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The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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No. 4

Physics Students Are Given Chance For Creative Study

The Physics Department has established a creative laboratory section in general physics and has also announced that the facilities of the Physics Department will be open to all students Thursday evenings.

These innovations are intended to encourage greater student use of the extensive facilities of the department.

The laboratory section, under the direction of Dr. Leon F.

Bards Test Their Skill In Shakespeare Match

The Shakespeare Club, in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare, is sponsoring an essay contest on the subject, "Shakespeare Speaks to Four Centuries."

The contest offers a prize of \$100 for the best essay by an undergraduate student at any college in New York City. Essays should be 2000-2500 words in length, and may use a literary, scholarly, or dramatic approach.

The deadline for their receipt by the Club is January 6, 1964.

Further information may be obtained from H. Hermele, Rubin Hall, room 717.

Landovitz, associate professor of physics at the Belfer Graduate School of Science and Rabbi Joshua Shucatowitz, teaching fellow in physics, allows its ten students to plan and carry out their own experiments, either original or adapted from laboratory manuals.

Experiments are taken from such fields as measurement theory, vectors, Newton's laws, harmonic motion and the gas laws.

Among experiments in progress is one to determine the velocity of a rifle bullet by displacement of a block suspended in line with it and one for measurement of the coefficient of the viscosity of rarefied gases.

No Item For Pleasure

The facilities for Thursday evenings include the darkroom, optics laboratory, electronic laboratory, a ham radio station and a machine shop. Equipment in the electronics laboratory includes an oscilloscope and complete test equipment. The ham radio station, which has a 300-watt transmitter as well as a teleprinter circuit, is intended primarily to encourage the study of radio circuitry, rather than to provide an entertainment medium.

Students who find Thursday evenings inconvenient should leave notes stating their preferences for other dates with Mrs. Liss in the Registrar's Office.

Air Force Awards Space Study Grant To Belfer Chairman

A two-year grant of \$88,512 has been awarded by the U. S. Air Force Office of Aerospace Research to Dr. Peter Bergmann, chairman of the physics department of Yeshiva's Belfer Graduate School of Science. The grant will be issued for research in the fields of "irreversible processes and general relativity."

Dr. Bergmann will explore two distinct problems. First, in his study of "irreversible processes," he will be concerned with the "one-sidedness" of time, the quality that enables us to distinguish instinctively between future and past. None of the accepted microscopic laws of physics exhibit this one-sidedness, but nature, as a whole, certainly does.

(Continued on page 5)

TI Proposes New Methods Of Study

Next semester, juniors in TI will be allowed to register in an experimental Talmud section in which the subject matter will be



Dr. Hyman Grinstein

studied by *sugyot*, or topics. This was one of three proposals adopted at a recent meeting of Teachers Institute Talmud instructors, according to Hyman B. Grinstein, director.

The topical method is already used in TI for the study of *Chumash*, and was used in some Galician and Hungarian *yeshivot* for the study of Talmud. This method will help to familiarize the student with the essence of the entire tractate, and will allow easier study and recall of the subject matter.

Rabbi Aaron Kreiser, who is slated to teach the class, has been asked to prepare a topical arrangement for the study of tractate *Berachot*. Dr. Grinstein noted that if the experimental class proves successful, the method will be adopted in other Talmud classes.

The second proposal concerned a period to be set aside one day each week from 1:00 to 2:30 for the individual preparation and review of Talmud. The *chazarah* period will be put into effect either this spring or next fall. The Talmud instructor will be present to supervise. Six hours a week will still be retained for lecture periods in Talmud.

Finally, it was proposed that the *Yahadut* course, a terminal program for seniors dealing with such topics as *ta'amei hamitvoit*, should include the study of portions of the Talmud appropriate to the subject matter of the course.

The TI Administration hopes in the future to apply the topical method also to the study of *Nach*. This procedure, recently introduced in Israel, would bring the student into contact with all parts of *Nach*.

Guidance Brochure To Advise Seniors

Yeshiva College's guidance program is being expanded, especially in the area of guidance to seniors choosing graduate schools, announced Rabbi Edward Diamond, director of guidance.

A brochure on examinations required for admission to graduate schools is in preparation. It will include the tests required, their administration dates, and sources for further information. The brochure will also contain a listing of fellowships available to Yeshiva College seniors and a reprint of a *Time* magazine special report on fellowships.

A forthcoming booklet will contain information obtained from various graduate schools about admission requirements and degrees offered, and will also discuss problems of Sabbath observance at these schools.

Assemblyman Torres Hails Fair Sabbath Bill Passage

Assemblyman Frank Torres (D-Bronx) discussed legislative issues and accomplishments in an address to the Yeshiva College Young Democrats Thursday, November 11.

He cited the Fair Sabbath Bill as the principal accomplishment of the 1963 session, asserting that it corrected an unrealistic and dis-

criminatory situation wherein it was permissible to sell gasoline but not auto batteries, tobacco but not pipes, and bread but not raw meat, on Sunday.

One of the main issues which the New York City delegation will press in the coming legislative session, according to Assemblyman Torres, is reapportionment of the state legislature in accordance with a formula which will not discriminate against urban areas.

Priority is also given to withdrawal of the tuition mandate to the New York City Board of Higher Education, an elimination of literacy tests for voting, authorization of off-track betting, and a return to the traditional right of grand juries to make presentments.

Apportionment

The current apportionment formula dates to the 1890's and gives the Bronx, with a population of over one million, twelve seats, while upstate Yates County, with only 17,000 people, has at least one. The assemblyman saw little hope for improvement except in court action, because the large rural majority in the Legislature is opposed to any change which could weaken its position, and has stifled all proposals for change by confining them to committee.

