

The Commentator

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President Lamm presents Secretary of Education William Bennett with an honorary degree.

Convocation Hears William Bennett

By Jeff Kaye

On Thursday, September 18, Yeshiva University inaugurated its centennial year with an academic convocation. Over one hundred delegates representing major American universities, including Harvard, Yale and Princeton attended. In addition, United States Secretary of Education, Dr. William Bennett and the presidents of twelve colleges and universities were present. This impressive turnout was an indication of Yeshiva University's integration into the academic world.

The convocation began with a procession of the delegates, wearing their respective university's cap and gown, from the Max Stem Athletic Center to the Lamport Auditorium. Although the convocation's planning committee attempted to avoid any mishap and even made provisions for buses to transport the officials from the athletic center to the auditorium in case of rain, a few problems still arose. As the procession moved up Amsterdam Avenue—which had been closed to traffic—it was met with shouts from a handful of students hanging out of the dormitory windows. In the view of many on-lookers, this display of boisterous behavior was disgraceful and an embarrassment to the school. Upon entering Lamport Auditorium, the delegates were greeted by a small crowd of students and guests that had assembled to witness this momentous event. This small attendance was due in part to the administration's not canceling classes, and a number of Yeshiva board members expressed their uneasiness with the situation. Had students been invited to the convocation, perhaps the dignitaries' presence would have been received more respectfully. Greetings were extended by

Dr. Phillip Jordan, president of Kenyon College, on behalf of American universities. He praised Y.U. for its ability to bridge the gap between the secular and religious worlds. "What Y.U. has developed," he said, "is an American style of Jewish tradition and a religious style of a university."

Dr. William Bennett, the keynote speaker, was then conferred with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in recognition of his attempts to restore the teaching of values to the American classroom.

In his acceptance address, Dr. Bennett extolled Dr. Bernard Revel, Y.U.'s first president, for his dedication to building this unique institution. Comparing Dr. Revel to James Madison, he called him a "conservative revolutionist."

Dr. Bennett said that American society is in danger from extreme secularists, who want to eliminate value teaching from schools, and the extreme orthodox, who want to lessen the importance of secular education. He stressed that a university must not fall prey to these two types of thinking but must foster the teaching of values—those based on a Judeo-Christian tradition—along with a strong secular education.

The concluding address was delivered by Dr. Norman Lamm who, coincidentally, was celebrating his tenth anniversary as president of Y.U. Dr. Lamm lashed at those institutions who refuse to synthesize moral teachings with the secular education. He warned that this "value agnosticism" may eventually cause the foundations of those very institutions to crumble. Echoing Dr. Bennett's message, he called on the academic world to reaffirm the existence of man's mind and spirit.

Rav Aharon Returns

By Aaron Cohen

"Rav Aaron's here." Late Wednesday morning, Sept. 10, those three words, invariably accompanied with a smile, quickly spread through the Batei Medrash of Y.U. A large contingent of students from the Furst Hall Beis Medrash rushed downstairs for a *Kabbalas Panim* — to welcome Rosh Yeshiva Ray Aaron Soloveitchik, shlita to Y.U.

The enthusiastic singing of the students welcoming Rav Soloveitchik indicated their delight at his arrival. Rumors of his imminent return to Y.U. first began circulating towards the end of last year although nothing had been confirmed at that time. Nonetheless, present and former students of Y.U. spoke enthusiastically about the tremendous boost that the addition of a Rosh Yeshiva of such stature would give the Yeshiva. Following confirmation of these rumors during the summer break, Rav Soloveitchik's arrival was awaited with eager anticipation. As Rabbi

Lamm put it, "It simply means the accretion of a great Gaon to our faculty of Ramim, the addition of a man known as a brilliant and first-rate Rosh Yeshiva. It adds to the strength of the

the part of the *Talmidim*."

Born in Haslovitz, White Russia, the young Rav Aaron Soloveitchik was tutored by private teachers, including the famed Rav Yitzchak Hutner z"l. His father, Rav Moshe Soloveitchik z"l, emigrated to the U.S. in 1929 to serve as Rosh Ha Yeshiva of Y.U., and the rest of the family followed in 1930, several months after Rav Aaron Soloveitchik's Bar-Mitzva. Despite his young age, he was immediately admitted to his father's shiur, and subsequent to his father's death in 1941, he attended the shirurim of his brother, the Rav, shlita. In 1940, Rav Soloveitchik received both his B.A. from Yeshiva College, and semicha from RIETS. He later earned a law degree from New York University Law School.

He first taught at Yeshivas Tiferes Yerushalayim, and later served as Rosh Yeshiva at

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Yeshiva, and holds promise of even greater *Harbatsas Hatorah* (dissemination of the Torah), *Limud Hatorah* (learning of the Torah), *Hasmada* (diligence), and *Havahna* (understanding) on

Cover-Charge Chaos

By Eric Fier

Dayanim stands at the microphone with an air of self-assuredness. He points a finger towards the man wilting in the kitchen. Accusing him of being too cowardly to announce it himself, the sophomore class president says the general manager is ousting them from the restaurant. An evening at Lou G. Siegel's begins to end.

The idea was conceived over the summer: a night of comedy and magic complemented by fine dining at one of New York's most elegant Kosher restaurants. The date was set, the locale determined, even a limited menu was defined. Reservations were placed at five dollars a piece. To Behnam Dayanim, Thursday September 18 was to mark the first in a long line of successful sophomore class events. To Lou G. Siegel's, it marked their first time such a travesty has taken place.

The guests began to arrive shortly before nine. By 9:30, over 200 YC and Stern students filled the lower level of the thirty-eighth street establishment. Originally expecting between one hundred and one hundred forty people, the management was forced to set up additional tables and to resear a portion of their non-YU patrons. For the student council, the evening was shaping

up to be a financial success; within hours Siegel's was to lose six to eight hundred dollars.

The class officers soon sensed impending troubles. General Manager Miles Scherr informed Dayanim of a \$12.50 minimum — a sandwich/dessert/beverage platter to be purchased by all the guests. The method of payment was also news to Dayanim: a lump sum of money was to be paid to the restaurant; "We're not going to issue two hundred separate checks," the manager explained. Accordint to Dayanim, this reflected two breaches of their verbal contact.

"There was no misunderstanding. I made clear to Eddie Scherr (the owner) over the summer that we would have nothing to do with the food aspect of the event beyond establishing a low-cost menu from which the

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Business School First Step

By Jeff Goldberg

In the past year commemorating a century of higher education, both secular and Judaic, graduate and undergraduate, after having educated approximately thirty thousand students during its lifetime, Yeshiva University announced publicly that it will be establishing an additional department in the coming year. The new business school will fill a void in Yeshiva's curriculum and enhance many of the current programs, including accounting. In addition, it will silence all further requests and demands by current and prospective students for such a program. Dr. Brenner stated that because there had been no genuine business department, dozens of students had declined to attend Yeshiva. Furthermore, the business school will hopefully "attract a larger number and

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EDITORIALS

The Golden Land

In Pursuit of Excellence

"We must have a sense of contentment in our work and a sense of dissatisfaction with our results." Just as Rabbi Lamm expressed this sentiment to the Executive Council on Wednesday, September 24, so too, we at the COMMENTATOR feel this is applicable to our philosophy. The COMMENTATOR has been and will be critical of departments and policies which affect the standards of the school. This is not through a maliciousness of spirit, but is done with intent to positively influence the quality of this institution. If we did not practice this seemingly harsh approach, we would be failing in our task as the students' spokesman, and in our endeavors to better the school and ourselves.

In the same way, Rabbi Lamm both praised and criticized the Executive Council for its efforts in the past year. The essence of his address was that the year showed an overall success, but was not, and could never be perfect.

In the forthcoming year many of Yeshiva's schools, as a result of Rabbi Lamm's urging, will be staging symposia and lectures in areas such as "Education of the Jewish Woman" and the "Interaction of Judaism with other cultures." Other examples of the University's commitment to improvement are the new micro-computer lab at Stern, the upcoming Business Program at Yeshiva College, and the determination to further advance the standard of teaching.

All of these conceptions, exemplifying Y.U.'s pursuit of excellence, also reflect the vivacity of the administration and its refusal to rest on its laurels. By keeping in mind our goals, with each working in the interest of the institution, Yeshiva can surely be carried to ever greater heights. Therefore Rabbi Lamm's wish, undoubtedly echoed by all at this University, was, "May you be granted joy, but denied peace."

Parking and Safety

We applaud the initiative of the university in providing twenty-four hour parking facilities for the students. However, the administration has seriously inconvenienced and placed at risk those students denied access to empty, on campus parking facilities in addition to the students who must park in the unguarded and distant new lot.

For the past number of years, faculty parking spaces have been made available to students overnight enabling them to entrust their property with Y.U.'s security, and more importantly, avoiding the personal dangers of the neighborhood. The reason that these lots have been, and remain closed is due to the administration's past experiences with uncooperative student parkers. The problems arose when some students failed to remove their vehicles before eight a.m., thus creating havoc in faculty parking arrangements. As a result of this situation, the administration decided to deprive the students of their parking privileges, and would not allow anyone access. This policy is indefensible. Many other universities offer parking to their students, and without ever being forced to take such an extreme measure as closing the lot, seem to deal with violators effectively. Any car which does not display the proper parking authorization is towed or ticketed, with nonpayment resulting in the withholding of transcripts. There is no reason that those same policies should not be implemented at Yeshiva, and the distant Broadway lot should only be used once the closer, guarded facilities are full. It is a crime if even one student is injured walking from Broadway & 186th or from a street parked car while there are open lots in the secured Y.U. vicinity. There can be no excuse for negligent holes in otherwise tight security.

Mazel Tov to:

Engagements:

Steve Polinsky & Lee Kombluth
Peretz Hochbaum & Lisa Gottesman
Zvi Kahane & Deena Press
David Kestenbaum & Tova Rivkin
Jack Abramowitz & Alana Ackler
David Prince & Suzanne Freund
Dov Iskowitz & Tzippi Bernstein
Roni Goldberg & Linda Cohen
Jay Klapper & Rhonda Nussbaum
Steven Brody & Suri Bashkowitz
Barry Gross & Sharon Leibowitz
Jonathan Schiff & Shari Chesner
David Azerod & Hedva Braunstein

*The Point of View
taken by the authors
is not necessarily
that of this newspaper
or the administration.*

By Daniel E. Kalef and
Benham Dayanim

An ominous atmosphere with potentially dangerous ramifications has been developing within the confines of our school, seemingly unnoticed by the vast majority of our student body. The philosophy of Yeshiva University professes a regard for its students as adults, encompassing both religious and secular spheres. By choosing to attend Yeshiva University, the student makes his own conscious commitment to Yiddishkeit. The Administration, however, by imposing regulations beyond the bounds of halacha, has stripped the student of the responsibility incumbent upon him to create a comfortable religious environment.

Many times, both this year and in the past, the Administration has ruled on matters of personal freedom without significant student involvement and input. In effect, the student body has for-

feited its right through default to determine our school atmosphere. The near impossibility of staging co-ed events on our Uptown campus is but one example of this situation. Whether one favors or opposes having such events, the choice must be that of the student body, not the Administration. Events held off-campus which do not affect those who do not attend are subject to similar restrictions. Secular music presents the same problem. To many it does not. But again we should decide.

The powers of the Administration to regulate dormitory matters such as room decoration and personal habits that do not expressly violate generally accepted halacha also exceeds the realm of equity and intrudes upon fundamental personal freedom taken for granted anywhere else. Another exceptionally volatile issue involves female participation in Yeshiva College Dramatics Society productions. Such participation within halachic guidelines should be a matter of open discussion. It is not. Finally, we feel compelled to mention the attempted Administrative dictatorial programming of

our social lives. By stopping the inter-campus van service at an arbitrarily determined hour and decreeing an early closing time for the dormitory lounges, the only secure location for students of both divisions to interact, the Administration has set a clear precedent. The school is acting as a parent, regulating where, when, and how we may socialize.

Is this an educational institution for adults or a day care center for children?

Y.U. students deserve to be treated like mature individuals, with guidance from their rebbe'im and teachers, but ultimately with the freedom to reach their own conclusions. How else can we learn to eventually assume positions of responsibility in society?

The problem of excessive Administration encroachment upon student life must be addressed forcefully and immediately. Unless students take the matter into their own hands, the situation can only worsen.

We should take heed to the advice of the Rambam to "take the golden (middle) road and avoid extremes. It is past time that Yeshiva University found that middle road.

