

## Editorial—

As far as most Yeshiva students are concerned, the only real criterion for determining the quality of any given teacher is his effectiveness in transmitting knowledge of the subject matter to his students. As far as certain Yeshiva faculty members are concerned, it appears that the only real criterion for determining the quality of any given teacher is how impressive his name looks in the University catalogue.

The Administration has recently made it known that Dr. Charles Shami of the Economics Department was refused a recommendation for promotion by the Faculty Evaluating Committee (consisting of Drs. Adler, Agus, Fleischer, and Levine), and Dr. Shami, in turn, has announced that, in light of the rejection of his promotion, he

has decided to leave the University. Dr. Shami is the mainstay of the entire Economics Department and is generally acknowledged to be one of Yeshiva's most effective instructors. Economics majors have already resigned themselves to the fact that Dr. Shami's departure will, in all probability, leave the Economics Department in a shambles, at the mercy of the sometimes fumbling and inexperienced graduate students Yeshiva classes are being subjected to more and more frequently as more and more experienced teachers leave.

Despite all this, the faculty committee has seen fit to refuse Dr. Shami a promotion on the grounds that he has not published. The reason sometimes advanced for

using the publishing factor as a criterion for promotion is that if an instructor does not continue with outside research work in his field, his approach to his subject matter stagnates. THE COMMENTATOR feels that to use this rationale alone as a reason for refusing promotion is nonsensical in light of the fact that certain members of the faculty have not published a thing in the thirty years since their original promotion. Furthermore, an exception in Dr. Shami's case seems quite plausible since Dr. Shami is actively involved in his field in the course of his jobs outside of his position at YU. In our view, the publishing criterion is a meaningless, self-serving ploy devised

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# The Commentator

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No. 6

## Director of COLPA Addresses Pre-Laws On Religious Problems

By GARY LINDER

Mr. Dennis Rapps, executive director of COLPA (National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs) addressed YC students on April 5.

This event was sponsored by the Yeshiva College Pre-Law Society.

COLPA is an organization of orthodox Jewish volunteers from all over the country who are involved in public affairs. These professionals, in Mr. Rapps' opinion, represent the interests of the orthodox community.

COLPA specifically involves itself in both litigations and court cases concerning the rights of an

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## Nine Synagogue Models Highlight New Yeshiva University Museum

By STEVEN MANDELSBERG

New York's newest repository of Jewish art, architecture and history, the Yeshiva University Museum, went on display at a special news media preview on March 29. The \$500,000 museum, which opened to the public on Sunday, April 8, features facsimiles of

historical synagogues, frescoes, religious artifacts, rare books and scrolls, and a special Passover exhibit.

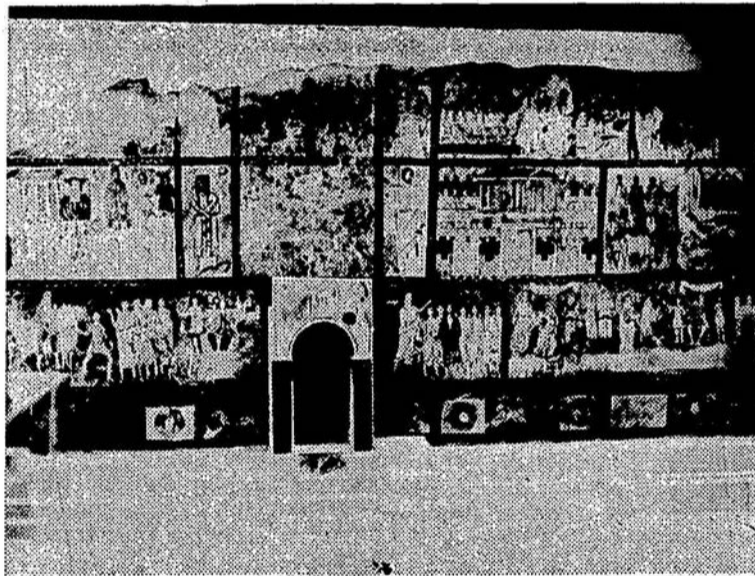
Endowed by Erica and Ludwig Jesselson, the ground-level museum's principal feature is its permanent exhibit, "Synagogues Through the Centuries." The collection consists of nine meticulously crafted miniature synagogues distinguished for their artistic, architectural and historic significance. The models were assembled exclusively for the museum by Displaycraft, Inc.

of New York. Eight of the synagogue models were on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art last fall, and range in date from the third century (Dura-Europos, Syria) to the 19th century (Dus-

Biblical figures, partly based on midrashic narrative.

Historical Treasures

Another attraction is the Torah scroll of the Baal Shem Tov (Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)



Paul Millman

Reproduction of the Dura-Europos frescoes.

## Students Elect Ruchelsman, Bergman, Wieder To YCSC

By ISRAEL WAHRMAN

On Yeshiva College election day, April 6, the YC student body in a 75% voter turnout, elected incumbent YCSC Secretary-Treasurer Manny Ruchelsman as president, Soviet Jewry activist Mike Bergman as vice president and Sophomore Class President Howard Wieder as secretary-treasurer of the Yeshiva College Student Council.

In the presidential race, Manny Ruchelsman ran unopposed. He received 435 votes with 166 abstentions and 5 write-ins. Mr. Ruchelsman, a YP student majoring in political science, is no stranger to YCSC political circles. He has served

as freshman and sophomore class president, as well as secretary-treasurer of YCSC. In a generally low-key campaign, Mr. Ruchelsman called for an "overhauling of the committee system" and a "restructuring" of Student Council.

The vice-presidential race involved a hard-fought battle between Mike Bergman and junior class Vice President Sol Krupka. The results of this race were 315 votes for Mr. Bergman (55%) and 251 for Mr. Krupka (44%) with 40 abstentions and write-ins.

Mr. Bergman, a JSS student who will be entering YP next year, emphasized what he considers his proven leadership skills. He has served as co-producer of the WYUR "Soviet Jewry Freedom Hour," chief marshal of the Central Park Festival of Defiance (Summer, 1972), coordinator of the Pre-medical Society shabbaton, and founder of the Washington Heights-Inwood Council for Soviet Jewry (WHICSJ). Mr. Bergman is currently the director of WHICSJ

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seldorf, Germany). Enclosed in specially constructed glass cases, they have been purposely designed to accentuate the most significant aspect of each synagogue. Most of the models have been cut away to unveil their extraordinary interiors, complete with miniature candelabras and other furnishings.

A careful viewing of the Touro synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, for example, reveals a thumbnail-size portrait of George Washington. The Spanish-Portuguese synagogue of Amsterdam features tall white columns, circular windows, long golden chandeliers and an exquisitely detailed bima.

The models are set against a half-scale reproduction of the frescoes of Dura-Europos, which occupies the rear wall of the museum. The frescoes, the originals of which are in Damascus, depict scenes from the life of Moses, the vision of Ezekiel, the story of Queen Esther, and other

## Dr. Hyman Proposes Course Changes For Bible Program

By JEFFREY WANDEL

The Senate recently passed a motion which would reduce the Bible requirement for YP students to four semesters.

The new proposal, which was introduced by Dr. Hyman on April 5, stipulated that Bible classes meet two hours a week and carry two credits. Classes are to be limited to twelve-fifteen students and every YP student would be required to take at least one Bible course during each academic year.

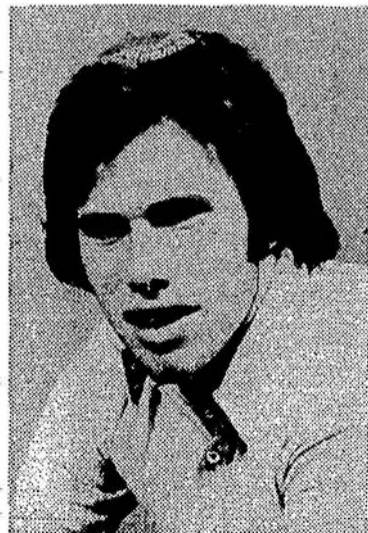
In explaining the reasons for his proposal Dr. Hyman stated that many Bible courses are not being taken very seriously by the student body. He expressed his belief that this was partly due to the fact that Bible courses at present are worth only one credit. In addition, the requirement does not state that YP students

need pass every semester of Bible.

To amend this situation Dr. Hyman proposed that the requirement be minimized while simultaneously intensifying the courses. Hopefully, this will be accomplished by increasing the credit value of courses, limiting the number of students in each section, and introducing new stimulating courses into the Bible requirement.

The new suggested courses are based on a revision of Bible courses originally drawn up by Samuel Safran. They would include a one-semester survey course entitled "An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible" and other topical courses "dealing with in-depth studies of linguistic, historical, and philosophical prob-

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Paul Millman

President-elect Ruchelsman

**Editorial—***(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)*

by faculty members who prefer working amidst a faculty of hollowly impressive scholastic records than with a faculty of confirmed competence in what they were hired to do: teach.

THE COMMENTATOR is aware of the fact that Yeshiva University is, by no means, the only university suffering from this misguided system; we have called the Administration's attention to the swelling clamor of educators for a sweeping re-appraisal of university promotion procedures. We find it bitterly amusing that a faculty that has frequently accused, perhaps to some extent justifiably, the Ye-

shiva student body of a lack of intellectualism and a one-minded drive for materialistic achievement is itself perpetuating that same tradition with promotion policies geared more to the number of books published by a given instructor than to his ultimate effectiveness as a teacher.

THE COMMENTATOR strongly calls upon concerned faculty members and the entire student body to take any steps necessary to retain Dr. Shami as an instructor at Yeshiva and to put an end to the absurd criterion now being used in evaluating promotions. The pedagogic welfare of the student comes first. It's as simple as that.

**From the Editor's Desk****Who's On First?**

By Mark Koslowe

It's time to take notice. We have arrived once more at the Spring semester of the year when rumors (like last year) abound over which faculty members will be leaving (almost a guaranteed fact) the Yeshiva community. However, there are different "divisions" of exiting faculty members — those being retired (having reached the extended or actual retirement age level of the University), those leaving for personal reasons, and those for monetary reasons. More than likely the last two categories are combined to a certain degree.

Dr. Etkin, as rumor has it, will be "retired" at the end of this year. A truly remarkable biology teacher of high quality and personality, his loss to the students will never be replaced. A second professor, Dr. Reuger (who I've had as an instructor in Bible for 4 years), has also indicated that he will be retired at the end of this term. I firmly believe that to suggest extended age limits (above those already established) would not benefit the student body. For who would discern the deserved teacher and the undeserved teacher. —certainly not the students!

Another excellent instructor is leaving for purely personal reasons, Dr. Berger. He, too, is irreplaceable in the Jewish History Department. But, it is the other "persistent" rumors which are most disturbing. The possibility that Drs. Shami and Simon (and I hesitate to mention other faculty members for lack of sufficient data) are leaving could mean the destruction of their respective departments.

We are informed that a teacher is tenured only if he (or she) has published books, etc., during their stay at the college. It is most noteworthy that once a faculty member is tenured it seems that the crisis over whether any document is published becomes null. How many long-tenured faculty members in this college have published in the last 20-25 years? I personally hope that all have — but there are grounds for suspicion that some have not. It seems that if one keeps his mind active in his field, via consultation, that this cannot be included as publishing documents. Surely a consultant must keep with modern trends, develop new theories and, in so doing, keep an active mind. If what is needed is a published doctoral thesis — then THE COMMENTATOR is willing to "foot the bill."

Based on the student evaluation of two years ago Dr. Shami (and Dr. Simon) received unusually high "grades." Hopefully an updated evaluation of Dr. Shami will be available by the time the column is printed. The report (if published) would probably show that this teacher communicates, responds, and that without him the Department of Economics would collapse. I apologize for not writing about Dr. Simon and other professors, for I do not personally know them as well. Yet, an instructor who provides the economic major with advanced micro economics, statistics and probabilities, econometrics, and math economics cannot leave without some reason more substantial than the one being offered now.

Quite possibly it is too late to prevent those teachers from leaving the college. Like Dr. Bevan (who will probably not return from her leave of absence) and others of her caliber, they will not be easily substituted. The time is now for students to act to prevent faculty members from leaving — before the act occurs. Student involvement in tenure is essential. And as for the present cases, whatever student pressure that can be brought to bear — should be done.

A final note on the City-Wide editions. We sincerely hope that the outside reader benefited by these editions — this is the fourth and final.

