

The death sentences have been commuted, and the international furor surrounding the trials in Leningrad has quieted down. Indeed, almost no voice of protest is to be heard. Why, then, a front page editorial?

It is because we wish to condemn the travesty of justice which is being committed in the Soviet Union even to this day. Not one wrong was righted when the Russian court reduced the sentences of two Jews from death to fifteen years in prison. Not one bit of good has come from all the demonstrating, speech-making, and editorializing of the past few weeks.

There are those who breathe a sigh of relief and thanks to God that the lives of the two Jews have been spared. What they are really doing is deluding themselves into believing that the few hours they spent in Foley Square were not only worthwhile, they were also suf-

ficient. Nothing more is necessary, and they may now turn their attention elsewhere.

Such people are fools. Do they think that fifteen year prison sentences for the Leningrad eleven represent a victory over Soviet oppression and anti-Semitism? In the face of years of hard labor in the bitter cold, at worse than subsistence-level diets, the peace of the grave might be preferable.

But there is something even more important to consider. As precious to us as is the life of each Jew in the world, the tragedy of those imprisoned in Leningrad pales when compared to the plight of their three million brothers trapped throughout the Soviet Union. One-fourth of our people are facing not the threat of the hangman's noose but the threat of spiritual genocide, and not one word of pro-

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READING

# The Commentator

WEAK

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232

No. 6

## Yeshiva Students Participate in City-Wide Protests Condemning Soviet Discrimination of Russian Jews

### Russian Jews Seek Liberty

By JOSEPH TELUSHKIN

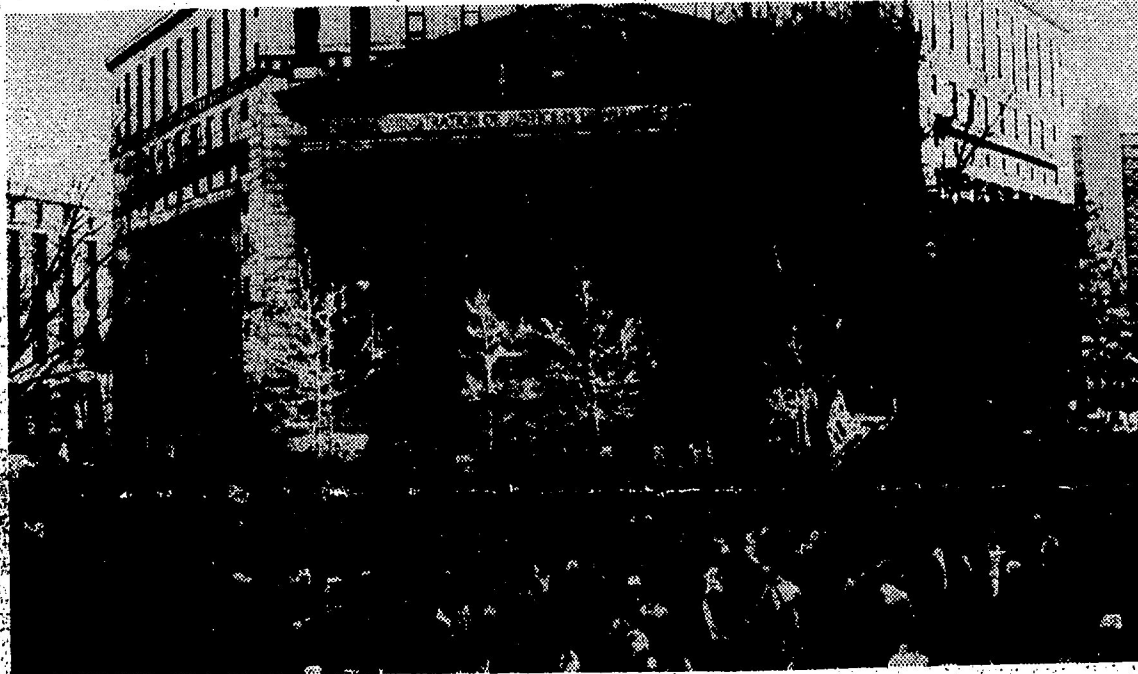
"I do not doubt for a minute that sometime I shall emigrate and live in Israel. This dream, sanctified by 2,000 years of hope, will never leave me. Next year in Jerusalem! And now I repeat: If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither and fall."

These are the words of Silvia Zalmanson, in the recent Leningrad "hijacking" trial. She was sentenced to ten years in prison. Her husband, Edward S. Kuznetsov, and another "hijacker," Mark Dymshits were both originally sentenced to death, although the sentences were later changed to fifteen years in prison.

This dramatic and defiant declaration is characteristic of a resurgent sense of Jewishness among Russian Jews since the Six Day War. While exact figures are unattainable, estimates on the number of Russian Jews who have applied for emigration visas since June, 1967, are in the area of 50,000-80,000. In assessing this figure, one must also bear in mind the vocational harassment, the social ostracism and financial difficulties that confront anyone applying for a visa.

