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November 24, 1987

Scharansky's Fight

by Jonathan Bandler

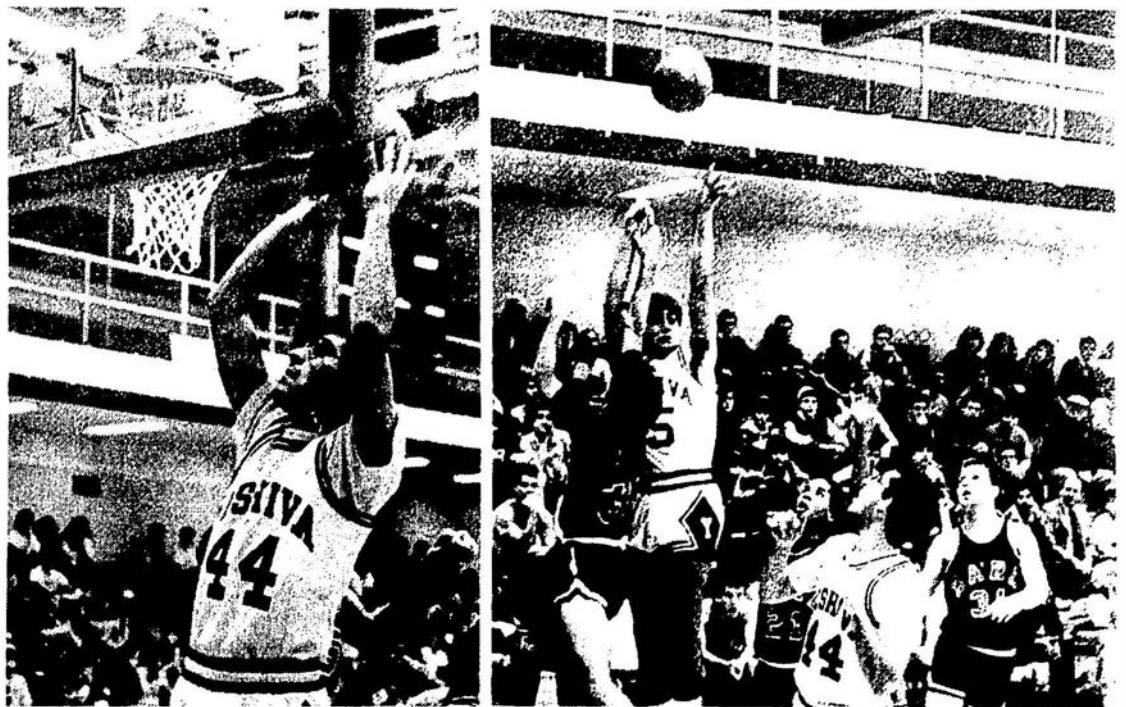
In Cleveland to begin a hectic fortnight of speaking engagements and interviews that would rival the campaigning of any politician, Natan Scharansky gave the impression of a man at the crossroads. But campaigning is exactly what he is doing during a Midwest swing to Cleveland, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Milwaukee and Columbus that will eventually lead him to Washington, D.C. on December 4th to Mikhail Gorbachev at the superpowers' summit meeting. He is campaigning to bring as many people as possible to Washington to stifle that summit and show the Soviets that thousands of people in this country support the Jews still behind the Iron Curtain.

Wherever he spoke in Cleveland - and he spoke nearly non-stop - Scharansky's message was the same: Support what has already been done for Soviet Jews, and help ensure that more and more are allowed to emigrate. He was introduced everywhere as a hero, as a man who had suffered through inhuman treatment at the hands of his oppressors. However, Scharansky seemed noticeably uncomfortable when faced with questions about and references to his solitary confinement in prison. It was almost as if he said, "When I first came out this treatment was still an issue and needed to be discussed. But now, after twenty months, let's worry about the others who are left behind and what can be done for them."

On the few occasions when the crowd had diminished and there was just a handful of us shmoozing around the table, one could see simultaneously the fire that keeps Scharansky going and the conflicts which hold him back. This is the crossroads to which he has come. At this point he is as committed as ever to the cause of Soviet Jewry, and everything he is doing from now until December 6th is geared toward mobilizing a maximum turnout in Washington. However, on December 7th Scharansky will return to Israel where he will sit down and plan the rest of his life. He has settled his family

in the Bet Hakerem section of Jerusalem and in the short time he has lived there has adapted quickly to the Israeli way of life. This is where some of the conflicts enter the picture. He is obviously disturbed by the number of Jews who are finally granted visas but opt to emigrate to the U.S. as opposed to Israel. But when asked where Jewish Immigrants could possibly live in Israel, Scharansky shrugs his shoulders and says, "That is the big problem." He sees the failure of the Jewish organizations to provide them money for subsidized housing for Russian immigrants as the root of the problem, though he sees space and employment becoming major problems if the gates were to suddenly open today. Scharansky, like others is also worried about what Gorbachev's Glasnost policy means in terms of the kind of Jew who is left in the Soviet Union. With some of the most prominent refuseniks released in the past two years, Scharansky fears that the organizational structure of remaining dissidents will have been weakened, a scenario for which the Kremlin is striving.

What then lies immediately ahead for Natan Scharansky? What he'll be doing a year from now not even he could answer, but the next six months will certainly be very hectic and probably won't allow for much settling down. He will be finishing his book for Random House Publishers and is contracted to promote the book nationwide for three weeks in the Spring. The book is scheduled for release in late May or early June, coinciding with the American Booksellers Convention in Anaheim, California, to which he has been invited as a keynote speaker. After this, Scharansky will probably concentrate his efforts on raising money for immigrant housing. Despite some suggestions that he has put in his time and should leave the struggle for Soviet Jews to others, Natan Scharansky's commitment and exuberance is far too ingrained for him to ever venture too far away from the action.



Macs Bom-Bard

by Jon Bandler

The YU Macs overcame opening game jitters and trounced an undermanned Bard College team, 70-37, before nearly 700 raucous fans at the Max Stern Athletic Center. The game began with the pregame player introductions though the public address announcer's voice was drowned out by the chanting and stomping of more than 40 blue and

white faced YU students who danced around waving pom-poms. After the screaming died down and the anthems were sung, the teams finally took the court for the ceremonial opening tip. Honored with tossing up the first ball was Rabbi Manfred Fulda who was escorted to half-court by YU Athletic Director, Dr. Gil Shevlin. When the ceremony

was over the fans stood on their feet ready for the long-awaited season to get underway.

Ayal Hod controlled the tip and from there the Macs were off to the races. Benjy Reichel scored the opening basket of the season with a nice scoop layup and once again the fans displayed their enthusiasm as streams of blue and white paper

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Open House Success

by Uri Jacobs

Yeshiva College hosted the most successful Open House in its history on November 15th. Over 340 people from as near as MTA and as far as North Miami Beach, walked through the newly dedicated Tenzer Gardens to the Belfer Commons to find out what Yeshiva University is really all about.

By ten o'clock, most of the parents, prospective students, administrators and student hosts were in their seats listening to the opening remarks by Judy Paikin, Director of Admissions at Yeshiva University, and Dr. Norman Rosenfeld, Dean of Yeshiva College. Afterward an eight minute video filmed last year about Yeshiva University for the Office of Admissions was shown.

A description of the three Jewish studies programs following the video was an exploration of the Liberal Arts and Sciences fields at YU. Included in the many sessions were "Choosing a Career" and "For the Parent of the Prospective Student." Pre-law and the Sy Syms School of Business sessions drew overflow crowds.

An open "forum" with each department providing a representative to talk to the prospective students and parents in an informal atmosphere proved helpful and informative. Musical entertainment was provided by WYUR, which was represented by station manager Robert Zeitz.

Lunch was served with the student hosts sitting amongst

the parents and prospective students to answer their questions and clarify various details about student life at Yeshiva College and SSSB.

Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President of Yeshiva University, and Dr. Michael Schiff, Dean of SSSB, gave welcoming remarks and Michael Levine, President of YCSC, delivered a perspective of student life at YU.

When asked about the record breaking turnout this year, Levine replied that "this year's Open House seems to be another proof of the heightened interest in YU."

After Mincha, student guided tours of the campus were provided, ending a most unforgettable day.

This year's Open House ran particularly smoothly due to the great efforts of Judy Paikin, Ken Wagner, Joan Friedman, and the rest of the Admission staff. In recruiting and coordinating student representatives to help run this year's program, it ran to peak efficiency.

Judy Paikin stated later that the day was such a hit because every administrator and faculty member approached to help was cooperative. Miss Paikin added that all this is symbolic of the positive turnaround at YU and that "the word on the street is that Yeshiva is the school to go to."

New Receiver in Muss Hall

Recently, Doron Spier, a member of the dorm committee in Muss Hall, submitted a request to Dean Nulman to have a receiver placed in Muss Hall so that residents could benefit from programming on WYUR, Yeshiva University's undergraduate radio station.

According to Mark Zomick, the Program Director at WYUR, until recently it was

not felt necessary to have a receiver in Muss Hall because it was not worth the money for the small number of students who lived there; as well as the fact that there did not seem to be much of a listening audience amongst them. This is because for many years RIETS, now Muss, Hall only housed the Semicha students. Now, with student enrollment

at an all-time high, many college students were housed there once Morgenstern and Rubin Residence Halls filled up.