**Letters To The Editor****ADJUSTED MINUTES**

To the Editor:

As secretary of the Yeshiva College Senate I have often been tempted to portray Senate meetings in their true light, but a sense of dignity for human beings and of concern for the mission and purpose of the Senate has forced me to temper the tone of the Senate meetings in the official records. To at least be a little honest with myself and with the facts, I have at times innocently tried to give the minutes an air of reality.

One such instance even found its way into your editorial column of the February 28, 1973 issue when you wrote, "And in what many observers saw as a sign of dissatisfaction with the [B.A./B.S. Committee's] report, the Senate stipulated that the committee be dissolved in favor of a new committee to be composed of "new and 'enlightened'

and conscientious members." (minutes of February 15, 1973)."

While I have found your news column reports of the Senate meetings to be very sincere and authentic (and my congratulations to your news staff for this), I believe that in this instance you unintentionally misread the minutes and the minds of the senators.

As has frequently been the case, some senators seem to relish the idea of verbally knocking fellow senators, students, faculty and administration members, and even the institution and its *raison d'être*. Often, we must listen to these self-edifying panegyrics with feeling of shock and shame.

While not wishing to name Dr. Fleisher as such a culprit, I believe that his comments criticizing the old B.A./B.S. Committee and his call for "new and 'enlightened' and conscientious members" fall into this category. (Continued on Page 9, Col. 1).

**Liberty, Equality . . .**

Once again, the world has been told that Russian exit fees have been dropped. The scenario is familiar: emigration concessions were ostensibly granted prior to President Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union and to coincide with the U.S. elections in November. In both cases, as everyone knows, the changing political winds slammed the exit door shut once again. Yet, as recently published, the U.S. State Department finds the latest exit fee relaxation "commendable" and considers the latest congressional efforts to apply pressure on the Soviet Union irresponsible.

The latest Soviet move cannot be trusted, and, therefore, contrary to the opinions of the State Department, congressional opposition to the granting of "most favored nation" status to the Soviet Union is the most responsible action that could be taken at this time. Under the leadership of Senator Henry Jackson and Representative Wilbur Mills, Congress has called the Soviets' bluff.

Administration pressure on Congress to drop its present commitment to Soviet Jewry is beginning to mount, but Congressional support for our Jewish brethren in Russia must not be allowed to weaken. In this Passover season, Congress must be urged and encouraged in its battle with the Soviet Union and the Nixon Administration. All freedom loving persons must join in demanding from the Soviet Pharaohs to "Let My People Go!"

**Congratulations!**

THE COMMENTATOR extends its congratulations to the newly-elected officers of the Executive Council of YCSC: President Manny Ruchelsman, Vice President Michael Bergman, and Secretary-Treasurer Howard Wieder. However, after the Pesach vacation, general elections will be held for the various class offices. We expressed our dismay over the lack of student participation in running for Executive Council offices. Now, we once again urge the student body to participate in the forthcoming elections in order to make student council a viable organization.

**Silverman Memo**

The paragraph below was an official memo from Professor Morris Silverman, as Registrar, to Deans Bacon, Mirsky, Rabinowitz, Rabbi Besdin, and Dr. Miller, dated February 26, 1973.

The students' comments on the attached suggested 1973-74 academic calendars leads me to believe that we are going to get increasing student pressure to change the calendar in ways which I think are educationally unsound. I admit that we no longer depend on the faculty to resist such pressures, but I think an effort should be made to secure the help of the faculty. They have never been formally involved before, but I urge that this year each school's faculty be asked to create a special committee on the calendar to work on this question.

We find the enclosure by Professor Silverman highly indicative of his dealings with the student body and its leaders. Both at the Undergraduate Council meeting and at a Committee On Ceremonial Occasions

meeting the Registrar voiced his personal objection to formulate the academic calendar. His comment at the Senate meeting concerning the grading of English 1.1 — "No one has control over what I do except the President" — only adds credence to the students' general distrust of the administration.

THE COMMENTATOR finds this memo even more curious because it was the Registrar himself who stressed that the students must prepare the academic calendar. To circumvent student leaders now by requesting faculty aid (through their respective Deans) rather than a direct meeting, reveals Professor Silverman's contemptible attitude toward our student leaders. We demand that a proper response be given to the Presidents' Council's letter and that the meeting requested take place at the earliest opportunity.

THE COMMENTATOR is now accepting applications for all positions: Editor-in-Chief, Governing Board, Technical Board, Associate Board and Staff for the coming year '73-'74. The application must contain your name, address (Dorm or Home), three positions desired (No. 1 is considered your first choice), and experience. The last date for filing an application is May 3, 1973.

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## State Department Outlines US Policy On Soviet Jewry

Perhaps confusing THE COMMENTATOR with Commentary, the U.S. Department of State recently invited Yeshiva College's newspaper to its National Foreign Policy Conference for Editors and Broadcasters. Contributing Editor Lenny Davis attended the conference, held on March 29, and filed this report:

Next to FBI men, the Department of State's career officers are the most interesting species in Washington. All white-shirted, narrow black-tied, and charcoal gray suited, the men are the brilliant and analytical professionals the occupation demands. The men have carried out their country's policies — in some cases for a quarter of a century — despite the not infrequent reversals or seeming nonsense of those policies. Equally difficult for them must be standing in front of 500 editors fielding questions on all aspects of U.S. foreign policy and answering with all the adroitness, rationalization, non-commitment, and obfuscation possible. No wonder that area of Washington is called Foggy Bottom.

the "considerable flexibility" shown by the Soviet Union in their exit fee policy. In fact, according to Rush, as many as 3500 Jews were leaving the Soviet Union per month. Congressional opposition to trade concessions in reply to the Soviet exit fee policy, the Secretary said, may actually be "counterproductive" since "pressing too hard legislatively may promote anti-semitism in Russia."

The press conference format did not allow for follow up questions, for certainly the Secretary would have been asked whether he implied by his statement that there was no anti-semitism in

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## COMMENTATOR Dispatches Reporter To Ask Public About Yeshiva University

By ALLEN SCHWARTZ

In the constant search for truth the COMMENTATOR dispatched a roving reporter to Columbus Circle to question John Q. Public about Yeshiva University. The results of those interviews follow:

Most Jewish students become familiar with Yeshiva University as early as their freshman year in high school. The COMMENTATOR, however, thought it would be interesting to see if anybody else ever heard of us. As was expected, 3 out of 4 people didn't, but it was the people who did (or thought they did) that made this venture worthwhile. For example, it was brought to my attention that Y.U. is not only located at Amsterdam and 184th, but also in Brooklyn, Morris Park, and Williamsbridge in the Bronx, Waltham, Mass., and there is a hospital (location unknown) and Little League baseball team named after us. In addition our

basketball team is one of the best in the league and is coached by a former Celtic. Some people, though, confused the name Mighty Mite with a cartoon of a flying mouse.

According to the man on the street we are somewhat between ten to one hundred years old. ("Jeez, that old?"), and G-D willing, will become excellent rabbis. The only subject Y.U. is particularly noted for, besides Jewish studies is psychology. (Surprisingly, not one person mentioned pre-medical studies.)

### The Only Hope

The two questions that constantly evoked the same answer from just about anyone who heard of Y.U. were "what is Yeshiva's academic quality?" and "How would you describe the average Y.U. student?" The un-failing answers to both questions proved that "Y.U. is a very good school with an extremely high academic level" and the students are "very sharp", "straight", "intelligent", "Jewish students" with "traditional values" who "are making a real contribution to the country". According to one lady, we are also "the only hope for the Jewish People".

People claimed to have heard of Y.U. through friends, T.V., press, etc., but one man however, described his own personal interest in Y.U. He works in the building directly across the 34th St. Stern Dorm on a floor immediately above the Stern Dorm's roof. Through the years the girls have been obliging enough to do all their sunbathing in full view of the entire company staff. He asked me to extend extremely warm regards from all the fellas of the 17th floor and up to the women of Stern, and that they are looking forward to another good year.

In concluding each interview, each person was asked to compare Y.U. to another college. Names like Columbia, Brandeis, N.Y.U., Fordham, and City were suggested, but St. Johns, St.

Charles Seminary and Medgar Evers (by two young black interviewees) were honorably mentioned. However, general opinion was high, as Y.U. was compared to Stern College for Women.

### Notes From The Underground

## Finishing Touches

By Marvin Goldstein



Though it is only April, due to the production schedule of THE COMMENTATOR, I am writing my last column. After having spent four years in college, I am about to enter the "real" world, unsure of how ready or how well prepared I am to face it. No matter: no choice exists — and that is good.

I want to touch on two topics which I consider to be of prime importance. Hopefully, others will press these issues in the future.

The first is the wholesale departure of many of the best members of the faculty. This situation can only be viewed properly with a little perspective. During my four years at YC I have witnessed the departure of Drs. Bevan, Gasman, Greenberg, Montesimos, Plank and Wohlge-lernter and Messers Bernstein and Weinberg (undoubtedly this list is incomplete). The affected departments have yet to recover from these losses.

This term, more will leave. Dr. Charles Shami plans to leave; the high-quality of the economics department will surely depart with him. Dr. Berger, instructor of Jewish History, will also move on. I also understand, though have not confirmed, that Drs. Etkin and Simon will sever their ties with Yeshiva College, two more tremendous losses.

No easy answer can be found

Dr. Stanley Krippner, director of the Maimonides Dream Laboratory in Brooklyn, reported on Soviet research in biological energy (as the Soviets prefer to call psychic research). The Soviets study this area very seriously and have made considerable progress. (An interesting aside was the report on a method of treatment for schizophrenics by one Soviet doctor, which consisted of fasting for 40 days. Two thirds are said to have been cured). A film was shown in which a subject displayed psychokinetic ability (ability to move an object without any physical contact with that object). This has not yet been duplicated in this country.

Whereas the morning session dealt with the state of Kirlian research and its specific techniques and applications, the afternoon was devoted to broader, more philosophical perspectives, to what these discoveries contribute to our conception of man and the universe. James Hurtak, from the California Institute of the Arts, synthesizing Tibetan and Chinese scientific thought with Western science, posits a fourth state of matter. There are three life systems, the blood, nervous and circulatory systems, and a fourth, of which we are not aware. This fourth system corresponds to a fourth state of matter, which science is only now

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### Comment On...

## Hilchot Niddah Is Just An Example



By Lenny Davis

One morning last semester notices appeared on the walls of the batei medrash announcing a hilchot niddah shiur for RIETS students. Paradoxically, the notices did not represent Yeshiva University's preparation of Orthodox men for halachically proper marriages. Instead, the bulletins displayed a blatant lack of concern for taharat hamishpacha, for they continued by prohibiting — almost ominously — attendance by any student from the undergraduate Yeshiva Program. (To be fair, dispensation was granted to engaged undergraduates.)

According to YU officials approximately thirty per cent of YP students continue their religious studies in the RIETS semicha program. In other words, seventy per cent of YP students leave Yeshiva University after four years of study without being required, offered or even al-

lowed to learn these fundamental Jewish laws. The implications of the notice, therefore, exhibit nothing short of halachic non-feasance.

What type of Jewish priorities could have required for so many years a secular hygiene course yet bar the majority of its students from a taharat hamishpacha course.

The case of the niddah shiur is only one example of a program that has seemingly forgotten its purpose: teaching Torah and preparing men to live Torah-committed lives as rabbis and laymen. Tragically, there exists a very deep void in the education of students in the Yeshiva Program, and sorely missed are courses in practical halacha and in the type of "Da ma lehashiv" courses so important for members of the Jewish community. (Continued on Page 5, Col. 2)

## Insights Into Accupuncture Accent Meeting On Ancient Healing Skill

By ELISHA KLIRS

On Tuesday February 13, at the Town Hall, I attended the Second Hemisphere Conference on Acupuncture, Kirlian Photography and the Human Aura. The conference lasted from 9:30 a.m. until after 10 p.m., and proved to be more than enlightening.

Kirlian photography was discovered by a Russian named Kirlian, in 1939. He discovered that the human body projects a luminescence that can be observed in high frequency electrical fields. He found that this could be photographed, using a generator attached to a plate to create an electrical field with photo-sensitive paper, and an object. The photograph turned out to have strange patterns emerging from the object (occurring only for live objects, such as a hand or a leaf). It resembles "energy" emanating from the object, and is sometimes called the "aura". One can conjecture that the aura is related to the "bad vibes" one can sometimes feel from some person, as different people, as well as different emotions, project different auras (anger produces a distinct red

color to the aura). Slides were shown, using Kirlian photography of fingerprints and leaves, as well as fingerprints of patients treated by faith-healers.