#### High Price

Loss of a job and avoidance by terrified neighbors are but the



Soviet Jewry Rally in Folley Square

Beej

first problem. There is also the fact of the four hundred rubles. In a country where the pay scale averages 100 rubles a month, it costs 400 rubles to apply for an emigration visa. The average Soviet Jew who has gotten out has had to apply about five times. It costs an additional 400 rubles to renounce one's citizenship in addition to being subject to constant spying by the numerous employees of the KGB, the Kremlin secret police.

Yet, as difficult as this procedure is, it is nothing compared to the courage and commitment of the hundreds of Soviet Jews

who've smuggled out letters chronicling their attempts to emigrate to Israel, and how they've been repeatedly foiled. Since the first plea of the eighteen Georgian families was made public by Golda Meir in September of last year, hundreds more have followed.

Essentially they have all affirmed the dramatic statement contained in the letter of the Georgian Jews, and reiterated in the declaration of Silvia Zalmanson:

"There are eighteen of us who signed this letter. But he errs who thinks there are only eighteen of us . . ."

"We will wait months and years; we will wait all our lives, if necessary, but we will not renounce our faith or our hopes.

"We believe: our prayers have reached G-d. We know: our appeals will reach people. For we are asking—let us go to the land of our forefathers."

#### Solidified Spirit

Whereas the Stalinist purge trials of the 1930's and the trials in preparation in 1953 when Stalin died generally succeeded in their objective silencing and terrifying all dissident views, the current trials are failing. The spirit of Soviet Jewry has solidified so much that within less than a week, several petitions with over eighty signatures were made available to Western correspondents. The petitions de-

claring seniors, awaits final action by the Senate.

#### Exemption Confirmed

Concerning the pre-med, pre-dental majors' exemption from the UP test requirement, recently confirmed by the Senate, Professor Silverman reported that he had met with Dr. Wischnitzer and recommended in his motion that the DAT be substituted for pre-dent majors, which all dental schools require. Since the DAT consists of an eleven point scale, and is unlike the UP, students would be required to achieve a minimum initial score of 4, later to be raised to 5.

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## Senate Acts On UP Test; Hears Curriculum Report

By JOE BELITZKY

In accordance with a motion recently passed by the YC Senate, pre-med and pre-dental majors will not be required to take UP's in their respective fields. Pre-dental majors will be able to substitute the DAT and pre-med majors will be able to substitute their medical school admission tests. The Senate also enacted legislation enabling YC students to attend the rally held on Sunday, December 20 protesting the Russian "show trial" of Jews accused in the attempted hijacking of a Soviet airliner. Another motion concerning exemptions, that of a final exam option for grad-

### SSSJ Fights Soviet Trials

By ROBERT BENEDEK

The 4,000 participants of the "World Day for Soviet Jewry" rally held on September 20, 1970 in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, condemned Russia for its inhumane treatment of three million fellow Jews locked behind the Iron Curtain. They entreated the United States and the entire world to act or speak out on behalf of those three million suffering Jews. But no international protest was raised. And so, the plight of Soviet Jewry remained as grim and threatening as ever.

Four thousand participants, 4,000 from a city of some 2,800,000 Jews. It was not very impressive or encouraging. About one year ago, Steve Reinhard and some concerned friends rejuvenated the YU branch of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, because they were appalled by the unimpressiveness of such rallies and shocked by the apathy of American Jews to the plight

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## Bacon Discusses Dismissals; Positions To Remain Empty

By LEONARD DAVIS

Contracts of at least four Yeshiva College faculty members are not being renewed for the school year beginning September 1971. The teachers not being rehired are Dr. George Haefner, associate professor of speech; Miss Sheila Hershov, instructor of English; Dr. David Plank, assistant professor of French; and Mr. Michael Weinberg, instructor of history. Dean Bacon refused to say whether other instructors were to be dismissed and commented only that "this list seems accurate." All of the teachers have been at YC for either three or four years and each is currently teaching a full program of 12 credits.

Dean Bacon stated that as economic difficulties caused the dismissals, no replacements are being sought and that the positions will not be filled. It is difficult to see how the academic

quality of Yeshiva will not be affected. The dismissals of Mr. Weinberg and Dr. Plank will leave only one full-time teacher in the history department and two in the French department.

Dean Bacon explained that Yeshiva's financial crisis necessitated this faculty cutback; however, the dean would not rule out that the dismissals were based on "student complaints and other reasons." Dr. David Fleisher, chairman of the English department, was unaware of any financial basis for the decision. According to Dr. Fleisher, Miss Hershov had been hired temporarily, dependent on yearly registration.

The teachers were notified by mail that they were not to be rehired. According to one of the teachers, no reason was expressed in the letter and only later were financial difficulties explained to be the cause of his dismissal.

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## Actions Not Taken

Confronted by the Soviet Union's anti-Jewish hijack trials, world Jewry and public figures and organizations outside its sphere have condemned the regression to Stalinism manifest in the Soviet kangaroo courts. Those who have long recognized the Soviet Union's anti-Jewish practices in the religious, cultural, and economic realms, are alarmed by the death sentences of the two alleged "hijackers." These sentences are a symptom of the severe repression of Soviet Jewry. Even the Pope, an individual who had not yet extended himself in questions of Jewish survival, saw fit to officially condemn the severity of the sentences, and promised to use his "good offices" in an attempt to influence and conciliate the Soviet government.

