

DEAN'S RECEPTION-EDITORIAL OPINION

Since its beginning, the Dean's Reception has been the highlight of student activities at Yeshiva College. Last year, however, for the first time in more than a decade, this function was not held. Animosity and confusion surrounded the cancellation and little, if any, organized discussion was apparent.

The Dean's Reception continues to be a central issue in Yeshiva College policy and student politics, and we therefore feel that a thorough examination of the issues involved is in order.

History

The first announcement of a Class Nite (the original title of the Dean's Reception) appeared in THE COMMENTATOR on December 15, 1937. In describing the format the paper said, "Each college class will be limited to one-half hour of entertainment consisting of short skits, songs, and imitations of various celebrities of the institutions."

On November 29, 1939, the Junior class play was criticized for its bitter satire and general lack of tact. In 1942, inter-class competition was abolished because of continued poor taste and a Varsity Show was established. The Varsity Show also was satirical but more "professional" in nature.

Because of war conditions the Varsity Show was discontinued in 1945. In 1947, however, when the students wished to re-institute the show, the administration refused to permit the return of any form of dramatics. The reason for the administration's stand was that the satirical contents of the presentations caused "unfavorable publicity" to the general public. However, the editor of THE COMMENTATOR stated that "there was nothing in a Dramatics Society production that we were

ashamed to show our parents, relatives, and . . . our girlfriends." (COMMENTATOR: February 20, 1947.)

In May, 1947, Class Night was revived. A conflict arose in 1950 concerning the question of whether or not Class Night should be open to outside guests owing to the adverse publicity which would result from satirical plays. The issue snowballed into smear campaigns during which the Student Council President resigned and Class Night was again abolished. As a result, student-sponsored affairs were no longer permitted by the administration. The following fall, a new program, known as the Dean's Reception, appeared. The function was sponsored by the Dean to circumvent the prohibition of a student-sponsored affair. It was to consist of a program staged by Juniors and Seniors and sponsored by a joint student-faculty committee.

In 1955, the format of the Reception was changed in that committee supervision was discontinued and a Dean's award was presented to the best play of the evening.

For the next ten years the Dean's Reception continued without incident.

(From the above historical sketch it seems that much of the debate stemmed from the fact that no "official" policy was ever established regarding the Dean's Reception. We appreciate the difficulty involved in formulating such a policy but at the same time we cannot overemphasize its necessity.)

Basic Controversy

The basic difference of opinion, we find, in regard to allowing or prohibiting the Dean's Reception is not a question of halachah. The majority of rebbeim consulted, hold that there

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NO SOAP . . .

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No. 3

Dr. Greenberg Says "We Must Protest"

An address by Dr. Irving Greenberg, associate professor of history, was the major feature of a meeting sponsored by SSSJ, October 18. The meeting was held to promote attendance at an SSSJ rally October 30.

Dr. Greenberg developed his thoughts around the passage from the gemorah, "A Tzaddik in whose days the Beis Hamikdash was not rebuilt, it is as if it was destroyed in his day." He drew a parallel between the generation during which the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed and the generation of our parents, in which six million Jews fell victim to a combination of Hitler and the apathy of the rest of the world. He pointed out that when Hitler offered to trade Jews for trucks, his offer was rejected because no one would "stick his neck out." Dr. Greenberg added that even those people who did their utmost to save Jews must bear a share of the blame. He illustrated this point by reference to the fact that fugitives who committed unintentional murder could leave the cities of refuge after the death of the High Priest. The High Priest was the symbol of the highest form of purity, yet he was in some way responsible for this particular sort of crime.

Dr. Greenberg then compared the last generation to our own and

the generation of Nazi Germany to that of Soviet Russia; one generation did not scream much "even after eye-witness reports were received regarding Hitler's atrocities; the other generation is not screaming and protesting to its capacity."

"Possibly," Dr. Greenberg added, "it is our own weakness that has led to the decline of Judaism



Dr. Irving Greenberg

in Russia." He pointed out that many other religions have fared better than Judaism in the Soviet Union. Dr. Greenberg attributed this situation to an apparent insensitivity to time displayed by the

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YC Council Holds Closed Door Meeting

Yeshiva College Student Council met in a closed meeting Thursday, October 27, in THE COMMENTATOR office. Dr. Dunner's answer to the letter the Student Council wrote him, the Sophomore Theater Party, the scheduling of intramurals, and the Dean's Reception were among the many topics discussed.

Murray Jacobson, President of Student Council, announced that Abie Feintuch '67 has been appointed to the Student-Faculty Judiciary Committee. He explained that this appointment was being made because Jay Kimmel '67 who was originally appointed as the senior member is not permitted by Student Council's constitution to serve, because he is a member of Student Council.

Turning to Student Council's letter to Dr. Dunner, Mr. Jacobson announced that he had received a reply. In his reply, Dr. Dunner stated that seniors will not be compelled to take the Political Science Department's comprehensive examination. However, those who do not take it will not receive recommendations from the department, since, according to Dr. Dunner, recommendations are a privilege, not a right. Dr. Dunner also stated in his letter that all juniors who are political science majors must take the com-

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German Recognition Is Topic Of Student-Faculty Debate



Marc Angel presenting the affirmative at Student-Faculty Debate which took place on October 27, before a large Yeshiva College audience.

"Resolved: that Israel was justified in recognizing West Germany" was the debate topic of the Student-Faculty Debate held Oct. 27, in Furst Hall. Representing the faculty were Miss June Tauber, instructor of speech and Dr. David Fleischer, professor of English, while the presidents of the Stern and Yeshiva College Debating Society, Gilda Schuchalter and Marc Angel '67, respectively, spoke for the students.

Presidents Schuchalter and Angel, presenting the affirmative side, took the position that diplomatic recognition does not necessarily imply a condoning of what a country represents socially or politically, and that "justified" is

defined as practical, not moral, justification. The advantages of recognition were alleged to be threefold. Politically, recognition shows good will, and has resulted in an extension of the German statute of limitations for Nazi war criminals. Militarily, recognition has resulted in a decrease of German aid to Arab countries and of the number of German rocket scientists in Egypt, and an increase in the volume of arms shipments to Israel. Economically, recognition has added a new vista for trade with the European Common Market, a gain in German imports of Israel goods, and extension of almost 75 million marks for eco-

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is nothing *asur* about a social affair held with dignity and respect. (In THE COMMENTATOR of January 4, 1945, Dr. Belkin stated: "We are not opposed to any extra-curricular activities, but in every activity the dignity of the entire institution . . . must be the first consideration.") The controversy seems to be based on the question of whether or not it is proper for their institution to sponsor a purely social event. Those who favor the tradition of the European *yeshivot*, hold that it is not the place of a *yeshiva* to sponsor a social affair, while those who take a more flexible viewpoint, maintain that a dignified social function is within the philosophy of Yeshiva University.

Our opinion is consonant with the latter approach. We believe that an organized social affair is well within the philosophy of *Torah U'Mada*, and, even more, that it has a positive connotation. Any event where orthodox young people can gather and enjoy an evening of good entertainment should be encouraged, not merely tolerated.

New Proposals

Two changes to the general structure of the Dean's Reception have been advanced. The first is that the name of the function be changed so that it relieves some of the negative feelings that have been built up over the past years. The second is that each student be allowed to bring two guests instead of only one. In this way the affair is no longer an "official dated affair" as some are led to believe.

To the latter suggestion we are amenable, since we do not feel that the Dean's Reception must be a dated affair (although the restrictions to the number of guests is necessary for practical financial reasons). We disagree strongly, however, to the former suggestion. We feel that a change of name will only serve to cover up the underlying issues. In the past, the name has been changed three times without substantially resolving the major controversies. Even more, the change of name would be deceiving and eventually become a mockery.

Summary

The Dean's Reception has been an integral part of Yeshiva College since 1937, and although it has been a topic of controversy throughout its history, its popularity among students has not waned. The time and effort put into the organization and presentation of the plays is quite apparent and each year audience attendance is impressive.

We believe, therefore, that we express the opinion of the majority of students (Student Council has already supported our position) when we ask that controversy and animosity be ended, and the Dean's Reception be allowed to continue as the highlight of student activities.

Letters To The Editor

RIETS

To the Editor:

In THE COMMENTATOR dated September 22, 1966, an editorial entitled "RIETS ASSIGNMENTS" criticized the RIETS system of registration. It is a shame that in its first issue the paper did not have adequate facts or information for its editorials. It is to be expected that an editorial board should be aware of at least the basic facts and not base editorials on hearsay or personal feelings.