There is a very definite change in the aura of a sick person after the faith-healer has attempted a cure. One could interpret the brighter, more colored and more complex aura of the fingerprints of sick patients after a session with a faith-healer as a sign of some kind of "healing" taking place. People with "green thumbs" also affect the aura of mutilated leaves, producing similar changes as in the sick patients. On the other hand, people with "brown thumbs" (having no knack for plants or taking care of plants) appear to make the aura look worse, the aura darkening and looking thinner.

Whereas the morning session dealt with the state of Kirlian research and its specific techniques and applications, the afternoon was devoted to broader, more philosophical perspectives, to what these discoveries contribute to our conception of man and the universe. James Hurtak, from the California Institute of the Arts, synthesizing Tibetan and Chinese scientific thought with Western science, posits a fourth state of matter. There are three life systems, the blood, nervous and circulatory systems, and a fourth, of which we are not aware. This fourth system corresponds to a fourth state of matter, which science is only now

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for this problem. A variety of reasons led to this problem, as each instructor had his own motives for leaving. The only viable solution is to approach each case separately, as THE COMMENTATOR has done with Dr. Shami, by attempting to persuade the instructor to remain here, and attempting to straighten out difficulties that have arisen. Efforts must be made in this area, for undoubtedly the quality of a college depends, to a large extent, on the quality of its faculty. With so many of its finest instructors leaving, Yeshiva has no place to go but down.

After a short time in the limelight last year, the issue of co-education has quickly been forgotten. Hopefully it will be revived for many compelling reasons. By merging YC and SCW, and thereby increasing the size of the college and ending needless duplication, money now wasted could be utilized for adding new courses, hiring top-quality faculty members (and keeping those we already have), and improving student services. In addition, coeducation could only improve the generally apathetic attitude of most students to their school. It would liven up an exceedingly dull place, attract more students here, and take the men and women of Ye-

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# UJA, Techiya Benefit From Council's Motion

By ELI SEIDMAN

The Yeshiva College Student Council discussed curriculum evaluation, the Techiya concert, and the U.J.A. drive at its Feb. 28 and March 20 meetings.

Junior vice-President Sol Krupka requested that Council allocate \$75 to be used as prize money at the April 7 Techiya benefit concert. Many objections were raised against this proposal and it was finally voted to give Techiya the money as charity, rather than prize money.

Council's meeting on March 20 centered around the U.J.A. drive and the members were split as to whether or not to conduct one this year. The controversy began even before the meeting was called to order. Felix Rogin advocated a bypassing of the United Jewish Appeal in favor of an organization with exclusively religious aims such as Techiya or P'eylim and distributed leaflets expressing that opinion.

Joseph Stechler suggested the possibility that Council could

direct the Jewish Affairs Committee to divide the proceeds of the drive between Techiya and the U.J.A. This way, YCSC could dramatically protest the meager efforts of the U.J.A. to meet the religious needs of the olim.

Much debate ensued until a motion was passed for a single YCSC endorsed drive with the student designating how much of his donation will go to Techiya and how much to U.J.A. In case no choice is specified, the student's money will be split evenly between the two organizations.

President Davis then brought up the problem of the meter maids ticketing double-parked cars, whereupon Howard Weider volunteered to seek aid from a local assemblyman.

Next, President Davis discussed the possibility of urging the Dean to devote this semester's Yom Iyun to field work for the Washington Heights Jewish poor. Also discussed were extra funds which were appropriated for the French club and the economics journal.

# Synagogue Models Highlight Yeshiva University Museum

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

(Rabbi Israel ben Abraham), founder of Hassidism. Made of thick, primitive parchment, the scroll had lain for many years in a synagogue in Poland and was purportedly written by the Baal Shem Tov himself.

Throughout the museum's 4,000 square feet of display space are numerous seder utensils, kiddush cups and illustrated Haggadah manuscripts from many nations. One of these, a Spanish Haggadah dating from the early 15th century, is one of only 15 known to be extant. Also included in the Passover exhibit is an 18th century matzoh cover embroidered in gold and velvet and a colorfully decorated enamel Passover Kiddush cup from the 17th century.

The first book of Psalms printed in Hebrew (in Barbados in 1742) is only one of the many rare books on exhibition at the museum. Others include *Havatzelet Hasharon*, a commentary on the book of Daniel written by a

student of Joseph Caro, the eminent Sephardic scholar of Safed, and books by Menashe ben Yisrael, the 17th century Dutch rabbi, printed in Hebrew and Latin.

A unique feature is the museum's electrified analytical map depicting the history of Jewish migrations from Abraham to the 20th century. The museum will also present daily audio-visual programs on "The Story of the Synagogue" and an 80-seat theater will show 20-minute films on archaeological synagogues.

# 'The Fantasticks' A Success; Acting And Directing Superb

By CHAIM LOVINGER

In his review of the original production of *The Fantasticks* (NY Times May 4, 1960) Brooks Atkinson concluded that "The Fantasticks is by nature the sort

# English Honor Society Sponsors YC's Symposium On Humanities

By JAY SILLMAN

On Wednesday, March 28, the English Honor Society at Yeshiva College presented a student-faculty symposium: The Fate of Humanities at Yeshiva. The discussion, moderated by Dr. Lainoff (English Dept.), featured Drs. Chernowitz (Art), Levy (Music) and Fleisher (English), and student Ted Mirvis (chairman, College Senate). Each speaker was allowed five minutes (approximately) to introduce his point about humanities at Yeshiva.

Dr. Chernowitz's opening remarks reflected the confrontation of sciences vs. humanities. He suggested that if the intention is to have a general studies college, then an increase in humanities should follow; if not, then a certain balance must be maintained. A second comment was on the manner in which "change" is effected at YC — by the Senate. It was suggested that the haphazard, political ways of the Senate are not the proper procedures to follow for the inclusion or exclusion of humanities courses.

### The Real Issue?

Agreeing with the previous comments, Dr. Fleisher added that curriculum changes result from the pressure to reduce required courses, rather than from any given philosophy. He expressed his belief that, while at other colleges there is a reduction in humanities requirements, at YC an entire discipline may be eliminated by this process. He further indicated his primary concern: the average YC student

does not treat the humanities as a useful endeavor. He was also troubled by the process of "indoctrination" — are the Bible and Talmud actually liberal arts? According to Dr. Fleisher these issues must be cleared up before humanities can take their deserved place in the curriculum.

The idea of interdisciplinary courses — in which everyone, including the instructor, learns from one another, and in which basic understanding is dealt with was suggested by Dr. Levy. He advocated the introduction of seminars and mini-semester to deal with courses more effectively. The "choice" of total ignor-

The Editor-in-Chief and the Governing Board of THE COMMENTATOR wish to extend their heartiest mazel tov to Daniel Wohlgeleerner, '73, Editor-in-Chief of TEMPO MAGAZINE, on his engagement to Eileen Eis.

ance should never be an option in a college curriculum, but, rather, exposure must be given to the discipline involved.

### Overview

The final opening statement was from student, Ted Mirvis. He was in partial agreement with Dr. Fleisher, in that the discussion must include the curricula of other colleges around the country. But, the measure of humanities at Yeshiva should not be made on how many students attend classes, but rather of what value humanities are at the college.

With debate opened to the

floor the panel's first question centered on the need of an overview, more general humanities course. This would draw a more positive response and specific courses would be chosen later by the individual student. Dr. Levy backed this proposal, and seconded that interdisciplinary courses would bring about more student involvement in the particular subject. However, Dr. Fleisher disagreed, stating that such study can only be undertaken after an introductory course.

### Give and Take

This sentiment was echoed by Dr. Haahr, an English professor in the audience; she explained that it is worthless and superficial to have comparative courses without a basis to compare on the advanced level. The comments by members of the audience led to the discussion of what are "skill courses", the problem of a quantity of humanities courses vs. the quality of one, "is college merely a stepping stone to graduate school (pre-professional) or not (indicating a need for general studies), and the effect of leisure time on people in reference to the study of humanities.

Dr. Lainoff requested that the panel sum up what they learned by the symposium. Mr. Mirvis's closing remarks indicated his feeling that what a student receives from his college education ultimately hinges upon himself; a student can find excellent teachers if he so desires.

Dr. Fleisher mentioned the positive aspect of college, in affording the "sole opportunity of a lifetime" to acquire education that one may not receive until later on in life. He also stressed the need of some formal instruction given by introductory courses. Dr. Chernowitz concluded that a student should expose himself to culture courses to develop an appreciation of the arts that he could otherwise be missing. Finally, everyone agreed with Dr. Levy that more symposiums be scheduled and that this might improve student-faculty relationships.

# NEWS

**RABBI EMMANUEL RACKMAN** of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue addressed Yeshiva students on March 29 as the guest speaker for the *mesibat rosh chodesh Nissan*. The rabbi defended the stand of religious Zionists and severely criticized their antagonists. He emphasized that not enough caution has been used by many contemporary rabbis when evaluating several current halachic problems.

**LECTURE SERIES** are presently being sponsored by both Stern College and Ferkauf Graduate School. Irene Heskes, director of the National Jewish Music Council and music consultant to the Theodore Herzl Institute discussed "Israel's Musical Landscape" at Stern College on April 10. This lecture was the third part of the College's Forum of the Arts and covered the music of Israel during her first quarter century of statehood.

The Ferkauf Graduate School is sponsoring a five part series on child development. This series features Dr. Janellen Huttenlocher, Teachers College, Columbia University, "Language Comprehension in Small Children," April 5; Dr. Michael Lewis, Educational Testing Service, "Development of the Concept of Self in Infancy," April 12; Dr. Wagner Bridger, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, "Social Class Differences in Cognitive Development," April 26; Dr. David Olson, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, "Perceptual and Lexical Representation of Space," May 10; and Dr. David Elkind, Rochester University, "Social Experience and Cognitive Development," May 17. Both lecture series are open to the public.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD** of the JSS Student Council was elected on Thursday March 29; Michael J. Bloom, a junior majoring in Pre-Med and in French, was elected President of JSSSC. Mark Srulowitz, a sophomore majoring in Economics, was elected Vice-President. The new Secretary-Treasurer-elect is Stan Frohlinger, a freshman. (M.K.)

of thing that loses its magic the longer it endures." Today, however, *The Fantasticks* is alive and well and still running in its thirteenth year off-Broadway — clearly the play has not lost its magic, though one wonders about Mr. Atkinson.

Nurtured under the capable wing of Mr. Anthony Beukas, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society has presented numerous successes over the past eight years. *The Fantasticks* was no exception. One could conceivably go on and on praising the direction, the choreography, the costuming, the fine work of the technical crew, etc., etc. Nevertheless, were so enthusiastic a reviewer to be charged with prejudice in favor of fellow Yeshiva students he would be immaculately innocent: any of my praise is well-deserved.

Splendid performances were turned in by Stanley Goldin and Neil Dick as the fathers of the two young lovers; their acting was far more vibrant than that of the players currently in the same roles at the Sullivan Street Playhouse. Until now the Dramatics Society had not been known for its musicals, but there was no indication of the limited experience of Messrs. Goldin and Dick; their handling of the singing and dancing seemed totally

fluid and absolutely effortless.

One of the many difficulties involved in staging a play at Yeshiva is that few scripts exist (Continued on Page 9, Col. 2)

# BRIEFS

**DR. CHARLES LEIBMAN**, chairman of the political science department at Bar-Ilan University, conducted an informal discussion on aliya and Israel at Yeshiva College on March 29. Many of the students' questions centered around employment opportunities in Israel.

### THE YESHIVA COLLEGE DEBATING TEAM

April 1. The team's representatives, Jeff Wandel and Joseph Stechler, debated a team from St. Francis College before a sizeable audience of townspeople assembled at Congregation B'nai Jacob in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Prominent communal leaders and members of the local clergy were also in attendance as the proposition "Resolved: That the U.S. Government should provide comprehensive medical care for all of its citizens" was argued. The Yeshiva College squad won by a unanimous decision of the three-judge panel. The Y.U. team was hosted by Rabbi Seymour Weller, a graduate of Yeshiva. The successful tour had been preceded by the sixteenth annual David Fleisher Debating Tournament, named after the coach of the Yeshiva team. Coordinated by debating team member Irving Rotter, the tournament involved six teams from colleges in the Greater New York area. Top honors were won by Pace College. The Y.U. team did not participate due to the illness of one of its members. **BOGREI YESHIVOT B'YISRAEL** in conjunction with the YU Dorm Committee, SOY, and YCSC sponsored a weekend at Yeshiva on March 23-24. Rabbi Moses Tendler presented a comprehensive talk on the current religious controversy in Israel. In an objective analysis of the recent controversial decision by Rabbi Goren in the Langer case, Rabbi Tendler weighed both sides of this issue. Guest speaker for Saturday night was Rabbi Moses Chait, current rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Chofetz Chaim in Jerusalem. The weekend was attended by 75 students of Israeli yeshivot and coordinated by Joseph Epstein and Roy Angstreich.