Yeshiva University also has a bevy of offices which it might put to similar good use. Regrettably, the concern which motivated the Pope's condemnation has not yet taken hold at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Miller, and those above him who approved, or possibly, initiated the decision to cancel classes on Wednesday, during the demonstration at City Hall, are to be commended. But why could not these same individuals have issued an official condemnation of the Soviet Union's judicial travesty? If we are the oldest and largest Jewish institution, it is about time we began showing it.

Our once active Student Council showed even greater negligence than the administration. No meetings were called to discuss the courses for possible action. Indeed Council has been peculiarly quiet throughout the years regarding Soviet Jewry. We have come to expect inertia from our administration, and any indication to the contrary is a welcome surprise. The same cannot be said for Council. Last year Council acted promptly when confronted by the U.S. invasion of Cambodia. The administration, of course, was silent. It is unfortunate that the traditional roles of Council and administration are reversed at a time when a large segment of the Jewish people are in a crisis. If the administration were to issue an official statement regarding the plight of Soviet Jewry, perhaps Council would feel itself shamed into action.

### From the Editors' Desk

## Russian Jewry

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

test or of indignation is to be heard. Mayor Lindsay is not concerned, Secretary of State Rogers writes no letters and the Pope makes no pleas for mercy.

Even worse, the Jews of our own country seem not to care. Actually, there was not much Jewish reaction even to the proposed murder of the two Leningrad Jews. The sum total of all the New York Jews who attended rallies for Soviet Jewry these past few weeks doesn't begin to approach the 200,000 people who gathered in Times Square last Thursday night to watch a ball drop on the Allied Chem-

## Rules Not Obeyed

Towards the close of last year the senate passed a resolution which provided for a study week to precede final exams. This study week is in lieu of the last week of scheduled classes. Dr. Lisman, and possibly other teachers have failed to abide by this resolution. In direct disregard of regulations they have planned formal classes during the study week.

A lame excuse for this action is that the term's syllabus has not been completed and thus the last week will be used to teach new material for which the students are already responsible. This excuse is not only flimsy but irrational. The possibility of the study week's implementation was known prior to the term's commencement. All teachers should have had this clearly in mind when planning their course structure. Any teacher who did not alter his course to fit the new schedule is one who has blatant disregard for regulations, incompetent or just plain indolent. In permitting teachers to proceed with their intentions, Dean Bacon displays ineffective control of his faculty. His unwillingness to enforce the senate ruling is most surprising in that the study week proposal was originated by the Dean himself. THE COMMENTATOR urges the Dean to act at once to insure that all instructors adhere to the regulations concerning the study week so that it can be for all, a true week of study.

## Students Not Asked

Amidst an atmosphere of unreasonable secrecy, word has leaked out that four teachers will be fired at the end of the spring term. Had the decision remained secret, the students would have returned to school in the fall semester only to find these teachers gone without any explanation.

Since the whole incident was supposed to be a secret, no reasons have been given officially for the firing of these particular teachers, but whether the reason eventually cited is incompetence or financial difficulties, the true nature of the decision seems to be an attempt to prevent these teachers from achieving tenure. These instructors average more than three years of service to Yeshiva and if they were incompetent, they should have been fired long ago. On the other hand, if financial difficulties make it necessary to fire teachers, it seems unreasonable to pick on those who have had more experience teaching in Yeshiva College than many of their colleagues. Thus, it appears that this ill-conceived decision was not aimed at improving the quality of education in the school but rather at firing certain teachers because it was expedient to do so.

No matter what the reason for the decision, THE COMMENTATOR feels that students should have been not only informed but also consulted. The students are surely those who have had the most contact with the teachers as pedagogues and student representatives' opinions should at least be officially noted before an established teacher is asked to leave the school.

ical Tower. And now even this minimal reaction has almost been extinguished.

This is what we condemn. We condemn the gentile world for its hypocritical attitude toward our people, noticing only if they are alive or dead but caring not at all if their freedom is destroyed. We condemn the Jews who, because of laziness or ignorance, fail to realize that the threat to the survival of Soviet Jewry is as great today as it has ever been. And we condemn the Soviet Union for its campaign of terror and repression against the Jewish people. We remind the Russian leaders that while we Jews have long been persecuted, we continue to survive. It is our oppressors who have met their downfall.

## Letters To The Editor

### To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Jacobson's recent article on the sensationalized meeting between freshmen and sophomores and the New Student Coalition. My lack of polish may be attributed to the novelty of answering my first public slandering. I wish to state that I did not at any time exert anything which could possibly be construed as the remotest semblance of "pressure" on either Mr. Ruchelsman or Mr. Schiffmiller. While Mr. Jacobson's assertion to the contrary is not the only misrepresentation in his article, it is plainly and simply a prevarication of the first magnitude. The fact of the matter is I have neither the facilities nor the perverse desire to accomplish what Mr. Jacobson writes I did. Such reportage is a monument of irresponsible journalism and can only lower the quality of any newspaper.