Firstly, all *rebbeim* are consulted and speak to Mr. Abrams, about the future assignments of all their *talmidim* at least twice before the summer vacation. No student is assigned without his *rebbe's* recommendation. All students are also invited to speak to Mr. Abrams and to request a particular *shiur*.

Secondly, during the second week of August each RIETS student received his *shiur* assignment. Those students who were not recommended and therefore not assigned were requested to call Mr. Abrams' office for an appointment to discuss the matter. There is no reason why any student had to wait until September 6th to make arrangements for a *shiur*. If any student did not feel it important enough to discuss his *shiur* before the first day of school he rightly should have been forced to wait until the office could accommodate him. However, everyone was taken care of as fast as humanly possible.

Thirdly, many students did not appear for an entrance examination at their assigned times and appeared on the first day of school for the exam, interview and placement.

Fourthly, several students from JSS and EMC decided to transfer to RIETS. These students also arrived at the RIETS office on the first day of school for *bechirah*, interviews and immediate placement.

Lastly, we feel that mention should have been made of the fact that regular *shiurim* were given on the first day, and that

each *shiur* received its *gemora* on that day.

Jay H. Marcus '68

George B. Finkelstein '67

(Editor's note:

1. COMMENTATOR was well aware of the official system mentioned in the above letter. However, it is THE COMMENTATOR's contention that this system is frequently honored only in the breach. We could, if we so wished, document our case.
2. It is difficult, if not impossible, for out-of-town students to come to New York during the

summer because of the distance and the expense involved. Local residents find it difficult in coming, too, if they are working during regular business hours.

3. While it is true that some of the students who had had tests previously scheduled did not for one reason or another appear at the appointed times, this is no reason for having compelled all such students to wait on the general line merely, to have their tests scheduled.
4. We feel that it was a mistake to begin RIETS classes on the same day as registration.)

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

A Unified Council

By Murray Jacobson

A recent letter-to-the-editor expressed the opinion that columns should be restricted to matters of urgency or extreme importance. The issue herein discussed I believe clearly satisfies both these rigid categorical requirements; in fact, serious consideration of my proposal is long overdue and deserves the highest priority.

For several years Presidential candidates have included some form of student union in their platform proposals. Formerly, (and for the most part now, too,) in order to take action on any matter, the Dean was consulted, often enough the Director of Residence Halls, sometimes the administrative heads of RIETS, EMC and JSS, and on occasion, Public Relations, the Registrar, the Office of Student Finances, for a total of about 24 individual meetings with four Council Presidents. Usually more than one meeting was necessary. No wonder so little is ever accomplished; by the time each member of the "red tape" club was initially consulted, it was time to elect new officers. When one student leader differed slightly on a minor point, an administrator would capitalize and postpone matters pending further discussion and consideration. The first point I hope I have made clear, is that one Student Council for all divisions is desirable, advantageous, and beneficial.

Perhaps the thought has already occurred to you that if four Presidents had to be consulted, there were overlapping interests and/or representation; the fact is, both are correct. YCSC concerns itself with

extra-secular, extra-academic, matters, commonly called extra-curricular activities. Among these are clubs, committees, and special projects. Significantly, however, these include: a Soviet Jewry Club and Zionist Clubs; a Hashkafa Lecture Series; an Oneg Shabbat Program; a week-end program which offers YC students (identical with RIETS, EMC and JSS students) the opportunity to visit Orthodox Jewish communities; periodic support to such worthy projects as the JSS Morasha program; the Big Brother or Chavrusa program; mailing Rosh Hashana cards to parents or Chanukah cards to Jewish soldiers in Vietnam; THE COMMENTATOR which prints such articles as Confrontation by the Rav, Literary Supplements devoted to Jewish interest items (1962-63), and the articles such as those by Dr. Yitzchak Greenberg; Student Council meetings at which one hears discussions on the halachic viewpoint of hanging "art" pictures on dorm walls, shabbos elevators, the possible negative religious influence of a Science Center across the street, and the YU method of chaplain selection.

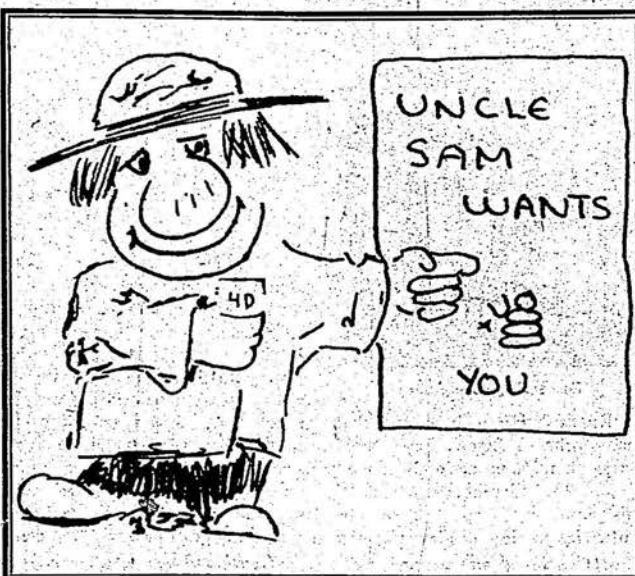
And let there be no mistake about it: YESHIVA COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL does a good job on these projects, generally far better than the other councils do on theirs.

The contention is, therefore, that as YCSC has an audio-visual committee, a dorm committee, and a publicity committee, it could just as easily add a charity committee, a *melave malka* committee, a *seforim* exchange committee, and so on. This in fact, is the method of operation of the other councils: delegation of responsibility to committees. The elected members of the YCSC are also in RIETS, EMC, and JSS. They could so delegate such responsibilities with proper authority. It is my contention that one Student Council, a central representative body with delegated authority, could oversee all activities with a minimum of red-tape and a maximum of efficiency. Already, several administrators have expressed their interest in this setup.

Three major questions arise: First, would all students now represented by the four overlapping councils be represented by one, new, YESHIVA STUDENT COUNCIL? Second, would the proposed system overburden one President or the council members? Finally, would there be any safeguards to protect the interests of a particular division?

At *rishon*, *rishon*, all students presently represented would similarly be represented by the one

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Report from Israel

Israeli Correspondent Visits Hallowed Safed, Repository For Memories Of Past Gedolim

By Jeff Roth

As a holy city, Safed is a relative newcomer to the annals of Jewish history. Jerusalem and dozens of other places in Israel have associations that stretch back through thousands of years, but Safed gained prominence as an important center of Jewish life only during the Middle Ages. Despite its late start, Safed is able to maintain its own Government Tourist Agency, testifying to the city's past.

A sign above the *Ari* Synagogue in Safed proclaims, "How awe-inspiring is this place." As I entered, it occurred to me that a holy place does not really need a sign to attest to its sanctity; such qualities should be apparent from the very nature of the place itself. Inside, several old men were learning, another man was removing burnt-out light bulbs from their sockets and replacing them with new ones. The exquisite carvings on the wooden ark were painstakingly painted in a fantastic array of colors. Actually, it reminded me of the restored cigar-store Indians one sometimes sees in museums. As we recited *mincha* and *ma'ariv*, I watched the sun descending over the mountains of Northern Galilee, probably much as Isaac Luria and his group of mystics did from the same spot each Friday night as they greeted the Sabbath; four hundred years ago.

Old Jewish Cemetery

The old Jewish cemetery is below the city. Here, there were none of the usual signs to indicate

the sacred character of the area. Distinguishable among the many graves was the pale blue hue of the *Ari's* final resting place and that of *Rav Joseph Karo* nearby. Both were piled high with stones and lists of supplications that had been

Dean Teicher of the Wurzel School of Social Work will speak at the Main Center November 10 at 7:30 p.m. His topic will be "Opportunities in the Fields of Community and Case Types Social Work." This speech is being sponsored by the Psychology and Sociology Clubs.

placed there by troubled Jews. A group of *hasidic* yeshiva students, their black coats hanging loosely about them, were gathered around the tomb of the *Ari*.

At first it might seem incongruous that the rational and legalistic codifier of the law should lie so close to the master of medieval *Kabbalah*, but indeed, pulsating below the staid facade of Karo's *halachah* is the presence of that same dynamism that motivates the mystic conception of the universe. Tradition relates that Karo himself, visited by the spirit of the *mishtak*, which spoke to him in a very singular way, was subject to mystic visions.