The Commentator

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Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

The first few weeks of the semester under the best of circumstances are a trying, even harrowing time, for the Dean of Yeshiva College. Under the extraordinary circumstances which resulted from Dean Rosenfeld's illness the potential for disaster was very real. That things went as smoothly as they did is in no small measure due to the unflinching cooperation and graciousness of my faculty colleagues. It is my pleasure to express my personal appreciation for all the help I received from colleagues too numerous to mention.

There are two people who await Dean Rosenfeld's return more eagerly than most—Mrs. Rosenfeld, to get him out of her house, and me, to get me out of his chair.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht
Associate Dean

**Have a Happy
And Healthy
New Year!**

The entire Yeshiva University community wishes Revven Rosenzark health and happiness with his wife Judy. We pray that with God's help he will overcome his recent accident.

OPINION

Some of Their Best Friends are Anti-Semites

By Peter Marcus

A cancer is spreading through the American Heartland — home of the American farmers' sorrow. The cancer is anti-semitism and the growth of the radical religious right. The victims were once proud farmers who, because of the Reagan administration's "no-policy" farm policy, have witnessed their worst nightmare: the bank auction. The American farmer, in a desperate fight to save his land, has piled up debts the size of Brazil's and Mexico's. Subsequently, the banks began to foreclose on those who could not pay. This process has turned into an avalanche of despair. Farmers have seen everything they owned and worked for disappear with the sound of a gavel.

For those who watched the farm crisis programs on television, or read about it in the newspaper, it may have seemed a far-away problem — something that wouldn't affect oneself. But, unfortunately, it does, and in the worst way.

The cries of "Jewish control", "Jewish power" and "Jewish racism" are back. The spirit of Hitler and Mein Kampf has somehow found its way to the gray skies of Nebraska and to the cold nights of Iowa. "Jewish Power" and "Jewish Control" are suddenly being discussed in small meeting houses, in old family kitchens over coffee, in general stores and in small communities. The Jews are anti-Christ, the Racist Communists and the International Bankers all rolled into one. You may laugh when you hear a young bearded farmer say that the Holocaust never happened. But it's not so funny to think that he has a stock pile of ammunition ready for the holy war: the "New Israel" (White Anglo-Saxon Americans) vs. The Children of the Devil (The American Jewish Community).

The events of the American farmer parallel those desperate days in Germany; days of economic despair, lack of hope and anger. It is hard for someone

to admit that he has failed; especially when he or she has to face his children, friends, and family. It is easier to blame someone or something else instead. That blame has easily fallen on that mysterious figure known as the "Jewish Banker." Never seen and never heard from, the radical right has told the desperate American farmer that it is the Jew that is to blame. In his state of psychological despair, the farmer slowly believes these accusations.

Slowly the news stories started to appear. A controversial Jewish radio host from Denver, Alan Berg, is gunned down in front of his home; A rash of bank robberies shed light on the New Order, a neo-Nazi group; A farmer is killed by police. After entering his home, the police find a cache of guns and ammunition, as well as hundreds of anti-semitic pamphlets books.

Small para-military camps are opening up for the purpose of training white Americans to fight the impending religious war against the Jews. A church group is under investigation by the FBI. Its leader is one of the most powerful anti-semites in America. Small groups are being connected to this church — connected by their violent hatred of the Jews. Slowly but surely, this cancer of hate spreads. But what has caused this farm crisis to get out of control? The answer is the Reagan Administration. Those of us who gladly skip to the beat of the Reagan administration see nothing wrong in President Reagan's "Rosy World of America." In this rosy world all the problems will some how go away. But some of us are aware that it is the Reagan administration that is to blame for the farmer's economic predicament. We saw through Reagan's lip-service to the American farmer; lip-service that basically said: "Hey guys, you are on your own."

Also, the Reagan administration's cavalier attitude toward the less fortunate in our society is no

secret. This attitude was largely ignored by many of the Yeshiva College voters who casted their ballots for Reagan. These "new" Republicans proudly stated their support for "dear Ronnie." In doing so, they simply ignored the economic burdens placed on a large segment of the lower class, including the American farmer.

Many of them labelled Walter Mondale's warnings during the 1984 presidential campaign as basic "democratic liberal whining." And who could blame them? Against Ronald Reagan's "Rosy World of America," Walter Mondale's reality had no chance. We allowed ourselves to forget the real picture: the sad plight of many middle and lower class Americans. We traded the problems for four more years of rosy pictures. But the problem is that the Reagan facade has begun to crumble, and we are left with many crucial problems.

Fortunately, what was once labelled, "democratic whining," has now been labelled "major problems facing our nation." The silence by many politicians and citizens to these problems has now turned into a roar for action.

But what about the damage already done? What about the problem of the farmer and the subsequent rise of anti-semitism? The cancer of anti-semitism that is spreading throughout the farm states might be put into remission if the right steps, led by concerned Senators and Congressman, are taken now. But more importantly, Reagan's rosy world of America must also come to an end.

It is also time to rethink our own political values for the upcoming elections in 1986, and realize that a dose of Democratic reality is worth more than all the rosy pictures Ronald Reagan wants to paint for us. For in the end, the rosy pictures eventually appear as they are: a facade. Otherwise, the Jewish community must face alone the cancer spreading through America's heartland.

"Maayana Shel Torah" (The wellspings of Torah) and printed his father's work, "Shaare Olam."

Rav Alpert zt"l, though, did not confine himself to the four walls of the Beit Midrash. He was deeply involved in philanthropic and educational organizations, founding and serving as president of P'eylim" from 1953. He was president of the United Jewish Council for the East Side and liason with the Educational Alliance as well as belonging to Ezras Torah and Chinuch Atzmai.

Yet he remains more than a list of achievements. To quote Rabbi Charlop: "He was a man of integrity who was loved by all of his students and colleagues." Indeed, he worked his way into the hearts of all of his students, whether they were destined for smicha or not. I was in his shiur during the last year of his life and saw his decline, yet I

could not accept the inevitable; he was ingrained in my life to a depth I did not understand. Before I knew it, my chance to become closer to him was gone, and I was shattered. I, and all who had been touched in any way by his life, grieved his passing, a grief of exquisite sharpness. He had fought his illness nobly and courageously, and all who knew him felt the guilt that they might have done more, worked a little harder.

My writing is unfortunately localized as I knew Rav Alpert only from his shiur; I am certain that those who had known him longer have their own memories of his greatness, his courage, his personality. The following poem was written amid the flames of personal loss. Others eulogized him with more eloquence, knowledge and ability than I have, but I felt compelled to echo their grief with my grief for my Rebbe.

"I'm sorry he passed away this morning."
Gone. Goodbye.
That saint in coat and beard,
Teaching a class who didn't hear.
Always trying to get his message across;
Not personally—he was not such a man—
But by example, his walk teaching more than the Talmud,
His smile etched forever in his eyes.
Always there teaching his students.
His food for Purim.
His uncomplaining lot.
How he must have suffered.
I didn't see him before he left—
I'll never see him now.
He always showed—in any weather—from the Rockaways,
His class didn't—from across the street.
He never gave up; now he is beaten.
Crying now. Goodbye.
Rebbe.

"You made no effort to attend the funeral?"
How could I explain.
Chronicles of wasted time.
How can I see him now—whom I did not in life?
Let me remember him as I knew him,
Without the righteous grief of friends;
Without the competing eulogies;
Without the sighs of those who never knew him;
Without that proud remembrance of Rockaways—
"He was OURS!"
He was mine—I did not see it.

I make no speeches;
My eulogy is my shame.
He lost his son—a youth—his sun.
He lost his health.
He lost his future.
And still he taught—till he could no longer.
How many did I miss—I cannot count.
To skip one is to lose a world;
I lost a universe!
He worked to the hospital,
And I could not see him.
How sorry I am.
He loved our visits—I could not even give that.
Would I might ask forgiveness.
I tried before—and halted.
This giant should not be bothered by me.
Now it is too late.
His racking cough is over.
His pain with it.
As he leaves for a world of Sabbath.
A student like me can blemish him.
G-d, may my life be a moment to him!
Let me appreciate him now!
Oh! The wasted time!
Remember me with mercy.
Goodbye.
Rebbe.

Rav Alpert, zt"l, My Rebbe

By Jonathan Katzauer

On May 26 of this year, the 17th of Iyar, Yeshiva University and the greater Jewish community donned its collective sackcloth and mourned the passing of Rav Nissan Alpert zt"l, at the age of 58. He was a man commanding the respect and admiration of all, as Rosh Yeshiva of Y.U., community Rabbi, author, student of Rav Moshe Feinstein, and Rebbe.

Born on December 15 1927,

in Polonka, Lithuania, Rav Alpert arrived in America in 1940 at the age of 12. He was ordained as a Rabbi by Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and worked as Rosh Yeshiva of Mesivta Tiferet Jerusalem. He served for 27 years as Rabbi of Congregation Chevra Bechurim B'nai Menashe Ahavas Achim and for five as Rabbi of Agudath Israel of Long Island. He was a posek (halakhic authority) with the union of Orthodox Rabbis of United States

and Canada, and addressed general conventions of Agudath Israel. In 1967, Rav Alpert joined the faculty of RIETS and served as a Rosh Yeshiva until his death. He was also Rosh Kollel of the Kollel L'Horaah.

His authorship was prodigious, with hundreds of documents, papers and responsa on Talmud and Halacha. He authored the "Meiri: Bava Metziah," edited the English translation of Alexander Friedman's

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NEWS

Changing of the Guard

By: Ari Levitan

Almost rivalling Buckingham Palace for frequency, Yeshiva University has changed its guard a number of times this summer. Out was the ancient regime of Wells Fargo, followed closely by Guardsmark, until Burns International proved able to hold the job.

After one year of service, Wells Fargo was relieved of duty, as it was felt that they were unresponsive to the college's needs. In addition, with an employment turnover of between one hundred and three hundred percent, the training of guards was substandard. Therefore, Guardsmark was selected.

This company survived the summer and then surrendered its post due to a hitch in the contract. The essence of the problem was that security was responsible for providing several shuttle services, including the ever popular run to 34th street. However, Guardsmark experienced insurance difficulties and thus could not fulfill that obligation. Mr. F. Vasta, Director of Safety and

Security, said that Yeshiva University had tried in every possible way to correct the problem, but did not succeed.

So Burns International Security Services entered the scene, and with unusual efficiency has exemplified security. All of the employees must complete a comprehensive test and are then assigned roles deemed most appropriate for them. As an additional service, Burns currently provides on-site supervision to check the positioning of guards. In the future, the guards will be



"cross-trained" by Yeshiva University to allow flexibility in station manning, providing substitutes.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, thus students are advised to report the presence of strangers in the dormitories and to safeguard against theft by locking their doors. If a fire extinguisher is not full, that too should be reported to security. The number to contact is 960-5221 during office hours, or 960-5200 at any other time. Finally, "toaster-oven raids coming soon!"

Students Cut-Off in Phone Dispute

By Roni Leibowitz

When students on the newly renovated and furnished 4th floor of Riets arrived at YU this semester, they ordered telephone service from NY Telephone as did students in the other residence halls.

However, they did not receive telephone service until three weeks later. The delay was the result of a dispute between the YU administration and NY Telephone. Most students were dismayed that neither side made any effort to explain why there were no phones on the fourth floor.

Mr. Aryeh Furst, Director of Project Planning, explained the problem. Last December, when YU began to renovate the southern wing of the floor, they invited NY Tel to pre-wire the floor and the rooms. In this way, the wires could run through the walls instead of being exposed. NY Tel refused, asserting that they would wire each room to the main telephone box on the floor as students ordered their telephones. Furst said that "NY Tel is known to do a messy job" and did not want them to wire the newly renovated rooms. Therefore, YU installed telephone jacks themselves, with a wire running through the hall.

When students moved in last spring, the telephone company connected one thick 25 pair cable around the hall with the individual rooms connecting in along the way. Students had phone service and there were no problems.

Thus when YU renovated the northern wing this summer they again installed jacks, assuming that the same arrangement would be made. After students ordered their phone service, the telephone company came to connect the main telephone box to the individual rooms. However, this time they had two complaints. The first was that they would only connect their wires to YU's through a special D-switch. If any future problems arose on the lines, the D-switches would indicate whose wires had the problem so that they would not have to service wires. They even refused to turn on phones on the southern wing, claiming that they would now have to install the D-switches even though phone service had previously been provided on the southern wing. (An installer mistakenly told some students that YU had broken federal regulations by hooking their wires in to NY Tel's. In actuality, it was the phone company that had made the connection.)