With the addition of the 4th floor last year and the 5th floor this year, the potential number of listeners in Muss Hall has doubled. This year's programming also is more popular than it has been, with real interest shown in the Hebrew and sports

programming, as well as the live coverage of YU Macabee's home games.

Michael Levine, president of YCSC, is now toying with different ideas as to methods of raising the \$1500 - \$2000 needed for a transmitter, and WYUR will have to cover the costs for the phone tie line. Whether or not they are successful will soon be seen.

Editorials

Summit Demonstration

On December 6th, thousands of American Jews will join Natan and Avital Scharansky, Vladimir Slepak, and other former refuseniks in Washington, DC to greet Premier Gorbachev on the occasion of the Soviet leader's summit meeting with President Reagan. The presence of families, students, and community leaders from all over the country will serve as a forceful reminder that despite the recent trend toward increased emigration, the plight of the millions of Soviet Jews still awaiting visas has not been forgotten.

While some may harbor reservations as to the wisdom and/or effectiveness of this manner of support, once such a demonstration has been planned, all those concerned with human rights and dignity should exhibit their solidarity by attending.

In assessing the contribution of YU students to the cause of Soviet Jewry we can recall the enthusiasm displayed upon the arrival of Natan Scharansky in Lamport Auditorium following his long-awaited release from the Soviet Union in the Spring of 1986. Today we should endeavor to recapture that depth of emotional commitment to the cause of our fellow Jews and travel en masse to Washington both as representatives of Orthodox Jewry and as involved college students and participants in world society.

Bookstore: A Question of Propriety

The newly reorganized bookstore has provided a welcome change from years past. Under Collegiate Bookstores management it has expanded both the variety of services offered and the hours of operation. With few exceptions, the YC student must no longer make the weary trek downtown to purchase needed texts.

However, there does appear to be one small cloud over the otherwise bright horizon - the specter of censorship. While perhaps an exaggerated and over-used term, it nevertheless does serve to draw attention to a little noticed incident which may potentially create a problem.

YU has established a set of general guidelines for the bookstore, prohibiting management from carrying volumes deemed off-color or in bad taste. Shortly after the semester commenced, the practical effects of such a policy were felt with the removal of books by Sidney Sheldon and Jackie Collins. The two books were removed at the behest of the Office of the Dean of Students through the University-Bookstore Liaison, Mr. Aryeh Furst, in response to the complaints of several students. The decision to remove them has been defended on the grounds that the books themselves were not of the classical type. Notwithstanding the obvious dangers inherent in such a judgement, no formal procedure for this type of action exists. The decision for removal was essentially an arbitrary one.

The possible implications of this incident are unlimited. The absence of a delineated, reasoned, and open process could lead to the removal of any book simply upon the complaint of a few disgruntled people. Who knows what may seem offensive to some and not to others? Certainly such now-established classics as 'Catcher in the Rye' and 'Huckleberry Finn' have met and still do meet much opposition and attempts at censorship in the more backward areas of our country.

In areas of dubious clarity, one must err on the side of literary freedom and the rights of the inclined to read that which they will. The standards of a school are, to a large degree, those of its student body, fluctuating with every four-year cycle as can be seen by perusing old issues of The Commentator or Masmid. Should a particular book prove obnoxious to the students it will not sell and therefore will eventually cease to be carried.

At the very least, YU should establish a formal mechanism for reviewing requests for deletion. Perhaps the YC Senate could fulfill such a function or, if that prove infeasible, a committee consisting of administrative, faculty, and student representation should be formed solely for that purpose.

Unrestricted authority to determine the contents of the bookstore's shelves should be granted to no one. Without an official, formalized procedure with adequate representation of all concerned parties, the horrifying stigma of censorship, anathema to even a unique institution such as our own, may one day become grim reality.

The Commentator

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Season's Wishes

The advent of another Macs' basketball season marks the return of a euphoric school spirit which this campus has enjoyed each of the past two years since the Max Stern Athletic Center opened in the fall of 1985. The MSAC seems to unify a student body that is constantly being divided into camps of Yeshiva and University, and has helped surprise many outsiders who have previously denigrated the YU environment. This integration is best exemplified by the YU athletes themselves who come from all Jewish studies programs and varying fields of study.

However, despite cries from other varsity squads for equal treatment - cries which are sometimes justified - the basketball Macs are the Athletic Department's drawing card. This year's opening game, although against a relatively weak Bard College team, drew a capacity crowd of exuberant YU students who did not stop chanting and stomping from the opening tip to the final buzzer. Only on-campus concerts approach that level of spirit and commitment, and at these events students have words to which to sing along. Athletics at YU, particularly the basketball team, seem to provide the campus with a measure of cohesion not adequately met by academic pursuits.

This year's team should merit the loudest cheers yet at the MSAC. Unlike last year, the team no longer must play in the shadow of all-league guards, Joey Eaves and Ronnie Schwartz, and can only improve on last year's disappointing 10-13 record. The guards and forwards complement each other well and, with eight seniors on the team, the experience that wins ball games should be in abundance.

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Response & Opinion

by Averick Benjamin

According to Rabbi Mordechai Willig secular studies are not only permissible, but advisable for everyone. At the second of this year's series of Torah U'Mada lectures, Rabbi Willig asserted that it is indeed a Mitzvah to learn natural sciences, history, and language. The only subject taught in Fall that is under restriction is philosophy as well as sexually arousing literature. Rabbi Willig reached this conclusion by exposing a number of issues.

As to the question of whether everyone may learn secular studies for the purpose of making a living, Rabbi Willig spoiled the suspense by immediately answering, "almost everyone." The main sources for this response are the Gemara in Berachot 35b, and Menachot 99. The two sections deal with Torah study, and how much time to devote in its study. The final answer is given by the Shulchan Aruch (siman 156), that man should learn Torah as his main occupation and

Rabbi Willig on Mada

should work as a secondary profession. Controversy is created by the Biyur Halacha there, which states that the law of the Shulchan Aruch only refers to the general populace, while everyone who has the means to learn Torah full time is obligated to do so. The Rambam concurs with this idea. It is important to note that where working for a living is allowed this includes studying for that line of work.

The question as to whether one may learn secular studies for purposes other than making a living is a bit more complicated. The Gemara in Menachot 99 is the source again for the answer. The Gemara discusses whether one may learn "Chachmat Yavan," Greek wisdom, taken by us to mean secular wisdom. The answer given is that one may not learn secular wisdom for it would constitute Bitul Torah. The Shulchan Aruch (siman 246)

states that a man must learn Torah all day and all night and in time of urgency, the bare minimum of Shema in the day and night. Rabbi Willig placed special emphasis on "time of urgency" for fear that someone may otherwise take this as a freedom to neglect one's Torah learning.

The Rama states that one may learn "Sha'ar Chachmot," secular studies, for reasons other than making a living, provided one does this on a temporary basis. Again, the underlying condition is that Torah be one's main occupation. Also, as Rabbi Elchanan Wasserman points out, while Torah should be learned "Lishma," as an end in itself, secular studies must be learned only as a means to an end. The Rama, according to Rabbi Wasserman, was referring to someone wishing to satisfy an intellectual curiosity, but by no means should one devote

equal time to secular studies as to Torah.

The Rambam also states emphatically that one must learn secular subjects, but of course, Torah must be primary. Primary meaning both in time devoted, and personal values, as Rabbi Willig pointed out.

The liberal arts is a subject discussed by many of the Gedolim. The natural sciences are a mitzvah to study, according to the Rambam and the Chazon Ish, as examples, one's "Ahavat Hashem" is enhanced by this subject in particular. History, looked down upon by Tosafot and the Shulchan Aruch as a useless waste of time, is very much encouraged by Rabbi Yaakov Emden and Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. The latter note that the study of history gives a person worldliness, perspective and a sight of the "hand of G-d." Of course, language is of critical importance, as rabbis must be

fluent in whichever tongue they will address their audience.

Of course, with all of these studies, despite being mitzvot, there are restrictions. The Rama and the Rambam both state that books written by heretics, even though they contain no heresy, may not be read. However, if one's line of work is in the field of debating heretics, one may study the heresy. Such a person was the Ramban. The one art agreed upon by all which requires one to be fully sated with Torah is philosophy. Both the Rashba and the Rambam state this clearly.

What the Shulchan Aruch calls "divrei cheshek" known by us today as novels, which may contain sexually arousing material, is also definitely prohibited. The consequences this has for our English and other literature departments was not fully discussed.

Rabbi Willig emphasized that we in Yeshiva must use our secular studies to enhance our Torah learning. He noted that

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Think Tank

To the Editor:

As an alumnus of YU, I must say I was impressed by your November 12 issue. It was intelligent, interesting, and well-written. Particularly striking was Dov Pinchot's article, "Does a YU education prepare its students?" I think his points were well-taken, and I hope the administration acts on his fine suggestion of a YU Think Tank (Dr. Lamm, are you listening?).

Yasher Koach to all involved.

Dr. Yehuda Shapiro
YC, RIETS '75

A.C.E.