The road leading from the cemetery passes a domed building, reputedly the burial place of the prophet Hosea. It now serves as a *genizah*, piled high with worn-out Hebrew manuscripts and books. Soon, signs beckoning one to the Artists' Quarter of Safed begin to

appear. The Artists' Quarter is actually a renovated section of the old city. The dinginess of the narrow lanes has been brightened by the pastels of a new generation of mystics, but their creativity is not a direct offshoot of the religious fervor Safed exhibited in the past. It is true that many of their paintings treat traditional Jewish themes, portraying bearded sages bent over the Talmud or festive Jews dancing on *Simchat Torah*. But with few notable exceptions, it appeared that these paintings were inspired more by a nostalgic attachment to the past than any real appreciation of the Jewish heritage and its relevance to the present.

Monuments

Two monuments in Safed, recalling the Israeli War of Independence, proclaim that miracles have occurred there more recently than the sixteenth century. One stands at the summit of the Citadel, the highest settled area in Israel. The other houses a "Davidka," the small mortar with which an insignificant number of Jews routed the entire Arab population of the city. No one doubts that the *Ari* and his fellow sages were actively fighting on their side.

Potato Kugel Bridges YU Boy-Stern Girl Communication Gap

By Gary Rosenblatt

During a lecture in contemporary literature, the professor mentioned that anyone could write a bestseller as long as the topic was a little off-beat and had an unusual slant on sex. Immediately, I was struck by "literary lightning" which comes to even the most professional novelists only once in a lifetime. So I grabbed pen and ink and began to write. The first chapter of my forthcoming book, "Miracle on 34th Street" is reprinted below:

Herbert Steinberg was in a hurry. As he stood in front of the mirror adjusting his bow tie, he told himself that tonight it would be different. Herbert had been to these socials before, each time hoping that something magical might happen—that anything might happen. Each time he returned vowing never to go again. Now, in the Leah and Joseph Rubin Residence Hall, in his quiet room ("Donated," as the memorial plaque above the door read, "In Memory of Joseph Schwartz—Killed in Battle—By His Parents") Herbert straightened the wide collar of his clean white bowling shirt and flashed a toothy, yellow smile at the slightly lopsided face in the mirror. "Yes, Herb," he muttered to himself (he preferred Herb but even

his closest friends called him Herbert) "Guys think they are being cool if they make snide remarks about Stern girls, but those are the same guys who end up married to 'em." At the thought he was suddenly seized by a chill, and he shivered for a moment before reaching for the tube of Clearasil.

At last, fragrant with the pungent smell of Noxzema, Herbert Steinberg adjusted his galoshes (it was beginning to drizzle) and left his room in search of happiness and a ride downtown.

In her dormitory room at Stern College for Women, Florence Fish, adjusting her full-length velvet sleeves and adding an extra dash of "Intimate" perfume, readied herself for the evening, and wondered if maybe tonight would be different.

In a hastily converted classroom filled with the strong scents of mixed perfumes, Herbert Steinberg broke into a cold sweat. Everything was the same, he realized. The shy smiles were the same. The tasteless cookies were the same. The sweet punch was the same. Even the endless questions were the same—only their order varied:

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Commentary Discusses Jewish View Of Negro

Editor's note:

This column is intended for our readers who do not have time to read all the journals which discuss Jewish issues. Mr. Sandhaus chooses articles of particular interest from the major periodicals and summarizes their contents.

By Samuel Sandhaus

When an immigrant steps off the boat onto the shores of America, he comes face to face with a society diversified in culture, language, and color. Trying to understand the character of his new environment, he is compelled to rely on similar characteristics of his past environment. Many of the institutions are similar enough to make the transition swift and easy, but others leave him with a feeling of indecision. An example of this was the reaction of the European Jewish immigrant to the American Negro. How was he to react to a people so different from the ones he had known in Europe? Was there anything in his past that could help him with the present?

In the October issue of *Commentary*, Milton Himmelfarb tries to link present Jewish sentiment for the Negro with a similar sen-

timent for the *Muzhik*. Our fathers and grandfathers who emigrated from Poland and Russia still have a vivid picture of the *Muzhik* or peasant. They remember the *Muzhik* pogroms which threatened to snuff out life at any moment. They recall their business dealings with them—how ignorant and backward they were. Mr. Himmelfarb asserts that much of the Jewish feeling today about the Negro is merely a carry-over from the European *Muzhik*—of course with extensive modification.

Mr. Himmelfarb handles this analysis with kid gloves and attempts to make it accurate and even tenable. His analysis is thought-provoking and definitely worthwhile reading.

Masada, which lies on the Western shore of the Dead Sea, was the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt of the first century against the Romans. The zealots who stood in defense of Masada fought until the last possible moment. When all was lost, they committed suicide rather than submit to Roman Rule. Masada was burned and razed, and all

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Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page two)

To the Editor:

Due to the nonsensical action of a few members of Student Council, the newly innovated program of intramural football has been cancelled. This highly successful activity brought together close to twenty-five students each Sunday in an intramural sports event.

All games are scheduled for 1:00 in the afternoon, except for the junior-senior games. These games are scheduled for 11:00 a.m., and herein lies the problem. The students who have labs in the afternoon are not able to participate in afternoon games, while some of the RIETS juniors cannot participate in morning games.

There are three games for each class in each round of the intramural program (that is, juniors vs. freshmen; sophomores and seniors). Two of these games must be scheduled for 1:00 in the afternoon. In these two games, the students who have lab in the afternoon cannot participate. Secondly, the seniors and the juniors enrolled in EMC and JSS have no school on Sunday. The problem arises with some of the Riets juniors who have classes until 12:15. Since no time can be chosen in order that both factions can be completely satisfied, a compromise must be made. A time should be chosen that would serve the best interests of both groups.

Rather than solve the problem involved, certain members of Council in a closed, unannounced

meeting have not met the problem head on and have forbidden the playing of intramural football for the complete fall semester, which is, in reality the complete football season. This is not a solution; it is merely a way of getting out of making a decision. Football should be, and will be reinstituted, but only after these people realize that a compromise is necessary, and that they must be willing to accept a decision which does justice to both sides.

Arnold Weiss
Chairman Athletic Committee

Radio Club

To the Editor:

The seemingly endless editorials on the unfortunate plight of the Radio Club has prompted me to write this letter.

During the first semester of our freshman year (Fall 1962), David Solonche and I planned and built radio station WYUR as an unofficial (non-student council backed) means of broadcasting music and information throughout Rubin Hall. Because of our own naiveté we left our dormitory room unlocked (was there any need to lock a room at Yeshiva College?). Subsequently, an unknown upperclassmen entered and shouted obscenities which were heard throughout the building. As a result, we voluntarily ceased broadcasting.

Your editorials state that the administration refuses to allow any future broadcasts because of this unfortunate incident. Let me

say, then, that this is just a flimsy excuse on the part of the administration for not granting the Radio Club a rightfully deserved charter. Why? Because (unknown to either David or me at the time) there was an official Student Council-backed Radio Club in existence before David and I had ever thought of planning our "pirate station." If all the "facts" that you say "stand today," actually stood and have been standing for well over five years—or before "the unfortunate incident"—why wasn't a charter granted to the Radio Club then? Try to find out—I couldn't.

I feel that it is about time that station WYUR be lifted from its role as administration scapegoat—for had the Radio Club been given its charter when due, WYUR would never have seen its short-lived, illegal existence.

Sanford Moos, '67
President, WYUR

Fortnite

Thur. Nov. 3, 8:45 P.M.—Clubs III meet.
Fri. Nov. 4, 8:45 P.M.—The Days of Dylan Thomas.
The Nonfiction Novel—A Visit with Truman Capote—Klein Hall.
Sun. Nov. 6, 8:30 P.M.—Hasidic Lecture.
1:00 P.M.—Intramural Football Game.
8:00 P.M.—Yeshiva-Stern College Bowl.
Tues. Nov. 8, 8:30 P.M.—Intramurals.
Wed. Nov. 9, 8:00 P.M.—Movie.
Thur. Nov. 10, 8:45 P.M.—No clubs. Go club.
Speaker from Israeli Consulate. Movie—Ladies and Gentlemen—Mr. Leonard Cohen The Lion's Necklace—Klein Hall.
Fri. Nov. 11, 8:30 P.M.—Oneg Shabbat.
Sun. Nov. 13, 8:30 P.M.—Dramatics Society Production—The Zoo Story.
Mon. Nov. 14, 8:00 P.M.—Yeshiva-Stern Debate.
Tues. Nov. 15, 8:30 P.M.—Intramurals.
Wed. Nov. 16, 8:30 P.M.—International Grand Master Chess Match.
Thur. Nov. 17, 8:45 P.M.—Clubs I meet. Movies—This is Edward G. Robinson, Brother Antoninus and Michael McGlothr—Klein Hall.
8:00 P.M.—Student Council Meeting.