# YC Senate Discusses Bible Courses Changes



Paul Millman

Yeshiva College Senate abridges Bible requirements.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5) lems raised in the study of the Hebrew Bible."

In a previous Senate meeting on March 29, Larry Bernstein introduced a motion to transfer Bible credits from their present place as a requirement of Yeshiva College to the Hebrew Division — the Yeshiva Program. Mr. Bernstein stressed that it should be the responsibility of the Jewish Divisions to educate their students in Jewish Studies. However, his motion was defeated because of the "practical" difficulties involved in attempting to force Bible courses into YP.

Two other motions which were defeated in the Senate recently involved proposals originally drawn up by the Yeshiva College Student Council. The first concerned a proposal that college instructors should, with the unanimous consent of the class, have the option of scheduling the final examination in his course on a date prior to the official date designated by the College. A majority of the Senate members

## Ruchelsman Heads Executive Council

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2) Student Division. His campaign stressed the need to "revitalize" student council.

As a member of this year's YOSC, Sol Krupka emphasized his active role in Council. A YP student majoring in pre-med, he refused to "give up on Council" and pledged to prove that it can work.

In the race for secretary-treasurer, Howard Wieder was opposed by written-in candidates Marc Messing. Mr. Wieder received 304 votes 50.1% with 182 going to Mr. Messing and 120 abstentions.

Mr. Wieder, a YP student majoring in political science, waged an intensive personal campaign. He pointed to his recent efforts to establish angle parking in the YU vicinity, install lights at the library entrance, implement an alumni representative on Student Council and remove Pepsi Cola machines from campus. He promised to actively oversee the clerical and technical operations of YCSC.

Marc Messing, a JSS student majoring in psychology, pledged to work diligently as secretary-treasurer. He maintained that he would represent all of the students and "get YU going again."

Following the elections, the three victorious candidates displayed their unity around a fifth of scotch in a joint celebration.

felt that this proposal was very ambiguous as to the alternate dates a professor could choose and the motion was tabled.

The second proposal which failed to pass the Senate was a request that instructors should have the option of substituting a final paper in lieu of the final examination for any class that so requests. Nearly all the Senate members expressed serious objections to basing a grade on a final paper. Objections to term papers centered on past cases of plagiarism and the subjective nature of grading papers.

## Hilchot Niddah Just An Example

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 2) especially if they have graduate or professional plans. Why shouldn't all students learn the dinim of kashrut, Shabbat, Eretz Yisrael, etc.?

One day, with the help of God, such courses may be instituted in the Yeshiva Program. Yet, if they are offered as half-heartedly as past voluntary classes in YP, then their impact and importance will be just as minute.

Moreover, the current YP system is in need of basic reforms, most importantly in the placement of talmidim into shiurim. True, students now get a choice of shiurim, but too often the "choice" has to be made, not out of desire, but out of avoidance of an unsatisfactory alternative. The number of talmidim dissatisfied with their shiurim cannot be dismissed with a platitudinous "some students will never be satisfied." Granted, many students do have a successful four years in the Yeshiva Program, but their successes are usually the result of finagling, protecsia, obstinacy, and luck which allowed them to avoid some shiurim and "pull shlick" to get into others, rather than something working properly in the system. How many potential rabbis leave Yeshiva after four years of undergraduate study because somewhere in their YU yeshiva experience they were unable to dodge the YP draft?

It is, therefore, essential that a change be made in the method of shiur placement. Besides allowing talmidim a wider choice of shiurim, no shiur should be limited in size (except, of course, the highest shiur). If there are enough good shiurim then obviously there will be few serious overcrowding problems. If, however, one shiur ends up with 60

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 2) the Soviet Union now.

Rush's statement was made at a formal and transcribed press conference; Walter Stoessel, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, however, did not have recorders or TV cameras present when he made his even more controversial statement on Soviet Jewry. Stoessel, like Rush, voiced opposition to the congressional action on the trade agreement. The Secretary stated that, rather than confronting Russia, the United States should allow an "evolution" to take place in the Russian attitude towards free emigration through normalized trade and contact with the United States and the Western nations. The Secretary did not state how many days, years, or decades this evolution would take.

In the discussion on the Middle

East, Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, voiced U.S. optimism for the continuation of the current cease-fire between Israel and her Arab neighbors. Under the current negotiation deadlock, in which Egypt is demanding from Israel pre-commitments on territorial surrender and Israel is demanding direct negotiations as well as refusing preconditions, Sisco stated that the United States recognized both views as steadfast and, therefore, only saw hope in trying to work out an interim agreement dealing with the opening of the Suez Canal. Only through such step by step negotiations, according to Sisco, does the United States see any hope in bringing peace to the Middle East.

Unanimity was reached by all speakers on the Middle East and

the U.S. energy problem that the United States will be facing rougher times with its oil supplies. The Arab countries of the Middle East will be an increasingly large source of oil for the United States in the years to come, and such oil finds as the Alaska North Slope will do little more than refill the depletion in the oil production of the continental lower forty-eight states. Only in the long range scope of fifteen to twenty years did the speakers see any lessening of dependence on Arab oil. In that time, if the United States were to stress a resource development program the country could be more self-sufficient. While it was never explicitly stated at the conference, until that long range period comes, United States policy in regard to Israel may be squeakingly hinged on Arab oil.

# Talks, Film About Accupuncture Highlight Annual Meeting On Ancient Healing Skills

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 5) beginning to recognize. John Pierrakos, of the Institute for Bioenergetic Analysis in New York, believes there is some "energy" behind life, similar to Bergson's elan vital. It is this energy that appears as man's

aura in Kirlian photography. Schizophrenia is the result of a split in this energy field. Captain Edgar Mitchell, former astronaut also attempted to find some unifying concept for all of life. For him it is "consciousness". For me personally, Mitchell's approach was the most exciting advocated. He advocated a holistic approach; man must be seen as the complex being he is. No specialized field can deal properly with man. He feels the materialistic explanation the Western world has adopted is not adequate. Somewhere we lost the model that leads us to an understanding of the universe. There are phenomena we can not account for. In physics it is known that observation in itself can change that which is observed. Is this not a kind of psychokinetic effect? Some experiments suggest that plants are receptive to human emotions and to certain thoughts. Altered states of consciousness (such as in drug induced states) suggest realities not recognized by science. These are isolated bits of data from which one can draw a tentative conclusion. For Mitchell, the conclusion is that man's thoughts have power and have control. The materialistic paradigm is in jeopardy, and the very foundations of science may have to be rejected to account for these phenomena. The unifying concept underlying these phenomena is consciousness, man's awareness, and it is this that we must begin to investigate.

acupuncture is based on the flow of chi, or "life energy," through the body. Chi is controlled by the yin and yang, the Taoist concept of universal opposites existing throughout nature. The life energy flows from organ to organ through channels, or meridians. On these meridians are from 500-800 specific points. Needles are inserted at special points to correct the balance in the flow of the life energy. Lok Yee-Kung, President of Kowloon College of Chinese Medicine, and Ling Sun Ciu, former Professor of Internal Medicine at State University of New York, further elaborated on the history and clinical applications of acupuncture.

Though the effects of acupuncture seem to be spectacular, Theodore Barber, Director of Research at the Medfield Foundation in Massachusetts, tried to minimize its effect. He listed six factors that contribute to making acupuncture so successful in China. The Chinese have a high tolerance threshold for pain. Tonsils are removed from children as they line up, after which they continue as if nothing happened. In the western world removal of tonsils involves hospitalization and much anxiety. The Chinese expect little pain, as pain is de-emphasized. Also, during acupuncture operations some drugs are used, though the dosage is too small to have a significant effect. The incision itself is not very painful, and some of the underlying tissues are insensitive to pain. Indoctrination to certain beliefs, distraction during the operation, suggestion that there will be no pain—all these contribute to the success of acupuncture. The implication for the western world is that pain is overestimated and could be more controlled without having to resort to drugs.

There is a great deal more that was discussed, but I think the most significant aspect of the conference is that there was a conference in the first place. It shows that the importance and significance of the topics discussed have been recognized, and that this awareness is leading to research that could have exciting consequences for the future. Maybe I will meet you at the Third Western Hemisphere Conference.

students and another with very few or none, well, *hameivin yavin*. (It is inexcusable to remove a *talmid* from one *shiur* in order to make another *shiur* look populated, even if it's done by promising the student a good *shiur* for the next semester or year.)

In addition, why shouldn't a *talmid* be allowed to sit in on two or three *shiurim* within one level during the first week or ten days of the year in order to find the "*derech*" most suitable

On behalf of the entire Yeshiva College community, the "Cultural Club" of YC extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to ELIEZER DREYFUS for his outstanding concerts.

to him. Certainly, the most important thing in *shiur* placement is placing a *talmid* in the *shiur* in which he will learn best. It is, isn't it?

Courses basic to Judaism and an improved *shiur* placement system would be major steps towards a meaningful Yeshiva Program — meaningful to both the individual and the Jewish community. Problems of time availability should not be a deterrent. The time for these important courses could be found, and it need not be at the expense of the afternoon program, especially if these courses were made mandatory. Nor should the omnipresent and universally-acknowledged "personnel problem" deter such a program. Yeshiva is neither an employment agency, retirement home, nor massage parlor for inflated egos. It is supposed to be — and must become — a training center for rabbis and laymen for its own sake, the sake of its students and the sake of the Jewish community.

## Tay-Sachs: Varied Opinions

Opinion of Harav Hagaon Moshe Feinstein, shlita, in response to a request for Daas Torah as to the propriety of a Tay-Sachs Screening Program.

(Translation from Hebrew)  
Adar 18, 5733

Concerning Tay-Sachs disease afflicting children: It is known that such children, who survive only two or three years, are born only to parents both of whom have the genetic susceptibility to the disease. If only one parent has this "tendency," the child will not be born with this disease. It is possible to test for this tendency i.e. [the heterozygous state] so that one bearing this trait can be careful to select a mate with a fully normal set of genes.

My humble opinion has been requested concerning three points.

a) Is it proper for a boy or girl to take this test.

b) If it is proper to determine if one is a "carrier" of Tay-Sachs disease, should this test be performed when still very young or only when considering marriage.

c) Should it be done as part of a publicized screening program or only as a private test.

I have carefully studied these questions, and this is my considered opinion.

This disease affects but a small number of children and therefore one might apply the principle of "Trusting (wholehearted) shall you be with Ha-Shem Your Lord" [Deuteronomy 18:13]. Rashi explains this verse to mean "Walk with Him in full trust, depend on Him, and do not pry into the future." However since this test can be done so simply, one can conclude that failure to do so is like shutting the eyes and refusing to observe that which can be seen. If, G-d Forbid, such a thing happens [birth of a defective child] it causes great anguish to the parents. It is therefore proper for one preparing to be married to test himself. Therefore it is also proper to publicize the fact via newspapers and other media that such a test is available.

It is clear and certain that absolute secrecy must be maintained to prevent anyone from learning the result of such a test performed on another. The physician must not reveal these results to anyone. His full assurance that no danger exists, if care is used to select a mate free from this defect, will not be believed by many causing the individual great difficulty in finding a suitable mate. Therefore these tests must be performed privately, and consequently it is wrong [literally — NOT GOOD] to schedule these tests in large groups as for example, in Yeshivas, schools, or other similar situations.

It is well known that most people are very sensitive to nervous anxiety [or stress] so that little difficulties are magnified and minor concerns are maximized. This is especially true in these United States. Therefore, G-d Forbid that young men not contemplating marriage be given this test. In general, until they are 20 years old they do not seriously consider marrying, and no one should speak to them about this matter [Tay-Sachs testing] at all. In addition since such testing must be done pri-

vately so that others know nothing of it, it is most difficult for young boys to keep a secret, and this [the screening program] will cause damage to themselves and to others.

With reference to women who customarily marry when still young, this test should not be done to anyone under 18 years of age. If it should happen that youths decide to marry below these ages, it should not concern us because firstly, it is a truly rare occurrence and secondly, there is adequate publicity to warrant that they are aware of the availability of the test.