Andy Solomon

### View From Israel

#### To the Editor:

After reading the September 29 issue of THE COMMENTATOR, it is apparent that Yeshiva is still suffering from the unrecognizable crisis of spirit which prevents rational handling of the other so-called crises that perpetually occupy students' minds. Only by forcing oneself to break away from analyzing and living the downtrodden existence of a Yeshiva student is it possible to obtain a clear third-person perspective of Yeshiva, its significance and its problems. Such an uncluttering of the mind has produced the observation among nearly all students in Israel on leave from Yeshiva that existence at Yeshiva and Yeshiva's efforts to exist are basically demoralizing exercises.

During the period when Yeshiva evolved from an institution with an eighteen million dollar budget to a megalomaniac octopus with a budget deficit of the same figure, chasms developed in which one-time underlying philosophies such as *Torah U'mada*, liberal education and synthesis degenerated into empty vulgarisms. If the upper echelon of Yeshiva thought that through the Keynesian method it could expand an undergraduate college into a big time university, then recent years have disproved this hypothesis.

I have talked at length with over ten YC graduates of the late fifties and early sixties and they all speak of Yeshiva with fondness. In the words of one, "The best four years of my life were at Yeshiva." How many seniors today can make the same

claim? Will YU receive contributions from these future alumni?

It is disheartening to read that life at YU is measured in degrees of "painlessness." Evidently, synthesis has evolved into a purely chemical reaction where time corrodes the human soul as acid does a metal.

As has been the case with every other issue in the past two years, the confrontation of the financial problem by the administration has left a feeling of despair and negativism among the already crisis-worn student body which as usual was probably subjected to 2 a.m. YCSC meetings.

In letters from friends and conversations with others who recently visited Israel, the feelings toward Yeshiva in every case could be classified as bitter helplessness. It is this very emotion among YC students which administrators choose to ignore. A closed-in society in which the members classify themselves either as angry young men, low lives or bimmies is anything but a healthy one.

If *Torah U'mada* can even be reflected in a karate class, why then is everyone so miserable? Why is the basketball team always rebuilding and THE COMMENTATOR editors always talking about the justifications and limits of student protest? (September 29 issue.)

Emotions and life are not logical and no administration rhetoric can make the YC student be content with his existence. Freshmen being told that all their problems are because of their status doesn't solve their problems. And to become acclimated to routine at YU doesn't make one love it.

It is this spiritual crisis that has been and still is the biggest crisis. Young men have to be properly molded for the challenges of adult life equally as much as they need credits for a bachelor's degree. Unless YU's administrators come out of their offices and see the basic unhappiness it may become moot how the present financial crisis is solved. And if the purposes of the school which are stated in every catalogue are not given the humanistic values so desperately needed by the average student, then only G-d himself will be able to decide if there is anything of value left in Yeshiva University.

Sheldon Toibb '72

### In Defense

#### To the Editor:

After recovering from our initial shock of reading the malicious personal attacks levelled by the writer of the lead editorial of your issue of December 16 against the editors of the student directory, we the accused owe the student body (as well as our own personal honor) the truth which has been so flagrantly distorted.

You state as "fact" that the editors have "failed to expend some energy" in utilizing the registrar's office to glean "much of the information requested." Nothing could be further from the truth! Not only did we consult this office and persist in haggling with the big man in the office until he reluctantly permitted us access to the "only" complete file containing the necessary information at his disposal, but we personally began recording the

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 2)



By Andrew Geller

# Hoopsters Lose To Brooklyn, City, Queens; Gain Initial Victory Over Brooklyn Poly

By JOE COHEN

There were ten days in December which should have been pleasant ones for the Mighty Mites. After all they were to play crosstown rivals against whom they had usually been able to hold their own or even at times defeat in the past few years. Unfortunately, however, the pleasure did not arrive until the very end of the ten days.

Since Yeshiva's home courts are already located in two bor-

oughs, a third borough became ours on Saturday night, December 12 at Brooklyn. The crowd was largely pro Yeshiva.

Yeshiva led at 2-0 and at 4-2 but never led again. The Kingsmen led by their high scorer Robert Kronisch outscored the blue and white 10-2 to lead at 12-6 as Kronisch scored six. Brooklyn increased its lead to 10 at 23-13 but the Mites closed out the half with three points to trail by seven 23-16, as they had at C. W. Post and at Pace, and you remember what happened there. The halftime talk by Coach Stern included not only an appeal for victory but also an appeal to avoid our second half doldrums.

### Yeshiva Loses

Yeshiva came out as if they would win, scoring five straight points to trail by only two at 23-21. However, in the next six minutes the visitors were outscored 13-2 led again by Robert Kronisch, and trailed 36-23. The Mites tried to come back in the last four minutes by scoring seven in a row but they still trailed by seven with 2:25 remaining and miracles have not been forthcoming this year. Yeshiva lost by seven, 50-43. Stu Poloner was high scorer for Yeshiva with 18, while Robert Kronisch led Brooklyn with 14.

The following Monday night Yeshiva played its closest game to home at City College. CCNY gradually built up a 34-21 lead, but in the final minutes of the first half the visitors scored six straight foul shots to trail by seven at 34-27.

The second half was the old story again, as the home team outscored its uptown neighbors, 16-3 to lead 50-30 with fourteen minutes remaining. Richie Bailey had eight of City's points. When the clock finally ran out the Mighty Mites had lost 72-51. Stuie Poloner led all scorers with

### Meets Queens

On the following Thursday night Queens traveled to Pace to face Yeshiva. This was supposed to be a game where we would meet our match and finally grab a victory. However, Queens with a record similar to ours felt the same way and beat us by three points, 57-54.