Dramatics Society Presents Its Annual Fall Talent Show

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society presented its annual fall Talent Show to a near capacity crowd in Lampport Auditorium, October 24. A flute concerto, a folk song, medley, and cantorial exhibitions were among



Miller and Bondi Duet

the features presented. Drew Kopf '68, vice-president of the Dramatics Society, was master of ceremonies.

The program began with a selection of Hebrew and English folk songs by "Mike and Itz".

David Schnall '69 sang two songs while accompanying himself on the piano. He was followed by Label Sharfman '70 who entertained the audience with his skillful guitar playing; he also

Yeshiva Needs Single Council

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council. Though SOY now represents the high school, the college, and the semicha students (an odd combination); the high school already has a General Organization of its own and the semicha students for the most part bring their major problems to YCSC. The few students who attend JSS and EMC but not the college would be represented by fellow students from JSS and EMC.

It will be clear after analysis of the proposed make-up of the proposed council, that no unfair or impossible burden would be placed on any individual. The proposal is as follows: Three class officers now elected by each class as President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer would be replaced by three representatives, one from each religious division, and a class President elected at large. On the executive level, there would be a President, Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and a coordinator from RIETS, EMC, and JSS. The work-load on this level would be spread over seven individuals as opposed to three.

To prevent the majority of this council opposing a particular pet project of a "religious division," stipulations for such projects as the JSS Morasha Scholarship Fund and the EMC's Nt would be incorporated in the Constitution.

The new council would replace all four present councils. The proposal is superior to retaining the current councils and having them send delegates to a fifth council.

Finally, in considering this proposal all petty, personal beefs will be disregarded.

In this vein, I invite each and every student to think about this major proposal and to discuss it with me in the very near future.

sang a ballad about a man sentenced to die in the electric chair.

The fourth act was a flute concerto played by Stanley Miller '70 and Ardith Bondi of Stern College. They played the first and third movements of the Concerto in C Major for two flutes by Vivaldi. Following this, Elihu Feldman '68 sang the cantorial selection *Rebano Shel Olam*. The audience indicated its approval by asking for an encore; however, Mr. Feldman declined.

The last two performances were given by Edward Feigelman '69 and Harry Berkowitz '69. Mr. Feigelman also sang several cantorial selections and in addition sang "Sunrise Sunset" from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Mr. Berkowitz played a medley of five popular English and Hebrew songs on the piano.

Mr. Kopf later remarked that the impressive audience response would spark enthusiasm for the next Dramatics activity.

Wischnitzer Addresses Pre-Med Club On Essentials Of School Admissions



Dr. Wischnitzer addresses pre-med society at its first meeting

The Premedical Society held its first meeting of the year, Oct. 20. Dr. Saul Wischnitzer, professor of biology and assistant dean, spoke on the art of getting into medical school.

Dr. Wischnitzer, who is also the pre-med advisor, told students that they should be "strongly motivated for the difficult years ahead. Each student should re-evaluate his program at the end of each semester

on the basis of grades received." As a safety feature, Dr. Wischnitzer urged each student to plan his program toward a second major as well.

In reviewing the rewards of a medical career, Dr. Wischnitzer listed the satisfaction of contributing to society, community recognition, and financial remuneration as the main reasons for entering the field. These, he said, should

more than offset the \$10,000 expended for the 10 years of medical preparation.

To be accepted into medical school the student must: 1) achieve a high index; for "grades count foremost," 2) score high on the Medical College Admissions Test, which indicates the student's performance potential, 3) create a good impression at the medical school interview, 4) and bear up well in the evaluation of the student by a committee of five professors. Dr. Wischnitzer concluded his remarks by saying that it might be advantageous to the student to spend some time in a hospital as a volunteer, in order to better orient himself for a medical career.

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COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS

Campus Chatter

By Charles Parker

Fraternities now have a new twist. At Stanford University, the Beta Chi Fraternity has abolished the old system of selecting members and has allowed anyone affiliated with Stanford to join. This, of course, includes women, faculty members, graduate students and administrators.

Fashion has recently entered into the academic scene. The debating team from the University of Toronto unanimously defeated the resolution: "Shorter Skirts Are a Threat to Democracy." The affirmatives, led by David Mossop, argued that mini-skirts are to be blamed for economic crises in "three great democracies, Brit-

ain, Canada, and the U.S." A plan was made to Prime Minister Wilson to "freeze the hemline rather than to freeze the prices." "The next mini-skirt you see," Mossop ordered, "tear it down."

The negatives countered brilliantly and successfully by pointing out their similarity with democracy. "Mini-skirts are an institution of the people, for the people, and by the people," and, "like democracy they help to release energy."

The Student Senate at Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania, voted to give the editors of the school newspaper and yearbook a salary. Each editor is to be paid \$100 per semester with the stipulation that in order for each to collect there must be at least \$100 in the publication's treasury.

Should athletes have different standards of admission into college? A University of Minnesota student Tom Fulton has a proposal to answer this question. He suggests offering a BF degree (Bachelor of Football). He asked in the "Minnesota Daily" that

his suggestion be adopted so as not to "suffer the embarrassment of being mentioned in the same breath as Harvard and Yale, but rather with those football powerhouses Alabama, Arkansas, and Nebraska."

At the University of Chicago a student protest has arisen as a result of the naming of a residence hall. Wallace Francisco Smyrd donated money to the university for the express purpose of building a coed dormitory. The dormitory was built with two floors for men and two floors for women. But the university, after having accepted his gift refused to name the hall Smyrd. Instead, it was given the title Flint Hall. The administration claimed that Mr. Smyrd's habit of leaping from behind trees at passing women students was unbecoming the name of the university. The Flint men, however, disapprove of the dormitory title and to dramatize their indignation, they plan a march to the President's house. There will be a slight admission charge for the men and no charge to women, as Smyrd would have wished.

Conference On Oral Traditions Probes Sabbath

Discussion of progress in applying scientific know-how to the problem of Sabbath observance highlighted the ninth annual Oral Traditions Conference this summer. The conference was held at Yad Maimon — Rav Kook Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Chief Chaplain of the Israeli Army, lectured on electricity and its use on the Sabbath. He was followed by Rabbi Avadiah Josef, who spoke on the topic of *p'sik reshau*, the occurrence of a forbidden act as a result of a permissible one. The use of transistors, hearing aids, water boilers, and the giving of instructions to non-Jews on the Sabbath were some of the problems discussed. The conference concluded with a tour of a religious kibbutz while its techniques of Sabbath observance were being displayed.

Previous conferences have dealt with such topics as the Hebrew calendar and the Sabbatical year.

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Special Report

The Chemistry Lab Dilemma

Editor's Note:

This is the first in a series of articles about one of Yeshiva's most pressing problems: the overcrowding of physical facilities.

First-time visitors to the fourth floor of the Main Building are usually impressed by the seemingly vast expanse of the undergraduate chemistry facilities. Unfortunately, this impression does not fit the facts.

There are two elementary chemistry laboratories, one accommodating sixteen safely and the other twenty. To insure safety, only two students are permitted to work at each bench. Such a limitation is especially important in the elementary labs, because it allows the inexperienced freshman adequate room to work without interference from his neighbors, and helps eliminate dangerous accidents. Yet all laboratory sections except one have 20 or 21 students for a total of 121 elementary students in all. In view of the college's plans for expansion of the student body next year, it is likely that there will be even more students wishing to take elementary chemistry.

Qualitative Inorganic Analysis is given in the same laboratories as elementary chemistry. It now has thirty-nine students in two sections, which means that the labs are already being used beyond capacity. Next year this class will be even larger in view of the large number of students now taking the elementary course.