A bill to eliminate the tuition mandate was defeated last year, in a session delayed to 2 a.m., primarily, according to Assemblyman Torres, because the Republican members of the Legislature were hesitant to act on the measure in the presence of some 20,000 college students who had gathered in a rally to halt the threatened imposition of tuition charges at the City Colleges. While the mandate did not require such charges, it left the door open for their imposition, especially if withdrawal of state aid were to be threatened.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel's Mrs. Golda Meir Addresses Overflow Audience At Alumni Lecture

Peace, disarmament, and the equality of all people — these are the keys to Israel's foreign policy, according to Mrs. Golda Meir, foreign minister of Israel.

Mrs. Meir spoke at Yeshiva University, November 12, on "Aspects of Israel's Foreign Policy," in the first lecture of a series sponsored by the YU Rabbinic Alumni, the Yeshiva College Alumni Association, the Stern College Alumnae Association and the Teachers Institute Associated

In view of this, Israel must limit its friendship to those nations which support its measures for self-defense. However, it has never conditioned its friendship on other nations' acceptance of any particular internal policy.

While recognizing that war in the Middle East would cause heavy losses even to the victors, Israel has always been prepared for it, knowing that the only deterrent to Arab attack is the strength to repulse it.

Israel recognizes the right of all nations to rapid development, believing that living standards which once took centuries to achieve can now be reached in decades, if the proper assistance is given.

For excerpts from Mrs. Meir's speech turn to page 5.

This means not only the granting of aid to temporarily help in alleviating specific problems, but the sharing of knowledge that will enable these nations to help themselves, it being Israel's belief that filling a man's stomach and thereby destroying his initiative is the greatest possible mistake.

On the question of Middle East peace, Israel has always favored direct negotiations on any reasonable issue, including compensation for loss of property by Arab refugees. Mrs. Meir stated that the United Nations has failed somewhat in this area, because it has been overly cautious in the use of its moral authority.

Mrs. Meir stated, in closing, that Israel's true power is that of the spirit.

Dr. Yitzhak Rafael, deputy minister of health for the State of Israel, delivered the second lecture in the series last night at 8:30 p.m. in Furst Hall. He discussed, "Is There a *Kulturkampf* in Israel."



Lampport Auditorium packed as Golda Meir speaks on Israel.

Alumni on "Current Challenges to Israel."

Israel's foreign policy centers on a recognition of its uniqueness as the only United Nations member under constant attack by another

member state, both militarily and from the United Nations rostrum.

Israel, lacking friendship in the Middle East, has found some, according to Mrs. Meir, in the new nations of Asia and Africa.

On The Sidelines

Travails With Charlie



By Val Karan

Don't think for a moment, because I call the fetal pig I'm dissecting in biology lab Charlie Hoiman, that I hate my roommate. *Pas de tout.*

All right, I confess, there is a reason for my voodooistic name-calling, not that everything I write or do is explicable; you see, I'm a little jealous.

My roommate, bless his soles, is the antithesis of a *chaxir*. He's not fat. The trouble is he's not skinny, either. He sort of fits together in the right way, *B'tzelem* Gorgeous George, you might say.

Superman

So every night before the end-of-the-time-of-retiring, when I see my roommate flex and contract his superhuman muscles in an unusual exhibition of calisthenics, my vanity is crushed. Abashed, I weep to myself, "Why must I remain a mild man and reporter?"

Luckily for me, I've found a solution to my dilemma. After all, I figured, if daily exercises work for him, maybe they'll work for me, too.

Moreover I thought—in one of my rare flashes of brilliance—maybe I can secure a routine for other fellows whose physical conditions leave something to be desired—which includes 95% of the school.

I approached Coach Wettstein with the problem, and he concurred: "The physical fitness tests administered by Professor Tauber and myself during the past few years," he said, "have clearly shown the appalling condition of the average Yeshiva College student. Even mild training, done regularly, will help keep the Yeshiva student fairly fit."

Helpful Hints

And so the good coach consented to draw up a round of simple exercises that one can practice in his room for 10-15 minutes per night. Beginning with this issue, this routine will be featured serially on the sports page.

You will note that besides the physical drill, the coach also included the physiological reason for each exercise. "Bear in mind," he said, "that when you practice, practice with a purpose."

And so, I present the first sequence of my panacea-for-roommate-jealousness. But **DON'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY**. These few ex-



ercises will not only improve your present physical state, but they'll also pay off in invigorative general health.

EXERCISE I—Rowing (Slow to moderate)

Starting position: on back, arms extended overhead; feet together. Movement:

1. Sit up and at the same time bend knees sharply; lean forward thrusting or swinging arms forward to a rowing position. Knees are together and against the chest, feet are flat on ground, and heels close to buttocks. Arms are extended forward.
2. Recover to starting position.

EXERCISE II—Reach and Twist (Slow rhythm)

Starting position: on back, feet separated about two feet, hands placed on the floor overhead.

Movement:

1. Sit up reaching across with right hand touching toes on left foot.
2. Recover to starting position.
3. Repeat No. 1, touching left hand to right foot.
4. Recover to starting position.

The muscles used in this exercise are primarily those of the abdomen. P.S. Due to the urgency of the topic treated above, I'm postponing to a later issue my statement why Sonny Liston is a better candidate for an honorary degree at Yeshiva University than Yogi Berra. I just hope I don't change my mind until then.

Yeshiva's Mighty Mites Anticipating A Rough And Tough Hoop Schedule

The YU basketball team intends to have a winning season this year. This statement probably sums up the feelings of the team's members as the 1963-64 campaign draws closer. It will be a rough year.

Art Aaron, last year's top scorer, is determined to lead the squad and possibly the Tri-State League in the scoring department. Without a doubt, he has the finest offensive moves and shooting ability on the squad. He could start for any team in the league. Last year, in fact, he placed fifth in the league in scoring.

season. He's expected to get even more rebounds this year, and he'll



Kenny Jacobson

be looked to for compliance with the set plays and patterns developed by the coach. If he can lead the team effectively, YU fans may be in for a surprise this year.