Concerning the "Fund" [i.e. Tay-Sachs Foundation] consisting of non-Jews and Jews who are not Torah observant, who function under different guidelines and are prepared to abort a defective fetus after amniocentesis, which is of course, a forbidden act which Torah observant physicians will not perform, I cannot see any purpose or advantage to associate with this organization. If there indeed is some purpose or advantage to associate with this "Fund," for activities that are permissible under Torah Law, then it is not proscribed. However they must be very careful lest it appear that Torah-observant physicians concur in their practice of aborting fetuses. It would be very much better, if Torah observant physicians would have no involvement with the Tay-Sachs Association.

Signed

HARAV MOSHE FEINSTEIN

### TAY-SACHS I

To the Editor:

This is to clarify the position of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists regarding Tay-Sachs screening programs.

The Association supports, and indeed originally proposed in 1972 under the then presidency of Dr. M. Tendler, a voluntary screening of young adults of an age in which marriage has become a serious consideration but before definite marital commitments have been made. The screening of younger individuals, years before marriage yields no immediate benefits and might result in a longer period of anxiety in carriers than is warranted. We feel that all screening must be linked to both genetic and religious personal counseling. Emotionally immature individuals may be traumatized psychologically if they learn of their carrier state, and these individuals must be provided with the opportunity for additional professional psychological support. Genetic counseling must be in consonance with Torah principles.

The Association is unalterably opposed to amniocentesis, whose natural and logical consequence is abortion. It likewise feels that screening of married couples or those whose marriage is imminent and who are not committed to disruption of their mutual marital commitments, were both partners to be discovered to be Tay-Sachs carriers, is unwise, again because virtually the only consequences would be abortion, or a childless marriage. We are also concerned that any program be absolutely voluntary, and that the nature of any educational drive be informational rather

than coercive. There must also be absolute assurance that the confidentiality of all carriers will be safeguarded.

The AOJS records with pleasure the interest of the student population in devoting time and energy for the betterment of their fellow man and joins with them in the hope that the Almighty free us from the pain and anguish of genetic disease.

Association of Orthodox  
Jewish Scientists

### TAY-SACHS II

To the Editor:

As a member of the Medical Ethics Committee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies I should like to call your attention to the position taken by that Committee, at its meeting of 3/11/73, regarding screening for Tay-Sachs Disease. The Committee "supports the general screening tests for Tay-Sachs carrier state in postadolescence, only if adequate rabbinic and genetic counseling is available." The position of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, on whose behalf I discussed Tay-Sachs screening with the Foundation, will be clearly enunciated in a separate letter from its officers.

Personally, I would like to urge all students who are in a "marriage-prone" age to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them by screening for Tay-Sachs Disease before choosing a marriage partner. Postponement of testing to the time of impending marriage or thereafter is unwise for the Torah observer because if both members of a couple are carriers, one of four undesirable courses of action is open: 1) severance of the relationship; 2) childless marriage; 3) pregnancies followed by amniocentesis and abortion of affected fetuses; 4) pregnancies allowed to proceed naturally with one of every four infants affected by Tay-Sachs Disease.

While the non-Orthodox community accepts the third alternative with no compunctions, and therefore concentrates screening efforts on engaged and married couples, we must focus on an earlier age. The Orthodox community must participate actively in properly organized Tay-Sachs Screening programs, lest by our non-involvement we convert Tay-Sachs Disease from a Jewish disease to an exclusively Orthodox Jewish Disease. This eventuality will result because the rest of the Jewish community will increasingly avail itself of the programs to screen for and eliminate Tay-Sachs Disease.

The students of Yeshiva University are to be congratulated for sponsoring and working constructively for a screening program specifically adapted to the needs of the Torah community, and in consonance with Halakhic standards. It is to be hoped that other Orthodox institutions of higher learning will follow the lead of Yeshiva University so that the Torah community may indeed be the first segment of the Jewish Community to eliminate this scourge.

Dr. Seymour Glick

Editor note—Dr. Glick is Chief, Medical Services Coney Island Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine, Downstate Medical

## Rabbi Bleich Stands Firm; Advises Tay-Sachs Testing

By ALLAN KAPLAN

With the upcoming Tay-Sachs program at Yeshiva only a short while away, the nature of the disease and the goals this program hopes to achieve were discussed recently with Rabbi J. David Bleich, a rosh yeshiva in RIETS.

Rabbi Bleich, in his survey of recent halachic periodic literature published in Tradition Magazine, volume 13, #1, discussed the background and causes of the disease. He stated that although there were descriptions of this disorder dating back to 1881, an explanation of the nature of the disease was not found until 1969. Research has discovered that the disease is caused by the absence of an enzyme which normally exists in the breakdown of certain fatty substances. Since the enzyme is absent, these substances accumulate in the cells and tissues of the affected child and ultimately lead to the destruction of brain cells. The disease results from a union of genes in which both are defective.

Valid and Necessary

In the same discussion, Rabbi Bleich stated that centers in Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Montreal's Children's Hospital, and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto have begun campaigns to identify potential victims and to eliminate the disease. A carrier can be identified by means of a simple blood test, since the enzyme responsible for the condition can be found in the plasma of the blood and in fetal amniotic fluid. Absence of this enzyme indicates the presence of a carrier.

With this in mind, Rabbi Bleich affirmed the validity and necessity for the testing of college age people for this condition. Physicians in the communities carrying out this testing

Center. He was formerly President, Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Chairman of Board of Governors of the Orthodox Scientists, and a Member, Medical Ethics Committee, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

### TAY-SACHS III

To the Editor:

With full respect for Rabbi Tendler, I do feel that his discussion of Tay-Sachs' disease, as reported in the latest issue of COMMENTATOR, calls for an immediate and public response.

The article contains a discussion of the Halachically and emotionally intolerable implications of a marriage between carriers of Tay-Sachs' disease. Once the couple finds out about its status, either by a test of by bearing a morbid child, it must decide to risk bearing morbid children, or to abort, or to have no children at all. This seems to me the most eloquent argument for testing young men and women before they have chosen mates. It is only by such testing that these intolerable marriage can be prevented.

Another reason to forbid the test raised in the article is the psychological damage which the test might inflict on a carrier. I ask you, which of these two situations contains the greater potential for psychological damage: One—you could decide not

urgently recommend rabbis to refer prospective couples for testing, but Rabbi Bleich believes that testing should be carried out before the people are ready to get married, at an earlier stage of adolescence.

Counseling

Rabbi Bleich believes that such testing must be undertaken only in conjunction with a mass scale of education. "Only those students capable of coping with the possibility of a positive test should undergo examination. Any stigma that exists is based on ignorance only."

If such early testing is not carried out, Rabbi Bleich says we will be faced with the grave problem of abortion. In his article he writes, "The fear that a child may be born physically malformed or mentally deficient does not justify recourse to abortion. Amniocentesis cannot be performed prior to the fourth month of pregnancy and all halachic authorities agree that at so late a stage of pregnancy, abortion is permissible if continuation of pregnancy threatens the life of the mother. This procedure for the detection of Tay-Sachs is therefore not permissible and also constitutes an act of *chavalah* — an unwarranted assault upon the mother." Thus, he believes the only way to prevent abortion later is to test earlier.

In conclusion, Rabbi Bleich reaffirmed his strong feelings concerning the need to counsel and educate those people undergoing testing. This would serve to dispel any possible misconceptions and stigmas that could arise from a positive test. He himself will sit in on the counseling that will be undertaken in Yeshiva and the student will thus be made aware of the religious and psychological ramifications of a positive test.

to be tested, marry whom you would in your ignorance and have your children. If, then, you have a morbid child, that will have been your decision, to live with while the child dies. If your children are healthy until the age of two, congratulations, lucky, you don't have to worry about Tay-Sachs' any more. Two—you could be tested. If you are a carrier, you will have one shock when you find out, and an awkward moment on all your second dates. None of your children will die of the disease. Well, which of the situations contains the greater potential for psychological damage? People want the test because they have made the decision.

The one Halachic source mentioned in the article is *Even Ha-Ezer* 2:7. This ruling, cited from *Yevamot* 64, states: "Do not marry a woman from a family with a history of certain deforming diseases." How does this source prove the point of the article?

The article contains the curious assumption that there is some nefarious purpose to beginning the testing at Y.U. Nothing could be further from the truth. Only those who systematically oppose abortions would want a program to test unmarried men and women. Furthermore, it must be that a bigger percentage of the student body is made up of Eastern European

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 4)

# Reality Of Dreams vs. That Of The Waking Life

By HILLY BESDIN

"This must be a nightmare," Frank Q-lain thought to himself. "What in G-d's name am I doing here stretched out on these tracks?"

By craning his head backwards (and badly irritating the skin of his neck on the rope), he could make out the sign '103 St.' organized out of tiles. Being a clever fellow and always deducing the worst, Frank decided that he had somehow come to be tied down to the subway tracks of the 'A' train. The 103 Street Station lay opposite him. He further deduced from the downward slope of the rails that he was lying on the uptown tracks. "Soon," he fretted, "the 'A' train will come roaring down these tracks like a headless bull and 'squish' I'll be pulverized." He would normally have punctuated a word like 'squish' by rapping the fist of his right hand into the palm of his left. Now, of course, his hands were securely tied and hence immobile and he felt this inhibition of expression very keenly.

Actually most of Frank's life was a nightmare. He had the peculiar disability of being unable to distinguish between the reality of his dreams and that of his waking life. He had disclosed this rather strange condition to no one, being afraid of turning into an object of ridicule. You see, Frank often imagined that he was the king of an island of nymphs. Only, he wasn't sure that this wasn't the true state of his real self. And we can certainly understand why a king would fear letting such a dislocating condition become known. Why, good grief, some of his political foes might find out (for who could trust doctors to keep quiet) and use it to foment a revolution. The nymphs were none too happy with him as it was . . . because he was a human. They would have much preferred having a nymph as a ruler. They felt that someone of their own size and temperament (for nymphs are very impulsive and have a peculiar sense of humor) would be more sensitive to their own cultural problems.

Frank would often ask himself how he came to be a king, let alone a king over an island of nymphs. He would then pinch himself a number of times and become convinced that no matter how he may have become the king, he most certainly was the king. He even found himself, at times, disbelieving in the very existence of

nymphs, which would upset him terribly and greatly interfere with his royal duties. He developed bleeding ulcers and a morbid depression which the doctor and court jester could not cure.

He should have asked his wife for advice. But she lived with him at 515 W. 187 St. in Washington Heights and certainly would not have understood. She was, besides, rather unhappy living with him and probably was looking for an excuse to bring up the subject of divorce. He would often complain of her coldness and she of his melancholy. They had had a whirlwind romance, getting married only three days after



first meeting. He often felt that if they had spent more time in getting to know each other, many of their present misunderstandings would not have arisen. He sometimes caught her staring at him with a strange look in her eyes. He would then suspect that she did not truly love him and would be very jealous and suspicious of any male visitors. But this, he knew, was silly of him.

Growing up had been difficult for Frank. This was due to the fact that since he was eleven, he had, at times, imagined himself to be thirty-five. Sometimes even as old as eighty. And perhaps he really was eighty and only imagining he

was a boy of eleven (old men often relive their past). At first, he had found difficulty in coping with his flexible realities and had been considered 'strange' by all who met him. But he soon managed to devise a formula that helped him struggle through life while arousing a minimum of attention. He decided simply to treat each reality he happened to be in, as seriously as he could. When in a certain state, he would act as if that were the only reality. Being thus well adjusted to his condition, he went through college (captain of the chess team — graduating cum laude) in one reality while struggling to be a good king in another.

Suddenly, Frank remembered that the 'D' train uses the same tracks as the 'A' train. He had only half the time to get his thoughts organized. The ropes were secure enough to preclude his freeing himself but were not unduly uncomfortable. In fact, his body was in a rather comfortable position, somewhat similar to his royal sofa back on the island.

The tracks began to rumble and shudder and Frank knew that soon the train would crush him. On the one hand, if he were to follow his formula, he should be deathly afraid. This reality was real now and he was about to die. On the other hand, the formula had merely been an accommodation, a device for helping him live each reality with a minimum of frustration and despair. All of them could not really be true. The world wasn't made like that . . . it would be insane. And now for the first time in his life he would be able to test the authenticity of one of his states. If the train would kill him then it would prove that this nightmare was grounded in fact.