Extra sections have been opened this year for elementary chemistry so that there were now six sections, one each day Sunday through Thursday with two on Monday. It is impossible to open any more sections without conflicting with those sections scheduled for Qualitative Analysis.

Even if it were possible to schedule more sections, there would not be enough lockers to accommodate the increased numbers of students. Presently there are a total of 160 students taking elementary chemistry and Qualitative Analysis. There are only 160 lockers in the two labs (there is no room for more) and many of these are inadequate, but have been pressed into use because of the existing situation. This leaves no room for the increase of students expected in the two courses next year. As of yet, according to highly placed sources, no provisions have been made for the increased enrollment in either course.

The Organic Chemistry laboratory accommodates eighteen students per section and has enough lockers for thirty-six students. This year forty-five students registered for the course. To accommodate the nine extra students, room was made in the Quantitative Analysis laboratory. Next semester, however, that laboratory will be used only for Quantitative Analysis.

Temporary facilities are being planned to accommodate these students next semester. But, if they are not ready in time, these nine students will be faced with the prospect of going to Stern

College every week to use the laboratory there. However, even if the temporary laboratory is built it will not accommodate more than ten to twelve students. It has been estimated that of the thirty-nine students currently registered for Qualitative Analysis, 30 to 35 (almost all) will want to take Organic Chemistry next year. Past experience has shown that as much as one-fourth of those currently taking elementary chemistry (25-30) will take Qualitative Analysis during the summer and will be qualified to take Organic Chemistry next year.

This means that there will be at least fifty-five students wanting to take Organic Chemistry next year. But at best, there will be room for only 46-48. Again, according to highly placed sources, no plans have been made for new laboratories to be constructed. (It must be remembered that all chemistry and pre-medical majors must take Qualitative Analysis and Organic Chemistry to fulfill the requirements of their majors.)

Quantitative Organic Microanalysis, recommended for majors in Chemistry, uses the same laboratory as Quantitative Analysis but at different times. At present there are eight students using equipment meant for two (e.g. two balances, two pairs of burets, etc.) Three premedical students who had registered for the course were asked to drop it, because there was not enough equipment or laboratory room.

The situation with Experimental Physical Chemistry has become acute. It does not have its own laboratory, but rather it uses the Quantitative Analysis laboratory, and, therefore, expansion of facilities has been impossible. Yet not until this year was anything planned to alleviate the problem. However, the rooms that were to be used for expanded facilities for this course are now to be used to alleviate the pressure on the Organic Chemistry facilities. If this is done, then the Physical Chemistry facilities will not be expanded, and the problem will remain as before.

More than 200 students are currently taking chemistry courses; a minimum lab fee of \$25 is charged for each course per semester. Simple mathematics shows that at least \$10,000 is collected annually. Of this, sources within the department estimate that only \$3000 is used for the purchase of chemicals, necessary equipment and replacement of broken equipment. (Students pay for all breakage above \$10.)

The latest Yeshiva College catalogue states that "The laboratory fee includes the cost of consumable supplies and the normal wear and tear on equipment." If so, there is an excess of at least \$5000 yearly that should be set aside for the purchase of new and better equipment. According to the administration this money is being used for improvements in the Chemistry facilities, but a detailed and prolonged inspection by a COMMENTATOR staff member did not reveal any new facilities, or a promise that there would be any in the near future.

Yadin's Findings Shed Light On Jewish History

(Continued from page three)

remnants of the zealots were hidden.

In October of 1963, a group of prominent archaeologists headed by Yigael Yadin, professor of archaeology at Hebrew University, undertook the excavation of the Fortress of Masada. During the two years of excavation, important archaeological discoveries were made, many of which pertained to Jewish life in the first century. Prof. Yadin recently compiled a record of his findings entitled *Masada: Herod's Fortress and the Zealots' Last Stand*. In the October issue of *Commentary*, Prof. Yadin summarized his most significant discoveries.

Until the excavation, the earliest uncovered synagogue belonged to the end of the second and the beginning of the third centuries. At Masada, however, a synagogue was discovered which dates back to the time of the Second Temple. Fragments of *Sifrei Torah* found at the site testified to the accuracy of the traditional text. Ostraca stumbled on at Masada substantiated Josephus' description of the mass suicide. The skeletons of the zealots were also discovered. These are just a few of the extraordinary discoveries at Masada.

Both Prof. Yadin's book and his brief summary in *Commentary* sheds a clearer light on Masada and Jewish history of the first century. The book especially helps us understand the profound words of Yitzchok Lamdan, a modern Hebrew poet who stated; "Masada shall not fall again."

Ongei Shabbat Feature JWB And Discussion Of The Akedah

Rabbi Philip Goodman, educational consultant of the National Jewish Welfare Board spoke at the *Ongei Shabbat*, October 21. His topic was "The National Jewish Welfare Board — Is it

1917 as a service organization for Jews in uniform. Today, it is assisting Jewish servicemen in Viet Nam. Rabbi Goodman praised the achievements of Jewish chaplains during World War II. It was through their efforts that thousands of soldiers were provided with kosher food for Passover.

He also discussed the role played by the Board in co-ordinating the activities throughout the U.S.

"An analytic view of the *Akedah*" was the topic of Rabbi Meir Fulda, instructor of Talmud in JSS, at an *Ongei Shabbat* held Friday, October 28.

Rabbi Fulda contended that G-d told Abraham to sacrifice his son in order to perceive, in an anthropomorphic sense, if the patriarch had attained "yirat shamaim." He cited as sources the *Vilna Gaon* and the *Rambam* to prove that *yirat shamaim* should be defined, in this instance, as an awareness of the reality of G-d as the Merciful One, but also as the Judge of the Universe. Abraham, although entirely unwilling to sacrifice his own son, was prepared to obey the imperative of G-d as Judge.

As the College prepares to move into new permanent library quarters within the foreseeable future, the Faculty Library Committee would like to ensure that the management and organization will be as modern, efficient, and useful as the facilities promise to be. To meet this challenge properly, the Committee must first ascertain what, if any, have been the shortcomings of the Gottesman and Pollack Libraries. It therefore solicits your response, as part of a canvass of librarians, students, alumni, and faculty. Please indicate any specific grievances or general observations you care to make.

Response sheets will be available throughout the school. Kindly return these sheets to Mrs. Epstein's office or to Dr. Weidhorn's mailbox in the Registrar's office.

serving the needs of Jewish Community?"

The NJWB was organized in

Social Provides Gastronomic Match Producing A Miracle On 34th Street

(Continued from page three)

Where are you from? How do you like school? What's your major? What's your phone number? What's your name?

Herbert decided he was not feeling well at all. Holding back a silent scream from deep inside, he ran towards the door, spilling his punch, and immediately collided with a small, mousey girl.

"Excuse me," Herbert managed to mumble.

"Oh, that's OK—it was my fault anyway—what's your name?" was the speedy reply.

"Herbert Steinberg. What's yours?" he heard himself ask automatically.

"Florence Fish. How do you like Yeshiva?"

"No, no. Not again. Not any more," Herbert mumbled. Ignoring her question, he asked on sudden impulse, "Do you like eating potato kugel on Tuesday mornings?"

"Why do you ask that?"

"Never mind, never mind. I'm sorry," Herbert muttered as he made for the door. Florence stopped him and, amazingly enough, she began to smile.

"I think I understand," she said slowly. "I do understand and, yes, I love potato kugel on Tuesday mornings, especially when it's raining."

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Antelman Urges Higher Moral Life; Says Mechitzta Is Shining Example

Editor's note:

This is the final installment of the series on mechitzta. Any comments you may have should be in the form of a letter to the Editor.

By Rabbi M. Antelman

As we have noted before, the question of a mechitzta is a question of idolatry. Since this is the case, certain decisions by our Torah authorities may not seem so perplexing. Among the decisions rendered in conjunction with mechitzta and other laws in the Torah, the following deserve mention:

1. It is permissible to violate the Shabbat in order to build a mechitzta (Mordechai; Shabbat 36).

2. A woman, who is enjoined to engage in the circumcision of her son, may not bring him into the synagogue proper where the circumcision rite is being performed (Yoreh Deah 285:11).¹⁰

3. One is obligated to stay at home on Rosh Hashana and on Yom Kippur rather than to pray in a mixed congregation (Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik).¹¹

4. One is not permitted to enter a mixed congregation even for a short period of time in order to fulfill the commandment of listening to the shofar when it is blown on Rosh Hashana (Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik).