To the Editor:

Many thanks to Jonathan Bandler for his thorough overview of the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) in the last issue of the COMMENTATOR. As Chairman and Vice Chairman of Aspiring Collegiate Enterprises (ACE), we would like to further elaborate on the position of the article pertaining to the Aspiring Collegiate. We want to acknowledge and thank all of our members, including Renata Serphos (who was mistakenly not mentioned in Mr. Bandler's article), for joining us at UPMUNC and representing the country of Argentina.

We also congratulate the Argentinian delegates on a job well done! Thanks to them, we received an honorable mention for performing "in an exemplary fashion throughout the conference." We look forward to similar success in future ACE activities.

Jason Ciment, YC, '89
Chairman, ACE
Lawrence Stroll, YC, '88
Vice-Chairman, ACE

Where's the Beef?

by Leonard Gross

At 5:00 am last Monday I was still wide awake, my feet crossed on my desk. I held the book which had been the source of my agony for the past two weeks. My Western Civilization mid-term was in a few hours, and I felt insufficiently prepared. I had thought that 2 weeks would be sufficient for a test like this one, but an unexpected obstacle had crossed my path.

My first World History course in college had succeeded in presenting a totally different perspective of the human experience from that to which I was accustomed. It had taken my mind and opened it wide to the fascinating universe of philosophies that have not traditionally been my own. Doubts, previously lingering in my mind, suddenly became clearly articulated, and provided what seemed to be a solid base. Relativism had taken over; the skeptics seemed justified, the stoics and Epicurians - well founded. The tribe of the "Hebrews" also made interesting reading and offered new perspective. The reactionary philosophies of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were cheered as a relief to the rising tension.

I continued to cram millennia of knowledge into weeks of study. At times I had powerful visions of this vast knowledge strengthening my belief; but there were questions that still needed to be answered, doubts still needing to be resolved.

Somehow I survived the exam, but it left me reevaluating the efficiency of YU's much talked about goal for its students, Torah U'Mada. I opened up the Commentator,

and cheered one student who shared my thoughts. Dov Pinchot's articulation of the ideal preparation for the modern Yeshiva student was excellent one. However, he succumbed to what seems to be a malignancy common to these issues - namely the absence of a clearly defined solution.

Oh, there have been ones suggested. According to Rav Aaron Kahn, who's position was reiterated by Mr. Pinchot, Western Civ. should not be taught - at least not in its present form, because, to the Jewish religion, it includes heresy. Rabbi Carmy also had a suggestion - to provide an opportunity for the student to grapple with the more provocative material.

But for some reason there is no attempt at systematic integration or reconciliation of secular and Jewish learning! It's all lip-service. The talk of Torah U'mada has been very invigorating, "But where's the beef?!" How does the lower classman, in even the slightest thought provoking class, unfamiliar with the rubric of university, know where to turn? Are Yeshiva students destined to turn into intellectual vegetables when it comes to the "Ivy League Philosophy Major", who so eloquently explains how "Newton shattered the foundations of religion, and Einstein swept the broken pieces out the door - forever." (Incidentally Mr. Pinchot, Newton was a deeply religious man, who wrote extensively on Christian theology; and Einstein believed in G-D.)

Mr. Pinchot suggests a Think Tank, but clearly there is a flaw in the suggestion. YU does not need more talk, it needs

more action. It needs reconciliation woven into the very fabric of the course.

Rabbi Carmy has a suggestion, but I believe it is vague, and needs to be taken one step further. There needs to be a carefully organized information network. The entire curriculum ought to be broken down into categories, or perhaps individual classes; and in each category there must be a clear expression of people to see, and places and times to see them. The professor at every course should be familiar with the information network system, and ready to direct the student to the appropriate division. Finally, the actual advisors in the network, whether qualified Rebbeim, or professors proficient in both disciplines, should be given an incentive to carefully guide and assist the student in his plight.

So far, the university's attempt to bring about a new awareness of the Torah U'Mada ideology has been an excellent one. However, it has its limitations. It can inspire inquisitiveness, it can generate curiosity, but the answers are only found through the organizers independent search.

Dov Pinchot asks, "Does a YU education prepare its students?" If the concerns of the college are, "Mir in the morning and Brown in the afternoon", then it is doing a fine job. But if YU espouses to any sense of intellectual integration, if it attempts to solve anything more than the subway ride between the classroom and the "Beis Medrash", then I'm afraid that, for today's student, it is not doing enough.

Hebrew U.

To the editor:

I'm a Yeshiva University student currently studying in Jerusalem for my junior year. My course load is equally as challenging as was my Yeshiva schedule. I study Hebrew, which is mandatory here (six hours a week), and am currently enrolled in a Hebrew Literature course as well. As with everyone I too must be enrolled in a Jewish studies course. I chose 'The Church, The Crown and The Jews' taught by a professor recommended to me by several Yeshiva Rabbi's. The course is as challenging as are only night courses in Israeli Foreign Policy, Israeli Society, and international relations.

Unfortunately I and fellow YU students face the possibility of not getting transfer credit for these courses. I could have enrolled at Bar-Ilan in neighboring Tel-Aviv and its exciting night life and been guaranteed credit, but I chose Hebrew University as some 445 other yeshiva students have done since 1955, mostly because its located in the holy city of Jerusalem overlooking the eventual resting place of the Beit Hamikdash. I have been told that perhaps it is because that Hebrew University has no religious atmosphere, yet I learn alongside several students every Tuesday night at the Beit Midrash program. Next September I hope to enroll in courses taught by Nechama Lebowitz and Professor Fackenheim, two of the most renowned experts in their fields. I am also able to have an effect on students in search of their own religious identity. Bar-Ilan's religiousness remains to be seen.

The admissions office assured me that the religious atmosphere of the school was not

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A Deadly Charade

by Professor Paul Eidelberg

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the late President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem on November 19, 1977, Israel's former Prime Minister Menachem Begin has written an "open" letter to his friends in the United States expressing the "wish to honor the memory of President Sadat, who was murdered by his enemies, and the enemies of peace."

Mr. Begin goes on to say: "The peace treaty between Israel and Egypt is not just 'a piece of paper'; even with all the problems lying ahead, the peace treaty is a living document that guides the relations between the two countries."

Contrast a New York Times interview of Sadat dated October 19, 1980 (almost nineteen months after he signed the treaty in question), in which

the Egyptian ruler said: "Poor Menachem, he has his problems... After all, I got back 90 percent of the Sinai and the Alma oil fields, and what has Menachem got? A piece of paper."

Nor is this all. A year after he signed that "piece of paper," Sadat told his National Democratic Party: "Despite the present differences with the Arab 'rejectionist' rulers over the Egyptian peace initiative, the fact remains that these differences are only tactical, not strategic - temporary, not permanent."

Indeed, in an article appearing in the Spring 1982 issue of Foreign Affairs (i.e., after Sadat's assassination), Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali baldly admitted that, "In spite of the severance of diplomatic relations between Cairo and those

Arab capitals, transnational relations have continued and even increased:... private Arab investment continues to flow into Egypt... and Arab military and police officers are still being trained in Egyptian academies."

More ominous, as recently as January 1987, Egyptian Defense Minister Muhammad Abdel-Halim Abu-Ghazala referred to Israel as still Egypt's "principal and sole enemy," and boasted that Egypt and Syria, acting in unison, would "crush" the Jewish State.

But Ghazala was only reiterating the two-stage, peace-and-war strategy enunciated by Sadat before his Jerusalem visit: "The effort of our generation is to return to the 1967 borders. Afterward the next generation will carry the responsibility." Or as his confidant, Hassanin Haykal explained: "There are only two well-defined goals on the Arab scene: erasing the traces of the 1967 aggression by Israel's withdrawal from all the areas occupied by it in that year,

and erasing the aggression of 1948 by Israel's total and absolute annihilation."

Finally, a personal note, apropos of Mr. Begin's open letter. The present writer, together with five other academics, had a meeting with Begin two days before the Prime Minister left Israel for the September 1978 Camp David summit meeting with Sadat and then President Jimmy Carter. After referring Mr. Begin to the guile evident in Sadat's just then published autobiography, I handed him some material which placed in question the genuineness of Sadat's so-called peace initiative. Mr. Begin nodded and, gesticulating with his right hand, exclaimed: "SADAT WILL STAB ME IN THE BACK!"

Ponder the significance of this incriminating statement as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem, the City of Peace, also known as the City of Truth.

Selection Process Questioned

To the Editor:

I congratulate the YU-Stern delegation on their success at the University of Pennsylvania Model UN. The program affords college students the opportunity to mingle with peers of varied backgrounds and confront opposing viewpoints. YU should definitely participate.

Still, I must disapprove strongly with the selection process used to choose the delegates who represented our school. Most applicants believed, quite erroneously, that they had a fair shot at being accepted. Laboring under this false illusion, most applicants devoted a great deal of time to researching, writing and perfecting their essays. They also set aside time to travel down to Stern for an interview. Most applicants I spoke to recalled feeling confident about their chances. Unfortunately all such efforts were wasted in pursuit of an improbable outcome.

