorship.

Briefly, the advisory system works in this manner: Before copy is printed it must be sent to an alumni advisor (who is agreed upon by students and administration) for his approval as to matters of taste and propriety. If he disapproves of something and the students still want to print it, the copy is then sent to the Assistant Dean. If he disapproves the copy is sent to the President of the University.

That this set-up violated freedom of the press as an educational principle does not have to be shown, as the administration admits it. An advisor is necessary, they argue, because the students are not mature enough to have complete power to decide what should or should not be printed. This seems to be

the crux of the entire case for the advisory system, and consequently we will treat it more fully.

For the administration to argue that the students are not mature enough to be trusted with complete freedom of criticism, requires a certain state of mind on their part, on which presupposes that Yeshiva College students are somehow not really men but rather overgrown high school boys. Such an attitude is not at all conducive to the molding of a healthy intellectual atmosphere enabling the student to realize his capabilities to the fullest extent. If an individual is to emerge from college with the broadened viewpoint which a traditional liberal arts education aims to achieve, he must be treated while there as a mature person who is fully able to think on his own. It should be felt that he is responsible enough to be allowed to criticize constructively in print without having to ultimately submit his criticism for approval to the very individuals he may be criticizing.

The time has come for the administration to take a long hard second look at their attitudes and inevitable results. Constructive criticism has never harmed an institution. A university, whose purpose is to develop an inquiring attitude, should encourage, rather than suppress, a healthy organ of student opinion.