This game marked the first time that our deficit at the end

Mighty Mites and especially against Stuie Poloner. In the next three minutes, Queens was able to take a 22-7 lead. But the half ended with the "home" team trailing by eight, at 38-30.

### Once More

In the first five minutes after the intermission, the boys from Yeshiva outscored Queens 13-5 to put the game at 43-all. They were never to lead, however, and lost the game by three points mainly because of an extremely good 14-19 free throw percentage in the second half and 20-25 for the game. Stuie Poloner led all scorers with 30 points while John Molinari led Queens with 15.

Then came the night that was. The night of December 21 belonged to Yeshiva, who trailed only twice at 2-0 and at 4-2. But don't kid yourself. Even on this night a 30-19 Yeshiva lead dwindled to a 33-31 halftime lead. The Mighty Mites led 49-41 with 8:45 remaining. Bob Comioia then scored on two straight long outside shots to bring the home team to within 4 points at 49-45 with 8:11 remaining. In the next five minutes of play, the visitors scored fifteen in a row led by Harold Perl's eight points to take a 64-45 lead. In the next three minutes the visitors led by Josh Bertram's 4 points outscored Poly 10-4 to win 74-49 after having led by only two at halftime. In the final eight minutes of play the Blue and White outscored Poly 25-4. Dave Wilzig shot 10 for 15 from the floor to lead Yeshiva scorers with 22 points. Harold Perl scored 21 and Stuie Poloner scored 19. Tom Dunleavy led Brooklyn Poly scorers with 14 points. Yeshiva finally won and will win more if they get balanced scoring from their outside shooters much as they did tonight.

# Poloner Reflects On His Career

(Continued from Page 8, Col. 3) lege. Third, and very important, is the fact that I don't play one position steadily here. I'm 6'2", and whether I play forward or guard depends on what team we're playing. At any other school I'd be a guard, and I could concentrate on my dribbling and shooting. Now I have to concentrate on different things, which does, in effect, hinder my development.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** When you go into each game, how do you view yourself as fitting in with the rest of the team? In other words, do you feel obligated to score a lot every game so that the team can win?

**POLONER:** I don't go into the game with the intention of scoring a lot, and I don't feel that I have to score a lot in order for the team to win. The only thing is, if I don't score, somebody else has to, and there aren't many big scorers floating around Yeshiva. You can't win a ballgame if your team only scores 40 points. Speaking realistically, Harold Perl and I are the only really experienced guys on the team, and we also have to keep calm.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** Do you have any thoughts of playing semi-pro ball after you graduate?

**POLONER:** I might like to go back to Israel and play there again. It's a different experience there. Basketball is a new sport to the Israelis. They use international rules, such as the 30-second clock, no half-court line, no foul shots after regular fouls, etc.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** Do you feel that Yeshiva should have a recruiting policy for athletes from public schools?

**POLONER:** First of all, the policy now is terrible. You can't expect to develop a good basketball team by drafting one or two

guys and trying to build a team around them. If you can't draft at least two or three guys, it might be better to drop the whole team. When I first came here, people told me this team was representing Jews, and when we played well, we presented a good image. Now if we're going to get killed in our games, we might as well drop the team, and I'm not saying that sarcastically. The same people who spoke to me originally now don't even care. There is no half-way in basketball.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** How do you feel about the lack of a gym here? Do you think all the athletes should strike for a gym?

**POLONER:** It would be nice if all the athletic teams would refuse to compete until a gym was built. The only thing is that the school wouldn't mind it at all. In fact, they'd be very happy to stop all athletic programs, because it would save them a lot of money. The lack of a gym really hurts us, but the only way we'll get it is if some benevolent guy comes along and gives us a million dollars for a gym.

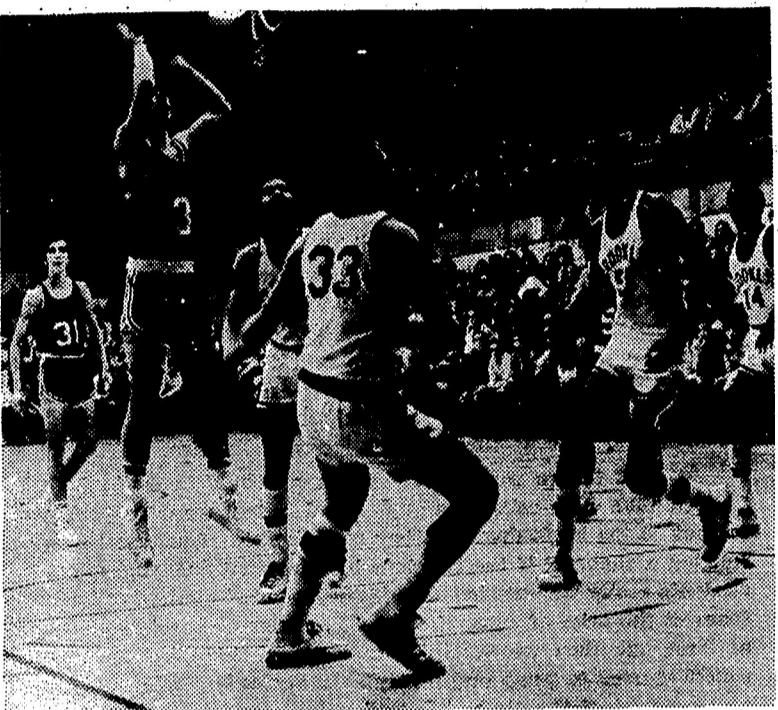
**THE COMMENTATOR:** For many years MTA has practiced during the summers and this has really helped them. Do you think anything like this could work with the college?