Two of the five available spots were immediately taken by interviewers even before the process began. I don't begrudge these two seats. I am sure, in fact I know, they are capable and secondly, since they "run the show", they can choose whomever they want. Still this left only three other realistically available spots which mathematically speaking, gave each applicant a 7% chance (or less) of making the delegation. Most applicants would have declined to apply had they possessed prior knowledge of their unlikely chances. I feel that a committee should have handpicked the delegates which would have prevented unnecessary disappointment and frustration. Pick your friends, Poli Sci members,... Grandpa, I don't care. It wasn't fair to create false hopes.

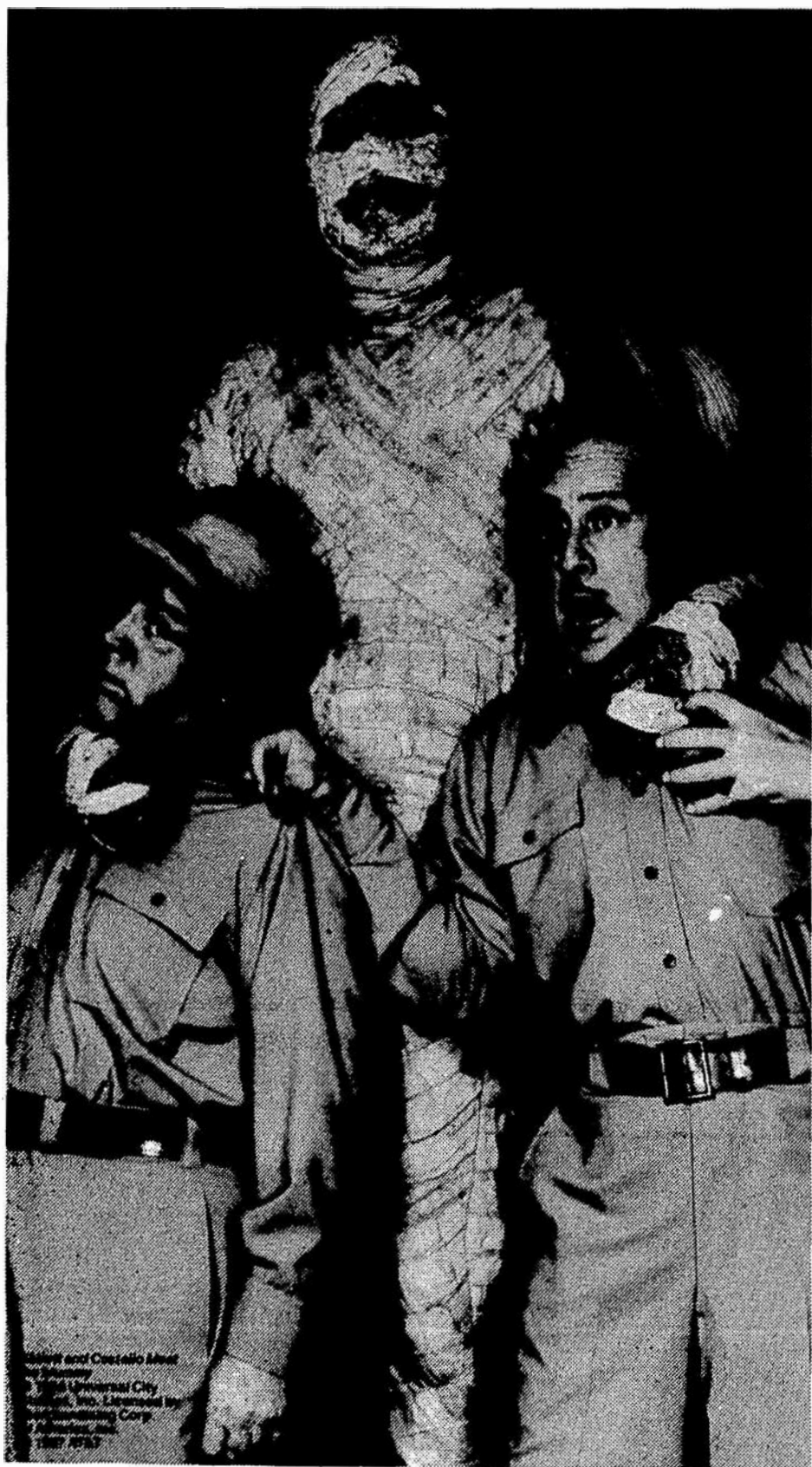
Secondly, why must Stern and YU participate as a combined delegation? Two separate groups would double the available spots which may justify a competitive selection process.

One Poli Sci member cited cost as the prime obstacle in sending two delegations. So why doesn't the Society raise money? The Accounting Society party finances its big recruiting bash at the Waldorf by selling eggrolls and hoagies. As aspiring politicians, Poli Sci members ought to develop fundraising skills.

I ask the Poli Sci Society to reconsider their methods. The Harvard Model UN is held later this year. Raise money, subsidize costs and provide twenty YU-Stern students with a memorable experience. In all fairness, as many students as possible deserve the chance to attend an exciting event like the model UN.

Joshua Fruchter
YC

Call your mummy.



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America Israel Public Affairs Committee

by Steven Pudell

A young man distributed fliers as the Yeshiva University students entered Columbia University for a meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) on November 16 at 7:00pm. The fliers, ironically, announced a meeting of various pro-Arab organizations on the Columbia University campus. This greatly stressed the importance of supporting Israel through the political process. Additionally, the attending students from YU attempted to destroy the belief that YU students are apathetic to Jewish political causes.

AIPAC is a registered lobby and the only one in the United States which is dedicated to the support of Israel. The crowd of over 60 people, representing Columbia University, Barnard, Queens College and NYU, as well as Yeshiva University, were addressed by U.S. Representative Reverend Floyd H. Flake (D) of the 6th district (Laurelton) of Queens and Dr. Ralph D. Nurenberger, a lobbyist for AIPAC.

Congressman Flake, a black, spoke of improving the nations, through elimination of racism, drug and alcohol abuse, and school dropouts, as a vehicle to improving the world. Flake, though he did not address the Israel issue often, entertained the audience with his pulpit oratory style. Flake is a minister of a 4000 member Church in Queens.

The Reverend cited Israel as the only democracy in the Middle East. He also commended it for halting arms sales to South Africa. Flake often drifted, however, to talking of the revitalization of the inner city as well as other social reforms as a way to improve the nation and the world.

The students questioned Congressman Flake on various issues, including anti-semitic remarks made by Louis Farrakhan. Flake answered that just as Rabbi Meir Kahane is not the representative of the Jewish people (and his remarks go ignored) so should it be known that Farrakhan is not the leader of the black people.

The black leader is now Jackson, he said. The Congressman did not address the issue of why Jackson did not condemn Farrakhan for his racist remarks if Farrakhan commands no power. The Reverend, consistent with his theme, concluded, "we should work together with mankind for a better world."

Dr. Nurenberger, a lobbyist for AIPAC addressed the issue, "Can we make a difference?" Nurenberger first explained the position of lobbyists in politics. He then joked, "Jaws

ate men, women and children but did not eat a single lobbyist out of professional courtesy." He illustrated, however, that through active participation everyone can make a difference.

The first story told was a famous one of President Truman and his long-time friend and one-time business partner, Eddie Jacobson. Truman, when he assumed the Presidency, did not know much about Israel and did not care much. At the time, Chaim Weizman was in America. Eddie Jacobson, a Jew, entered the Oval Office of his friend and pleaded the case of Israel. A few days later, against the advice of his advisers, Truman met with the future President of Israel. In fact, the U.S. under Truman recognized Israel minutes after its birth. Dr. Nurenberger also elaborated on how every student can alter a political situation. In 1982, Rep. Paul Finley of Illinois, a PLO supporter, was defeated in his bid for reelection. On election day, over 1500 hundred students drove to Springfield, Ill. to launch a last minute campaign against Finley. Finley lost - by less than 2000 votes.

Now students have as much opportunity as in any other time in history. The day before the leader of the Soviet Union, Premier Gorbachev, visits the United States, there will be a march for Soviet Jewry in Washington. This is a golden opportunity for all people to help their Russian brethren as well as a perfect opportunity for Yeshiva to shed its apathetic image.

Students were urged to support AIPAC, which promotes Israel's interests in all facets of American political life. AIPAC now is pushing for a settlement of the budget cuts that is mandated by the Gramm-Rudman bill. If an agreement is not met, foreign aid which Israel needs will be cut from the budget.

This was the first AIPAC event run at Columbia in almost three years. Mr. Michael David, President of Columbia University AIPAC, opened the discussion with a keynote address on the political significance of the Jewish state, Israel, and the importance of involvement in AIPAC as a member.

The highlight of the evening, however, was an insightful remark about the worlds misunderstanding of Arab-Israel conflict and therefore the need for AIPAC, made by Dr. Nurenberger. He retold a comment by an observer of the Middle East crisis who said, "I simply can't understand why the Jews and Muslims can't get together and solve their problems like good Christians."

Office Of Admissions Hires Reinforcements

by Gad Dishi

Two positions have recently been filled in the Office of Admissions. Leslie Binder and Rebecca Staimen, both graduates of Stern College, have joined the Admissions Office staff as assistant directors of admissions.