Court Wizard

The scholar of the team, and second member of last year's "troika" captainship, is Kenny Jacobson. He started slowly last season only scoring three or four baskets a game. But by midseason he caught fire and scored over twenty points a game. He finished the season with a 12.25 average.

Jacobson, well-liked by his teammates, has superior knowledge of the game and its strategy. Though a big man, he will probably be seen this year in the backcourt, where he is very effective in assuming the field leadership, forming the plays, and setting up the baskets.

A big factor in last year's poor showing was the lack of cohesion of the team. It is hoped that Jacobson can fuse the team into a functioning unit while continuing his hot scoring pace of late last season.

"Suitcase"

Rounding out the big three is Bob Podhurst. After his great sophomore showing he was expected to lead the team to success last year. Unfortunately, the opposition bore down on him and he

was stopped. He led the team in rebounds (11 per game) and will be expected to lead them again this year.

If Podhurst can maneuver his way about the center and regain his fine form of two and three years ago, our league opponents may find YU to be a tough customer.

One very important facet of the team's play will be in Bob's hands—defense. He was superb in this department last season though this was ignored by most fans. This year he will have an even greater responsibility, as the caliber of the



Robert Podhurst

other teams on the schedule has improved greatly.

All three men expressed a keen desire for support from the student body this season.

Sport Shorts

The Judo club, organized by Charles Friedlander '64, meets every Friday in the gym under the guidance of a black-belt holder. So far twelve students are taking advantage of this unique extracurricular sport.

Seniors Stan Kaplan and Jack Sheiker are currently engaged in an unusual sports endeavor. Every Sunday they play ice hockey with the West Side Athletic Association of New York.

Wrestlers Are Hopeful, Pruzansky Is Team Leader

Two seniors—one from RIETS, one from JSP, both chemistry majors and both planning to go on to graduate school. What does this add up to? A spark that will ignite Yeshiva's grapplers and carry them to what may prove to be Yeshiva's best mat season yet.

The two seniors, co-captains Jeffrey Berg and Joel Pruzansky, as Coach Wittenberg puts it, "are the mainstays of the team and are heavily counted on to give us a winning year. Although neither had much wrestling experience prior to coming to Yeshiva, they are two of the best conditioned and most dedicated wrestlers I've ever had."

Berg, with one year of experience, carries a string of five straight victories into this season. Joel, who holds Yeshiva's record for the fastest pin, a 35 second conquest, also looks to extend his streak of five straight.

"In the 157 pound class," coach Wittenberg commented, "we've got a boy whose academics are not limited to the classroom. Moishe Siev will get on the mat and use his head. And Barry Berger, our heavyweight, found himself last year and should provide some exciting wrestling."

The rest of the weight classes are pretty much open. Barry Weiss at 137, and Jay Weiss, a 167 pounder, have good chances of tying down their positions. The old nemesis of Yeshiva, the lightweight classes, will again pose the largest problem. As usual, few lightweights have shown their faces near the YU mats.

This year has produced the largest turnout ever, over 50 boys, for Monday and Wednesday wrestling. Any of these boys can fill a vacant position. Any boy in college who thinks he can fill a position is welcome to come out and try. Why don't you?

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY Wrestling Schedule 1963-64
Henry Wittenberg, Coach

December	4	Hunter	Away
Wednesday	11	Marist	Home
Monday	16	Bronx Com. Col.	Away
Thursday	19	Seton Hall	Away
January			
Tuesday	7	OCCC	Home
Thursday	9	Monmouth	Home
February			
Tuesday	4	Rutgers	Home
Wednesday	12	CCNY	Away
"Sunday"	16	Brandels	Home
Tuesday	18	Columbia U.	Home
Tuesday	25	Suffolk	Home
March			
Monday	2	Brooklyn Poly	Away

Home matches start at 8 P.M.
All home matches take place at Yeshiva University gymnasium.
*Match starts at 12:00 P.M.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY Fencing Schedule 1963-64
Arthur Tauber, Coach

December	4	Jersey City	Home
	11	Fairleigh Dickinson	Away
	16	N. Y. Com. Col.	Home
January	6	Fordham	Home
February	10	Rutgers	Home
	12	Drew	Home
	26	Brooklyn	Home
March	5	B'klyn Poly Tech	Away
	7	Brandels	Home
	12	Patterson State	Home
	19	St. Peters	Away

Home matches start at 8 P.M.
All home matches are placed at Yeshiva University gymnasium.

INTRAMURAL SCHEDULES Fall 1963

Hy Wettstein, Director
Herold Wasserman, Coordinator

Nov. 12	Basketball: Smicha vs. Seniors
	Volleyball: Frosh vs. Juniors
Nov. 19	Basketball: Juniors vs. Smicha
	Volleyball: Sophs vs. Seniors
Nov. 26	Basketball: Sophs vs. Smicha
	Volleyball: Frosh vs. Seniors
Dec. 3	Basketball: Juniors vs. Seniors
	Volleyball: Frosh vs. Sophs
Dec. 17	Basketball: Frosh vs. Smicha
	Volleyball: Sophs vs. Juniors
Dec. 24	Basketball: Frosh vs. Juniors

Time
Basketball: 9:20 - 10:30
Volleyball: 8:45 - 9:20

The Professor Exposed

Mr. Leo Taubes

by Richard Kohlman

Unlike most instructors in English composition and literature, Mr. Leo Taubes spent the war years in Holland and then journeyed to England, where he remained until 1949. He graduated Yeshiva College in 1955, and shortly thereafter received his M.A. from Columbia.



Mr. Leo Taubes

The result of this exposure to various languages is a soft-spoken yet forceful tone which has faint overtones of a polished King's English which sometimes culminates in a Talmudic thumb-swinging inflection.

Mr. Taubes does not shy away from revealing the primary weaknesses of Yeshiva University students.

Intellectual Lack

"There is a lack of burning desire among the undergraduates to probe, to develop intellectually," he asserted. Mr. Taubes feels that the main purpose of the collegiate's first years should be to develop an approach to life, a personal outlook.