**POLONER:** No, not really. No matter how much you work, a 6'1" guy won't rebound a 6'7" guy. It might get us a few more points, but I doubt if it really can win many games.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** Do you feel that the change in coaches has significantly changed the style or attitude of the team?

**POLONER:** There's been no change in style because Sam Stern, the present coach, played with Mr. Sarachek, and learned all his fundamentals there. We still play the same type of basketball.

Yeshiva vs. Brooklyn College M. Klein



# Philosophizing Drunk Discusses "Truths" of Current Society

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 5)

sponse to my generosity, I quickly perceived that this unique character spoke in a private, intense language which he would not compromise even when communicating with those outside his wine-soaked sphere. I was impressed by his refusal to demean himself for what must have been a sorely needed contribution. After a few meetings with him I learned to appreciate his apparently causeless curses and rabbit punches, as the endearing traits of an aged man of the streets whose experience he was attempting to share as best he could.

I picked myself up from the shattered glass on which I'd fallen when kicked, and sending a friendly obscenity over my shoulder (I was learning already), hobbled and cursed to the nearest subway station. It was a week before I could get the memory of our meeting out of my mind, and the smell of cheap wine out of my clothes. By that time, however, I had determined to see him again and absorb whatever truths he might pronounce.

I returned to the corner where I'd first seen him and found him in the drunken stupor he had

probably been born into. He spat when he saw me coming towards him but I wasn't fooled by the facade of hostility and sat down besides his wreckage of a body, carefully choosing one of the fouler spots in the heap, in an attempt to show my good will. I wasn't an upper crust who was slumming, and I had to prove to him, I treated him with the reverence a pilgrim might show a scrawny and gnarled Buddah.

Between his grunts and lapses into unconsciousness, he gave me a summary of his speculations on life and the various episodes which influenced his thinking. One should never drink wood alcohol, was his most important lesson. Jabbing his finger in my face, he began telling me how he had seen the best minds of his generation homogenized by wood alcohol and anti-freeze. He realized that their tragedy was the inevitable result of a probing mind, one which is experience oriented, but he felt it his duty to warn whomever he could about the dangers risked by such a nature.

On my last visit to him, dogs and children were devils incarnate and should be assaulted before they could do their dirty work. I dutifully nodded to each

of his exclamations. After a few minutes more of such rambling, he closed his eyes and appeared to have fallen unconscious. I, however, knew that he had slipped into a trance, and I eagerly anticipated what he would say when his soul returned from its wandering in the limbo of Gallo vineyards. Quickly, he opened his eyes and with more alertness than I had ever seen in his face before, ordered me to get out of sight. I realized, that the drunk, in a holy roller vision of torches and shouts, had seen that I was limiting his psychic growth. He said, though I was accepting in my attitude, I wasn't yet prepared to make the sacrifices he had made, to attain sainthood. Brushing the glass and dirt off of my pants, I walked into the neon sunset of the Bowery. Though I haven't yet forged a bond with the wine bottle, I'll never again offer a drunk a quarter.

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# Poloner Reflects On His Career; Criticizes YC Athletic Program

By GERRY SKOLNIK

Many "good" ballplayers have attended Yeshiva University, but there have been very, very, few great ballplayers. Stuart Poloner is one of them. Having made a name for himself as a prolific scorer at Yeshiva University High School of Manhattan, better known as MTA, he entered Yeshiva College in 1967 and was a varsity starter in his freshman year. A consistent scorer and rebounder from the outset, he has been one of the forces which have held Yeshiva's not always Mighty Mites together.

This year, Stue scored his one-thousandth point in three years at Yeshiva (his junior year was spent in Israel). Because of this milestone, THE COMMENTATOR thought it fitting to let the student body know a little more about the ballplayer, and his feelings about Yeshiva College athletics. The following interview will lend you some insight into what it's like to be a basketball star at Yeshiva.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** There aren't many ballplayers who score 1,000 in their college career, and at Yeshiva, there aren't many good players, period. Did you have any particular thoughts about your career at Yeshiva as you went over the mark?

**POLONER:** When I played for MTA, I also scored 1,000 points.

When I entered college though, I didn't know what to expect. The caliber of ballplayers that you find in college is, on the whole, much better than in high school, so when I started out I didn't have any scoring goal at all. The only time that scoring 1,000 points ever crossed my mind at all was at the beginning of this year, when I found out that I had 840 points. Then I forgot about it again. In fact, everybody thinks I scored the 1,000 point against Brooklyn Poly, but it really was against Queens. I hadn't been keeping track, so when they said Brooklyn Poly, I agreed.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** Would scoring 1,000 points mean any more to you if you were playing on a winning team?