Ms. Staimen, who graduated Stern College last year with a major in psychology, has long been interested in serving in a public relations capacity for a Jewish organization, and plans to do so for Yeshiva College for a number of years. Ms. Binder graduated Stern last year with a major in biology. Both girls feel that

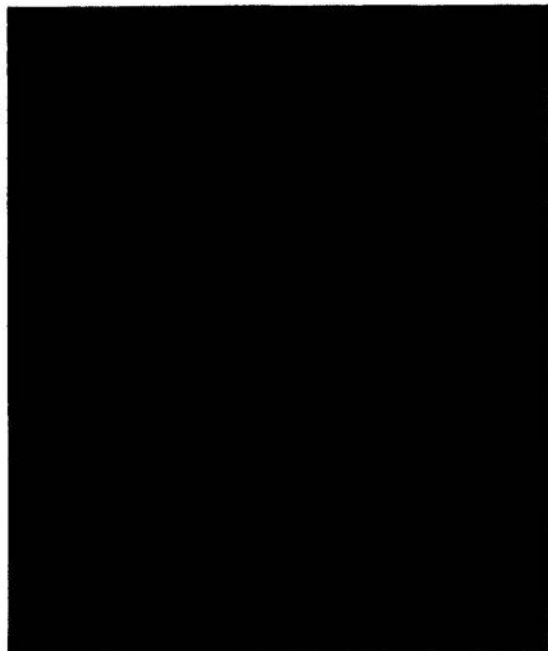
their young age will enable them to relate better to those students seeking admission.

These new positions are only one in a number of changes that have been instituted in the Office of Admissions. As a post-centennial recruitment pitch, the Admissions Office has chosen to stress YU's constant growth and development. "YU is on the move" has now become the main thrust of recruiting campaigns. Ms. Judy Paikin, the Director of Admissions, states that there is now an increased effort to create a more diversified student body by placing emphasis on public schools and foreign

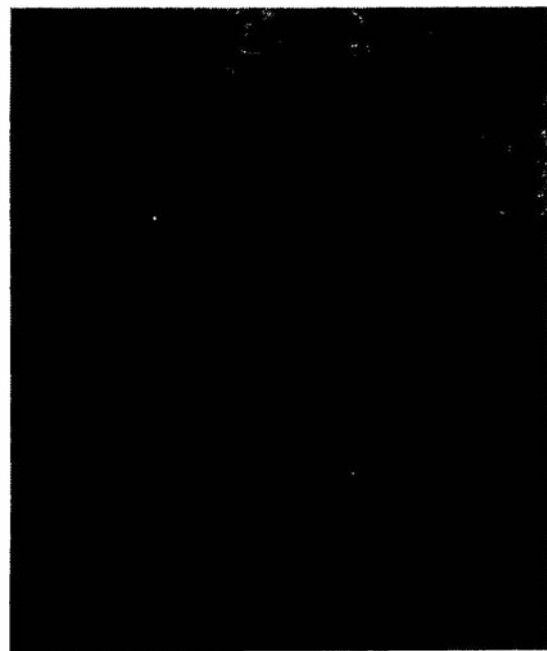
students.

As for current enrollment, Ms. Paikin states that "this is the best enrollment YU has seen in eleven years." Contrary to popular opinion, YU rejects "literally hundreds" of applicants every year, according to Ms. Paikin.

Ms. Paikin asserts that the increased enrollment is not only quantitative but also qualitative. As more students enroll, course offerings and faculty also increase. Therefore, a larger student body raises the standards of education for all students.



Miss Rebecca Staimen



Miss Leslie Binder

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS JOINT BUSINESS SOCIETY SPEAKERS FORUM

- 1) Monday Nov. 30, 1987 "How to Market Yourself" & "Careers in Marketing" Aharon Ungar, Marketing Consultant Room 411 Belfer. 8:00 PM.
- 2) Wednesday Dec. 2, 1987 Richard Catalano, President Adrienne Vittadini Room 518 Stern 8:00 PM
- 3) Monday Dec. 7, 1987 "How to Market Yourself" & "Careers in Marketing" Aharon Ungar, Marketing Consultant. Room 518 Stern 8 PM
- 4) Wednesday Dec. 9, 1987 "Careers in Investment Banking" Joel Mael, First Vice President, Drexel Burnham Lambert will lead a panel discussion. Room 411 Belfer Hall 8:00 PM
- 5) Monday Dec. 14, 1987 Neil Katz, President Revlon Beauty Care Division Stern Room 518 8:00 PM.

A Figure on Campus - Alex Ratnovsky

by Leonard Gross

He stands quietly behind the desk. His beard a deep orange rust, his hair a shade lighter. The soft brown-orange eyes reflect a kind personality, but a reserved one. His people say he is patient and helpful.

When on occasion students spend an extra moment with this man, the portrait comes to life - the students realize that Alex Ratnovsky is no ordinary librarian; they realize that he is a man with a story. His name and accent bear testimony to his origin: The Soviet Union. An inquisitive student is quick to learn that before his emigration to the United States, Ratnovsky was a professor of Russian Literature. But there's more - and one night after most of the lights in the library are turned off, a reticent Ratnovsky reveals...

Born in Smolinsk, he moved to Moscow after World War Two. He recalls his early childhood: "I never had a lot of Jewish friends because all was non-Jewish, and I did not really have idea about 'Jewishkeit'. I had sense that I am a Jew. In Russia [there is] not a Jewish school." The only formal Jewish exposure one could receive, he says, was through a magazine which no one today under forty-five would be able to read because it is written in Yiddish. Even so "it's an official government propaganda".

After receiving two Masters degrees - in Russian and German literature, both from the University of Moscow - Alex began to teach. His first position was in a college, teaching the Russian language to foreign students from Mongolia, Poland, Hungary, and many other countries. His second, and longest academic position two years later, was as a professor of Russian literature in the branch of Moscow University devoted to theatre. The "Theatre College" had an enrollment of one thousand students.

Alex explained that some of his most challenging



moments during his thirteen year career in the college were incorporating those authors into his lectures who were not included in the course plan, because their writing was questionable from the ideological point of view. With a system of codes and innuendos, Alex would make reference to writers like Alexander Solzhenitsyn, nobel prize winner, who spent eleven years in exile and in prison because he criticized Stalin in a letter: "There is only one honest writer in Russia and he is being persecuted". Alex says that eighty percent of his students would catch on. During his doctoral work, conducted simultaneously with his teaching, Alex encountered uncomfortable expressions of anti-semitism. "In middle of dissertation - sponsor applied for a visa to Israel, and they stopped my work. After two years they said 'Okay, we give you new sponsor.' But in a period of time I submitted my application to go to Israel, and they said to me: You can no longer teach because you are against the Soviet Union. I said 'I'm not against', but they said 'no, no, no, you can't teach'."

He also lost his job as a freelance journalist for 'Crocodile', the only national humor magazine in Russia. Ratnovsky says he is extremely well travelled because as a journalist he was sent to the most remote parts of the country. "The satire in Russia is not like here. In Russia you write about a

superintendent, but never about government." Alex chose to freelance because it was the only opportunity for freedom of expression. Not all work would be published, but at least it was a chance to write without the usual imposition of subject matter.

Like all Jewish journalists in Russia, Ratnovsky wrote with a pen-name, "because if everyone wrote under their real name it would look like Jewish Press. They once built a building only for writers, and a superintendent said 'I never knew before that all Russian writers are Jewish.' It was a joke."

Alex continued to submit articles through his friend, and also found a job being an art critic, "because they didn't know about my idea to leave Russia." And when they did find out three years later, he was told to leave.

"Afterwards, I organized a Jewish theatre," Alex pauses for a second, and then quickly adds for the listener's benefit, "but it's not official theatre - we staged it in peoples apartments." He continues to explain, "I wrote a play about Maccabees, and was very popular - all the people loved it very much; many, many people come to see it."

Alex relates how the K.G.B. could not tolerate people being different. "In Russia, Jewish people don't drink vodka. It's very difficult for Russians to understand this, because in Russia vodka [is] very popular.

Jews like to study. I make a theatre, another makes an unofficial magazine, a third made an unofficial chess club."

In a life so suffocating, one desperately needs an outlet: a way out. A great deal of Jews do things like extra studying, researching into their Jewish history, organizing semi-official clubs, or unofficial clubs, societies, lectures, etc. There exists what they call in Russian a "micro-climate" - an artificially created environment within a larger, hostile environment.

Getting a staff for his theatre did not seem to be a problem: "It was a lot of my students. They were the painters, actors in this non-official theatre...I know not how to explain, it maybe looks not so very polite - I was a very good teacher; all the students respected me a great deal. Since they are young, they are not as conservative, as un-free, as they would become later. They realized that I was one of the few people around them with mentality of a free man, not a slave. They felt I understood them, shared their idealism, sympathised with their problems, and offered a less orthodox and suffocating outlook on life than most adults. I told them about wonderful plays that they weren't supposed to

read because they were not "politically correct". And so they were drawn to me." A good teacher needs to express his creative desire. Ratnovsky could not allow himself to go idle. In his spare time he put together a new literature course for the underground: The Jew as portrayed in Russian literature. "Dostoevsky and Jew, Tolstoy and Jew. Officially it's Dostoevsky, but really it's Dostoevsky and Jew; Officially it's Pushkin, but really Pushkin and Jew. It's a very interesting problem since the Jews have been in Russia for so many centuries. What's the difference between Dostoevsky and Gogol? Both are anti-semites, but Gogol is an anti-semite in his heart. Dostoevsky is

an ideological anti-semite."