"Regarding synthesis," Mr. Taubes declared, "students are not at all clear on the issue, and as a result teaching becomes more difficult. Unfortunately, students tend to avoid any substantial thought on 'the subject.'"

Mr. Taubes acknowledged a stringent grading approach in his classes, explaining that he wishes to put an end to the prevailing

lax attitude toward English. "Long hours of study prior to a chemistry or physics exam are expected, but students tend to view English as a shallow subject. This is a wrong attitude to take."

Ouch

In his campaign to challenge the student to thought and achievement, Mr. Taubes composes exams which never fail (ouch!) to be imaginative and stimulating.

An essay has required the student to place himself in the position of a salesman hawking volumes of romantic poetry and writing a sales pitch for twenty-five dollars—uh, pants. Mr. Taubes also has a standing semi-assignment to write original short stories and poetry, which he considers the "ultimate challenge."

Mr. Taubes is doing research for a doctoral thesis on Milton, and is in the last stages of preparing for publication a translation of contemporary German poetry. He resides with his wife and two children in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Way Off Broadway Imperfections Don't Lessen Spirit Of The Wall

by Kopl Saltman

It is rare that one sees a production of a serious Broadway play where the lights go on at the wrong time, the prompter is audible, and the curtain almost falls on the actors. This is what hap-

pened at times during Yavneh's presentation of *The Wall*, but the audience, I assure you, still appreciated every minute of the performance.

For not only was the acting excellent in many cases—about the best was done by Sherman Marcus, a counsellor in Rubin Hall—but also there was a spirit prevalent on stage which seemed to penetrate throughout Hunter College's auditorium.

The play itself, by Millard Lampell, concerns a group of Jews in Warsaw during World War II, from the time just before the enforcement of the infamous ghetto restrictions until the almost total annihilation of its inhabitants.

Husband Willing to Convert

Many of the characters are familiar types. Among them are the husband who is willing to convert in order to get out of the country, and who leaves his wife and children behind and the Jewish

policeman who hands over other Jews to save himself.

Sometimes there is gross caricature. As an example, the rabbi gives a ridiculous explanation in permitting horse's meat to be eaten at a wedding. But the power of the play lies in the way it shows the tremendous change in life that occurred not only in the case of the Jews of Warsaw, but with the Jews of all Europe.

A young man, Dolek, feels that life is a cruel and inescapable joke, and, therefore, is indifferent toward the Nazis. His attitude enrages Rachel, who recognizes the danger of the Nazis from the very beginning.

The main point of the author is, in fact, that the Jews knew what was happening around them, but repressed the reality until it was too late to resist effectively. This idea is strongly expressed in one scene where the Jews celebrate a wedding inside while screams of a victim of a Nazi raid are heard outside. Rachel tries hysterically to get someone to help, but in vain. The singing and the screams go on in tragic discord.

In another scene, a man describes what happened when he followed a freight train carrying Jews: "The train suddenly changed direction; I followed along the tracks until I finally approached the train's destination. I couldn't get close but I saw that the Jews who went in never came out; smoke, and a disgusting stench, filled the air."

The Unacceptable Truth

The reaction of the listeners was one of general disbelief, and one person suggested that the facts be checked. To this viewer, it was clear that those concerned subconsciously knew the man wasn't lying, but the recognition of this unbelievable atrocity was impossible.

In the end the remaining Jews finally do resist, and Dolek breaks out of his indifference by sacrificing himself to save his friends. The play ends with the escape of these friends, and the immediate reaction of the playgoer is one of relief.

But then the memory of those who weren't so fortunate begins to creep back, and haunts the playgoer even after the last curtain.

WHN's Program On Admissions

"College Clinic" is a new radio program dealing with admissions problems at institutions of higher learning. It is being presented every Sunday at 12 noon, by Yeshiva University, over WHN radio. Professor David Mirsky, dean of admissions at Yeshiva, is host of the five minute series.

The program will discuss the problems confronting high school seniors who are attempting to select a college and a curriculum, and college undergraduates who want to continue their education in a graduate school.

Survey Sees Many Jewish College Students Breaking Religious Ties

by Steven Prystowsky

Are American Jewish college students abandoning Judaism?

Yes, states a recent study of the political and religious attitudes of American college students. The main causes are attributed "both to lack of firm religious upbringing and to intellectual tendencies at liberal arts colleges."

This survey was the followup to a questionnaire prepared in 1959 by the editors of the *Harvard Crimson* in consultation with professor David Reisman. The *Crimson* questionnaire, given to Harvard and Radcliffe students, consisted of eighty-two difficult and often-detailed questions.

Typical Colleges

The poll was conducted by Educational Reviewer, Inc. It concluded that twelve liberal arts colleges were chosen because they "typified a certain style of educa-

tion: small town, church-affiliated, state supported, etc." The results were published in the October 8 edition of the *National Review*.

The objectives of the poll were twofold: "to identify the influences at work at liberal arts colleges and their bearings on undergraduate values; and to determine how students from different backgrounds are likely to react to these influences."

The conclusions reached are not too encouraging for Orthodoxy. They include: 1. American liberal arts colleges, with the sole exception of Roman Catholic colleges, tend to debilitate the religious convictions of their students. 2. College faculties tend to exert a liberalizing influence on their students.

This article will only examine the attitudes of Jewish students. Answering each questionnaire were: Sarah Lawrence—40, Williams—10, Yale—13, Marquette, a Catholic university supported by Jesuits—1, Boston University—42, Indiana—8, University of South Carolina, state sponsored and segregated—2, Howard, a Negro university—4, Reed—25, Davidson, Presbyterian affiliated—none, Brandeis—75, and Stanford—9.

Shocking Defections

Jewish students, on the whole, tend to abandon the basic tenets of their faith at whatever college they attend. The survey states, "The defections among students of Judaic background are even more shocking than those of Protestants." Formal defection from Judaism, it adds, is widespread.