5. To seat a woman in the men's synagogue is like having an idol there (Tshuva Meahavah 229).

No Compromise

From the above considerations, it follows, that the practice of some otherwise religious Jews who will never ordinarily pray in mixed pews, but who make an occasional exception in order to attend the bar-mitzvah or other function of a friend or a relative ought to be condemned. We have here in effect an analogous situation to the one mentioned in the Torah where one's friends or relatives entice one to avodah zarah.¹²

There is one last case which in view of the above considerations creates some conceptual difficulties with many people. That case is one of a rabbi who has engaged a mixed-pews congregation with the intent of correcting it so as to conform to Jewish Law. This rabbi is today's counterpart of the prophet Elijah who struggled with the priests of the Baal and who suspended Jewish Law for a moment in history (Haraat Shaah) by

having a sacrifice performed outside of the confines of the Temple so that the glory of G-d would be preserved. The principle of Haraat Shaah¹³ enjoins qualified rabbinical bodies to suspend Jewish law for brief periods of time in order to improve religious conditions.

Mechitzta and a Better Society

Maimonides states that every commandment was given to benefit us. Even if the rationale of a commandment is not readily determinable there is purpose behind the commandment (which Dr. Samuel Belkin has termed, a philosophy of purpose), for it can be said of each commandment that it serves to convince all nations of the wisdom and understanding it includes by serving to "establish proper relations in society, to diminish evil, to train in good manners, to warn against bad habits."¹⁴ Israel, whose destiny it is to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" and a "light to the nations," is duty-bound to the higher moral life. Mechitzta is a

shining example of that higher moral life, a life that finds its roots in the Sinai Revelation, and which delineates our people as neither ancient, nor modern, but eternal.

We have an obligation to our society today to proclaim our moral message. Our society is besieged by the immoral voices of the playboy Hefners and the sexual revolution Liptons. The cry is for a new morality which is in reality a throwback to the ancient pagan promiscuity, a call for the reinstitution of the public orgy and other perversions. If we purify ourselves to worship G-d in truth, we shall be in a better position to fulfill our destiny, and inspire our society towards a better way of life.

Footnotes

70. Cited by Rabbi Aaron Kotler;
71. Litvin, Told, p. 115.
72. Deut. 13:7.
73. Sanhedrin 46a, Choshen Mishpat 11.
74. Moreh Nevuchim 111:31.

Art Of Fencing Requires Perfection Of Physical And Mental Capabilities

(Continued from page eight)

the rules of the sport and the individual weapons used can be studied. The director calls "fence," and the match is underway. Touches can be made only in certain portions of the body depending upon the particular weapon and are recorded as "touches against." That is, when a touch is valid the one touched receives a point.

There is but one other requirement for a valid touch and that is that it must be preceded by an extension of the arm and an attack. This aggression may be blocked, or "parried," as it is referred to in fencing, but the defender must attack if he is to be in a position to receive a point. Five of nine such touches constitute a bout. The first squad to tally fourteen bouts out of the maximum of twenty seven is the victor.

The foil is an electrified weapon. When a touch is made on target, which consists of the entire torso excluding arms, legs, and head, a circuit is broken and a light and buzzer go on. The foil requires all the basic skills of fencing and must be mastered before use of the other weapons is learned.

The second of the electrified blades is the epee. The target is extended to include the entire body. This makes timing and speed of attack all the more crucial. This lance is also referred to as the dueling weapon in that the target area makes it most comparable to actual dueling where every touch draws blood.

The most dramatic of bouts are those of the sabre. This blade is not electrified, touches are observed by two judges in addition to the ever present director. There

is much speedy and defensive movement carried on through the midst of the clashing sound of the sabre.

These simple descriptions certainly can not do justice to the sensation derived from an actual match. One must truly experience this sport to appreciate its fascination and thrills.

Student Council then formed itself into a Committee of the Whole for discussion of the Dean's Reception. Upon resuming formal sessions, Student Council unanimously accepted the resolution of the committee that it be recorded that "Student Council discussed the plans for the Dean's Reception which will be held February 19, 1966."

Mr. Jacobson then criticized the chairman of the Intramurals Committee, Arnold Weiss '68, for scheduling intramural football for

juniors on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. The President felt that such activities should not be conducted while religious division classes are in session. His reason was that while students choose their college program and thus exclude themselves from activities connecting with their classes, they do not arrange their religious studies hours and should not be penalized for a situation beyond their control. Fierce discussion followed between partisans of both points of view. A motion was then passed to eliminate football intramurals for the duration of the semester.

Recognition Is Debate's Topic

(Continued from page one)

nomic aid.

The affirmative assumed that all reports of anti-Semitism in Germany are overstatements. Besides, they concluded, "one must not always do what he feels to be right."

The negative side, advocated dramatically by Miss Tauber and Dr. Fleischer, was wary of the sudden German decision for an exchange of diplomats. They felt that among Germany's motives was retaliation against Egypt for recognition of East Germany. In addition, they stated that Germany's extension of the statute of limitations was due not to public sympathy with the Jewish people, but to foreign pressure. They cited continued Nazi desecration of synagogues as evidence of rising anti-Semitism in Germany. Nazis are still found in the Bonn government, especially in the Judiciary. The new ambassador to Israel, moreover, was an officer in Hitler's *Wermacht*. They closed their argument saying that recognition is not to Israel's advantage diplomatically or morally in its own eyes and in the eyes of the world.

Dr. Meir Havazelet, assistant professor of Hebrew has written three articles lately. They have appeared in the most recent editions of *Sinai*, *Perachim*, and the *Jewish Collegiate Observer*.

Straw Poll

Governor Rockefeller scored an overwhelming victory over his Democratic opponent, City Council President, Frank O'Connor in a straw-poll conducted by Yeshiva College Student Council October 27. The Governor won by a margin of almost two to one.

Only 139 of the more than 1,000 students in the College bothered to vote. Of these 70 voted for Rockefeller, 40 for O'Connor, 14 for the Liberal candidate Roosevelt, and 10 for Adams, the Conservative candidate.

The question of the Civilian Review Board was also on the ballot. The vote was close, 71 against, 63 in favor. The table gives the breakdown of the voting.

	For	Against	Total
Rockefeller	35	14	49
O'Connor	20	3	23
Roosevelt	7	3	10
Adams	7	1	8
Review Board	71	13	84
For	27	13	40
Against	41	10	51

Despite Dearth Of Practice Time, Enthusiasm Shown For Baseball Team

(Continued from page eight)

ball was only an experiment without official recognition, while soccer was a struggling newcomer at Yeshiva. This year, however, both have been instituted as gym periods, with the possibility of becoming teams.

The pre-gym baseball meetings were attended by some sixty students of whom seventy percent were freshmen or sophomores. Great enthusiasm was displayed by the students and over thirty-five attended the first practice.

Ray Aboff, the captain and official instructor, has an optimistic outlook. He feels by next year the squad will be experienced, and with financial and administrative assistance will be capable of playing other college teams.

The ballplayers' major problems are those one would expect from Yeshiva students. Most Yeshiva boys have only played soft-

ball which is distinctly different from hardball. It is also quite difficult to practice, since Friday is the only day when all the students are free.

The soccer class opened its season with its first practice Monday night, October 24. Many students showed interest in the team and quite a few of them showed promise. Unfortunately, because of what Captain Elliot Spitz termed "lack of recognition by the administration," the team is laboring under many handicaps. Examples he gave were the lack of coach, no standard credit, and no scheduled meets.

Because of the difficulty of or-

ganizing a team and the approaching cold weather, the soccer enthusiasts will not play this term. However, they hope to schedule meets against some amateur team such as last year's match against the Junior Maccabee team which Yeshiva won 5-1.

Besides Captain Spitz, mainstays of the squad are co-captain Joseph Gelbwert and holdovers Thomas Teichman and Chaim Frydman.

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Dean Of Men Discusses Role Of Activities

"Students can maintain a miniature civilization through well-coordinated student activities," said Rabbi Jacob Rabinowitz, dean of students, as he began his talk on the function of student activities in the spectrum of the Yeshiva student. Rabbi Rabinowitz made these remarks at a lecture to the Yeshiva College student body, Oct. 20.