Ratnovsky never had a problem spreading word about his events. "The refuseniks have a special language. For example: 'What do you do today? Come to me drink some tea'."

When Alex arrived in the United States five years ago with his wife and daughter, he decided to spend a year in the Yeshiva of Morristown, Pa. His friends immediately told him, "You're going to lose time, you have to go out and make money!" Alex responded, "No, you're wasting time. I come here not for money, or business, or glory; I come to make me more Jewish."

Until last December, Alex served as the editor-in-chief of several Russian periodicals. He even once included a feature on YU in one of them.

Ultimately, the student asks what this talented man's thoughts are on working in YU. "Better in library than in Russia. Here is a very good place. There are very nice people in the library, and very nice students - I love them very much. Sometimes they ask me very interesting questions; one I answer about Salinger, another Tolstoy. I am happy to be in a university, but even happier to be in a Yeshiva University." He throws his hands up in the air, "This is a dream - in Russia people don't know that such a place exists...If I could teach here, I would be the most happy person."

Alex enjoys the few Russian students at YU, but he feels there should be more here. "They first hear Yeshiva, and not University, so they don't come. They think it is place only for Rabbis." To draw more Russian students, Ratnovsky suggests advertizing in all the Russian newspapers, and on the Russian radio programs.

The lights in the library finally dim, and the guard says he's locking the doors. Alex Ratnovsky stands and walks to the elevator. Before he steps in he turns around - "The most important thing for me is to be with books." He smiles, and says goodnight.

The British are Coming - For Education

by Jonathan Bernstein

Four score and ten days ago I arrived in this country to embark on a completely new course in my life.

Having spent the last six years of my life preparing for a career in law, it was quite a shock to my system to have all my options thrown open once again.

But is this necessarily the best thing for me? Would I not have been better off continuing along my chosen path to the judiciary? And most importantly, will I be a better person for the added education that I will receive here?

In order for me to answer these and other questions, I have to ask myself, "What kind of person is it that I want to be?" I do not consider myself to be an ignorant boor, yet there are many fields, such as Art, in which I could do with being slightly more comfortable.

Such things are not taught in an English university, rather they are assumed. Is it perhaps that they feel that there are some things that you cannot teach a person, such as culture. Intensive education is no substitute for experience. Of course, this does not mean to

say that there are no English people who lack culture, as is evident through the fine reputation that English soccer fans enjoy internationally. Nor does it suggest that there are no Americans that are cultured. All that I am saying is that it is difficult for a country that has a little over two hundred years of history to have a millennium of culture.

In England it is not so widespread for people to go to university. There are no tuition fees for residents, as the government underwrites college education. AS a consequence of this, there are a

limited amount of places available in the colleges, and so there are very high admissions standards. Many people cannot meet these and go out to work at the age of nineteen or twenty.

Contrast this to the American university where although there are minimal entrance requirements such as the SAT exam, there are many times more places available per capita. Basically it appears to an English man that the only criterion for whether or not an American goes to university is how wealthy his parents are, or how much they are willing

to go into debt to subsidize their child's education. This last point I find particularly distressing as the last thing a young graduate professional needs is the handicap of paying an education debt at the beginning of their career. Since a high standard of prior knowledge is not a requirement, the universities feel compelled to offer a liberal arts program to their students in order to raise them to a standard of education from which they can proceed to their chosen profession, or to a form of even higher education.

cont. on page 11



Tora Dojo



by Larry Portal

This month is of particular significance to the Yeshiva University Karate Club and its founder, Professor Chaim Sober. It marks the Karate Club's twentieth anniversary and the thirtieth year of Professor Sober's involvement in the martial arts. Both of these milestones will be commemorated in a forthcoming exhibition scheduled to take place in mid-December.

In 1965, three YU students who are friends of Prof. Sober were attacked and asked him to teach them self-defense. Sober, a graduate of MTA and Hunter College, who began training in the martial arts in 1958, agreed. When asked by fifteen other boys whether he would teach them also, Sober replied that he would not. He simply was not ready to give a martial arts class and was primarily interested in teaching his three friends.

In 1966, Sober was confronted with a petition, imploring him to teach self-defense to all interested students. The twenty-five signatures on the petition was a startling amount considering that martial arts were familiar to few students at the time. It was not displayed on movie screens, television, or any form of media. Sober assented to the request and began teaching in the shower

room adjacent to the Tannenbaum gym.

By the end of 1966, the Yeshiva Karate Club was comprised of a sizable group of thirty students. Sober, a recognized expert in the martial arts, was also asked by Israeli

education department, with a list of fifty names requesting that Karate be offered as a regular course in Yeshiva. Dr. Horowitz complied eagerly to the request. Consequently, the size of the Karate Club grew significantly. Henry Witten-

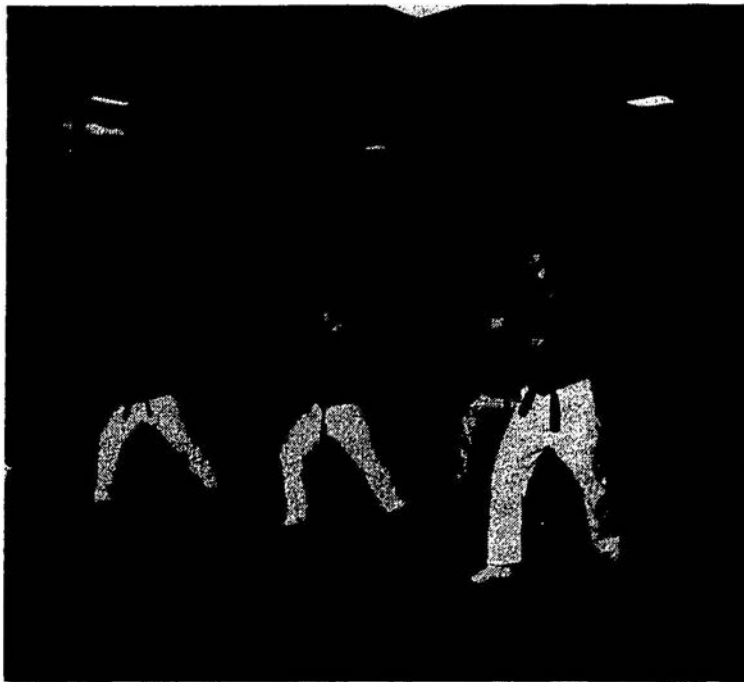
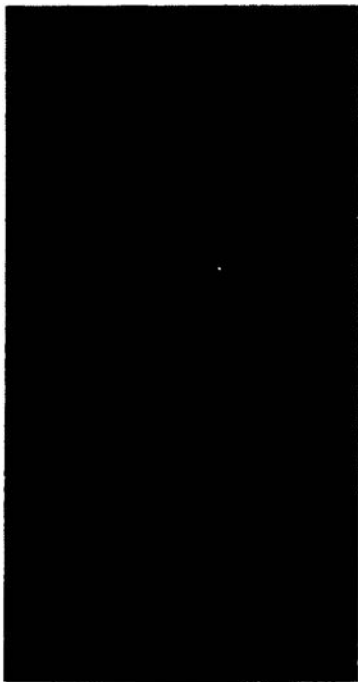
and one hundred and five students enrolled in the Karate courses and forty participants in the Karate Club. The club has been self supportive since its inception. Although, in past years, Prof. Sober received a small annual salary for his

University. They received their belts in 1971, the year they graduated from the college. Andron, who went on to receive a sixth degree black belt, now heads a karate association in Miami, Florida. In subsequent years, an additional forty have attained black belts.

In the past, Sober's Karate Club administered lessons to the members of YU families. Of the most prominent were the children of Dr Lamm. Other illustrious individuals taught by Sober include the children of Chaim Hertzog and Elie Wiesel.

Aside from self-defense, students are allowed to the world of martial arts for the vigorous workout. After approximately one year, a student realizes the meditation effect which results from karate. "This," Sober believes, "is a prime example of Torah U'Mada."

The exhibition, originally scheduled for December 6, was postponed until December 13 to allow students to join the Soviet Jewry demonstration taking place in Washington. The exhibition will take place in the Lamport Auditorium at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 with a valid YU ID; without an ID, admission will be \$5. Proceeds will go to the Karate Club.



representatives to train Israeli personnel employed in the New York consulate. His style, Tora Dojo, was regarded as being a full contact style. For this reason, intercollegiate competition is non-existent.

In 1967, Wilbur Rhinefeld, one of Sober's students, approached Dr. Horowitz, the chairman of the physical

burg, the wrestling coach at the time, observed this growing interest and permitted Sober to use half the gym for lessons.

Yeshiva's Karate Club was the first to feature only Caucasian participants and remains the only Karate Club to feature only Jewish participants.

Today, there are between ninety

services, he has never been reluctant to teach a student who is unable to finance the cost of the class. He and his staff have been quite generous in this respect in addition to the countless hours of dedication to the club.