In comparison with Protestant students at Sarah Lawrence, 55% of the Jewish students questioned have apostatized. Only 10% of the Protestant students rejected their faith. Figures at other colleges

are just as alarming. They include Williams—47%, Yale—25%, Howard—slightly more than 10%, Reed—55%, and Brandeis—37%.

The survey reported that at every college but one, South Carolina, "the number of Jewish students has decreased markedly vis-a-vis the number of students raised in the Jewish religious tradition." The Jews who did not "formally apostatize" consider Judaism as "a vague folk tradition rather than as a genuine faith." Only at a large state-supported school are the Jewish students likely to consider themselves Jewish.

Among all the campuses polled, only at Stanford University—68%, and Harvard University—60%, do majorities of Jewish-raised students still profess Judaism as a religion. Paradoxically, Stanford University is the only school in the poll where an appreciable number, 7%, of students with a Jewish background 'totally reject' Judaism.

The responses to the question concerning Jewish students' attitudes toward Judaism should give the American Jewish community a jolt. Brandeis supporters will especially be taken back. "For even though 63% of Brandeis' Jews remained affiliated with the religion of their upbringing, only 31% admit that they profess Judaism as a religion, agreeing wholly or substantially with its beliefs and traditions."

Ironie Brandeis Problems

27% of the Jewish-raised students at Brandeis tend to identify or associate with Jewish people more than gentiles, regardless of the religious beliefs of the individuals involved, and therefore think of themselves as Jewish.

21% consider themselves Jew-
(Continued on page 5)

Off-Year Elections Reveal Negro And White Reactions

by David Wilk

For the past two weeks attention has been focused upon the results of the general elections held Tuesday, November 5, and upon their implications for the 1964 presidential campaign.

Race Issue Exploited

Most important in everyone's mind was the question of what effect the race issue would have. It was widely felt that the Republicans would gain from two sources. The first was from the so-called "white backlash" consisting of those whites who believe that President Kennedy is moving too fast on civil rights.

The second was from those Negroes who believe that the President isn't moving fast enough.

The latter, while perhaps not voting Republican, would at least not vote Democratic, it was hoped by Republicans.

In Philadelphia, the Democratic candidate, James H. J. Tate, defeated the Republican, James McDermott, by 68,000 votes. However, the last elected mayor of Philadelphia, Democrat Richardson Dilworth, won by over 200,000 votes.

In 1960, President Kennedy carried the city by 330,000 votes. Although it is generally believed that Mr. Tate has less ability than his predecessor, his reduced majority is more likely due to his opponent's winning the predominantly white districts.

(Continued on page 6)

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The Jews — Reaction

The animosity of some Jews towards their brethren is an unfortunate fact of life. It is by no means a recent phenomenon, but an efficient press and improved communications have reported, and often magnified, certain flareups to the non-Jewish populace. The provocation for demonstrations may be great, but the impact of pictures in the world press showing *chassidic* youths with *payas* defacing Israeli property with swastikas (of any form) is certainly a devastating setback to any pro-Jewish feeling we hope to inspire in our neighbors.

Fortunately, we have good cause to expect that such incidents will not be repeated. A meeting of *Roshei-yeshiva* and representatives of major Orthodox organizations was held to discuss the situation in Israel and to decide on appropriate action. Rabbis Joseph B. Soloveichick, Moshe Feinstein and Yitzchak Huttner were delegated to draft a resolution in the name of American Orthodoxy. One immediate result of that meeting should be the cessation of picketing by *talmidei Yeshiva* in the manner of the demonstration in front of the Israeli Consulate.

* * *

Problems facing orthodoxy in Israel are many. The Alumni Association series, especially the questions posed to Mrs. Meir and Mr. Raphael, emphasized this and we intend to devote a good deal of space in coming issues to probe these problems, see what is being done, and what we, as a student body, can do to help.

Briefly, the basic issues are the problem of missionary activity, the anti-religious wave among Israeli youth, the effects of the new policies of world Catholicism on the relation of the Jew to the Christian ideology and influence, the general problems of *halacha* in a Jewish state, and the specific problems of Orthodoxy in Jerusalem. Each of these requires attention and no student here can afford to be oblivious to any of them. Monetary support for the anti-*shmad* program of P'eylim is merely a good starting point.

Amid the current confusion, a few things are obvious. First, the situation is reaching the point where action of some sort is inevitable. We see this reflected in the activities of the *Knesset* and in the feelings of all Jews. Second, the solution will not be engineered by the rock throwers or the sign painters. Finally, no one can justly claim *his personal insignificance* and idly await a solution from without.

The Catholics — Retraction

Throughout the ages the appellation "Christ Killers" has been associated with the Jewish people. Persecution and perse-

cutors followed the Jew wherever he lived, wherever he travelled. Inquisition, crusades, and mass murders were the methods employed to punish the people accused of participating in the death of Jesus. During these periods of massacres the Catholic Church often remained silent; frequently, it participated.

Only after examining the Catholic-Judaic relationship in history can we welcome the recent *communiqué* discussing the document "The Attitudes of Catholics Toward Non-Christians, Particularly Toward the Jews."

The *communiqué*, issued two weeks ago at the Vatican Ecumenical Council, absolves the Jewish people of special responsibility for the crucifixion.

It further states that preachers and catechists "are admonished never to present a contrary position" to the assertion that "the sacred events of the Bible, and, in particular, its account of the crucifixion, cannot give rise to disdain or hatred or persecution of the Jews."

Although the document must be ratified in the Council, it is a significant move to combat anti-Semitism. We cannot, however, foresee the end of anti-Semitism in the near future. Too many youths and adults have been taught to persecute the Jews. To believe that this one document will end years of teaching is unrealistic. We hope that the Catholic Church will not stop with the approval of this document and will continue its fight to end intolerance in the world.