**POLONER:** It would. There's a lot to be said for a winning team. There were times, though, in my freshman and sophomore year, when even though the team was losing we had some satisfying games. Those were against CCNY and Brandeis. The game against City was a sort of personal thing for both the team and me. In my senior year of high school, City beat Yeshiva by quite a big margin, and The New York Post wrote a derogatory article about our team. So, when we played City, I was really anxious to beat them. I played a good game and when we won it was really satisfying. As far as

Brandeis is concerned, I had seriously considered going there, so beating them was a thrill especially with K.C. Jones as their coach. In general, the spirit isn't the same as it was in my first two years, so it makes playing with a losing team a little tougher. In all fairness, it could be because playing in college isn't as big a thrill as it used to be for me.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** How is the morale of the team?

**POLONER:** When I was in my junior and senior years of high school, we didn't lose too many games, but when we did, we took them very seriously. My first game in college, however, showed that Yeshiva College is different. We lost to Queens College by a score of 78-77, and while I was upset, most of the guys in the locker room were simply not upset about the loss. It was very hard for me to understand, but as one guy explained to me, "When you've played for Yeshiva for a while, you'll understand." Now that I'm a senior, I do understand a little better. Everyone on the team wants to win, but losing just doesn't bother them that much any more. There are some games, like those against Montclair State, where the team simply can't go in there thinking they're going to win. You learn to take things in stride.

**THE COMMENTATOR:** Do you think that playing with a ballclub like Yeshiva has hindered your development as a ballplayer?

**POLONER:** I imagine that to a certain extent it has. When I graduated from high school, I wanted to go to a secular college and play ball there. As it turned out, I went here, and it hinders any ballplayer. There are a number of considerations. First there is no time to practice, and often no place to practice. Second, you're not playing with the calibre of ballplayers here that you would find in a secular col-

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 4)

## Matmen Lose Twice; Pins Cause Defeat

By RONNIE MASLIANSKY

Still shell-shocked by their overwhelming loss to LIU, the YU matmen took on a strong but inexperienced team from Lehman College. A large crowd turned out in anticipation of a good showing by the Ellmen, but came away disappointed.

At 118 pounds, Nate Kline started out quickly. After being taken down, Nate reversed his opponent. However, he could not keep his advantage, and was finally pinned in 6:20.

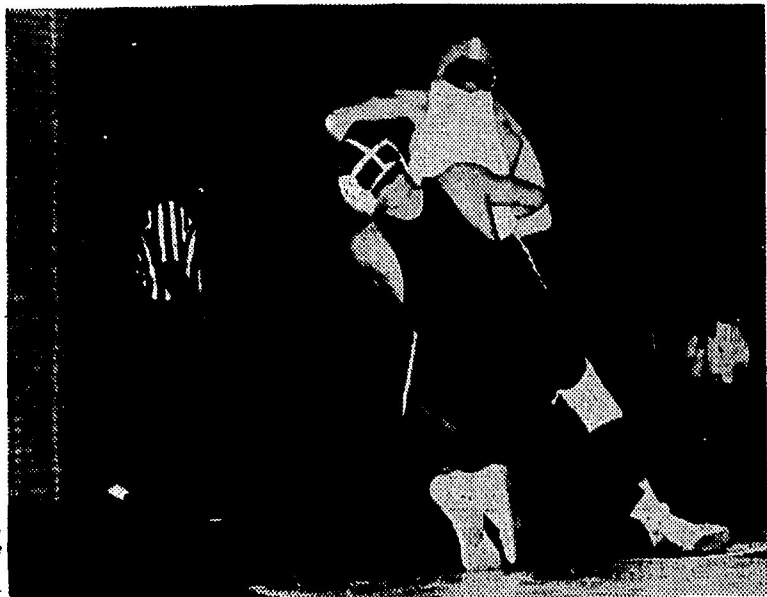
Bob Weiss made his first start of the year at 126 pounds. With his left hand heavily taped to protect a separation, Bob's mobility was limited as he wrestled the Lehman captain. The YU co-cap-

starting the third period, Rubin reversed his man, but was unable to pin him. He lost, 7-3.

### Losing Streak

Trailing 11-0, the Ellmen still could not come up with a victory as Harold Mermelstein, in 5:46, Steve Edell, in 2:24, and Abe Reichman, in 1:26, were pinned, with the match clinched for Lehman, 26-0. Lenny Press could not break the losing streak, as he was pinned in 1:03.

YU averted a second consecutive shut out when Rubin Koolyk won on a forfeit. The momentum, though, was all Lehman's as Howie Davis, above weight at 190, and Mark Urkowitz, unlimited, were pinned in tough matches. The times were 4:50



S. Lipshitz

### Ellmen Grappling

tain made a strong effort, but the long lay-off took its toll. The final was 6-3, Lehman.

The other YU co-captain, Gary Rubin, drew a very strong man for his opponent. Trailing by 5-1

and 4:56 respectively. The final score of the match was Lehman 41, Yeshiva 5.