And so it was with fear mixed with keen interest that Frank lay there, trembling now from the vibrations of the tracks. The conductor of the 'A' train (it had been an 'A') saw him, applied the emergency brake, but it was too late to stop in time. As the rusty wheel was slicing through his neck, Frank suddenly imagined that he was being stabbed by the cold blade of a traitorous nymph and then that he was being cut up by the milkman ("Ah, it had been the milkman — that bitch") and dozens of other images of death flashed through his mind.

# Job, Theme Of Man, As Defined Through Existentialist Philosophy

By THEODORE MIRVIS

The theme of *Job* is basically, the theme of man: to formulate and explain man in the world. The issue which most logically brings this theme into sharpest focus is the story of Job: man suffering. For in the case of a man who suffers, the forces which control man's condition are revealingly exposed; the problem is of necessity clarified and stated in terms which deny the possibility of misconceiving or eluding the question. Furthermore, the vision of man agonizing over his pain presents an unmistakable description of the precariousness of man's circumstance. The personage of Job is, therefore, perfectly matched with the purpose of the work.

Existentialism attempts, in large part, to deal with this same basic issue. In terms of its place in the gamut of human thought, existentialism has been characterized as a permanent type of thought and attitude, deeper than any formal doctrine or belief. Its relevance here is that it does embody a certain unique approach to this theme of man's situation.

In relating the book of *Job* and existentialist philosophy, it will be the purpose of this essay to compare the two possibly divergent viewpoints and to show that even a cursory understanding of existentialism will help one understand *Job*, particularly the difficult aspects of the work's resolution. A working definition of existentialism will first be put forth, followed by the main argument of the paper and a concluding comment.

## EXISTENTIALISM DEFINED

A simple all-inclusive definition of existentialism is not easy. Its protagonists have traced it back to Pascal, St. Augustine, even to Socrates. At first glance, characteristics of the doctrine are nearly

as various. That two writers both claim to be existentialists does not seem to entail their agreement on any one major point. Consequently, to define existentialism by means of a set of philosophical formulas would be largely misleading. Any formula sufficiently broad to embrace all the tendencies would necessarily be so general and vague as to be meaningless.

Existentialism gets its name from the idea that existence precedes essence, meaning that the truth of man's experience is in the experience itself, not in any absolute categories we force the experience into. For example, when I seek to determine whether or not G-d is Just, it is not essential that I start with a definition of Justice. Rather, what is essential is that I confront G-d in actual experience. Any moral absolute is generally abhorrent (even religious existentialists would say that any absolute regarding G-d must arise from experience with G-d). The final answer, the definition of Justice, is not really important; what is important is an experience, a confrontation with another being — in this case, G-d.

What follows from this is the point which will be most significant here: that confrontation with other beings is necessary for any knowledge. Personal relationships are crucial to man's understanding anything; it is neither sufficient nor helpful to sit back and discuss logically what Justice, or any value, involves.

## JOB AND EXISTENTIALISM

To begin with, the existentialist will appreciate very well why the author of the work decided to use as his vehicle a man who suffers. Apart from the general reason for this mentioned previously, the concept of the "limit situation" is relevant. The idea here is that people in ex-

treme situations, in whichever direction, are capable of seeing more deeply than normally. This follows from the stress in existentialism on the personal relationship: the more personal the relationship, the greater the resultant awareness.

Also insightful is the existentialist's view of Job's complaint: Why can't the human being gain the wisdom necessary to know the reason which guides G-d's actions? Since experience is crucial, the present moment, the time of that experience, must be made meaningful. Since there are no essences, no absolutes, we have only each moment to deal with, not life as a whole. Job's complaint, like the existentialist's, is that whatever man is meant to get out of life, he must get now, in this world, at this moment, to make his life meaningful. The discrepancy as to whether Job believed in a future world now becomes irrelevant. For as Amos Chacham, a modern commentator, has pointed out, Job's position does not depend on belief or disbelief in a world to come; to him it's irrelevant as he searches for meaning now.

Similarly, Kierkegaard, in his novel, *Repetition*, outlines three possible ways a person can react to suffering. Firstly, he can rebel and deny G-d (Job's wife's advice). Secondly, he can choose not to complain, but to acquiesce (the basic position of the friends). Thirdly, he can demand explanation without rebelling. The first two, Kierkegaard argues, are not really religious reactions, as both seek to avoid a confrontation, a personal relationship with G-d. Kierkegaard, like Job, picks the third as the appropriate response.

Perhaps most interesting is the existentialist's understanding of the final chapters of the work. All along Job has been arguing with the friends, demanding that he has a right to confront G-d.

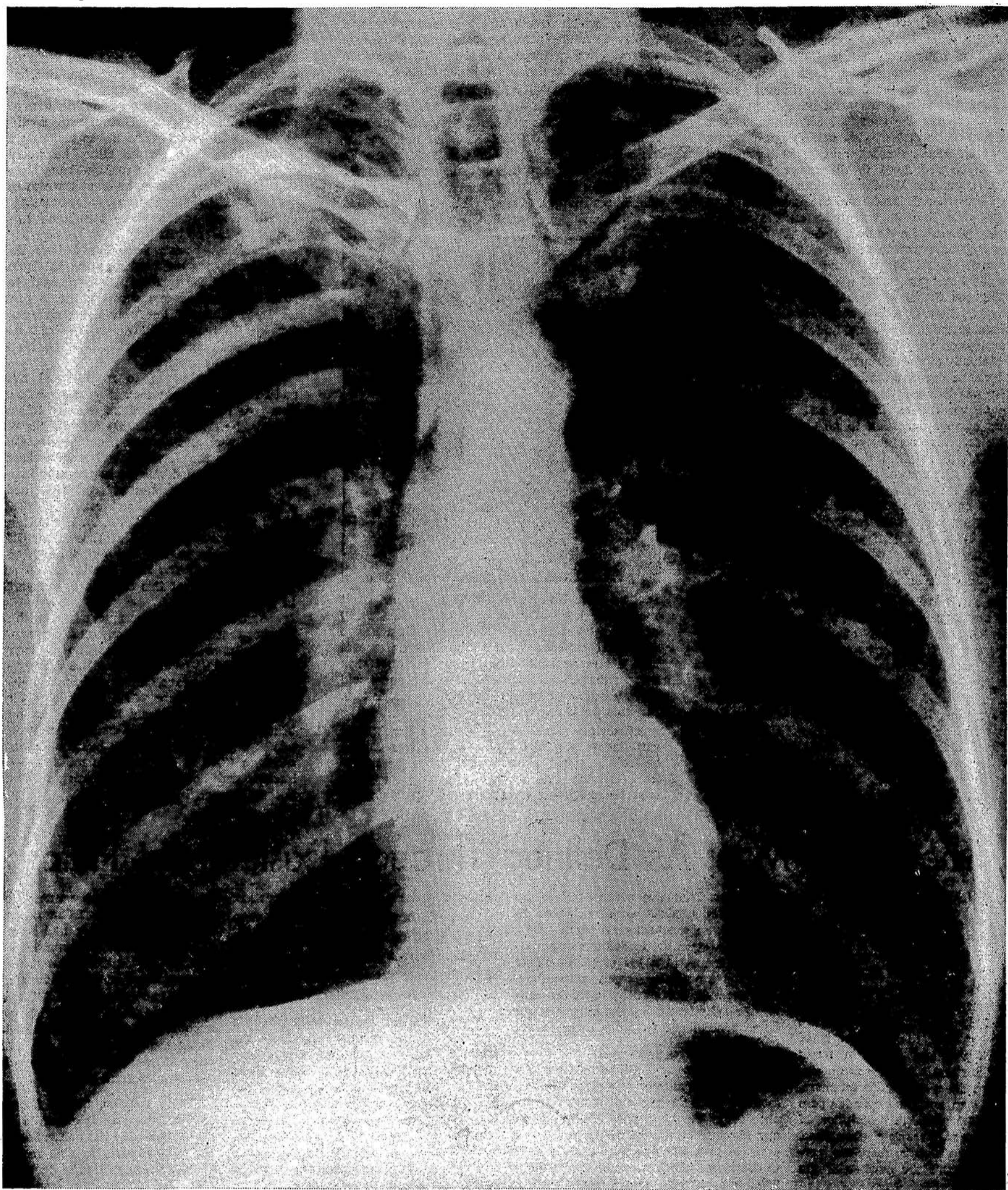
Then Elihu, a new character, is introduced late in the work. Elihu condemns the friends, because they had found no answer and yet had condemned Job. Against Job, he argues that there is a man-G-d confrontation, though indirect: through visions and punishments. Elihu seems to understand Job's demand to personally experience G-d. Still, Elihu feels that a direct communication firstly will not occur and even if it did, man would be unable to gain from it.

Elihu's position, though not purely an existentialist one, is closer to Job's than the friends'. He recognizes Job's need, as the existentialist, to find meaning now, for this moment. But he doubts the possibility and utility of a Man-G-d confrontation and is thus still at odds with Job. He does, however, prepare the way for G-d's appearance which follows. Interesting is that Elihu with his quasi-existentialist understanding is not later rebuked by G-d, while the friends are.

Finally, G-d answers Job directly. Job's demand is granted; man confronts G-d, G-d confronts man. But at first Job retreats from the relationship, abandoning momentarily his position (the third of Kierkegaard's choices) and, like Elihu, lamenting his inability to confront G-d. This is a return to Kierkegaard's second response, acquiescence. G-d reacts by almost demanding a confrontation. Job overcomes his fears, and the confrontation is realized.

The existentialist interpretation, which does follow the events very closely, is now clear. G-d spoke a second time demanding a relationship because he was not happy with just overpowering man. G-d, like man, seeks the personal challenge. Job's demand for a direct confrontation to bring meaning to the now

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)



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## Finishing Touches

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 5) shiva and Stern out of a ridiculous situation, wherein the opposite sex is but a Saturday night diversion.

As one winds up his final column (sob), the script calls for him to forget all the garbage he has taken over four years and sing the praises of his alma mater. I cannot — much as I might like to. Indeed, during my stay at Yeshiva, I have had a number of fine instructors. I have made friends and had experiences that

I will always remember. Yet I leave Yeshiva College with decidedly negative feelings towards it, mostly due to the petty, childish and at times obnoxious attitude of the many members of the administration I have dealt with, who often appear more interested in preserving the status quo and their convenience than in the students they are here to serve. Dean Jacob Rabinowitz is the one exception for, though I disagree with a number of the administrative policies of EMC

(such as restrictions on P-N and the present attendance regulations), I have always found him to be more than fair whenever I have dealt with him.

Despite my dislike of it, my deepest feelings upon leaving Yeshiva are not anger and resentment, but rather sorrow and regret. Yeshiva College, by its very nature — a yeshiva and a college — should be one of the most vibrant educational institutions in the world. Unfortunately, a wealth of potential has been wasted. Perhaps the future will be brighter, but, based on the record, that remains improbable.

## Letters To The Editor

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 5)

It is true that many questions were raised on the Senate floor that apparently were not fully considered by the outgoing Committee and further investigation was justifiably called for. But the personal criticism of Committee members by Dr. Fleisher in my opinion was unwarranted and misdirected and seemed to be prompted more by the fact that the Committee had the nerve to decide upon a plan that just happened to conflict with what Dr. Fleisher believes should have been their conclusions. I am sure that most of the senators reject Dr. Fleisher's personal accusations and congratulate the Committee for attempting to handle this very major and problematic area as they saw fit—even if the Committee's report differed from some of the views of the various senators.

In conclusion, please let me hasten to add that at times Dr. Fleisher's comments and observations have been informative, helpful, and studied, but this instance unfortunately is not one of them.

Daniel Z. Kramer '70,  
Scy., Yeshiva College Senate

### WILKES-BARRE

To the Editor:

Let me say that I was surprised to see the article on the Wilkes-Barre Flood. That city happens to be my town and also where I lived at the time of the flood (two blocks from the dikes). The article was comprehensive and a good overview of the causes and effects relating to the disaster.

But, you know, we read every day in the paper how this earthquake did this and that tornado did that and about airplane crashes and many other tragedies. We read that 50,000 people are homeless and 30,00 are hungry and then we turn the page. We say to ourselves, "Hey, wow, I feel sorry for them." It's the human condition, though. Nothing more is really expected of us. We have our own problems.

However, last June 23 and 24, eighteen years accumulation of possessions were completely destroyed (30% of which I never found!). Obviously, thousands of others were afflicted similarly, with more heartache etc. than I. It gave me cause to ruminate a bit.