Rabbi Rabinowitz went on to state that each person creates certain boundaries for himself by de-



Dean Rabinowitz

voting his entire life to a positive ideal, such as beauty, or reason. Jews, he said, are committed to serving G-d and to seeing Him encompassed in all of life. At Yeshiva College itself, an atmosphere must be created in which *kodesh* and *chol* are interpreted together. This atmosphere must contain within it the traditional Jewish viewpoint, which will leave the student with nothing to fear from the outside world.

He views student activities as an important aid to the individual student in attaining this goal. However, the student must make the most of these opportunities by actively participating in student affairs.

Greenberg Asks For Prompt Action; Russian Jews Can Not Be Deserted

(Continued from page one)
American Jew. "It is shocking," Dr. Greenberg noted, "that a religion which teaches a unique awareness of time should find its people so blind to it. Since Russia withdraws her concessions when we subside in our protesting, it is now that we must protest."

Dr. Greenberg did not wish to explain the lack of any official response from the *Gedolei Hador*, but he did say that a person must do that which he feels is right. He cited as an illustration the story of *Nachshon* who jumped into the Red Sea without waiting for Moses to split it.

Dr. Greenberg expressed the view that we all must try regardless of the hopelessness of our cause. It was effort that differentiated Noah from Abraham. Noah chose to keep to himself and thus put himself on a lower level than Abraham who devoted his life to spreading the word of G-d.

In conclusion, Dr. Greenberg

Faculty Viewpoint

The Teacher And The Student

Editor's note:

Dr. Mayer Herskovics, assistant professor of Jewish Studies, is known not only for his scholarship, but also for his deep sincerity and personal concern for his students. Last year he was presented with the Senior Professor Award and his acceptance speech—printed, in part, below—touches upon important issues which we think relevant to the student body, faculty and administration.

By Dr. M. Herskovics

It has always been my firm belief that teaching means teaching. Every session spent in the classroom must leave a deep imprint on the student and teacher alike. The instructor must conclude each lesson with a feeling of accomplishment, while the student must come away with a sense of enrichment, both in subject matter and in *Hashkafa*, an enrichment which could not have been gained from the textbook by independent study. I feel it is every professor's obligation and desire to open vistas to the student which he might not have discovered on his own. Our faculty is highly capable of doing justice to such a demand; and to the credit of the student it must be said that, if he experiences scholastic and spiritual stimulation in his courses, he will seek them out diligently of his own accord.

Another aspect of the teacher-student relationship concerns the influence of the teacher on the student outside the classroom. The student has a very vigilant eye; nothing escapes him. He will often pay more heed to the teacher in action than to the teacher in instruction. We must remember that in one way or the other we are all teachers, and are constantly influencing those who look up to us. One slip of the tongue, be it in the classroom, private conversation, or in a public message, can act like a pebble thrown into calm water—creating every-widening circles of dissension. This is what our sages meant, when they said *chachamim hizaharu b'divreicheim*.

I mentioned private conversation. It has always been my feeling that knowledge is best imparted when a personal rapport exists between mentor and disciple. A sincere teacher should attempt to meet each of his students outside the classroom to become acquainted with his personality as well as his intellect. Each of these two elements influences the function of the other and their cooperation can fuse a bridge between teacher and student.

Another point affecting the student in his relationship to the Yeshiva is the following: We often hear students complain that there is no democracy within the walls of the Yeshiva, because the student's intellect cannot develop if he is limited in his basic freedoms of speech, press, and, of course, action. The Yeshiva—and we must never forget that the institution is called Yeshiva University—Yeshiva first and University second—has a responsibility to all the students entrusted to it. This responsibility, great in any generation, increases in the light of the recent tragedy of the Jewish people; when everyone of our children represents tens of thousands that are not here any more, the value of each successful *talmid* is beyond estimation.

said that the protesting of SSSJ and other organizations may also serve to awaken our own Jews to this very grave problem. This awakening may hopefully bring about a *Gaula* which will be

worthy, as Jeremiah expresses it, of superseding *Gculat Mitzraim*.

Following Dr. Greenberg's speech, George Weisz and the audience joined together in the singing of protest songs.

Tendler Lectures On Halachic Viewpoint Of Medical Ethics

The first of a series of lectures on Jewish Medical Ethics was held October 24 in Furst Hall. Rabbi Dr. Moses Tendler, professor of biology, who is the speaker for the series, described and outlined the broad range of *halachic* problems involved in the practice of medicine.

The theological aspect of medical practice was discussed at this meeting. Dr. Tendler posed the problem of how doctors can presume to cure a patient when G-d has willed him to be sick. He answered by quoting the passage of *rafo y'rafi* from which we

learn that it is a doctor's responsibility to cure the ill.

Future lectures will concern *Hilchos Shabbos* which include care of the sick, the question of office routine, and the problems encountered in medical school and internships in preparation for the profession. Other topics to be covered will be the question of autopsies; the limits of medical research including the patient's consent to experimentation; the doctor as a *posek* in questions of circumcision, marriage, *niddah*, contraception, and abortion; and questions relating to dietary laws.

Most students come here with the assumptions that they will acquire a religious and secular education that will not lead to friction, and will never lose sight of the priority of the word Yeshiva. The leadership of this great institution is the guarantee of the fulfillment of those assumptions. Many a student would refuse to attend this Yeshiva and reside in its dormitory, did he suspect any infringement on his educational plans, and his parents would concur with this refusal. No one, therefore has the right to undermine those hopes and implied promises by trying to introduce a spirit contrary to the concept "Yeshiva University." In brief, democracy is a *reshut harabim* and only those who identify themselves with the goals of the institution have the right of way. Those who disagree with the existing principles should definitely not try to deprive others of their rights; they will achieve nothing and only expose themselves to unnecessary friction.

But what of the dissenting student? What of his rights? I certainly believe that he should be given the chance to express his opinion, but this expression should come about in a mature fashion. Well-researched symposia, open debates and public forums should be encouraged in all controversial matters. However, whispering half-formulated heresies is irresponsibility; not freedom of action; anarchy, and not democracy.

I believe, that *Torah* and *Mada* could lead to a very healthy synthesis, and, therefore, the Science Center in the proximity of the Yeshiva does not represent a danger, because it will be controlled by the *Kollei Bet HaMedrash*. I would go even further by saying that there are two choices. One can oppose the Science Center *per se*, in which case he must strike the word University from the institution's name. The other alternative is that he agree in principle that the Science Center is necessary; but then he must stipulate that the proper place for the Center is under the constantly vigilant eye of the Yeshiva and its distinguished *rebbeim*.

I am well aware of the opinion of some that the Center should be erected—but hidden away five miles from the Yeshiva. This leaves a fairly bitter taste in my mouth. It is not a solution, but rather an evasion. To my mind, any evasive attempt to solve a crucial problem constitutes a far greater danger than the problem itself. We live in a time when we must face problems with which we are confronted, and not try to remove them from sight. Let me remind you that it is the duty of the teacher—AND ANYONE WHO IS LOOKED UP TO—to meet dilemmas head on. If we do not, we fail our vocation and dedication.

Shabbat Day School

"The advancement of our cultural standards and the imparting of a new value to the Sabbath as a day of study..." are the goals that *Kibbutz Gonen*, a non-religious *kibbutz*, has established for its proposed Sabbath school.

In the future, all work will cease at midday Friday, and only absolutely essential work will be carried out on the Sabbath. All members of the *kibbutz* will attend study sessions Friday afternoons and Saturday. The *kibbutz* feels that the benefits obtained "will more than compensate for the hours of work lost."

Who's Whose

Engaged

Arthur Lacher '67 to Ellen Marks

Val Karan '65 to Annette Kagen

Mel Genauer '64 to Chani Greenberg

Stan Schneider '66 to Adelle Aberbach

Jay Marcus '68 to Barbara Feder

Club Corner Chemistry

The first meeting of the Yeshiva College Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Chemical Society was held Thursday, Oct. 27. At that time, Chapter President James Mond '67, urged all chemistry and premedical majors to become members of the ACS. He announced that at future meetings there will be lectures by faculty members and chemists from industry, films, and one meeting devoted to summer employment opportunities. A tour of a chemical plant is also being planned.

A film, "Some Aspects of Complex Ion Theory" was the meeting's main feature.

Bnei Akiva

Mitchell Heifetz '67, who recently returned from a year of study at the Hebrew University, addressed the first meeting of the *Bnei Akiva* Club. He discussed the political and legal ramifications of the recent Israeli-Syrian border controversy and laid special stress on the importance of the debate in the Security Council.