Staten Island Community College was the next home foe. (Continued on Page 5, Col. 3)

## On The Sidelines



## Once Upon A Time

By Billy Schechter

It has often been rumored that Yeshiva College once had a winning basketball team. Well, it's true to a certain degree, for at one time the Mighty Mites were not only winners but they were an outstanding team. They were a team that went out on the court and knew they could win. At that time there was no guaranteed losses. The question that should be in the mind of the reader, is how did Yeshiva do it? The truth is that it was done with recruiting. That's right—with recruiting. Red Sarachek went out and brought in his "ringers" and with a certain amount of talent, Yeshiva became a winning school.

From the 1954-55 season to the 1959-60 season, the Mighty Mites had a six year record of 75 and 42. These years of glory started with a gifted ballplayer, Irv Blumenreich, a recruited athlete, who broke all the Yeshiva scoring records in three years. It ended with a powerful backcourt duo of Irv Bader and Willie Goldstein. After these six years of plenty the Mighty Mites settled into the ten years of famine. Willie Goldstein recently spoke to THE COMMENTATOR of his experiences at Yeshiva.

William Goldstein came to Yeshiva, to be a participant in a new experimental program. The reason for starting this program was to help recruit athletes from the public high school level. At the time it was reasoned that since Yeshiva College represented Orthodox Judaism on the court they might as well do it well. So, in came the Jewish Studies Program, which today is called JSS. Willie Goldstein was not an Orthodox Jew, but he did want to learn something about Judaism, and thus he threw in his lot with Yeshiva.

At first things were pretty rough on the "ringers" of Yeshiva College. "We were called the *goyim*, and in fact we were pretty close to that at the beginning. All they really asked of us was to give the religion a chance." If the religious bloc was not enough, many of the students really weren't too sure if they wanted a winning basketball team at the price of using ringers. "The team was not really popular at first but then we started winning, and then the spirit of the school started to jump and pretty soon students started to recognize us as a part of the student body."

In those days the Mites were not pushovers and even when they lost it was still a game. "I hear that Yeshiva is now losing really big. That's a shame, for when we played, the other team was on the short end of the score. Of course we lost in those days, but we were never really disgraced on the court."

Today Yeshiva is being disgraced on the court and most of the time the Mites are disgusting to watch. There was a time when the administration cared if the team won or lost. After all, isn't the basketball team representing more than just a college. It represents Judaism, and there is no reason why we have to look like fools on the court. Yeshiva once invented a religious program to fit the athletes, and it's time again for another creation. The Yeshiva College administration should either decide to have a workable basketball program or drop the sport. Look at the Mites on the court; old shoddy uniforms, intramural high school ballplayers, players out of shape, a complete mess. In Willie Goldstein's day, the Mighty Mites ran teams off the court. Today, which team does the running? The times demand a decision from the administration.

## Sophomores Win Fall Semester Competition; Top Freshmen And Seniors In Final Games

By DORE SCHREIBMAN

On December 14, the sophomore intra-mural basketball team became the champions of the fall semester competition. In May, they will play the winner of the spring semester competition to determine the 1970-71 intra-mural basketball champions.

The sophomores clinched the title by squeaking past the freshmen 44-43. The freshmen, playing the first time this season without Josh Bertram who is now playing for the varsity, stayed close throughout most of the game. Although the sophomores opened up a ten-point lead in the fourth quarter, the freshmen came storming back only to fall short by one point. This game was important to the freshmen because they found a very capable replacement for Bertram in Thaler who did most of their rebounding and was their high scorer with 17 points.

Zvi Greisman was the high scorer for the sophomores scoring 17 points. Chuck Levner added 15 points and Elliot Feinerman did a fine job running the team and also scored 10 points.

On December 21, the sophomores took the floor as champions seeking an undefeated season against the seniors. Senior star, Cary Sprung, was recovering from the flu and did not play for the seniors. Sophomore mainstays Shaye Jacobson, Marty Kerzer, and Chip Cohen also missed the game because of illness.

Again, Chuck Levner and Zvi Greisman were the major factors in the sophomore's victory. Chuck Levner scored 33 points and Zvi Greisman scored 15 points and completely dominated both the defensive and offensive rebounding. He scored most of his seven field goals on offensive rebounds. The sophomores won 57-40 but the game was much closer than the final score indicated. Larry Bruckner scored 26 points in picking up the slack left by Larry Schiffman's sub-par game. One important development that was not reflected in the final score was the return to action of Harvey Block who missed most of this semester's games because of a shoulder separation. Although he

only scored two points, Harvey showed he had fully recovered from his injury and will be available to give the sophomores much needed bench strength for next semester.

Even though the sophomores seemed to dominate the fall competition, there is plenty of evidence pointing to a real dog-fight for the spring championship. The seniors will be fighting for that last championship to close out a brilliant four-year record. With the help of their new discovery, Larry Bruckner to go along with the consistent quality play of Larry Schiffman and Cary Sprung, the seniors cannot be ignored. And certainly the freshmen, who are undoubtedly the team of the future, must be reckoned with. Despite the fact that they need another high scorer and rebounder; the freshmen will pose a real threat as they mature and become a team. The only definite aspect of next season is the fact that the juniors will finish last unless they can conquer their childish tempers and concentrate on playing the game.