The phone company also refused to install the 25-pair wire unless YU paid an installation fee which Furst said would cost thousands of dollars. Alternatively, the phone company could install each student's connection

with a single wire. This would be aesthetically displeasing, as on the 3rd floor, where approximately 15 wires run along the hallway. Additionally, each student would have to pay an installation fee.

On Friday, September 12 Furst met with representatives of NY Telephone, and an agreement was made. YU would grant the phone company the right to the wires and to maintain them, obviating the need for the costly D-switches. The phone company also agreed to install the 25-pair cable free of charge. Tom Faber, a manager at NY Tel, corroborated the terms of the agreement.

Furst emphasized the fact that in past years, the first student to have a phone in a particular room had to pay an installation fee. Students on the fourth floor of Riets will not have to pay this fee because YU installed the jacks.

Throughout the ordeal, students on the floor were frustrated; they did not have phones and neither the phone company nor YU told them why. Student response to the situation was mixed. Stuart Klammer, dorm counselor, complained that students should have been kept informed by either the phone company or the administration. Jason Ruchlamer, a student on the floor, was upset that "it dragged out so long and that we were completely uninformed." However, students still appreciated saving approximately sixty dollars for installation. As one student put it, "If it (the wait) saved me sixty bucks, I'm quite happy."

Exchange and Mart in Morg

Yeshiva University students returned to school bereft of a college landmark. Morg Mart, purveyor of late-night confectionery since 1980, by appointment to Student Council, had its license revoked by higher authorities. This bastion of all-night study sessions has fallen prey to the proponents of centralized candy stores.

Morg Mart, privately owned by Ari Jacobowitz, became a haven of relaxation for students after a long day's work. It pioneered private enterprise on campus, paying a small rent to the Student Council for the use of Morgenstern's basement.

Suddenly, the status quo was disturbed. Ari Furst, director of project planning, and Jerry Barbalatt, Yeshiva College Student Council president, were looking for more storage space and saw the potential of Morg Mart's area. Furst contacted Dr. Nulman, Dean of Students, who apparently was not aware, after six years of operations, that the Mart was privately owned. Instantly, Furst declared that Mr. Jacobowitz had "no right" to operate a pri-

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vate business on campus—no "contract" existed. Indeed, he could not understand how the Mart had opened in the first place. At once it was seen that the Mart was "wasting" valuable hitherto unused space, as it was commercial for only three hours per day. Therefore, said Dr. Nulman, "it was not in the best interest of the students to have a fellow student own and operate a private business using student related space."

Adding weight to his words, a plan evolved to use the room not for storage, which had started the uproar, but as a student lounge equipped with video games and open 10 hours a day. However, what would become of Morg Mart—it is not a Yeshiva policy to close a profit — making business?

In a meeting between Dr. Nulman, Mr. Barbalatt, Mr. Yitz Jacobowitz, the current owner, and Mr. Rosenberg, it was agreed that the Mart did not hamper the sales of the cafeteria's "late night" operation. Mr. Rosenberg did not wish to run the Mart, but Jerry Barbalatt, as a service to the student body, did. Thus a "way out" was seen for Mr. Jacobowitz: The old area would become not a storage place, but a lounge; he would be the profit — keeping "manager" of the Mart, paying the student council a rent 33% greater than previously, for less space. The Morg Mart was moved to a smaller adjoining room.

But even so, the Mart could not open. The room which it was now supposed to occupy had not been cleaned out, meaning that when Mr. Jacobowitz arrived to undertake the move, he had to pay his workers, personally, for a day of idling. During the first week the room was cleaned out, but in order to secure the room against theft, bars and locks had to be added. Despite Student Council and Mr. Jacobowitz splitting the fee for the installment, the uncomplicated maneuver could not be completed for a further two weeks.

Thus it is without undue haste that the Mart may now be announced — "re-opened."

Revel Recognition

By Tali Rosenberg

On September 23, 1986, the U.S. postage stamp honoring Dr. Bernard Revel, the first president of Yeshiva University, was issued by the U.S. Postal Service. The ceremony took place at 11:00 a.m. in the Koch Auditorium at Stern College for Women.

The stamp, of denomination one dollar, is part of the "Great American Series." It is the ninth stamp of that series issued in 1986, and the thirty-fifth stamp in the series overall. The stamp is the first in the series honoring a Talmudic scholar.

Dr. Revel, president of Yeshiva University for twenty-five years until his death in 1940, embodied and applied the philosophy of "Torah UMadah"—Torah and general knowledge—which has become the unique symbol of this institution, combining a liberal arts program with Jewish studies. In addition, he developed a school of higher Jewish learning known now as the Bernard Revel Graduate School. Therefore, it is just recognition that he, and his ideals, be honored on the centennial anniversary of his creation by his appearance in the "Great American" philatelic series.

This ceremony was just one of many which will highlight the University's centennial anniversary this year. Among the guest speakers was Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the University, William T. Johnstone, Assistant Postmaster General, and



Representative Charles E. Schumer of the 17th district (Staten Island and Lower Manhattan).

John M. Nolan, Field Division General Manager and Postmaster for the New York City Division of the Postal Service, presided over the ceremony. Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice-President of the University, introduced members of the University's Boards and other friends of the institution. Student government leaders also participated in this ceremony: Stacey Alevy, president of the Stern College Student Council, delivered the invocation, and Jerry Barbalatt, president of the Yeshiva College Student Council, recited the benediction.

Cont. from Page 1

guests could order. He agreed." Dayanim continued, "I told him if there was a problem regarding an insufficient number of dinner orders, we would work out an agreeable financial settlement at the end of the evening. Once again he agreed."

In the first of several announcements to the shuffling crowd Dayanim reluctantly informed them of the mandatory plating arrangement, an understanding established, according to Miles Scherr, since the outset of the agreement. "We said that one person from each table would

collect \$12.50 from each member of their party," said Scherr. Dayanim argues that it wasn't until they arrived that night that they were told of the head count/tabulation method of payment. He describes a Wednesday afternoon phone call from Jerry Scherr. Scherr expressed distinct concern, he explained, over guests coming for the show and not ordering. "This," says Dayanim, "points to the blatancy of a change in terms. Had we actually originally agreed upon a head count method of billing, whether people would order would not have been a worry of his. It seems he panicked and

strayed from the terms of our understanding."

Responding to the crowd's unsettling reaction, Dayanim proposed a new plan. "People who want to eat can stay;" he suggested, "and those who don't can leave and come back at eleven for the show." It was at this point that the management threw their hands up in disgust. "It reached the point," explained the younger Scherr, "that when he said to go to J2 and come back later — and one hundred fifty people left while fifty stayed — we said to leave."

Their best laid plans went awry. After several unnameable

verbal exchanges between the class officers and the management, Dayanim and the remnants of his confused and angry crew of two hundred departed, leaving Siegel's with one hundred ten prepared, untouched deli platters, later to be donated.

The resentment on both sides is deeply rooted. Both feel the situation could have been remedied had the other been willing to compromise. Jerry Barbalatt, YCSC President explained, "Had they simply handled the check situation as we have in the past at all other restaurants (issuing one check per table), the evening could have

gone on as planned. We were more than willing to reach a settlement over any prepared platters not consumed at the end of the evening."

"It's a sympathetic situation were in," said Scherr. "The YU — Siegel's relationship has been great for years . . . we wanted to help them anyway we could. But it wasn't organized on Dayanim's end. He decided to go to the mike and make us out to be the worst people possible. Antagonizing us and stirring the guests was not the way to handle the situation."

Outside the restaurant the majority of the ejected would-be patrons congregated. Some came with the intention of eating dinner, others simply expecting dessert. Still others, as the management feared, came solely for the show. The evening appeared to be a disappointment for all parties involved. Nonetheless, Dayanim's cloud had an orange lining. Within the hour, more than half the guests enjoyed the comedy and magic of Todd Charles in Stern's Orange Lounge. Refreshments left most of the students with a sweeter taste as the evening came to a close. It was a night both the Sophomore officers and Lou G. Siegel's are eager to quickly forget, yet it's unlikely that either will.

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Making Y.U. A Better Place to Live

By David Bogner

For those of us who are returning to the uptown campus for the second, third or fifth consecutive year, the past month has been punctuated at regular intervals by revelations of change. As unsettling as it may be for the chronic complainers among us to admit, most of the changes are for the better.

Take for example the new tinted and insulated windows in the Rubin dorm; Not only will the rooms remain within shouting distance of the proper climate for human habitation, but they are also sealed so as not to screech sweet nothings to the rooms' occupants at the slightest hint of wind outside.

Looking at Rubin from the grassy area in front, one is bound to notice two things: a) that the building has gotten a facelift, and b) that a guard will promptly chase you off of the grass. The brickface it seems will further help to insulate the building and at the same time, it doesn't look half bad. The grass is a bit harder to explain. For those of you who are into the aesthetics of having a real college campus, complete with grass and tree(s), you already know what's going on. But for the middle class who last year used the infant grass for everything from the north Dallas forty to the St. Louis bullpen, a lecture is in order.

New grass, whether from seed or sod, is as fragile as Alaskan tundra. Regardless of how healthy it looks, it takes a while before the foot system is deep enough to be able to bounce back from the kind of punishment that ball playing and short-cutting can dish out. Anyone who saw the way the grass looked after one semester last year should find any semblance of an argument lying dead on his tongue.

Residents of 'the Morgue' and RIETS (now Muss Hall) will be

happy to note that they are the recipients of less obvious but nevertheless long overdue improvements. To begin with nearly the entire fourth floor of Muss Hall has been renovated to accommodate the unprecedented flood of new students. New furniture and a fresh coat of paint are among the new additions.

In Morgenstern, students will be happy to note that the three year process of replacing all the old mattresses with new internal coil models has been complete. Less apparent but just as important is the work which has gone into the shower rooms in the Morgue. Yes, I hear all you Rubin residents shouting, "what about us?" My only reply to you is what I got from Mr. Blazer, Head of Facilities Management: Work

delay. Incidentally, when I first set out in search of information about what has been done recently around the uptown campus, I was lucky enough to land in the lap of Mr. Jacob Blazer, head of Facilities Management, rather early on. Facilities Management (formerly Buildings and Grounds) is one of the few offices on campus which runs with a sense of organized purpose rather than with bureaucratic lethargy. I'm confident that many of the returnees can vouch for the efficiency with which their requests for repair work have been expedited.

Since Mr. Blazer's personal philosophy seems to dictate dealing with problems immediately as they arise (much like his office), I was able to speak to him without an appointment.

Mr. Blazer, while seated at his desk gave me a walking tour of the many planned and progressing improvements of which many of the students are unaware.

To begin with, the area between the science building and the Rubin dorm will begin its transformation into the Tenzer Gardens this month. This area will include benches, foliage, and a fountain, and is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of summer (if not sooner).

The Schottenstein Center (the old Soloveitchik Building) is in phase one of its internal restructuring. This is to include the establishment of a new home for the student theater as well as the Belz School of Music. The second phase will include the construction of a student center within the building.

This past summer countless other repair and beautification projects were completed adding up to a habitable, even inviting collegiate atmosphere.

I am aware that there are those students who feel that too much time and money is spent on surface appearances and public relations and not nearly enough on quality of student life and education. My reply to you is that these two, very real needs must go hand in hand. Unfortunately the seemingly trivial touches like flowers and banners are much more easily noticed than the steady growth of faculty and available courses of study.

Lastly, I hope the campus and especially the dorms, which for many of us serve as home eight months out of the year, will not fall prey to vandalism and selfish acts of stupidity. It would be a shame to lower what is rapidly becoming a desirable place to live, and in so doing, make extra work for the one office at Yeshiva which is on call for our need literally twenty four hours a day.



Sprucing Up the Park

Fort Tryon Park, called the "Jewel of Washington Heights," will celebrate its 51st Anniversary Sunday, October 19 will be a full day of cleanup, entertainment, tours, dancing and fun for all, beginning at the Margaret Corbin Traffic Circle park entrance at the head of Fort Washington Avenue.

The purpose of the celebration is to increase public awareness of the Park's natural beauty as well as to involve the community in its constructive use.

Morning activities will feature registration at 11:00 a.m. with local dignitary "hosts" Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Dr. Madeline Pelner Cosman, Congressman

Weiss and others for a "Bags for Bucks" Park Cleanup Effort. Corporations have been asked to donate a certain amount of money to the Park for each cubic yard of litter cleaned up. A lively "Countdown will take place at 2:00 p.m. to total the amount collected.

Entertainment during the Cleanup will include the Mother Cabrini High School Band, Ponce Twirlers, Morris Dancers and Dale Smith's Unicorn Singers.

Community experts and Park rangers will lead walking tours of the Park commencing at 2:30, with country dancing and children's activities also scheduled for that hour.