Andrew Hirsh and Mike Andron were the first students to attain black belts in Yeshiva

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Dialing Trouble

by Tommy Weinberger

Returning students may have noticed changes in the pay phones that are dispersed throughout the University. Some changes have been to the benefit of Yeshiva students. For example a few of the rotary dial phones have been replaced with new and more practical touchtone phones. However, most of the changes have not been practical. For instance, a large number of phones have been removed, and broken phones have not been repaired.

According to Mr. Eric Hansen, the Project Assistant who works under Mr. Aryeh Furst, these changes are due to the nature of the pay phone system. The YU pay phone network consists of Full Public and Semi Public phones. NY Telephone collects all the revenue received from a Full Public phone. The expected revenue is \$6.70 per phone per day. If the collected revenue exceeds the prescribed amount YU receives a slight commission. Most of YU's pay phones are Full Public phones. However, a few are Semi Public phones. This means YU must pay a monthly user fee of \$55 and the school does not receive any of the revenue. Pay phones

which have relatively low volume are designated as Semi Public phones.

Due to the extra cost, YU would like to see all the pay phones converted to Full Public phones. However, NY Telephone has been complaining about the poor volume at all of YU pay phones. For this reason, 20 pay phones have been removed from the campus, thereby increasing the volume at the remaining phones. Phones have been removed from the floors of Rubin Morg and other locations on campus.

As far as maintenance and upkeep of the phones is concerned, this is solely the responsibility of NY Telephone. When phones are out of order, they are normally repaired or replaced. However, if it is a low volume phone it may be removed due to financial considerations.

When old phones are replaced, they are usually replaced with touchtone phones. However, Mr. Hansen stated that if there were a demand for touchtone phones, YU would make an official request. Eventually, all the payphones on campus should be fully operating touchtones.

Hebrew University Transfer Problems

cont. from page 3

the reason for credit problems at all; rather Bar-Ilan has merely attracted more students than Hebrew University and therefore YU was happy to oblige their students by creating a co-sponsored program as it has with B.M.T., Michlalah and Machon Gold, and there have even been yeshivot turned down for such a program because of the cost to set up such an expansive service to facilitate minimal YU representation. This, I have been told, is the case with Hebrew University. That's quite logical, but simply untrue.

"Academic freedom has always been a problem at YU...I find it ironic how YU caters to its patrons rather than its students"

An average of 12 students a year since 1955 does not sound like a few to me. I believe the program has not been set up, and will not be set up. For such a program would acknowledge YU student representation in non-yeshiva type educations. Academic freedom has always been a problem at YU, and its effects are felt here as well. I find it ironic how Yeshiva University caters to its patrons rather than its students. After all it's the former the Yeshiva cannot live without, right? As a waiter caters to its customer, so too should YU its students. From present problems such as vanservice and uptown social events, as well as transfer credit from such an outstanding

institution as Hebrew University, it's evident that students are being denied basic freedoms, but moreover, freedom they wish to enjoy. By shielding the Yeshiva student from the so called "evils" the world has to offer the Yeshiva guarantees the student's adherence to its rules and regulations. If this were lifted by the Yeshiva wouldn't the student have the knowledge learned from Yeshiva not to pick the apple from the forbidden tree? Or must he wait until he graduates to have this non-unique opportunity and thus render the

Yeshiva unaccountable for his actions?

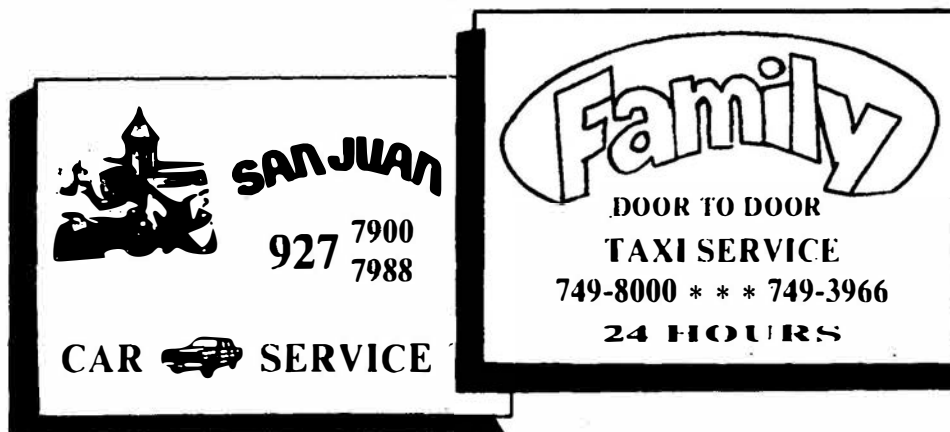
It seems to me that if the University had enough trust in itself and its students it would release them from its grasp, and find that the student would act accordingly for the Yeshiva has taught him to do so - not forced him to do so. Until then, Rabbis can continue to give shiur without the realization of their effectiveness, for the student living in such a sheltered society does not come to face the complex halachic situation to which the Rabbi is referring.

Jeff Ifrah
YC '89

(Hebrew University '87-'88)

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Willig

cont. from page 3

the Rambam on the subject was misunderstood by many; we must have a place for secular studies, but they must have a secondary status. "As the saying goes," said Rabbi Willig, "Torah U'Mada, in that order."

He went on to say that this is not a problem only for Yeshiva students, but also for those in the job world. They "get into a mode where the main thing is income." A typical conversation served as an example. "What do you do?" "I'm a lawyer - and I'm a businessman," Are normal responses. "No," said Rabbi Willig, "What do you do?" "I'm a Talmid Chacham and a Ben Torah, and to make a living I'm engaged in this business or that profession." This must be the response.

However, with all the hardships we might experience, Rabbi Willig maintained that what we are doing at Yeshiva is the correct method. We follow the Shulchan Aruch and the students receive a Torah education as well as the required secular studies.

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The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

NEW YORK CITY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1961.

Survey

YU Basketball

Backcourt Asset

Shelly Wieder (Senior, 5'11", 163 lbs.). Shelly, as the quarter-back of this outfit, is responsible for setting up the plays devised by Coach Sarachek. A valuable asset in the backcourt, he has proven himself to be an accomplished play-maker. Perhaps the most underrated player here in recent years. Wieder is an excellent ball-handler



Shelly Wieder

who can score with an effective one-hander. In brief, he quietly and effectively gets the job done.

The Commentator

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The Professor Exposed

Seymour Lainoff

by Jason Rosenblatt

There are few occasions when the student body of a college has the opportunity to formally express its gratitude to an individual. Perhaps the highest form of tribute given by the students of Yeshiva this year was the dedication of the 1961 Masmid in honor of Dr. Seymour Lainoff. As assistant professor of English and executive secretary of the Scholastic Standing Committee, Dr. Lainoff has come into close contact with the students and earned their respect.

Personal History

Dr. Lainoff came to Yeshiva as a part-time instructor in 1950. He became a full-time instructor in 1953 and was appointed assistant professor in 1958. He received undergraduate training at Brooklyn College and did graduate work at Columbia and New York Universities. His doctoral thesis dealt with William Wordsworth, and he has published articles on that poet as well as on Henry James and D. H. Lawrence. At present, he is in the midst of writing a book on Edith Wharton.

Desires Dynamism

In our interview, Dr. Lainoff expressed some cogent opinion regarding the improvement of curriculum at Yeshiva. He feels that the humanities and social sciences lack the dynamic quality which is present in the natural science curriculum at our college. The curriculum of the two former departments should be re-evaluated, and the entire approach to the humanities should be vitalized.

Depth of Personality

He also stated that more faculty meetings should be devoted to discussion of a subject's content. Dr. Lainoff is of the opinion that there is more quality variation in the student body at Yeshiva than in most other schools. He also remarked that the Yeshiva student possesses a kind of depth of personality that is not found in other schools.

At the conclusion of the interview, Dr. Lainoff stated that Yeshiva is promoting something most valuable by linking the two ways of life. He is of the belief that Yeshiva has a fine future.

Russian Jewry

Once again the blind fury of anti-Semitism seems to have found its way into the policies of the Soviet government. Reports filtering out of Russia have indicated that a definite plan to destroy the identification of Soviet Jews may have already been initiated. Recently, leaders of that country's Jewish community have been arrested and sentenced for so-called crimes against the state.

THE COMMENTATOR has learned from reliable sources that barriers have been set up to hinder one's observance of Judaism.

The Governing Board believes it is imperative that the Yeshiva College student know and understand the nature of the Russian discrimination against our co-religionists.

We cannot ignore the persecution of almost three million Russian Jews.

Good Luck!

The approach of the coming sports season at Yeshiva ushers in an integral part of student activities. Our basketball, fencing, and wrestling teams look forward to full slates of matches and hope for continuing success. There is no doubt that the student body looks forward with great anticipation to the exploits of the athletic squads. We wish our teams good luck and much success.

Residents Instructed In Dorm Regulations

A meeting of all dormitory residents was held Tuesday, November 23 in the Rubin Residence Hall Synagogue.

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, dormitory supervisor, discussed critical problem areas.

Although students have generally been very cooperative, Rabbi Cheifetz declared that he was not satisfied with some of the conduct. In particular, he cited absences of equipment, poor minyan attendance, and eating in the rooms as some of the shortcomings that must be alleviated. "Any further violation of these matters will be dealt with very harshly," he stated.