The Students — Re Destruction

Student Council has assumed responsibility for the study rooms on the fifth floor of RIETS Hall. There are five rooms open, each accomodating up to twenty persons for quiet, intensive study.

Unknown to most of the student body, the delay in opening these rooms was caused by fellow students. Malicious vandalism, for example, the stuffing of locks with tooth-picks, and the destruction of a door with an ax, was a major factor in the administration's withholding of these rooms.

Vandalism is not a polite word, nor is it applicable to the entire student body. Yet, there are a few individuals who are destructive (even to the extent of removing every heat control knob in Furst Hall) and who cause the majority to suffer.

THE COMMENTATOR deplors the fact that it must chastise the student body. However, once the facts are brought to light, it is hoped that college students will behave and act in a manner befitting their maturity. It is embarrassing to have Student Council guarantee proper care to study areas which, by right, should be provided without hesitation by the administration.

The President Speaks

Curriculum Evaluation; Cooperation Is Urged

by David Berger

The designation of Student Council as an extra-curricular activity may be an accurate one, yet it can give rise to a number of curious and dangerous misconceptions. Specifically, one can maintain that Student Council is to concern itself with matters on the periphery of student interest, while matters of ultimate value to the student are not within its province.

We must not accept such a view. The purpose of Student Council is to serve as an aid to the student in every possible way; it therefore becomes imperative that Council concern itself with the most vital part of a student's life in the university — his education. An evaluation of the curriculum from the student point of view should not be viewed as a presumptuous act. We recognize, of course, that the faculty and administration consist of many individuals with far more experience in educational matters than that possessed by any student. But it is, after all, the student who is the recipient of this education.

And so his opinions and advice, when given in a mature and serious manner, can help the faculty as well in reaching our common goal of a fruitful education. "Here," says a National Student Association booklet on course evaluation, "is one of the best oppor-

tunities to begin building the educational community we are striving for."

A curriculum committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Shep Melzer '64 and Daniel Kapustin '64. The committee is now engaged in the preparation of a questionnaire which will, we hope, elicit thoughtful comment and suggestions from the students.

Each student will be asked to fill out one questionnaire dealing with general suggestions on curriculum matters and another dealing with his specific courses.

We would very much like to prepare a similar questionnaire for faculty members. A full response from the faculty on such matters would be of inestimable value.

The results of such a re-evaluation of the curriculum together with an analysis by the committee will, in short form, be published in THE COMMENTATOR. The full report will be made available to the administration.

This study is a vital function of Student Council. Any suggestions on the form of the questionnaire should be brought to Mr. Melzer or Mr. Kapustin as quickly as possible. It is, finally, of the greatest importance that everyone cooperate to the utmost to make this an objective, mature, and significant project.

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

The article which appeared in the last issue of THE COMMENTATOR with reference to Rabbinic placement was enlightening. One statement was of special interest. "The Community Service Division successfully filled twenty of the positions with *mehitzos*, two with separate seating, and sixteen with mixed seating but 'with a good chance for change.'"

Since the Community Service Division has apparently compiled a thorough survey of the 367 pulpits held at present by Yeshiva graduates, perhaps it also has information available regarding the following topics:

Our most prominent *Roshei-yeshiva* have frequently stressed the stringency of the *halachic* view towards houses of worship which do not meet the specifications of a *beis-haknesses*. On the other hand, Jewish law also gives consideration to special, mitigating circumstances.

During the past year, eighteen pulpits of this character were issued by the Community Service Division to Yeshiva rabbis. It would be most interesting to study the statistics which would indicate in how many cases a *halachic* authority was consulted. Perhaps CSD could also inform us in the next issue of COMMENTATOR in how many cases a *psak-din* was received from a great Torah personality permitting the rabbi to

accept his pulpit because of special circumstances.

THE COMMENTATOR emphasizes that the sixteen pulpits with mixed seating were judged to have "a good chance for change." Perhaps the Community Service Division also has statistics on hand or has access to information which would indicate what percentage of Yeshiva rabbis has succeeded in changing synagogues — originally occupied with mixed seating — to meet the specifications of a *beis-haknesses*.

As students interested in the rabbinate, we have a personal interest in Yeshiva's rabbinic placement policies. At the same time, we are certain that many other students at Yeshiva would also welcome the publication of the statistics which have been requested.

Yitzchok M. Frank '61
Melech Press '61

To the Editor:

David Wilk's letter of November 6, 1963 is a clearly defined assessment of the conservative position. Nevertheless, I find that it is based on the underlying inconsistencies of Senator Barry A. Goldwater's political notions.

Any political analyst who has an accurate view of the history of American politics understands that the Goldwater campaign is a carefully continued reaction disguised as a "grass roots movement."

Goldwater's domestic policies
(Continued on page 5)

Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 2)

To the Editor:

Is there a library for Hebrew in this university? If, as it is rumored; the Mendel Gottesman Library is that library, why is it that:

- 1) The librarians consistently refuse to help a student find a book on the shelves?
- 2) Books needed by students for term papers are in cold storage in some secret hideaway?
- 3) The library committee, consisting of faculty members, hasn't met in more than a year?
- 4) One half of the library is effectively roadblocked to bar any student trespassing.
- 5) To get even a very well-known book a student of YU must go to the Jewish Theological Seminary Library?

As a student who has been searching for books in Gottesman in order to prepare a term paper, I have come to the conclusion that this library is being prepared for entombment. In my opinion, it should be called Mendel Gottesman Museum. For what purpose is this library standing if not to fulfill the students' needs? I cannot wait ten years to write my paper. I need the books now. Doesn't anyone around here care about the needs of the students?
Neil Koslowe '66

To the Editor:

Half a term gone and all is not well. A father, determined to teach his son, often lectured him on the importance of being knowledgeable. There was much for the son to learn, and so each day the father and son held learning sessions. Eventually, the boy became disgusted and completely ignored his father. He would no longer be frustrated by his father's noble efforts. You see, the boy was deaf; he could not hear what his father was saying.