A raffle drawing at the Traffic Circle will conclude festivities at 4:00 p.m.

Should it rain, this event will be rescheduled to October 26.

Dean Rosenfeld Recuperates

By Josh Fruchter

The absence of Dean Norman Rosenfeld has been deeply felt by all at Yeshiva University. The Commentator recently spoke with Assistant Dean Michael Hecht in response to student concern about the details of Dean Rosenfeld's illness.

Dean Rosenfeld contracted an intestinal disorder known as diverticulitis. The subsequent treatment required two abdominal operations which were, Baruch Hashem, completely successful. The nature of the surgery

necessitated plenty of bed rest which precluded the Dean from discharging his duties at the University. Presently, Dean Rosenfeld is enjoying a speedy recovery and visits the school for a few hours each week. In fact, on September 16, Deans Rosenfeld and Hecht had lunch together, presumably to discuss upcoming strategy. As Dean Hecht assured us, "Dean Rosenfeld will soon return as his old, cantankerous self."

May Dean Rosenfeld have a quick recovery.



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Kudos for Orientation '86

By Ozi Glass

A quick glance at the elaborately prepared, yet somehow familiar program which was presented to the incoming class at orientation on Tuesday, September 2 would not reveal any spectacular novelties. However, although many of the activities and sessions were identical to those of previous orientations, orientation '86 exceeded the limits of triviality, proving itself to be thoughtful, helpful and innovative.

ily alter long established programs. At Yeshiva, however, the program did introduce several innovations, such as the President's Reception as well as the Student Council Forum, both overwhelmingly successful. Another innovative program was the Academic Advisors forum, with leading academic figures at Yeshiva presenting perspectives on their disciplines, which was designed to help students select a course of study, major or career. Interestingly, David Fel-

"students got involved with other students, beginning a relationship that continues throughout their years at Yeshiva. We tried to convey the educational mission of Yeshiva University to the students in a tangible way. We wanted to get away from the image of orientation just being a registrarial experience. We wanted to move it in the direction of people beginning to think about their future; what they're here for and what they're interested in."

By David Bugner

Every beginning is hard. To a five year old the blind terror associated with the beginning of school is a feeling which will remain unparalleled for the rest of his life. From that point on, any new start will be shared by classmates. Even if the child's family picks up and moves to a new community, it doesn't feel quite so bad to start fresh if one's siblings and parents will share in the apprehension. The freshman year of college is a rite of passage which includes little of the dread of more formal days. Why is it then that transfer students have such a rough time of it? This is a question which I feel duly qualified to address having fought my way tooth and nail through this very transition just one short (read: endless) year ago.

To begin with every transfer student to whom I spoke gave a heart rending variation on the theme of, "I should have gotten it in writing. Next time . . ." It is a small consolation to me to find out that I was not the only trusting soul. This institution is very worthwhile and I have come to sincerely believe that a student can find almost anything he wants here. But the recruiting techniques used by some of the highest level administrators would make a used car salesman blush.

Once the reality of where one stands has washed over the initial expectations, the next hurdle is finding a path through the various offices. I have been tempted to publish a road map for the novice listing the many pitfalls and hazards but a small, smug voice within me asks, "Why should anyone be deprived of such good exercise?"

I found that if there is a mensh

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in each office and you are lucky enough to stumble upon him or her, then life can get very simple in a hurry. I had this good fortune in the Student Finance office, as well as in the JSS office. Unfortunately, the Registrar's office and that of the Dean make me sweat just thinking about the effort which I expended there.

Granted, each transfer student has his own particular difficulty, and in the past week of speaking with some of these new (and not so new) arrivals several typical categories began to take shape in my mind:

The Cold Shoulder: This category is common not only to the transfer student but also to those entering freshmen who come from the Diaspora (outside of New York and New Jersey). Typical symptoms include initial lack of involvement in school functions due to being uninformed, and a chronic lack of places to go for Shabbat and Chagim. Thank G-d I was spared from the ravages of this plight by a small handful of wonderful people, but I can't help but hear the mute frustration of those who are "In" every Shabbat and who seem always to be on the periphery of things when there is fun to be had. A simple cure would be for some of the local students and upper classmen to make the effort to seek out the new faces in the crowd and make them familiar.

The Blank Stare: This malady

can be traced back to the university desk jockey (*bifocul inep-tus*). There is little or no germination period for this one and the suffering begins immediately. Usually the first signs of discomfort begin when someone from the personnel office looks at you as though you are the very first person in the world who has ever applied for a parking space. Normally a rash will develop from being handed from one person to another and the final stages can include abrasions from the big brush-off. Recommended medi-



cations include the establishment of a clear avenue for recourse for "unsolvable" problems in every office, and a purge and laying on of leeches to reduce the unnecessary swelling of untrained office staff. Granted the disorganization makes those students returning from Israel feel at home, but I personally would settle for falafel with my lunch and a recess from classes between two and four.

In My Old School, They . . . This unfortunately is a plague which transfer students tend to bring upon their own houses. As different and eclectic as the various systems here may seem to the newcomer, they do work to some extent. I'm sure no administrator enjoys hearing how quickly one could register for courses at East Overshoe University, and very few students like hearing about how luxurious the dorms were at Muskogee Tech. Yet within almost every transfer student there seems to exist a need to show his new school and schoolmates that he has come from "Somewhere" and did not simply drop from a dull blue sky.

All in all, Yeshiva University offers the potential (and terminal) transfer student a great deal in the way of a quality secular and religious education, as well as a

comfortable (if not one-tracked) social environment. I would really like to see the school go the extra few yards to make a good impression on transfer students. In the long run it will be up to the individual student to make the most of his stay here, but to make a new beginning here at Yeshiva unpleasant or even traumatic would be to reduce a thinking adult to the age of five. For this there can be no excuse.

Have You Been Academically Advised?

By J. Katzauer

"Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more;

Or choose the wall up with our English dead!" With these words the Shakespearean Henry V encouraged his troops to attack the French fortress of Harfleur. Things have not changed much. Whenever I approach Furst 024 at the beginning of a semester, my senses quiver with the same nervous anticipation that those warriors of old must have known. I quietly consult my plan of strategies and launch my charge at the imposing defence of computer consoles and the constant changing of responsibility ("No, who told you that? You need Dr. and authorization from Dean"). Imaginably, the collective rush of some seven hundred Y.C. students is awe-inspiring, and one might expect it to meet with resounding success, but, every semester it flounders on the registrar's barricades. Why is this so?

The answer lies not with the computer defense, for that could yet be used to aid the students, and surely not with the Office of the Registrar, for those hardworking people are most obliging in catering to the students' needs. The real barrier lies in trying to define those needs.

Many students, especially incoming freshmen, have only the weapon of their major in hand, with which to do battle. Undeclared majors simply take whatever courses that catch their un-concerned eyes, not realizing that they have just closed some unfortunate colleagues out of a major requirement. Those students who have their major have a more serious problem, they must work out a schedule for their needs.

The one school department that can define and arrange those necessities is that of Student Academic Advisement. It is probably an unfamiliar name to most students and mythical to others—heard of but never seen. Essentially, for those students seeking advice, there is precious little to be had.

There is one exception to this, however; foreign students, specifically those registering in Israel will receive excellent counseling. When I registered there, Mr. Ken Wagner, no longer with Y.U., charted for me my entire first year's schedule, and did the same for everyone else there too.

Here, at the hub of this institution, things are a little different. If one wished to find out which courses to take—and assuming that one had stopped in at the advisement office—one would be referred to the head of that academic department in which one was majoring. This would furnish the student with a list of his requirements. Now a problem arises: Where can the freshman

work out a schedule? After much gallivanting around the school, he will probably be approached by an upperclassman and watch his problems disappear. For the more advanced student, one who has already found most of the problems, the enemy is more hidden. With one year till graduation, he will find that a major course, offered only once every two years, was taught last year.

Of course, the problem is not over yet. As anyone who took the trouble to use it must know, the Undergraduate Catalog is two years out-of-date. Times change. So do requirements. A remarkable number of Poli-Sci majors have changed their registration because the requirements have been modified since that manual was printed. Many other majors also have revised requirements, and students will find that courses necessary in 1983 are no longer available in 1986.

Merely to state problems is not sufficient, one must get to the root of them: Why is there no academic advisement at Yeshiva University? This, the administration assures us, is a good question. The immediate response is that no students bothered asking for advice and therefore, as in evolution, it fell casualty to time. However, there is an obvious need for it, so it must be insisted that this reply does not sound like the whole truth. Indeed, it is not.

"We do share responsibility in the problem" is admitted. This reveals that there exists a conflict of interests between the Dean and the Dean of students involving an overlap in responsibilities and dealings, which in turn has affected budgeting. Since money runs an institution, the advisement office might be seen sympathetically as a victim. As such the administration is "looking to significantly improve; working to improve the structure." One hopes it will come in our time.

For those unfamiliar with the workings of the Accounting Society, its seniors and officers take it upon themselves to approach all lower-classmen and those satisfying electives with the offer of guidance and, if necessary, tutoring. It is hardly surprising, then, that those approached often participate in the society for the duration of their stay at Y.U., and that they, in turn, offer help to later students. Thus, all accounting majors start their courses efficiently through college.

If those rather simple improvements are effected, there could remain no excuse for students running around like headless chickens frantically hoping for some savior. There will be a little more order at registration; and if duplicate classes could be held in basic courses for majors and non-majors, the end of people being closed out of their required courses will be at hand.



work out a tentative schedule for their tenure in the college. This would also relieve some of the pressure on the Registrar's office during critical times, such as registration. This relatively simple improvement would only require that a few people in the department be informed of all that is planned in courses given, and that the Undergraduate Catalog be updated annually.

Blaming only the department of Academic Advisement is unfair, though, for they are not alone in responsibility. Some complaints should be levelled at the academic societies. For with the sole exception of the Accounting Society, which not coincidentally is the most active and accomplished in the school, no societies aid in any way the guidance of freshmen. Would it be so hard to follow the Accounting Society in this? How can the student feel if he participates in society activities and then discovers his graduation is delayed because of unfulfilled requirements?

For those unfamiliar with the workings of the Accounting Society, its seniors and officers take it upon themselves to approach all lower-classmen and those satisfying electives with the offer of guidance and, if necessary, tutoring. It is hardly surprising, then, that those approached often participate in the society for the duration of their stay at Y.U., and that they, in turn, offer help to later students. Thus, all accounting majors start their courses efficiently through college.

If those rather simple improvements are effected, there could remain no excuse for students running around like headless chickens frantically hoping for some savior. There will be a little more order at registration; and if duplicate classes could be held in basic courses for majors and non-majors, the end of people being closed out of their required courses will be at hand.

By Jonathan Reis

Most people will readily admit that encouraging students to take a year off their university studies to learn full-time at an Israeli Yeshiva has contributed, over the years, to a changing atmosphere in Y.U. Students learning in Israel have generally returned with a strengthened commitment towards Torah study and observance, influencing their own approach towards Y.U. life and ultimately affecting the entire Y.U. environment.

For example, each year more and more students establish

"night seders" (set periods for Torah study) in the Y.U. Beis Medrash to maximize their learning opportunities. Many students who did not have "night seders" before going to Israel introduce them upon their return. Others, who devoted many hours to learning nightly in the Beis Midrash even before departing to Israel return to Y.U. with a renewed learning vigor and more acute analytical skills. Younger students, inspired by the example of these highly serious and committed older students have become more prone to emulating

them, hence precipitating their own Torah growth.

Besides "night seder," the enthusiasm towards learning and ideals generated by students returning from Israel manifests itself in the morning and afternoon as well, and permeates all areas of Y.U. life. Students look forward to strengthening their own commitments throughout a year of intensive Torah study in Israel and almost invariably find the experience to be as fulfilling and meaningful as they had anticipated.

In recent years, many students became so enthralled with their

Israel experiences that they decided to stay in Israel for a second year before returning to Y.U. These fellows who return after two or sometimes even three years of undivided Torah learning have become such inspirational forces on campus that now the question is not whether the student will study in Israel at all but rather, whether he will stay two or "only one" year.

When students do come back to Y.U. after a two year hiatus, the Israel learning experience is such an integral part of their being that they are concerned not about readjusting to the Y.U. atmosphere but rather about recon-

ciling their environment with the philosophies they developed in Israel. These dedicated students together with other students who have similarly internalized the values and ideals of a full-time Yeshiva atmosphere, have become philosophical symbols of Y.U., of the fusion between the intensive Torah learning of a Yeshiva and the secular emphasis of a University. They have learned and helped others to learn how to accompany Torah learning with a secular education without sacrificing a Torah atmosphere in the process.