Sit back, reader, and think of your own room at home, now that you're away from it, imagine it filled with water to the ceiling, muddy, silty, smelly. Now see it after the water drains out, leaving a 4-6 inch oozy slime everywhere and in everything. Bookcases warped, books swelled,

dressers and cabinets soft and topsy-turvy, soggy, dirty clothing. Close your eyes for a second and try it. You can't. But please, I sincerely hope you will never, *Chas Ve-shalom*, have to go through the actual experience. I did, however, and believe me, I can't and won't be able to forget it.

I'm not asking for pity or *rachmones*, nor am I asking for help or compassion. That's easy. All I want to say is, let's open our hearts once in a while to other people's *tzores* (as if we don't have enough for our own), and *be-ezras Ha-shem*, let none of us ever come even close to such utter destruction. Shalom.

—Jesse Hefter '76

Before finishing up, I must mention a number of items. The sport's pages of THE COMMENTATOR have overlooked one player whose defensive efforts have carried the senior intramural team through many a rough game. I know he has been waiting for this recognition, so it falls to me to correct this oversight and commend Michael (Lip) Lipschitz for his efforts. I also want to thank all my friends who have helped me through four trying years.

At times this column has made abrupt transitions. I am trying to express some disparate items in the limited space of one column. This is a difficult task, more difficult than I had thought it would be. But then again, saying goodbye always is. Shalom, u'lehitraot.

## 'The Fantasticks' A Success; Acting And Directing Superb

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 4) with only male roles. Though a major role in *The Fantasticks* is that of an infatuated young girl, perhaps even a beautiful one, the Dramatics Society has not allowed this to become an obstacle. The play is in the form of a masque, and Mr. Beukas wisely seized the many directorial opportunities that the form affords. Imaginations were not overtaxed as the mustachioed Jeff Bookman, his costume consisting of a large letter G on his sweater, managed to exude enough young girlishness to capture the audience from the very start. There are other ways in which to handle the problem of portraying female roles with an all-male cast, but Mr. Beukas and Mr. Bookman managed to take the road that made all the difference. It was obvious from their final performances with YCDS that seniors Bookman and Goldin will be sorely missed by the many theatergoers at Yeshiva College. Michael Andron, a returning alumnus with a masters degree in theater from NYU, performed well as the aged actor, tickling many a humorous fancy in the audience. He was ably supported by Stuart Kessler in the role of myopic Mortimer, the actor whose specialty is death scenes. It has been reported that Mr. Kessler has been met in the most unusual places by faces he has never seen but who know him — all of them begging "die for me, Mortimer." Comic relief and support were further provided by Lenny Balanson, Ira Berkowitz, Victor Delouya, Leo Frishman, Jeffrey Neiman and Reynold Montague

Stein, Allen Roth at the piano and Joseph Steiner on the guitar were excellent and perfectly augmented the fine performances by the actors.

Norman Gilden did a yeoman's job, standing with his arm extended on center stage throughout a large portion of the play as the image of the perfect wall. One of the two speech and drama majors in the cast, Mr. Gilden played the mute with a sophistication that can be found only in a Yeshiva College speech major.

\* \* \*

The Stern College Speech Arts Forum presented Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* on Sunday April 8 and Monday April 9. I have a strong innate desire to write a popular, witty, and literate review of that production, in the hope of possibly endearing myself to SCW for ever and ever, but I shall force myself to forego the temptation: instead, I will be honest.

In 1934 Lillian Hellman wrote a "venomously tragic" play that caused enough of a stir to be banned from the cities of London, Chicago, Beverly, and, of course, Boston. Almost forty years later the controversial nature of the play lost its stinging effect.

The play owes its remaining significance to the well-tailored role of Mary, a child with a passion for sadistic leadership, lying and cruelty. (What ever happened to sugar and spice and everything nice?) As produced by SCW, the play rested squarely upon the dainty shoulders of Barb Stone, who rescued it from a burial beneath heaps of exag-

## Budget Cutbacks May Effect College Loans

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

student's own earnings. The average grant of the present EOG is \$550 while the average BOG would be \$350.

Instead of the National Direct Student Loan, a Federal Guaranteed Loan is proposed. If instituted, the money would come from private participating banks rather than the federal government. In addition to the added paper work this move would inevitably cause the interest rate for the loan to jump from 3 to 7 percent.

The budget is now in the Subcommittee on Education of the Senate and House of Representatives, the first step in the process of being passed; it could conceivably be amended and changed through the many steps. Still, the President has said that by a 2/3 majority, Mr. Nixon has threatened to impound the funds for all programs, which is a constitutional controversy itself.

Mr. Nussbaum stressed that

## Tay-Sachs Discussed

(Continued from Page 6, Col. 5)

Jews at YU than at any other school.

Avoiding the test will not make Tay-Sachs' go away. The test will. A carrier does not have the disease. What you don't know

Yeshiva is not being singled out since these cutbacks affects every national private school. He urges all students to write to their congressmen and senators expressing their concern about these new programs.

As in the past, YU will continue to try to meet the financial needs of all of its students in whatever ways it can.

House Committee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations

Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.), Chairman

William H. Natcher (D-Ky.)

Neal Smith (D-Iowa)

Bob Casey (D-Tex.)

Edward J. Patten (D-N.J.)

David R. Obey (D-Wis.)

Edith Green (D-Ore.)

Robert H. Michel (R-Ind.)

Garner R. Shriver (R-Kans.)

Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass.)

J. Kenneth Robinson (R-Va.)

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can't hurt you, but it can kill your children.

Louis Finkelman.

YU '69 Smicha

Program English Dept.

### TAY-SACHS IV

To the Editor:

I would like to disagree with Dr. Tendler's article re: Tay Sachs screening at Yeshiva. Rabbi Tendler is opposed to the testing under any circumstances. I can understand his fears concerning married couples. The disadvantages of discovery after the fact (of marriage) probably do outweigh the advantages, (although Dr. Tendler failed to include "adoption" among his list of ultimatums). But Rabbi Tendler just vaguely states the dangers of screening before the fact; ie: of single individuals—or, the majority of us at Yeshiva.

If a single person takes the test and discovers he carries the defective gene, he should not marry a person who also is a carrier. Chances are neither will be carriers and that knowledge in itself is relieving and eliminates future anxiety! The testing requires maturity and foresight, serving to prevent a marriage which might result in heartbreak and death. This is a form of preventive medicine which we owe ourselves and our future family.

Referring to a *New York Times* article, Rabbi Tendler agrees that the psychological trauma affecting the students who discover they are carriers, is "far worse" than the few babies born every year. This is ridiculous! How can the trauma of knowing you might have a Tay Sachs baby even measure up to the trauma experienced by having that baby—and losing him. Especially when this knowledge can be used to prevent the marriage (and baby) in the first place.

—Suri Harris '73

Those who ordered class rings should pick them up this Thursday in Morg. Lounge from 2:30-4:00. Rings can also be purchased at this time. For further information, see Shaya Wexler, Morg. 225.

Cardin was intended to be that of a masculine fiance, and Sara Kirschbaum's interpretation of it was lacking. The nature of the play, a taut drama meant to display only occasional overconivance, did not allow for any of the devices employed in the Yeshiva College production discussed previously, and their inclusion would have been completely out of place in the Stern College production. A performance in which the actresses performed well but the audience was not reached seems to indicate that a wiser choice of play could have been made. But don't get me wrong: I like Stern.

# Guidance

As we are all well aware, unless a family business exists there are not many jobs open to holders of B. A. degrees. We are in a society in which advanced degrees are in demand. Fortunately, there are a number of positions available through the Department of Civil Service that require only a bachelor's degree and a written test. These positions have a beginning Salary of \$9,205 and excellent possibilities for advancement. They include:

- Psychiatric Social Work Trainee
- Rehabilitation Trainee — Psychology Trainee (Youth) Parole Officer
- Mental Hygiene Therapist
- Correction Counselor — Probation Officer

While there are not uniquely "Jewish" positions they do provide many fine fringe benefits and job security. With one or two years experience or 30 graduate credits similar positions open in the salary range of \$10,500 - \$12,000.

Applicants interested in competing must file with the N. Y. State Department of Civil Service for Examination No. 29-240. A test for June graduates is scheduled for June 16, 1973 (With Special Administration for Sabbath observers). Applications must be in by May 1973. A short description of what some of these jobs entail, follows:

1) **Psychiatric Social Work Trainee II** — You will participate in a one-year traineeship during which you will gradually assume the duties of a Psychiatric Social Work Assistant II. You will assist professional staff as a member of an interdisciplinary team whose goal is to return patients to the community by providing concrete social services to enable them to function successfully. You will help assess patient needs and advise on providing social services.

2) **Rehabilitation Trainee II** — You will be working with and learning from professional staff members providing direct care and services to the emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded. This

# Andron Awarded 2nd-Degree Belt

(Continued from Page 12, Col. 3) smashed two boards with a head butt.

Though Master Sober feels that the time has come when he can finally sit back and direct an exhibition, letting the quality of the students speak for itself, he also indicated to the audience that a teacher who no longer produces is worthless. He then proceeded to perform the ancient Chinese form of **kata No. 3**. As indicated by the applause that followed the audience approved of his exhibition thoroughly.

The afternoon ended with the awarding of Mr. Andron's certificate of second degree black belt by Sensei Sober and, as customary, the exchanging of gifts by the recipient of the honor.

The entire Karate Club of Yeshiva would like to extend a hearty mazel tov to Mr. Michael Andron — both on achieving so high a rank in our style and even more so on his recent marriage. Good luck in South Carolina.

# Notes

one year traineeship leads to an assignment as a Rehabilitation Assistant II.

3) **Psychology Trainee II** — You will participate in a one-year traineeship during which time you will gradually assume the duties of a Psychology Assistant II. You will assist professional staff as a member of an interdisciplinary team whose goal is to return patients to the community by providing psychological services to enable them to function successfully. You may assist in administering psychological tests, counseling patients and residents and helping in research studies.

4) **Mental Hygiene Therapist Trainee II** — You will be working with and learning from professional staff members providing direct care and services to the emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded. You will participate in team meetings and treatment activities and function with more independence and less supervision as your knowledge and skill develop. During this one-year traineeship you will gradually assume the duties of a Mental Hygiene Therapist I.

For further information contact the Guidance Office.

# Existentialism

(Continued from Page 7, Col. 4)

of his life is granted. Having achieved the experience he sought, Job is no longer concerned with his previous complaints about G-d's actions. For to the existentialist, the experience, not argument regarding essence (as with the friends), is the key to understanding.

### CONCLUSION

Certainly, this does not mean to say that only through existentialism can the book of Job be made intelligible. Rather, the point of all this is simply that in certain respects it can be shown that existentialism presents itself as an indigenous philosophy of Judaism. Not having the background necessary in either existentialism or valid Jewish philosophy, I cannot accurately say how limited this observation truly is. The area does, I would suggest, merit further thought and analysis.

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# Seniors Defend Championship During Intramural Basketball

By YANKEE POLEYEFF

As the 1973 Intramural Basketball season moves into its closing stages, it looks as if the sophomores, seniors and freshmen will once again be battling for the championship in the playoffs, which will take place after Pesach.

The defending champion seniors lost last year's most valuable player, Dudi Yammer, and have had a difficult time playing without a first-rate center. Fortunately, the team defense has been extremely effective; against the high-scoring freshman team, for example, the seniors won handily, 57-37. The offensive firepower has been provided by Morris Tilsen (averaging 13.3 points per game) and Elliot Feinerman (12.7), and with one game remaining the seniors' current record stands at 2-1.

The freshmen, also 2-1, have displayed tremendous scoring ability in their games, with Jerry Levine, the league's high scorer at 18.0 points per game, the odds-on favorite for this semester's MVP. Levine, Dave Mensche (17.0), and newcomer Ikey Yedid (16.5) are running 1-2-3 in the league scoring race. Aside from the above mentioned game with the seniors, the freshmen have two overwhelming wins to their

credit, 84-58 over the sophs and 65-37 over semicha.

With steady improvement throughout the year, the sophomores have also blossomed into bona fide contenders. After losing to the frosh, the sophs edged the juniors, 51-47, defeated the seniors in a well-played game 39-32, and routed semicha, 62-40, closing the season with a 3-1 record. Center Noah Reifman has made his presence known, averaging 13 points and as many rebounds a game. Sid Taubenfeld (11.5) and Herb Insel (11.0) complete the strong soph front line.