What can be done with the students in RIETS who do not understand Yiddish? There is no sophomore *shiur* taught in any

Legislator Supports Off-Track Betting

(Continued from page 1)

Assemblyman Torres characterized literacy tests as inherently discriminatory, a device inaugurated in New York in 1921 as a reaction to immigrants who "had the audacity to vote Democratic." He proposed their complete elimination, arguing that the alternative of giving them in numerous languages was too cumbersome.

And They're Off

Believing that gambling, being as widespread as it is, cannot be halted, the city delegation in the legislature will move for its legislation under government control as a means of diverting the profits of gambling from criminals to government.

The right of presentment, long enjoyed by New York State grand juries, was ruled illegal by the courts last year. The city delegation wishes to re-establish it as a useful watchdog on non-criminal errors of government officials.

other language. Learning in the *Beis Medrash* and sitting quietly and politely in *shiur* — why come to the Yeshiva?

What is to become of the student who feels he is wasting precious time and finds excuses for not being present in *shiur*? What entrance requirement for RIETS demands that a student be Yiddish-speaking? Having *shiurim* in Yiddish not only is unfair, but does not make sense.

The administration evidently does not care about these students; it is ignoring the problems confronting them. Is it any wonder that sometimes students ignore the administration? They just don't care, either!

Shouldn't something be done?
Joseph I. Berlin '66

Golda Meir's Speech Filled With Emotion

(The following are excerpts from Mrs. Golda Meir's lecture at Yeshiva University.)

"... I know and I'm told that it wouldn't be too impossible for me to speak *Ivrit* tonight. Believe me that I'd appreciate it very much. In the first place its natural. Second it's a joy to be able to speak in *Ivrit* in New York. In the third place, it's because I'm simply tired of speaking English all day.

"But I'm told that whereas probably the vast majority of the people here could very well understand Hebrew, there are still some that have taken the trouble to come here for whom it is yet not

too simple to understand *Ivrit*. So let us hope that when we meet next time, there will be no problem at all... (applause)

"All we ask of our friends is to act in accordance with the obligation each country assumes when it is accepted as a member into the United Nations. To abide by the charter, the basic elements of the charter of the United Nations, — no war, no threat of war, all disputes must be taken care of through peaceful means..."

"During my stay in the Soviet Union, in the packed *shul* in Moscow, thousands down below in the men's *shul* looked up to the women's gallery, to where I sat. It wasn't I — I meant nothing to them personally. I was representing the State of Israel.

"And they looked up and that *I'shanah habaah b'Yrushalayim* I shall never forget — the walls shook — nobody can ever tell me after that there is any force in the world, any power in the world, that can force Jews to assimilate.

"... Sure, we have something to give the Arab countries... what we can give to our Arab neighbors is greenness instead of desert, to change the color from yellow to green, that we can do. We can together, in peace, cooperate to raise the standard of living of many millions of people in the entire area..."

Jews Defecting Rapidly; Who's To Plug The Dike?

(Continued from page 3)

ish because their parents are Jewish and 18% are only "interested in certain cultural features common to Jewish tradition."

Fewer than 5% of the entire sampling accepted the Judaic concept of G-d. Not one student from Sarah Lawrence, and only 6% of the students at Brandeis, agreed with the Jewish definition of G-d.

Survey's Mistakes

The major criticism of the study is the liberal use of the words "defection" and "apostasy." These words are extremely ambiguous and never defined. Do they mean a complete rejection of faith or a question of attitude toward belief? The latter interpretation could alter the result.

There are other criticisms that can be leveled at the survey. But its small faults should not obscure the result. The college generation is moving away from Judaism, especially Orthodoxy.

The results of the survey are not new. That is why it is especially deleterious. Other surveys over the past few years have indicated the same results. Yet little has been done to reverse the trend.

It is startling that 70% of the Brandeis students have no religious objections to birth control, extramarital intercourse, homosexuality, premarital intercourse and legal abortion.

The Jewish community must now ask itself these questions: Who is at fault? Are the colleges places where the intellect and the intellectual reign supreme, where nothing is sacred, not even religious tenets, where the student is confronted by new concepts and new situations with no one to guide him?

Are the religious organizations at the colleges failing to instill in the student a dynamic living faith? Do they teach him about the basic tenets of his faith?

At Brandeis University, where there is a large Hillel foundation, 86% of the students polled did not attend.

vacillate between his past "hard-line conservative" program and his present attempt to appease at least some of the liberal elements of his party. He now admits that segregation is morally wrong and that Federal troops might be needed to uphold national law. Yet he refuses to admit that the Supreme Court's decision on segregation is the supreme law of the land.

Goldwater wants to eliminate farm subsidies but he does not propose any constructive alternative (since a wheat deal with Communist nations is a cure worse than the disease). What will Sen. Goldwater do with his program of 1961—the Federal Government's withdrawal from all programs of welfare, housing, and education at the rate of ten percent a year?

Although Goldwater dissociated himself from the Birch Society leaders, he has not repudiated the support of this "crackpot group." Goldwater as a candidate will no longer praise Sen. Joe McCarthy as a man who made the U.S. a safer, freer, more vigilant nation or proclaim that "one Eisenhower per decade is enough."

Down With Aid

But the Congressional Record is filled with Senator Goldwater's foreign policy pronouncements. His distrust of the United Nations and his dislike of foreign aid are well known. The Senator's condemnation of the Test Ban Treaty and cultural exchange programs are consistent with his praise of the late totalitarian government of Trujillo and the South African "apartheidist" regime.

I cannot understand how proposals of a new colonial protectorate for Africa and direct offensive measures involving threats of war and subversion against the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe can be seen as sensible.

Although Mr. Wilk's critique of Mr. Steckler's article is well written and well intended, it cannot escape the inherent contradictions of Goldwater's political ideas. If Goldwater is nominated he will do the U.S. a favor by helping to realign American political parties along Conservative-Liberal lines. He would probably describe his program most effectively if he called it the Mixed Deal.