A junior who has just returned from two years of study in the

The Challenge: Israel to YU

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Yeshivas Chaim Berlin, then headed by his former teacher, Rav Hutner, z"l. In 1960, he was appointed Rosh Yeshiva at Y.U., and taught here for six years. For some time, Rav Soloveitchik maintained a schedule that required him to teach at Y.U., Yeshivas Chaim Berline, and the Moriah synagogue. In 1966, Rav Soloveitchik accepted the position of Rosh HaYeshiva at the Hebrew Theological College in Skokie, Illinois, and served in that capacity for eight years. He also acted as the spiritual leader of the Hapoel Hamizrachi Center synagogue for several years. In 1974, Rav Soloveitchik founded Yeshivas

Brisk in Chicago, where he still serves as Rosh HaYeshiva.

Considering his many years spent learning and teaching in Y.U., Rav Soloveitchik by no means returns to Y.U. a stranger. Rabbi Lamm commented: "There's an element of nostalgia. It's a return home of a son of the Yeshiva. Rav Aaron Soloveitchik is a musmach of the Yeshiva, and in many ways he represents what we stand for. And he gave shiurim here — he was enormously popular during the years he gave shiurim at Yeshiva. And now some twenty years later, he returns to us." Rav Soloveitchik himself confirms this sentiment: "I told someone, when I came in last week for the first time, and he showed me this building and that building — that didn't exist

twenty years ago, that I still don't feel like *Choni Hama'agal*. *Choni Hama'agal*, after he woke up from his sleep of seventy years, felt lost and lonely. However, even though I see many new things, buildings that didn't exist twenty years ago, I don't feel lonely, because I feel at home." He paused, and continued with a laugh: "Why? Because I didn't sleep through the last twenty years!"

Rav Soloveitchik's arrival takes on special significance in light of a family tradition of teaching in Y.U. As Rabbi Charlop pointed out, "We have had the lineage of Brisk in person as well as in Derech (methodology) especially entrenched in this Yeshiva for fifty-seven years . . . We're fortunate that we're able to continue this family trad-

ition through this person and in the measure of *lomdus* that he brings."

This unique tradition manifests itself in Rav Soloveitchik's shiur as well. Many of the definitions and interpretations offered in the shiur involve explanations transmitted by word of mouth from Rav Soloveitchik's father z"l and grandfather. Rav Chaim Soloveitchik, z"l. Rav Soloveitchik stressed the value of this oral tradition: "I think it's very important to continue the chain of tradition in learning. When you just learn from a sefer, you don't see the continuity so much. But when you mention 'I heard from my father', or 'he heard it from Rav Chaim', then it's descriptive of a continuity of learning and of thinking."

The shiur constitutes much

more than a "dry" lecture for Rav Soloveitchik. Students noted that his face seems to "light up" as he begins shiur, and when he occasionally interjects a joke into shiur, and laughs, it seems to be part of the fabric of the shiur, a reflection of the joy he experiences while teaching the Gemora. At mention of this, Rav Soloveitchik modestly laughed: "Why, the other Rebbeim don't appear to enjoy giving a shiur?", and continued with a smile: "I appear to enjoy shiur — I'm not going to argue over that. After all, the Gemora says: *Yoser m'sheha'eggel rotseh lenok, hapora rotsa lehanik* (Even more that the calf wants to suckle, the cow wants to nurse) — so I follow the Gemora. This is a psychological principle, that a *pora* is *rotsa lehanik*. I'm a *pora* — and I'm *rotsa lehanik*!"

Students learn from their Rebbe not only the Gemora taught in shiur, but also the conduct, character, and midos required of a Ben Torah, much of which is instilled through the Rebbe's personal example. Rabbi Blau commented on some of the unique qualities of Rav Soloveitchik: "Rav Aaron is a soft-spoken individual in many ways, and yet he's a person of tremendous commitment to principle. He has very clear standards that he adheres to, without allowing political considerations to interfere. He is committed to the values of the Yeshiva. He himself has a secular education . . . He has a tremendous love for Eretz Yisroel . . . never in the sense of compromising to modern society, but as part of his religious commitment. He has tremendous personal courage . . . and he analyzes everything through a halachic perspective."

Rav Soloveitchik also possesses a high degree of sensitivity to his students, as reflected in his explanation of why he prefers to read all the Gemora himself: "At one time, I followed that approach (of calling on students to read), but I decided it's better this way. First of all, sometimes the boy is not prepared, and I have to explain the Gemora, so there is a lot of time wasted. Why should the boys who are prepared suffer because of the boys who didn't prepare? — it wouldn't be fair. Another reason — sometimes you embarrass the boy if you tell him to read and he's not prepared."

At present, Rav Soloveitchik teaches two shiurim a week in Y.U., and Rabbi Charlop expressed the hope that he will be able to give three weekly Gemora shiurim after the Sukkos break. Rav Soloveitchik however, asserted that he has no plans for shiurim either in the community or in Yeshiva in addition to the Gemora shiurim, owing to his extremely hectic schedule. He continues to give shiurim in Yeshivas Brisk, and must cope with the flight to and from New York. In addition, he has recently begun a series of monthly lec-

QUESTION #2

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The right choice.

By Ozi Glass

On Wednesday, January 2, 1963, the Commentator ran a front page article announcing the formation of the Yeshiva Senate and Executive Council. According to this article, the body was instituted to "aid in the formulation of recommendations to the President concerning educational policy and other University affairs." At the time, the powers, duties, and privileges of the University Senate and the Executive Council were determined by the President of Yeshiva University, who was, ex officio, member of all committees.

On September 12, 1985, over 20 years since the Senate's establishment, Yeshiva College Senate called to order the first meeting of 1985-86. Many changes had taken place over those twenty years, and indeed most of the student representatives had not even been born when the Commentator ran its first article on the Y.C. Senate. The success of such an organization is often judged by comparing it with its predecessors, though this type of evaluation is not always just. Although it is agreed that while the Senate does not play the monumental role it did in the early '70s, Senators will insist that the Senate is still an integral part of student life at Y.U. And when one considers the never-ending torment of complaints voiced by students concerning University policy, it is hard to deny that the Senate should be able to find an area in which it can benefit the student body, plus build its self-image.

The Senates of years past, especially those of the famous "Glory Years," were more than just successful. However, this is probably only because they debated issues on which they could succeed. The "Glory Years" presented many things that needed to be changed—so debates yielded results. Many students feel that the Senate should concentrate on solving existing

Learning to Write Right

By Joseph Richter

Agonizing over your art report? Perspiring over a poli-sci paper? Crushed in comp and rhetoric? Well for those who agonize at the thought of putting pen to paper, there is relief. In room 202 of Furst Hall, a beneficial service is about to open its doors to the students of Yeshiva College. The Writing Center will function as a place where any student, regardless of his writing ability, may receive tutoring to improve his writing skill.

How will it be run? The Writing Center, under the supervision of Dr. Richard Nochimson and Mrs. Lorie Hartman, is begin-

problems instead of creating new ones. And since few ground-breaking issues are left, it is easy to criticize the Senate.

In view of this, one may ask what the job of the Senate is now—in 1986? Its major function is reviewing what has been done in the past, making amendments and policy changes where necessary. Again, although this might not seem to be ground-breaking, monumental work, it is something which must be done in any university. The process of taking old policy and revising it—acting as a joint student-faculty-administration body to review issues—keeps them alive and up to date.

"... one may ask what the job of the Senate is now — in 1986."

Technically, the Senate has little power, since its decisions can be vetoed in the long run—by faculty or the President. However, according to former Senate Secretary Peretz Hochbaum, "The power the Senate has is in its integrity. If the Senate is looked upon and the faculty—working towards a common goal including setting academic standards and improving student life—then our recommendations will be taken seriously." The Senators feel that if they themselves do not take the Senate seriously, students will not take the Senate seriously, and if students do not take it seriously, teachers will not, etc.—and then their recommendations would be laughed at.

As presented, the specific job of the Senate will always be different as it changes with the times. Keeping this in mind, the past year's Senate took upon itself to approach a myriad of various topics. According to the recorded minutes of their first meeting the following were dis-

puted in a period of nine months. By the end of the summer vacation, the students' level of writing will often revert to the level of their lower or upper freshman year.

The formation of the Writing Center is long overdue. Writing centers in colleges began in the sixties, spread in the seventies, and is now finally coming to Yeshiva College. The Writing Center is confident that it will not only improve the students' writing skills, but will also be able to expand its facilities to include other forms of instruction, such as books, computers, and more. But the Writing Center cannot be successful without student participation. Qualified students are needed as tutors to help run the center. Perhaps, most important, the Writing Center can only help

cussed as possible future agenda topics.

1. Failure to take exams: Tentative Grades
2. English Composition: 2 terms? Advanced?
3. Grading Changes: AB: A-, A+
4. Quality of Instruction
5. Cheating Penalties
6. Bachelor's thesis
7. Student input in calendar: Reading week, graduation
8. Pre-Med/Pre-Engineering, Physics
9. Valedictory address

Not surprisingly, last year's Senate had several major accomplishments to boast about. Perhaps the most accomplished issue acted upon was the proposal for a Y.U. Writing Center. This center has been established to address several needs found lacking in the University. It will serve to help students write better in beginning and advanced courses in all fields as well as to supplement the composition course for students who suffer from poor preparation. In addition, the center, which will be located on the 2nd floor of Furst Hall, will help students with special problems (such as ESL, learning disabilities, etc.) This will also help students whose interests and skills motivate them to pursue writing at advanced levels. Although the administration had been talking about such a center for a while, it was the Senate that did the convincing survey.

Another new policy involved tentative grades. The Senate's proposal was to make a university-wide policy to benefit both the students and the teachers. This policy is intended to put an end to the constant mockery of the Y.U. grading system, so prospective Y.U. students will not be intimidated because of what "they have heard."

Issues which have yet to be considered include: the GRE's—are the students prepared well enough for them? Should the punishment for cheating and

plagiarism be more severe to deter people or should it be lessened so teachers will not be afraid to enforce it? Should our grading system be changed? How should make-up exams be administered? Again, these issues may have been discussed in the past, but the Senate feels they need revision every few years.

Although the Senate is an ideal way for students to voice their ideas, recent years' Senates have been criticized for the lack of student awareness. Since communication with the student body is imperative it is obvious that this is one aspect of the Y.C. Senate which needs improvement. "The way to improve it is to be more tenacious about it. This past year's Senate is a lot better than it was. What we need now is more student input and student involvement. We did not do enough this past year," criticized Hochbaum. Although it posted the minutes several times and had a couple of articles in the Commentator, the Senate must become more aggressive if it is to survive. Mrs. Rebecca Stearns, a faculty member on the Y.C. Senate for several years, agreed with Mr. Hochbaum. She pointed out that the purpose of the Senate is for student input. Students must learn that this is the perfect plan for the students to voice their grievances and concerns to the Senators.

The Senators to whom students can turn this year include three who are returning from last year: Daniel Feit, Dave Feldan, and Ronnie Rosenberg, and three who are just beginning their terms: Jeff Remer, Adam Klein and Mark Saks. Faculty Senators represent different academic areas: Drs. L. Bernstein and

Business School

Cont. from Page 1

greater variety of students, and at the same time broaden the education of those currently attending Yeshiva."

Substantial financial backing provided by such philanthropists as Mr. Sy Syms, will help insure the program's quality and success. "Top-notch" business personnel will be hired to complement the present staff and produce a business atmosphere conducive to learning the techniques of business. The department will have a separate dean, himself a member of high standing in the business world. A prospective dean is involved in negotiations, but his identity has yet to be dis-

students who show a need for it. If students do not recognize what the Writing Center has to offer, they will lose their chance to make paper writing a less tortuous and more enjoyable experience. For more information please see Dr. Nochimson in F513 or Mrs. Hartman in F202.

Sykes—Jewish studies, Mrs. Stearns and Dr. Lee—the humanities, Mrs. Dobkin and Dr. Breban—the sciences, and Drs. Bevan and Colchamiro—the social sciences. Members of the administration include Dr. Egon Brenner, Ms. Judy Paikin from admissions, Rabbi Israel Miller, Dean Rosenfeld, and Mr. Pinhas Friendenberg from the registrar's office. The first meeting was planned for Thursday, October 2.