Although they were usually overmatched in personnel, the juniors made their season exciting. They lost to the seniors by only three points and to the sophs by four. The juniors' lone victory, 37-36 over semicha, came while playing without leading scorer Lenny Friedman (11.5).

As for semicha, it looks like another winless semester. Ira Jaskoll has been virtually a one-man team, averaging 12.3 of semicha's 38 points per game.

# -Yucons Keep Winning- Beat Hard-Hitting Hofstra

On Tuesday night, April 3, the Yeshiva Yucons once again taped up their sticks and readied themselves for a rematch with the Hofstra hockey team. In the first meeting earlier this year between the two teams, the Yucons finished at the short end of a 3-2 score. More in the tradition of their recent 17-2 trouncing of Brooklyn Poly, the Yucons neatly disposed of Hofstra, 7-3.

Hofstra's pre-game plan was to do a lot of checking, and they came out hitting, maybe hitting a bit too much. They seemed to have forgotten completely about the puck while they concentrated on knocking Yucons to the floor. If they were able to reach the Yucons' zone at all, they had a great deal of trouble putting any offensive pressure on YU's net.

The apparent lack of Hofstra's offensive ability was also due to the excellent defense displayed by the Yucons. One defensive lapse led to a goal as goalie Yankee Poleyeff was screened on the shot. Poleyeff had few real tests but proved true on those chances.

The Yucons displayed their

usual good offense, keeping pressure on the Hofstra goalie constantly. One picture perfect offensive play was executed by Jay Nadelbach and Neil Weintraub, as Nadelbach came down the right wing and centered the puck to the oncharging Weintraub who tipped it in.

As Yeshiva broke the game open in the third period, Hof-

stra became very frustrated and several fights broke out. Hofstra's fight maniac (called Captain America due to his apparel) was the first one in every fight (especially if it was with a smaller Yucon member). When a Hofstra teammate was asked what was wrong with the Captain, he immediately responded: "He's from Boston. What did you expect?"

Any student wishing to submit LITERARY articles for the upcoming Literary Edition may do so by either handing in his typed articles to Isaac Mozeson — M205, Mark Koslowe — M221, or to THE COMMENTATOR mail box in the JSS office. Faculty and administrators are also invited to submit articles. The deadline is Sunday, April 29.

# Director of COLPA Addresses Pre-Laws

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1) employee to practice his religion so that "a person should not be required to choose between his religion and his job." COLPA lawyers have initiated suits against employers for refusing to hire Jews who will not work on the Sabbath.

Recently, COLPA representatives played a major role in the 1972 amendment of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 which stipulates that an employer must make reasonable accommodations to an employee's religion, unless, as a consequence, the employer suffers economic hardship.

Mr. Rapps stressed the need for a "united Jewish front" such as COLPA because many non-Jews and even Jews themselves are insensitive to the problems and considerations of the orthodox Jewish community. By publicly defending Jewish interests in courts and through legislation, COLPA is able to protect Jewish concerns.

Mr. Rapps concluded with an appeal to the Yeshiva students, particularly those of the Pre-Law Society, to volunteer their services to COLPA. He feels that such an experience would be invaluable if only to acquaint the student with many of the problems facing an orthodox Jew in American society.

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To all students: The Edward A. Rothman Memorial Essay Award in the amount of \$100 will be given for the best essay submitted by a Yeshiva College student. The topic: "Application of Orthodox Judaism to Modern Times", in English — 2000-3000 words, no later than May 11, 1973 (Friday) to the Dean's office. Please see the Dean for further instructions or information.

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## Andron Receives 2nd-Degree Black Belt During The Annual Karate Club Exhibition

By SID ROSMAN

On Sunday, April 8 the Yeshiva University gym was once again the scene of a fantastic karate exhibition. The event, honoring Mr. Michael Andron's (YC '71) receiving a second degree black belt (of a possible five), was highlighted by a demonstration of basic techniques, knife attacks, kata (form), and numerous board, cinder and brick

(used by Sensei Sober) and the equally old and deadly white crane style (used by Mr. Andron).

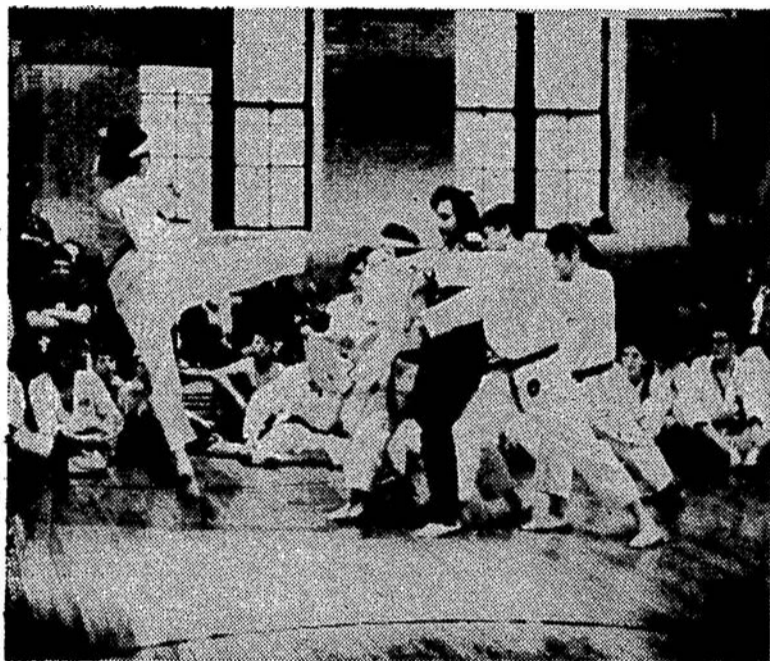
### Grace and Power

With photographers flashing away at every move, Mr. Andron proceeded to demonstrate that his abilities are a combination of beautiful and excellently—controlled grace and cement—breaking power. The latter was

of incomparable beauty and grace.

The crowd, most of whom were not practitioners of karate but mainly spectators, identified with the power breaking as this was more to their understanding. Jeffrey Glanz, a recent recipient of the black belt, splattered a falling apple with a perfect spinning hook kick after having performed an equally perfect weapons kata. Black belt Louis Aaron, who was not feeling well during the exhibition, then destroyed five boards with a punch and another five with a roundhouse kick. Gary Schulman (YC '71), a brown belt, demonstrated the *tencho* form—a breathing kata. To illustrate the power generated by correct breathing, boards were broken over his head, arms and legs and, to end on a pleasant note, Gary

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 3)



Paul Millman

### Black Belts Exhibit Before Full House.

breaking by Yeshiva's black and brown belt holders.

In front of a standing-room-only crowd of over two hundred people, sensei (master) Harvey Sober began the afternoon with an explanation of the type of fighting system which Michael has studied these past few years. This was followed by a short but fascinating free-style match between the ancient dragon style

proven to the satisfaction of all as Mr. Andron smashed four inches of cement with a flying heel kick and, spinning around, simultaneously broke two dangling two-inch cinder blocks with right and left punches. Power alone, however, is not the sign of a true master and Mr. Andron therefore performed, at both slow and regular speed, the ancient white crane kata, a composition

## The Year In Review Matmen Exceed .500

By STEVE REISBAUM

Now that the sports season has concluded for Yeshiva's varsity teams, it's time to look back, only for a moment, and then to look ahead. Unfortunately, for all the teams except the wrestling team, looking back will be quite painful.

Possibly the team with the most disappointing season was the basketball team. Although their 4-15 record was an improvement over the records of the past few seasons, it was still far from the record they could have and should have achieved. Very possibly, the record was not what was expected because the team put too much on the shoulders of their new coach Jonathan Halpert, and their new center Paul Merlis. They alone are in no way responsible for the poor showing. On the contrary, Merlis was the league's leading rebounder, and at least Coach Halpert had the right type of attitude toward the team. However, due to a few losses, many team members became frustrated and dissention overcame the Mites.

As for the fencing team, their 3-6 record this year was not nearly as good as past fencing teams, always known as Yeshiva's winningest team. However, a better record this year was expected by few. Professor Tauber has called this his year of rebuilding. After losing many of his starters at the end of last year, and then losing co-captain Joel Baum to an injury in the first match, Coach Tauber said that this and probably next year

would be used for finding and building a new team.

The wrestling team, on the other hand, is still enjoying their 7-5 season. This was their year to prove that they could be winners, and they have made a lot of believers. Their success can be attributed to their constant work and training. Along with them, things just seemed to click this year, all the pieces fell into place, and the Ellmen are winners.

The wrestlers must now keep the pieces together while the Mites and Tauber men must pick up theirs. They all must begin looking on to next year as we shall also do in a future issue.

\* \* \*

A tradition in the past which was ended last year was the Athletic Dinner. We feel that funds should once again be allocated to reinstitute the dinner. It is something that the school's athletes, who give of their time and of themselves, definitely deserve. Just as those students who excel in the scholastic field are given the Dean's List Luncheon, so, too, should those who excel on the athletic field be given an Athletic Dinner.

## Tournament Begins In Class Wrestling

By LARRY EISENBERG

Amidst the furor and tumult of Yeshiva's first intramural wrestling tournament, one truth shines forth; wrestling is a pain in the gluteous maximus. For most of the thirty nine contestants in the three hour tourney, the pain extended to most other muscles as well.

Although matches were reduced to five minutes from regulation eight, it's still an awfully long time to have one's body pounded into the mat. The victor of each match won the dubious distinction of going on to the next round for another chance to have one's senses knocked silly.

The grapplers who were busy pounding rather than being pounded, include: Mark Wey (121), Robert Blass (127), David Siegal (135), Allan Lockspeiser (142), Jay Marcus (150), Ira Parness (158), Phil Skversky (167), Marvin Rosensweig (177), Ben Kirschenbaum (190), and Cliff Brown (unlimited). Their ability to last through two or more matches says something for their survival instincts, if nothing else.

To be truthful, there was some good wrestling displayed consistently by Wey, Lockspeiser, Marcus, and Skversky, and occasionally by many of the contestants. Joseph Frager also deserves mention for fine wrestling, as well as setting the Yeshiva tournament record for the fastest pin, at thirty five seconds.

In short, the tournament was a success. The problem of length will be solved in future matches, as Coach Ellman plans to split the program by weight classes, and have them wrestle on consecutive Sundays. Another problem, which will be harder to remedy, is that of uneven wrestling assignments. Willie Greenberg, Harry Stadler, and Marty Vasas all wrestled once more than their opponents had when they reached the finals, and consequently lost. Then again, Allan Lockspeiser had wrestled once more than his opponent and won anyway, which only proves

## Mites Finish Dismal Season Next Year's Captain: Faber

By NORMAN S. BLUMENTHAL

The season ended on a fitting note for the Mites, they lost. The Yeshiva University basketball team lost by 40 points to Marist in its final game of the year. The Mites played poorly being beaten constantly off the boards and on the fast break. This may in part be attributed to certain members of the team being out of shape, while other members of the team lacked true determination.

These two factors were apparent when the Mites took the court for the second half of the season. They lost game after game and not only did they lose but they were overwhelmed by their opponents. At these times I was embarrassed to cover the team because the opposition and their fans made fun of them. However, even in their darkest hour I found myself making excuses for the team, they did not practice as much as other teams, didn't recruit as much or maybe

it was because many of our ballplayers were freshmen and sophomores.

This last excuse seems to fit best as 4 out of 5 starters were underclassmen as were many of the ballplayers on the bench. The development of the freshmen was obvious as both Jimmy Haber and Bruce Wenig moved into starting roles by midseason. Freshman Paul Merlis constituted whatever board strength Yeshiva had as he led the Knick Conference in rebounding with a 15+ per game average. Last year's high scorers Dave Wilzig and Ira Scharaga both had disappointing years as their scoring averages fell off by about 8 points each. Seeing as their record was a lowly 4-15 we can not say that the bench sparked the team to many victories but some of the members do deserve mention. Josh Bertram, Mendy Goldfinger, Albie Faber, Allan Lockspeiser, Morris Mann and Maish Yarmush all contributed in varying degrees to the team.

With this season over, and none too soon I might add, the team is looking forward to and preparing for next year. The first step in this preparation was the naming of a captain. Albie Faber was named to this post by coach Halpert. When he chose him as captain he also explained his reasons for doing so. The coach felt a captain needed to be a leader, someone who could be looked up to for his attitude. In the opinion of this writer there is much to be commended in the attitude of the new captain and we can only hope next year will be a little more successful.

## Who's Whose

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