Club Vice-President, Howard Feldman, '67, then discussed plans for the coming year. Among the proposals was one to invite Rabbi Sholom Pearl, an ardent advocate of Israeli policy, and Mahmed el Okhdah, head of the Arab Information Center, to debate on questions concerning Arab-Israeli relations.



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TAUBERMEN DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

Fencing Is A Fine Art

By Bruce Spinowitz

"It is much like a chess game," says Coach Tauber about the art of fencing. "One must constantly be thinking and making quick decisions, and must have drive and finesse to compete and win." The skills involved in fencing, in addition to the necessity of immediate analysis and anticipation of an opponent's moves, demand certain physical perfections. The swordman must be agile and must have highly conditioned legs for quick thrusts. He must develop a "sixth sense" to react to his opponent's weapon, not by sight, rather by touch.

These various attributes are all utilized to achieve one goal: touch without being touched. This end may be achieved by following some basic principles. The fencer must always be aware of his position and his distance from his opponent. Likewise, he must time and aim his attacks properly. The latter may be achieved by keeping one's sword above his contender's then striking downward, making the attack on a straight line. This decreases the distance between tip and target, thus increasing speed.

Now that the general requirements of good fencing are known, (Continued on page seven)

YU Fencers Have Chance At First Unbeaten Season

By Kenneth Koslows

The Fencing Team, Yeshiva's winningest squad of the 1965-'66 season, will attempt this year to improve upon last year's excellent 9-4 record. With a strong, well-balanced, and experienced squad, the Taubermen have a good chance of achieving this goal. Although the team lost two excellent fencers, Maurice Zauderer and Vic Kops, their replacements should fill the gap well.

Sabre

The sabre squad consists of two returning starters, Howie Feldman '67 and Adley Mandel '68 and experienced reserves. Howie, coming off a wonderful 1965-66 season, is a powerful and aggressive fencer, both offensively and defensively. Adley has a strong parry and is rather fast.

The remaining starting position will be filled by either Artie Waltuch, Shelley Rackovsky, Mitch Serels or Drew Kopf, all of whom were active on last year's squad.

Outlook: Probably the strongest group on this year's team in depth, strength, and experience.

Epee

The epee team also has a high rate of return from last year's squad. Co-captain Sol Lerer '67, Jack Petersil '68 and Dave Bernstein '68 shared the number two and three spots last sea-

son. Sol, by acquiring the necessary experience last year, and being fast on both offense and defense, is a big plus on the team. Jack and Dave are both fine fencers and should contribute greatly as the season progresses. Mauricio Glück '69, up from last year's freshman team, should provide substantial reserve strength.

FENCING — 1966-67

NYCC	Dec. 6	Tues.	home
New. Rutgers	Dec. 14	Thurs.	home
Fair. Dickinson	Jan. 5	Wed.	home
N.Y. Maritime	Jan. 10	Tues.	home
St. Peter	Feb. 7	Tues.	home
Drew	Feb. 9	Thurs.	away
J.C. State	Feb. 13	Mon.	away
Fordham	Feb. 15	Wed.	away
Bklyn. College	Feb. 20	Mon.	home
Brandeis	Feb. 25	Sat.	away
B'klyn. Poly	Mar. 1	Wed.	home
Paterson State	Mar. 7	Tues.	away

All home matches start at 7:30 in the gym at the main center.

Outlook: Epee has traditionally been a solid squad at YU, and this year will be no exception, since three fencers with starting experience are returning.

Foil

Complementing sabre and epee, is the foil team with two returning starters, co-captain Sid Kalish and Alex Zauderer. Sid and Alex have similar styles in that both have a quick parry and use finesse more than strength to overcome their opponents.

Two juniors from last year's squad and three sophomores from last year's freshmen team will be

fighting for the remaining starting positions. The juniors are: Bennie Lippman and Sam Nunberg, who saw limited action last year. The sophomores are: Norman Sidenfeld, Lazer Fruchtner (captain of the freshmen team '65-'66) and Jack Lazarus.

Outlook: Foil has been Yeshiva's weakest weapon in the past few years, but the strong second half showing of last year's squad plus the excellent material at hand this year give rise to the strong possibility of a new trend.

The overall outlook for the 1966-'67 season is very bright.

One of the highlights of the season will be the match against Paterson State, Yeshiva's toughest foe. A second highlight will be the week-end trip to Brandeis, where the Taubermen will seek a repeat of their last performance, at which they soundly trounced Brandeis by a 14-2 score. The Fencing Team should definitely better last year's record, and may even have an undefeated season.

On The Sidelines

The Gray Team



Howard Bodner

A basketball game with interesting aspects to it was recently played. If this game was not visible to the eyes of the students of Yeshiva, it certainly existed in the minds of many of them. The YC team of this contest did not consist of Sam Stern and Co. Rather, it was represented by undergraduate students who have played on the varsity but do not do so now, and men who have the ability but never played.

This team had as a nickname the "grays." Each person has his own reasons for not, at present, being a member of the Mighty Mites. They are neither right nor wrong, condoned nor condemned, black nor white—they are gray.

The "grays" started Paul Palefski and Harvey Bachman in the backcourt, Ray Aboff and Leon Pachter at the corners and Barry Rosner in the middle. The players were optimistic. Pachter encouraged the players to shoot and assured them that a missed shot would not result in their being benched.

The pattern of play proved that the grays had not practiced the many hours necessary to form a cohesive unit. This lack of practice was understandable. Barry Rosner expressed the general feeling that lack of time was the main obstacle to sufficient practice. Still, each player showed that his abilities had not waned.

Ray Aboff hit from the outside, and Rosner cleared the defensive boards. Bachman, who never joined the team because he "wanted to insure academic success," stood out in one particular play. As he was dribbling the ball downcourt, the big center from the other team, trying to swipe the ball, crashed into Harvey. One might have expected Harvey to have fallen because of the fierce impact, it was the opposing player who collapsed, however, as if he had run into a brick wall. And he had.

The first two players to come to the assistance of the injured competitor were Pachter and Palefski. The factor motivating their leaving, the College varsity was the same for both, desire and affinity for medical practice. Leon emphasized that not only did a pre-med major require extra study time, but "laboratory hours conflicted with varsity practice hours." Paul concurred with Leon's reasoning, but added other deterrents. "A pre-requisite for playing varsity is a great love for the game. I had it once, but no more. It was stifled because I developed interests in other fields."

The game ended in a tie. The "grays" neither won or lost.

The only spectators at the game were the members of the Yeshiva College Varsity Basketball team. They watched the game—with love. Each had questioned the pros and cons of playing, the disabilities and the advantages. They're not "grays"—color them Blue and White.

Intramurals Arouse Student Interest As Weiss Slates Ambitious Program

By Paul Palefski

Yeshiva University's unique approach to higher education creates an atmosphere of tension and pressure. Therefore, a healthy diversion is not merely a pleasant way to spend a few hours, but a necessity if the Yeshiva student is to maintain his mental equilibrium.

One method is provided by a surprisingly dynamic intramural program. Somehow intramurals usually manage to generate interest, and times, even excitement. Rarely does the lack of student participation hamper the activities.

The great drawback of our intramural program has been, of course, the lack of proper facilities. This has prevented the program from realizing its full potential.

In an attempt to broaden and expand intramurals, past student chairmen have added a number of new activities. But few have made as much progress as Arnie Weiss; Arnie has already instituted intramural football. The first game pitted the juniors against the sophomores and was well-received. Chairman Weiss anticipates greater interest at future contests.

Other innovations this year will

include intramural softball, debating, college bowl and chess. The possibility of elevating last year's successful sophomore-junior bowling meet to the intramural level is also being considered. With the cooperation of Doc Hurwitz, Arnie is formulating plans

junior team took on a sophomore team weakened with the loss of three of its starters.

It is obvious to anyone familiar with past intramural programs that Arnie Weiss has done a tremendous job in planning and scheduling this year's ambitious



Juniors and sophomores clash on gridiron

for an annual track meet which should ultimately result in the formation of a varsity track team.

Basketball, volleyball and fencing are once again included in this year's program. The first basketball game of the new intramural season was played Monday, October 31, when a strong

program. The students at Yeshiva owe it to themselves, and to Arnie, to transform his plans into reality.

Baseball, our national sport, and soccer, the European national sport, joined Yeshiva College's athletic program. Last year, base-

(Continued on page seven)