All in all, the future of the Y.C. Senate looks more than hopeful. Last year, the Senate did not have a definitive role and was losing face in sight of the Senates of past. However, because the student senators have worked hard to gain the respect of the teachers and students and, thereby, have given the Senate a new identity and meaning—there is hope for the future. The improvements will come once the students take advantage of it. Supposedly, the administration is sitting there waiting to hear; but if nothing is coming from the students, everyone just sits back and assumes all is going well. "It is going well, and we have accomplished a lot," said Mrs. Stearns, "but I do not know what it is going to take to make the students realize there is a PLAN there. I am not putting the blame on them. If there is any blame, it is that the faculty or administrators have not alerted the students; or if they have, the students have not picked upon it."

The Senate does not guarantee that if students bring in their gripes they are going to get their every wish fulfilled. It does, however, promise to express their interests before the faculty and administration. Recent accomplishments, such as the Writing Center, demonstrate what can be accomplished when the student, faculty, and administration work together.

closed: Dr. Brenner, however, did acknowledge that this person has immeasurable experience and knowledge to impart to the staff and students.

The business school will be, for the time being, on an undergraduate level only, offering a Bachelor of Science in specific areas of business, in addition to a general major. Courses in the business department will be coordinated with current Yeshiva offerings. Non-business majors, too, will have the liberty to participate in these classes. In addition, courses in other departments will be added to provide a business aspect in some fields. In computers, for example, management information and data processing courses will be added, in addition to other similar classes.

The new school will also have offices in Stern College for Women. Here the department will be housed in the newly refurbished fourth floor of Belfer (science hall). Predictions are that the new business school will, in the future, surpass accounting as the most sought after discipline.

Do Computers Byte?

By Benham Dayanim

One day I looked at the calendar and saw that, lo!, I had only ten days until my political science term paper was due! So I said to myself, "What is the quickest way that I can type my paper and get it out of the way so I can study for my nine finals coming up over the next two weeks?" I answered, "Why not use that miracle of modern technology, the word processor, you fool?" "But where can I find one?" I asked plaintively. "At the Mendel Gottesman-Pollack Yeshiva University Undergraduate Library on Amsterdam Avenue and West 185th Street, of course!" "But I don't even know how to use a computer, much less a word processor!" I protested. "Don't be such an archaic, anti-progressive, reactionary fool, Benham!" I shouted. "It's easy, trust me."

Well, let me tell you, life does not imitate art! It was a pure and unmitigated disaster! No matter what I did, I couldn't get the darn thing to print across the entire page! It kept on leaving words in stray places all by themselves on a line and ending in the middle of the sheet. I tell you, I called in literally handfuls of self-styled experts over a period of days and none could give me the answer! Oh, they gave me THEIR answers! But, strangely enough, none of them worked! My life reached a new low. But I had finals to worry about, and I had already wasted enough time on this god forsaken machine. So I left.

Next day, after a night of little sleep and a morning of two grueling finals (all during the self-proclaimed reading week—ah, the hypocrisies of title! But that is another story.) I decided to have one more go at it before throwing in the towel and doing what I was beginning to believe I should have done in the first place, hauling out the old clackety-clack uneraseable Smith-Corona and setting to work. Anyway, you guessed it, it still didn't work. Well, being the strong-willed, determined guy that I am, I decided to cry for help in the tiny hope that someone could deliver me from my dilemma. Ever hear of the story of the three wishes? Where a man got three wishes yet didn't phrase them carefully enough and somehow had them twisted from his original intent by the cold, cruel hand of fate? Well, being the poor, lost, vagabond soul that I had become, that happened to me. I found someone who could tell me what was wrong, and he did, but the catch was, in order to fix it, I had to type the whole damn thing over again!

Well, needless to say, I gave up and went back to the dark, drab room where my typewriter lay waiting as if to say, "I told you you'd come back, you're a technological illiterate!" And that's the story of my odyssey with the Apple computer. Yes, I may be an anti-progressive, reactionary, computer paranoiac, but at least I am no longer a fool. Post-scriptum: Due to an extreme case of computer anxiety, Mr. Dayanim made a solemn vow never again to approach a word processor for any serious purpose. And true to his word, to this day (I D.A.—Day After) he hasn't stepped near that terrifying corner of the Mendel Gottesman/Pollack Undergraduate Library on Amsterdam Avenue and West 185th Street known as the Computer's Lair. And to this day, Apples #1, 2, and 3, along with their accompanying word processors lay waiting and laughing.

Because of the broad spectrum of people represented at Yeshiva University, it is only logical that there is wide divergency of opinions regarding the summer and the inevitable new school year that follows. Certain students dread the summer with its accompanying absence from school and spend summertime reminiscing about the good ol' times while anxiously awaiting the onset of the new year. (These people have subsequently been placed in Bellevue for preliminary examination.) Others exultingly greet the summer with great euphoria, forgetting about Yeshiva University the second they leave its confines. This second group spends the vacation trying to forget that a school train awaits them at the end of the summer tunnel. The remainder of students fall somewhere in the vast territory separating these two reactions.

In my staff position at Y.U.'s finest secular newspaper (excluding Compu-Sci Speaks and W.Y.U.R.'s publication of course), I felt a professional obligation to fully investigate students' feelings on this important subject. Thus, when school ended last June, I packed up my pad, paper and toothbrush and began my journey across the continent seeking out undergraduates willing to discuss their views on a new school year. The prevalent reactions to my probing questions can be summarized in two separate statements: 1) A menacing, "Don't talk to me about school!" and 2) **!!*!!*!!!

By mid-August, I was exhausted from spending too many nights in cheap motels and parks across the country to reinforce my misery, though, some toothless vagabond had just stolen my toothbrush. I was prepared to admit failure and submit to the Commentator aphiosophic treatise on North America's trans-city bus stations instead of my anticipated article, when I received a greatly appreciated visit from Lady Luck. She unexpectedly turned up in an otherwise undistinguished Key Food supermarket in a Miami suburb where I was shopping for my supper. Stopping in the frozen foods section, I reached for some Empire Chicken Nuggets when I suddenly froze. On the other side of the freezer next to the Breyer's ice cream, a mother and son duo were in the midst of a heated argument. I listened attentively to the combatants.

"No way, Ma. I'm not going back for another year. I just can't take it anymore."

"That may be true but your father and I have decided that it's in your best interests to continue there. And since we pay the bills,

you don't have much choice in the matter."

"Ma, you just don't understand what it's like to go there. How would you enjoy being woken up at 3:30 every morning by a phantom ice cream truck that plays the same music over and over again? I'm telling you the whole place is haunted. Late at night, a trio of food ghosts pace the corridors of the dorms. There's no escaping the Egg on Roll Lady and her oft-confused two cousins, the Deli in the Dorm Devil and the Dairy in the Dorm Guy. They stalk the halls tempting everyone with lovely visions of food."

"Stop talking nonsense, son. Your father and I want you to have the best education possible, and . . ."

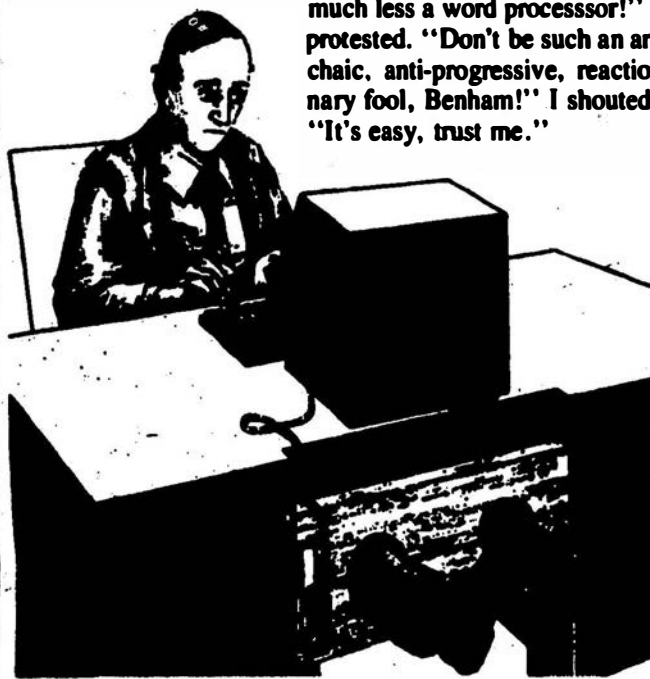
"Education? Huh! That's a joke. Yes, I'm getting a great education—I'm learning all about Puerto Rican family life, drugs and how to dodge cars while crossing the street. And as for classes, I can skip off the whole year, get somebody's mesorah notes and still get an A. Is that the kind of education you want me to get?!"

"Well, I've never heard about that. All I know is that you'll be able to get into almost any graduate school you want coming from such a prestigious university. And besides, you meet such a wide variety of people there."

"Ya, that's right. Every day I'm accosted by forty seven different guys holding paper cups saying 'Zei Gezunt, thank you, have a good night.' In the morning I get a guy grunting at me, selling me candles, kippot and other sought-after objects. And I can't forget Tom Landry; in between practices with the Cowboys, he flies up to New York where he sells wine for some side money. Then there's the husband and wife team in front of the school who voice their philosophical views on a plethora of subjects and whose only shelter from the weather is a thin piece of plastic wrapped around their mouths. And last, but certainly not least, I occasionally meet the multi-talented messiah who is not only an expert in gematria, but can predict World Series winners too. Yes, I must say, I do get to meet an interesting group of people."

"Oh, stop being so cynical. There have to be certain things you like about the school."

"Ya, well, uh, I guess there are a couple things. I have a great dorm counsellor who I turn to whenever I have any problem. After ten o'clock every night you know he will never leave his room. It's a great security feeling



So swallowing all my fears and doubts and determined to prove once and for all that I was not anti-progressive or reactionary, I went to the library and reserved some computer time. Perhaps I wasn't anti-progressive, and maybe I proved that I wasn't reactionary, but certainly I was a bigger fool than ever! At first everything went fine. Learning how to use the computer was easy and the word processor, surprise! looked easy too. So, silently congratulating myself on such a wise course of action, I set to work. May the Lord banish such smugness from the faces of all mankind forevermore, Amen!

Having finished typing the first two paragraphs of my paper and purchasing my first computer diskette, a Maxwell, for \$1.50, I decided to test what I had written on the printer itself. Filled with the utmost anticipation at seeing my work in computer print for the first time, I pushed all the buttons and waited for the magic to unfold, silently thanking all the geniuses at Apple who made it all possible. Sounds great, doesn't it? Like some fairy-tale ending in storybook; you know, good guy (that's me) comes in first, gets "A" on paper and girl and all.

Nutrasweet's Bitter Truth

By Zvi Dresdner

There appears to be a cloud of mystery surrounding the sugar substitute Nutrasweet. Added to dry foods since 1981, and having replaced Saccharin in Coke since 1983, Nutrasweet has been hailed as the perfect artificial sweetener. With the previously used saccharin, we at least knew what we were dealing with: a proven carcinogen, the warning on soda bottles informed us that with every sip, we increased our chances of getting cancer. With aspartame (Nutrasweet's chemical name) we only find G.D. Searle and Company's (the manufacturer) assurance that "Nutrasweet couldn't be made without nature." Many basic questions concerning aspartame need to be answered. What is it made of? How does it relate to our body functions? A little investigation reveals that all is not so Kosher with Nutrasweet. Controversy has surrounded the drug since its discovery in 1965 and, for some reason, the press has not adequately reported this to the public.

Created by a scientist working for Searle, aspartame is a synthetic protein made up of amino acids aspartate and phenylalanine. While these two amino acids do occur naturally in proteins, they are never found in this combination. The aspartate is removed from various proteins, the phenylalanine is removed from other proteins, and they are mixed in the laboratory. In the body, these two amino acids become involved in the brain's chemistry, a science still not understood. Scientists have not conclusively found out how and what these chemicals accomplish, but they are concerned with what side-effects this unnatural and relatively pure dosage will have on the brain.

G.D. Searle and Co. conducted studies with rats and mice claiming to have discovered no significant results, petitioned the Food and Drug Administration in 1973 for approval of aspartame as an additive to dry foods. The FDA approved the drug a year later, but before it reached the general market, the approval was withheld due to objections made by Dr. John Olney, a neuropathologist at Washington University Medical School. He had three allegations: Firstly, phenylalanine causes mental retardation in children with the disease PKU (a PKU warning is currently given on all products containing Nutrasweet). Secondly, Dr. Olney claimed that aspartate in combination with Monosodium Glutamate (M.S.G.—Accent flavor enhancer) has been shown to cause brain lesions. Thirdly, Olney cited an experiment where all the

mice in the control group were healthy, but 4% of the mice in the group given aspartame developed brain tumors.