Shep Melzer '64

Space Study Grant Goes To BGSS Prof

(Continued from page 1)

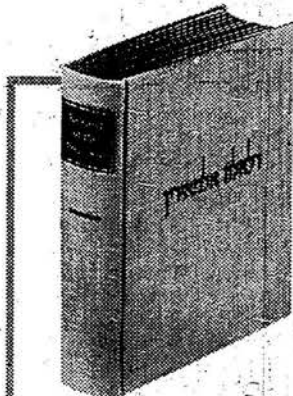
In "general relativity" Dr. Bergmann's principal concern will be the relationship of Einstein's theory of gravitation to the remainder of present-day physics, in particular the quantum theory.

Dr. Bergmann, one of the world's leading relativists, joined the Yeshiva University faculty after a 16 year tenure as professor of physics at Syracuse University. He was, at one time, assistant to Dr. Albert Einstein at the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton.

Professor Bergmann has also carried on research in such areas as statistical mechanics, relativistic field theories, wave propagation and scattering, electron optics, and tactosols.

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Lasky, Kennedy, Who Is Pith, Who Is Man, Who Is Myth?

by Jerry Bernstein

"John Fitzgerald Kennedy became President of the United States, first because of an accident—a tragic accident—and subsequently by design, as inexorable as the denouement of a Grecian drama." With this opening statement Victor Lasky draws a critical portrait of J.F.K.

Now the number one best seller all over America, *J.F.K. — The Man and The Myth*, exposes John Kennedy as more myth than man.

He tells how Kennedy Sr. planned to have one of his sons made President, no matter which one, no matter how hard it would be to accomplish, for, as far as Joe Kennedy was concerned, it had to be done. Therefore, upon Joe Jr.'s death, Jack was told by his father that he would have to enter politics.

Kennedy Shy

A reluctant, shy, unsociable student at Harvard, Jack never really wanted to enter politics in the first place. Once, at a swimming meet, when some photographers had gathered the team together to be photographed for the school newspaper, young Jack was nowhere to be found. The coach explained that Jack was probably off hiding someplace. Being terribly shy, he probably did not want to have his picture taken.

This is one of many incidents in the first half of the book in which Lasky gives the family background of the future President.

"What exactly did Kennedy think," asks Lasky about Jack, "while the young future President was at Harvard forming his ideas about the world? He was preparing to endorse without reservation the most far left . . . program ever devised by a major political party . . . a platform that veteran Socialist Norman Thomas considered so utopian as to be impractical."

Joseph Kennedy was one of the most outspoken isolationists of his day. He was a conservative businessman who favored the business policies of Adolph Hitler and who thought of himself as the successor of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the shadow of a father with reactionary and conservative ideas, John Kennedy developed his ideas as a liberal.

Can this be true? Lasky asks, or has Jack changed his policies throughout his career to suit the voters, whose votes he needed to be elected?

Modern Wonder

J.F.K. is portrayed as a young man with few achievements, who overnight became President of the U.S. by the "techniques of super press agency rather than by the espousal of serious ideas."

Mr. Lasky says that there has been complete disillusionment over the young man in the White House. The "myth," as he calls it, was created by Kennedy's handling of the press, his money, his family, and by his keen maneuverings as a politician. This is the Kennedy who contributed to Nixon's campaign against Helen Gahagan Douglas, and the Ken-

edy who used the religious issue to be elected.

Lasky has produced neither a pure documentation of Kennedy's career nor a volume of entirely personal views. Instead, his factual material and outspoken opinions are blended so thoroughly that the reader should beware of mistaking one for the other.

Mr. Lasky's basic theme is that Kennedy has been yielding all along his career to every pressure, and that he has bought his way into politics on his father's money, caring nothing for principles or for those who stood in the way of his ambitions.

What should have resulted in *J.F.K. — The Man and the Myth* is a detailed and objective inquiry into the background of Jack Kennedy and the career that made him President. What has resulted instead is a venomous attack by Mr. Lasky on someone whom he finds odious.

Radio Waves Shuckle As Yeshiva College Hits The Air With Bell Ringers Rhapsody, Minyan March, Maariv Mignon And Assorted Chazerai

by Irwin Geller

A while back it was proposed that YU inaugurate its own radio station to broadcast on campus. One could almost hear the dulcet tones of our radio announcer: "WYU, 1880 on your dial — but for you, wholesale: 1476."

One could almost hear it, but since the idea has come to nought, we must imagine what having a radio station of our own might be like.

We would still need *minyan* bells in the morning, of course, but we would also be able to flick on the radio and get "Music to Hear *Minyan* Bells By." Perhaps some creative soul would bring forth a musical composition set around the deafening chimes.

Kornspan's Five Fingers

The music would swell to a

point and then whammy! *Minyan* bell number one, not over the radio, but delivered "live" via Gary Kornspan and his musical five (fingers that is). Well, it was just an idea.

In the afternoon, traffic around the medical office would be estimated, with a complete rundown on the varying exotic ailments on the *menu du jour*—to improve our chances at originality. Our own "medical-note analyst," a statistics student with pre-med background, would then forecast your chances of getting an excused-from-classes card.

Sports presents no problem. Who wouldn't thrill to a knock-hockey game broadcasted live blow-by-blow—or, rather, knock-by-knock? Fans would also hud-

dle round their transistors to catch the rhythmic pinging and ponging of the adjacent game in the Bagel Bowl.

A Golden Opportunity

Speeches delivered before various groups on campus could also be carried over WYU, so that students who can't attend can tune in. It also would give students who think that a prominent speaker is a bit long on wind and short on content and that all that glitters is not Golda, a chance to turn him or her off without being eyed by a squad of armed guards.

And if our radio station is very successful, we may even be able to hire a weather girl — which is the only sane reason for our radio station to begin with.

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Another assignment completed; another case of engineering leadership at Ford providing fresh ideas for the American Road.



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