Searle did counter Dr. Olney's protests, but the FDA commissioner was not satisfied. A board of Inquiry consisting of three scientists was established to listen to both sides of the case and give a recommendation on aspartame's approval.

Before the Board could convene, however, questions arose contesting the credibility of all Searle aspartame studies. An FDA inspection team discovered that Searle laboratories had cheated on their experiments and lied in the results reported to the FDA. In fact, a former Searle lab technician gave a statement supporting the allegations. Subsequently, a Searle official "visited" the technician in his new place of employment, and, shortly thereafter, he recanted his statement. The director of the tests refused, through his attorney, to comment. Eventually, the company was forced by the FDA to hire a group of independent pathologists and have the tests revalidated. Finally, in 1980, the board of inquiry was able to convene.

The board concluded that Dr. Olney's experiments with aspartate and MSG were not conclusive because comparable doses would never be consumed by people. His results noting the high rate of brain tumors, however, troubled the board members and they recommended that approval be withheld pending further studies.

Auther Hayes Jr., the newly appointed FDA commissioner at the time, was faced with his first major decision, a decision which would affect a potentially lucrative business. Using the option to disregard the Board's recommendation, on July 15, 1981, the FDA approved aspartame as a sugar-substitute in dry foods. Permission to use aspartame in beverages was consequently given, and in August 1983 the Coca-Cola Company announced that aspartame would be added to its soft-drinks.

This decision opened a new chapter in the Nutrasweet controversy. All tests until then had been done on the effects of dry aspartame; aspartame in solution had never been studied.

Dr. Richard Wurtman of MIT, a noted expert of brain chemistry, is one of the scientists supportive of the FDA's approval of aspartame in dry foods. When approval was granted for its addition into beverages, however, Dr. Wurtman protested. His position is based on a series of experiments dealing with aspartame and carbohydrates in solution.

Protein supplies the body with

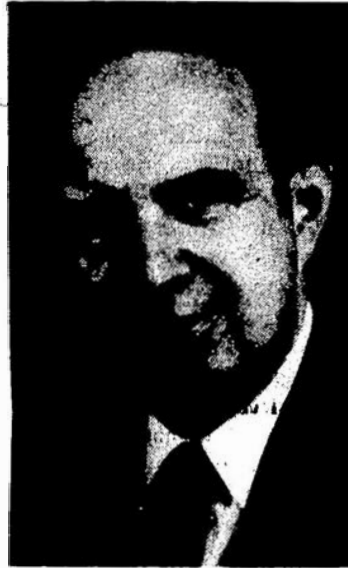
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The World of Business

Views of a Veteran

by Jonathan Silber

Yeshiva's business program has grown considerably during the past decade. A business school at Yeshiva is no longer a dream, but a pipeline reality. It seems appropriate, therefore, to devote a column in this paper to business subjects. This is the first article in a series that will have two objectives: 1) to provide profiles of leading figures in the business and financial world and 2) to familiarize you with the theories and practices of business and finance.



Professional traders in large financial institutions are always looking for an edge, the slightest advantage to help them predict which way prices of stocks and bonds will go. When the name Henry Kaufman appears on the ticker tape, just about everything else takes a back seat. Anyone interested in making the right decision about whether to buy or sell pays attention to Dr. Kaufman's latest statements.

Henry Kaufman's prominence on the financial scene extends beyond his formal position as Chief Economist and Member of the Executive Committee at Salomon Brothers, Inc., one of the leading investment banking firms in the United States. Dr. Kaufman is known worldwide for his keen analysis of financial markets in general, his concern for the fragility of the economy, his wise counsel regarding the dangers of inflation, and the overall accuracy of his forecasts and predictions.

In addition to Henry Kaufman's public profile, his responsibilities within the firm of Salomon Bros. are considerable. He must objectively analyze financial market data while taking into account the profit maximizing interests of the firm, a dual task that few economists today assume. Dr. Kaufman says that his training as an economist has

helped him carry out his responsibility as a member of senior management by helping him "gain an overview of the entire financial system and the linkage of the 'real world'—the business world—to the financial markets." In Dr. Kaufman's own words, "My training as an economist helps me keep my feet on the ground."

Conflicts that might arise between his views as economist and executive are also not a problem, says Dr. Kaufman. He has the opportunity to express his views "as objectively as possible, even though it might not benefit the immediate vested interests of the firm." Dr. Kaufman feels that "in the long run, that freedom has benefitted the firm, rather than hurt it."

How did Henry Kaufman get to where he is today? He received an M.S. in finance from Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. in banking and finance from New York University Graduate School of Business. His work experience spans the public and private sectors. He began his successful professional career at the Peoples Industrial Bank in New York City. He left commercial banking in 1957 to join the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as an economist. He has been at Salomon Brothers since 1962.

Dr. Kaufman has some special advice for undergraduates. He says that a graduate degree is extremely helpful today, probably more so than when he first started his own education. Graduate school is important because, "The business world and the financial markets are far more complex and more international in scope. There are many technical aspects that just didn't exist four or five decades ago." Dr. Kaufman was quick to add that "this doesn't mean that an individual with an undergraduate degree can't be successful. It is just a very helpful door opener to have a graduate degree."

Henry Kaufman has developed a number of strong beliefs about the economy. Early in his career he was not aware of the "inflexibility" of fiscal policy. Dr. Kaufman says that as his career has developed, he has realized "the importance of a highly responsive monetary policy." Monetary and fiscal refer to two specific tools of the government: fiscal policy focuses on tax and expenditures of the government while monetary powers include the regulation of the money sup-

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Challenge
Cont. from Page 9

more mature and positive outlook on things which concur with the Torah outlook on life, like Nahum Ish Gamzu of the Talmud who would always say 'this is also good.'" Moshe insists that "I definitely view my Israeli experience as a separate experience from Y.U. It is not as if I took another course or another program, but on the other hand," Moshe notes, "one could easily continue from Israel to Y.U. and not feel any contradiction between them." Although students perceive the Israel experience as necessarily independent of Y.U., they seem to agree that the experience also enables students to better appreciate Y.U. ideals. Students who initially view Y.U. as simply another institution of academic drudgery to escape from, return from a meaningful year in Israel with a fresh, more positive outlook towards an environment which strives to synthesize a Yeshiva atmosphere with secular studies.

Elliot Rothschild, who spent two years learning at Beis Midrash L'Torah in Jerusalem, candidly concedes that "I would not have returned to Y.U. if not for Israel." He explains that learning in Israel impresses upon people the importance of learning Torah. Israel enabled him to develop his love of learning, and to arrive at the notion that secular

studies must always be subordinate to his Torah learning. "Rather than studying quotes from Beowulf and the Canterbury Tales, I prefer to be studying quotes of Ravina and Rav Ashi (the compilers of the Talmud)" he states.

Kenny Waxman, back after two years of study at Gush Etzion, where Rav Aharon Lichtenstein — a major proponent of the Torah U'mada philosophy — is Rosh Yeshiva, points out that the Israel experience must be isolated from the Y.U. experience because "otherwise it would not be what it is — a dedication to a single objective. Without that singular experience people would not be able to approach the dual situation appropriately." In fact, asserts Waxman, "the experience in Israel made me less skeptical about Torah U'mada. I recognized its validity. I thought about it a bit. Most people do not learn to appreciate the Y.U. philosophy while at Y.U. because whenever one is doing something it is difficult to consider it objectively until you first go outside of the framework."

Stepping outside of the Y.U. framework to learn in Israel not only enables students to strengthen their bonds towards Torah and Judaism but also seems to have imparted to students a greater appreciation of the Yeshiva philosophy. Returning from Israel, students previously absorbed within Yeshiva Univer-

sity come back to become Yeshiva University and help define its ideals for all of us.

A Lighter Look
Cont. from Page 12

knowing that he's always there. And I'm in constant awe of the lunch cashier's speed. Before I get to the soft drinks she's already rung up the price."

"And I suppose you can't find any other advantages."

"Well, I have to admit the academic advisement is quite good. You meet with your faculty adviser on a regular basis and he helps you greatly in choosing courses."

"Do you have anything else to say?"

"Yes. I'm not going back to Florida State. I want to go to Y.U."

The mother and son then move on to the canned vegetable section while I stood there frozen. After a couple of minutes, I regained my composure, paid for the chicken nuggets and left. After that experience, I went back home and attempted no more interviewing.

One final word. Next time any of you think of knocking Y.U., remember that camels can survive on very little water.



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New York City
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Veteran's View
Cont. from Page 13

ply and interest rates by the Federal Reserve to influence credit conditions. Dr. Kaufman feels that monetary policy "can react and influence more quickly than fiscal policy, since the latter requires formal legislation."

Dr. Kaufman has often expressed concern over the fragility of our credit based economy. When asked about the possibility of a renewed bout of economic depression, Dr. Kaufman replied, "Forecasting a depression from an analytical viewpoint is extremely difficult. I always felt that the odds against depression were something like this: in 1960—1000 to 1, in 1970—100 to 1 and in 1980—10 to 1. Although there are still sizable odds against a depression, the margin for error has diminished and we have less leeway for mistakes. Although we cannot escape the fact that the quality of credit is diminishing and that the national debt is growing more rapidly than the Gross National Product, there are too many differences between today's society and that of the 1920s, the decade prior to the

Great Depression. We know more about the economy now than we did in the '20s and governmental policy is more responsive." Therefore, Henry Kaufman says, "If we impose some new discipline on our financial institutions, we can avoid significant economic contraction."

Yeshiva University recognized Dr. Kaufman's contributions when it awarded him an honorary degree last June. I asked Dr. Kaufman whether after receiving so many prestigious awards in the past, the degree bestowed upon him by Yeshiva is different from the others he has received. He replied, "The degree was a marriage of my religious and cultural background with my business and academic achievements. Therefore, the award I got from Yeshiva is distinctive . . . with an emotional content that I couldn't have gotten from any other university." Yeshiva could not have picked a better role model for undergraduates when it chose to bestow an honorary degree on Dr. Kaufman.

Y.U. Macs

Cont. from Page 16

who stands at an intimidating 6'7", Benjy Reichel, Zev Weiss, and Danny Levy, all of whom are solid players who can be relied upon to perform in clutch situations.

The backcourt, however, provides a different picture. The graduation of Joey Eaves and Ronnie Schwartz, easily the best guard tandem in the Independent Athletic Conference (IAC) during the last few years, forced the coaches to look very closely for guards who could step right in and contribute. Although replacements for Eaves and Schwartz are not easy to find, a number of solid prospects made the team. Jeff Baum, a junior, and Yudi Teichman, who recently returned from a year in Israel, should provide some of the talent which the backcourt has lost. In addition, Marty Shlakman and Menachem Goldstein will be solid backups by the time the season begins.

However, the season begins in only "50 hours," according to Coach Jonathan Halpert, who claims that "that is all the practice time we have before the season starts." This limited amount of practice time, and the fact that the coaches have to work around the holiday break, will make inexperience an even greater factor in the first few games, starting with the season opener at Bard on November 23rd. However, by the time IAC play begins, the

team should pull together and be playing as well as the stronger Y.U. teams of the past few years.

The '86-'87 season should be an interesting one for the Y.U. basketball fan who will see a very competitive Maccabee team stocked with depth and talent. In addition, the institution by the NCAA of the 3-pt. field goal will open games up and make the Macs even more exciting. Anyone who thinks that the "new Macs" cannot match up to last year's team has not heard the famous adage, "success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration," and Coach Halpert's Macs are certainly sweating hard.

Intramurals . . .

Cont. from Page 16

fense of Avram Shreiber, Menachem Dietcher, Kenny Rozenberg, and Cemmie Green. Simmie Chigger, Jacob Goldstein, and Robbie Lederman will spearhead a defense that could be very tough to penetrate. Coming off a remarkable season is goalie Jeff Slepoy who should lead the Chiefs to a spot in the final.

The REBEL-RAIDERS, however, could provide a tough challenge for the Chiefs. This combined team, featuring Hillel Hyman, David Prince, Roni Goldberg, and Mark Littwin will have to play as a unit to realize its full potential. Peretz Hochbaum could be a key performer along with top defense-men Chaim Weitschner and Daniel Herenstein. In goal will be "the Duke," whose daring play can turn games around. The Rebel-Raiders are confident that they can make a run for the league title.

A surprise team this year could be the WILDCATS, who are comprised mostly of Israel returnees. Former MTA star Mike Shreiber will lead a young offense and co-captain Steve Weiss and Raider holdout Moshe Blech must play tough defense if the Wildcats are to challenge the league's top teams. Queens College transfer Daniel Rottenberg will man the nets for the 'Cats.

A fourth team, made up mostly of new players and Israel returnees, and as yet unnamed, is the mystery team of the league. The scoring punch will have to come from junior Mike Ratzker while the defensive play of Elliot Rothschild is crucial to the team's success. Former MTA goaltender David Schlessel will face plenty of pressure unless the defense can keep the puck out of the zone.

Last year's Canadians and Blazers have joined forces to form the BRUISERS. Players to watch include co-captains Paul Sutton and Moshe Adler and offensive threats Sean Carp and Uri Jacobs. In goal will be Allen Chernoff whose play may determine how far the Bruisers get in the playoffs.

The freshman team, as yet unnamed, face an uphill battle to make the playoffs in December. Offensive tri-captains Michael Olshin, Dave Shreiber and Michael Littwin should be the nucleus of the team. Michael Raskas seems to have won the starting spot in goal.

The Chiefs and Rebel-Raiders may seem the best on paper but anything can happen on game night in Tannenbaum Gym. Everyone is looking forward to another exciting Y.U.H.I.L. season in which a lot of competitive spirit and talent is sure to be displayed.

Nutrasweet

Cont. from Page 13

a varied combination of amino-acids, many competitive in gaining access to the brain. In this manner, specific chemical levels in the brain are always main-

tained. Dr. Wurtman fed rats aspartame and carbohydrate solutions equivalent to the dosage received by an eight year old child from three cans of diet soda and a sandwich. Brain amino-acids levels of tested rats were compared to levels in a glucose fed control group—amino-acid levels in tested rats were greatly altered. Some amino-acid levels increased up to 344% of control group levels; phenylalanine levels doubled.

Dr. Wurtman has not discussed any clinical effects resulting from aspartame intake, but suggests that emotional and behavioral changes might be the outcome. He does recommend that high doses of aspartame be avoided, especially by those with conditions such as high blood pressure, insomnia, Parkinson's disease, and other diseases which are known to affect amino-acid blood levels.

The real question is one that we are all facing. Should we use Nutrasweet? On one hand, the FDA has approved the drug. On the other hand, the FDA has made mistakes before (with disastrous results), and the data on aspartame side-effects is definitely worthy of suspicion. When a new drug is put on the market, the producer must prove that it does not provide any health risks; all drugs are harmful until proven otherwise. Searle's questionable data and Drs. Olney's and Wurtman's allegations have led many, including Senator Howard Metzenbaum, to question whether G.D. Searle and Co. has adequately proven that aspartame is not unhealthy. Under the senator's instruction, the General

Accounting Office has begun an investigation whose results are not yet available.

We have all partaken of Nutrasweet in one form or another. So far, no side effects have been noted. One assumption is that if aspartame is unhealthy, it would have been noted by now. Or, perhaps, drastic side effects, such as brain tumors, might take years to develop. Subtle mood and behavioral changes too, might be difficult to recognize. Should we use nutrasweet? In my opinion, it is an issue that neither the FDA nor this article can resolve. Everyone should examine the facts and make a decision for himself.

FORE!

By Curtis Rindfleish

On Wednesday, September 17th, three Y.U. students traveled north to Danbury, Connecticut to participate in a golf tournament hosted by Western Connecticut University. While there were no birdies or eagles to rave about, Yosef Isaacs (53), Curtis Rindfleish (55), and Menachem Dietcher (56) did manage to shoot some pars in this 9-hole competition. These three have no professional aspirations as far as golf is concerned but since they are the golf program at Y.U., they do hope that the team will flourish and go on to bigger and better things (as well as lower and lower scores).

Rav Aharon . . .

Cont. from Page 10

tures to an organization of Orthodox Jewish doctors in Chicago on medical halachic topics, and is scheduled to deliver the annual Teshuva lecture at Y.U. on October 8.

On behalf of the entire student body, we would like to wish Rav Soloveitchik the best of health, and hope that *Be'ezras Hashem* we will merit to partake of his wisdom for many more fruitful years to come.

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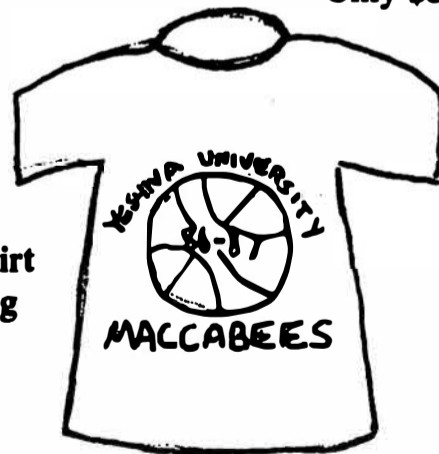
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Yeshiva Sports

The Commentator



On Sports

Sports Frenzy

By Jonathan Bandler

With the graduation last June of some of Y.U.'s top athletes in various varsity sports, many got the feeling that the exuberance displayed toward Y.U. athletics was just a one-year phenomenon, tied in some way to the school's Centennial celebration or the opening of the Max Stern Athletic Center. Well the Centennial year has continued and the MSAC still stands, and no apparent "sophomore slump" has hit the Y.U. campus. On the contrary, students are going out for varsity and intramural sports in record numbers. More than eighty students signed up for the intramural leagues in both hockey and basketball, the latter of which increased from five teams a year ago to eight teams this year.

At the varsity basketball tryouts, not only did more than twenty students show up to vie for spots on the team, but a crowd of over fifty fans went to the MSAC to simply watch the proceedings—leaving no doubt that this year's Maccabee games should match the high-pitched excitement of last year's contests. The tennis team opened tryouts in its new home in Edgewater, N.J., but there was nothing new about the popularity of this sport at Y.U. With eleven players returning from last year's roster, no more than eight or nine spots remain open. However, that didn't stop a whole wave of freshmen and Israel returnees (and a few juniors), thirty-one at last count, from trying out for the team.

It is with the soccer team, however, that I would like to concentrate my efforts, primarily because each year they are the first Y.U. team to participate in intercollegiate play, but also because their program needs the most re-

vision. For a team whose record and statistics a year ago were so poor, Coach Ruiz' soccer tryouts were very well attended this year. There is actually a simple reason for the team's performance last year: the conditions under which they practiced were pathetic. Picture Ivan Lendl preparing for a tennis tournament by playing ping pong twice a week. The soccer team goes through much the same preparation for a wide open soccer field match by practicing inside a gym like college soccer was the MISL. Scores last year were so lopsided not because of a lack of talent, but rather because of the lack of proper training, proper conditioning, and proper facilities.

That the team indeed has talent was apparent from this year's first match, a 2-0 loss at Bard College on September 21st, in which Y.U. got excellent goal-tending from David Rudnitzky and controlled the ball in the Bard zone for most of the game. That Y.U. was so in control made team members all the more upset about their practice situation. According to sweeper Eddie Geihler, "we just ran out of steam; we cannot keep practicing in a gym for outdoor soccer games." "We didn't capitalize on our opportunities because we weren't used to the dimensions of the field," said Jeff Goldberg, who added that "there's no other reason for not scoring when you're in their end for that much of the game."

Although a change in the soccer team situation seems unlikely to come about this year, it should be a primary concern of the athletic department that the team be assisted in some way so that they may be able to realize their full potential.

Y.U. Hockey

Intramurals Begin

By Mike Greenwald and Mark Litwin

The Y.U. Hockey Intramural League (YUHIL) got under way this week with six teams prepared to do battle for the league title, defended for the second straight year by the Rebels (now combined with the Raiders) who defeated the Barbarians in last spring's final. Here is a brief preview of the teams and what might be expected in this year's action.

Last spring's regular season champions, the CHIEFS, seem to have an even more potent attack with the addition of Mike Mehler to the high-scoring of-

Cont. on Page 15

By Jeffrey Lumerman

On September 15th, a new era in Y.U. basketball began as this year's tryouts got underway before a surprising number of fans at the Max Stern Athletic Center. Twenty-two students showed up to try out, some of them returning from last year's 14-9 squad and others hoping to fill the seven spots vacated by last year's graduating seniors. The loss of those players has certainly limited the Macs' team experience, but those players returning form the solid foundation of a team with depth.

The front line will be the

Costello Named Athletic Director

Dr. John

As the 1986-87 season gets under way, there is a newcomer to the athletic department who is sure to add a new dimension to the rapidly developing athletic program at Y.U. During the summer, Dr. John A. Costello was named the school's new Director of Athletics, replacing Dr. Arthur Tauber who retired this past spring after nearly forty years of affiliation with Y.U.

Dr. Costello was selected by a seven-member search committee chaired by Dr. Jonathan Halpert, Assistant Director of Athletics and men's varsity basketball coach. The selection process began in the spring with an advertisement in the New York Times to which over twenty prospective candidates replied. After reviewing these resumes, the committee interviewed seven top candidates and, according to Dr. Halpert, of those interviewed "Dr. Costello showed tremendous initiative, was extremely personable, and had a strong background in both athletics and administrative affairs."

Dr. Costello comes to Y.U. from Xavier University in New Orleans where he chaired the Health and Physical Education Department and was Director of Planning. Before moving to Louisiana in 1977, Dr. Costello taught at City College and coached men's volleyball. Originally from the New York area, he did his undergraduate work at Long Island University. Dr. Costello holds an E.D.D. degree from Columbia University, 1977, and an M.S. degree from Hunter College, 1968.

Although he held a very high position at Xavier, Dr. Costello stresses both personal and professional reasons for making the move to Yeshiva. He has many friends and family in the New York area and the position here gave him the opportunity to return not only to New York but also to the field of athletics from which he has been apart for the past few years. As much as he wanted to return to New York, however, he never expected the



Dr. John A. Costello

transition to happen so quickly. In a matter of a few days in late August, Dr. Costello concluded his job at Xavier, packed up, and moved to New York where he immediately began his work at Y.U.

The shift was so sudden that Dr. Costello, who is not Jewish, really had no chance to form any expectations of what Yeshiva would be like. He did feel that being at Yeshiva and not being Jewish would not cause any problems but rather would be a great learning experience. However, the suddenness of his arrival has made it hard for Dr. Costello "to structure things the way I'd like them to be; to be able to get my systems in place." He explains that he is an advanced planner who wants things done way before their deadline. However, by starting so close to the beginning of the semester, he has had to provide "a lot of crisis management . . . responding to the immediate needs within the department when they arise, i.e. kosher meals to soccer games and van service to practices and games."

Having met the various coaches at Y.U., Dr. Costello has learned a lot about the character of Y.U.'s athletic department. "Because almost all of them are part-time coaches, I understand the difficulty they face in terms of time constraints." However, because many of the coaches are

Y.U. graduates who themselves participated in these sports, Dr. Costello finds them to comprise an extremely dedicated coaching staff. According to him, "they're doing it because they're alumni, they love the institution, and they love that sport, so despite any hurdles they may face . . . they seem to be very committed to the program. He is hoping to meet with the coaches more often, as well as attend practices and events, to get a feel of what exactly his priorities should be.

Dr. Costello wants to find out from each coach the immediate needs of that coach's team so that he can provide for each time as they deserve. He is quick to point out, however, that each team differs in the amount of support they receive, since some sports are more costly than others. It is Dr. Costello's hope, therefore, that "no team considers itself a second-class citizen," but rather understands its place within the whole athletic department. He feels that it is his job "to provide the support for each of the teams, given the restraints under which we operate."

Dr. Costello is therefore not rushing into anything but rather is getting an overall feel of the athletic department and the university as a whole. He is learning about the day-to-day operations and seeking out the areas in which changes must be made. When an instance arises where a decision must be reached, he makes a knowledgeable one based on his grasp not only of athletics but of administrative policy as well. According to Lior Hod, co-captain of the varsity basketball team, "Dr. Costello is really professional. He's someone you can go to to get something done, while at the same time you can discuss with him why and how it should be done." The consensus, so far, is that Dr. Costello is doing a fine job of, on the one hand, getting used to his position, and on the other hand, providing strong leadership within the Y.U. athletic department.

Y.U. Macs Get Facelift



Coaches Halpert and Gurock discuss strategy at first practice

team's strength with the return of the Hod brothers, Ayal and Lior, who look as strong as ever and

should be flying high with the new collapsible rims that are expected soon. Senior Lance Hirt,

a tri-captain along with the Hods, seems much more confident with his wealth of talent. Judah Richman, unable to play last year due to a knee injury, is back in top form displaying his outstanding athletic ability. In addition, Jan Levine returns, along with Ira Liebowitz who should, once again, give the Lebo Fan Club something to cheer about.

The team's depth will be especially apparent in the front line with the arrival of a number of players 6'3" or taller. These players include David Harris,

Cont. on Page 15