Coming Events at

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY'S

FURMAN DINING HALL

"Where Prices Are Easy To Swallow & Food Easy to Digest"

TEX-MEX	Italian Night	Deli-Delicious	Chinese Night
Chili	Steak Pizziola	Burger	Pepper Steak
Chicken Cubana	Spaghetti & Meatball	Bagel Dogs	Chow Mein
Texas Bar-B-Q Beef	Veal Marcella	Nuggets	Spare Ribs
Veal Sausage	Chicken Cacciatore	Hoagys	Eggrolls
		Fries	

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the Soviet Union and the scheduled
demonstration on their behalf
in Washington,

The 20th

ANNUAL

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

KARATE

ASSOCIATION

EXHIBITION !

Board/Brick Breaking, Kata, etc.

中國功夫

has been rescheduled for
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

2:30 p.m.

Lamport Auditorium

Amsterdam Ave. (between 186th & 187th St.)



Admission	\$5.00
Under 12	\$4.00
Valid Y.C. ID Card	\$3.00

The Education Switch

cont. from page 6

I must say that since I have come to YU I have begun to reconsider my options quite seriously. There were so many choices that I have turned down in the past few years due to the rigidity suggested by the English system. From the age of thirteen all the subjects I have taken at various levels have been geared towards getting me into law school. There was a multitude of subjects, such as Economics, that I had been intrigued by, but destined never to learn on my way to law. Now here in YU I have been able to take this and other subjects and I find that I am enjoying them immensely. For the first time in years I am able to enjoy school again. I am still debating within myself as to whether

or not I want to change my career direction, but at least I can now say that whatever I end up doing it will be something that I will be able to live with. What does a thirteen year old know of the legal profession, and yet that is the age at which most aspiring lawyers in England have made that fateful decision. It is possible that in some ironic fashion, the very fact that the English student has to make this decision at such an early age could itself cause him to mature earlier.

On the other side of the coin is the American college student who has already made the decision as to what he wants to do, and finds himself constrained by the seemingly endless list of requirements that he has to fulfill before he is

allowed to go on to what he would really like to do. However, because of the high school education which he has received, he still has to go through the liberal arts process. There are, however, provisions for the advanced American students to progress at a faster rate, through such programs as early admissions.

In short, the American student has a personality that the university supplements by inserting various cultural insights. Whereas the English student, by virtue of a more cultural environment and an education system that is more geared to maturing earlier, has no need to be taught these courses at the college level.

I personally feel that I am privileged in that I will benefit from both of these educational

systems. Firstly I have had an English high school background which has brought me to a more mature outlook on my life at an earlier stage. Yet, since I was still not ready to make the decision, the American university system has given me the chance to take a step back and reconsider my decisions.

So having experienced both educational systems firsthand, which do I feel to be of a more beneficial nature to the student? The accelerated pace of the English system, or the slow but sure approach of the American system.

The only apparent solution to this conundrum is that "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." Having leapt over the fence at this stage in my life I can honestly say that at the moment, it's green as far as the eye can see.

Macs

cont. from page 1

came flying onto the court. The Macs hit their first five shots of the game, mostly from inside, to take a quick 10-2 lead after just three minutes. The Bard coach, aware that his team had to be phased by the high noise level, called a quick time-out. However, that seemed to add to the Macs' momentum as they stretched their lead to 21-7. For the rest of the half both teams played typical early season ball with a lot of errant passes and fundamental mistakes.

The closest Bard could come the rest of the half was twelve points following a three-point field goal by Tony Rivera that made the score 32-20. However, the Macs finished the half strongly and went into the locker-room with a 43-21 lead.

At halftime, fans enjoyed the return of 'The Great Commie Shoot-Out' that pits five contestants against each other in a 30-second shooting competition. Daniel Herenstein won the free Macs T-shirt with a long three pointer that just beat the buzzer.

In the second half Coach Halpert was able to use his entire bench and give first year players some on-court experience. The scoring slowed to a trickle over the last seven minutes of the game and the Macs were only able to reach 70 points when Jan Levine hit a last-second three-pointer to close out the scoring.

The Macs' performance was typical of an opening game against a team that nobody expected them to have trouble with. The leading scorers were Ayal Hod with 14 points and Lior Hod and Yudi Teichman, each of whom scored 12 points. Most of the scoring particularly in the first half, was done inside against a Bard team that had nobody taller than 6'1". The Hods took advantage of this with twenty rebounds between the two of them, including eight offensive boards by Ayal in the first half. Most of these offensive rebounds led to easy baskets for Ayal whose 6-of-9 shooting from the field proved that last year's high field goal percentage was no fluke. Other players made considerable contributions to the victory. Marty Shlakman, making his first appearance as a starter, played with a lot of poise and dished off five assists, including one alley-oop to Lior midway through the first half. The hustle of guards Jeff Baum, David Gottlieb, and Donny Furer led to many steals and fast breaks, and Zev Weiss, Hesh Muehlgay, and Asher Wohlmark were impressive inside.

While not a gem of a ball game, Coach Halpert can be proud of his 99th career victory and look ahead toward No. 100 as he and the team concentrate on league competition which begins immediately.

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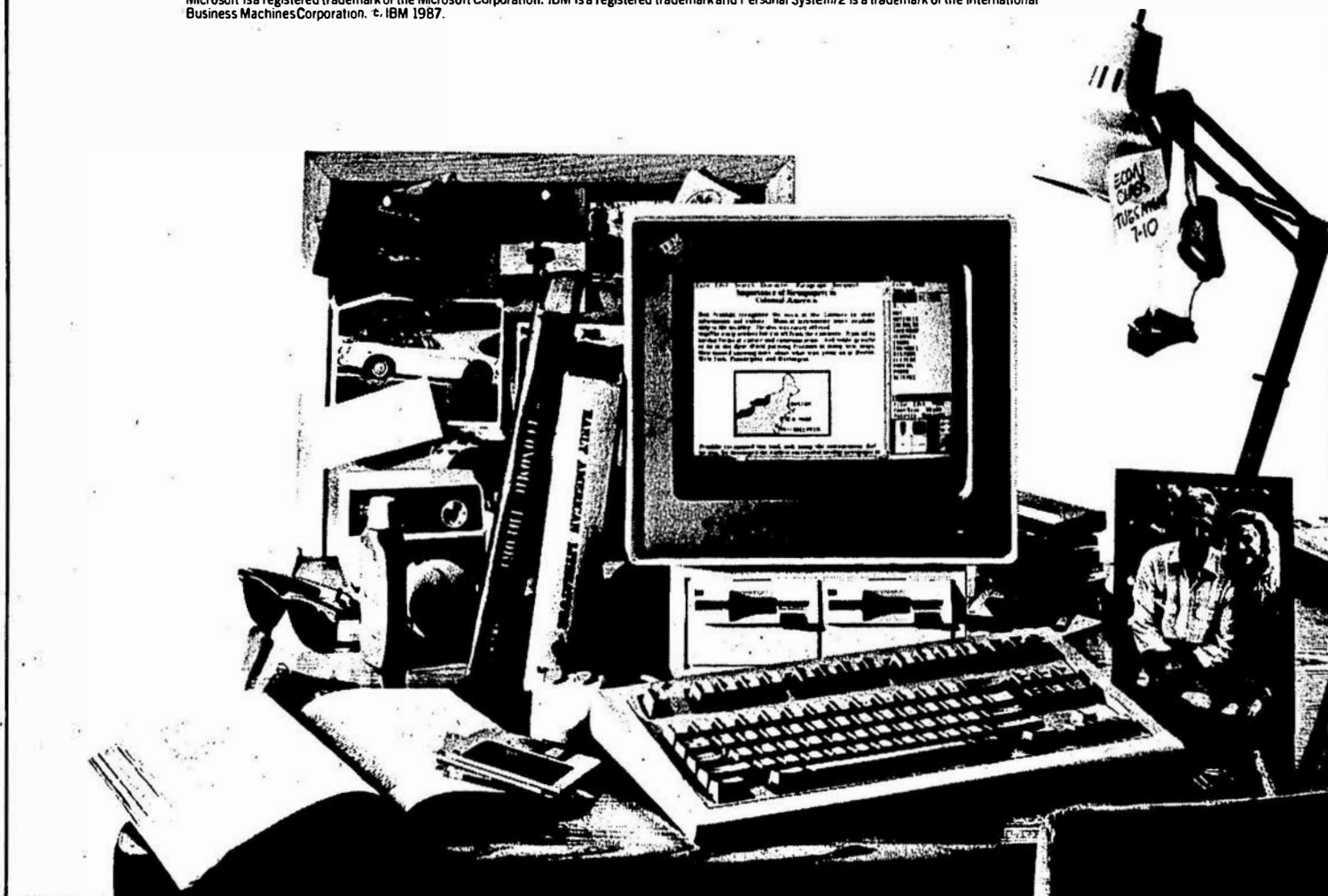
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Yeshiva Sports

New Coach Aboff Fields Promising Squad Ungar and Levy Once Again Top Seeds

by Jonathan Bandler

When Mickey Aboff graduated last year after two years as captain of the YU Tennis team the team lost one its most energetic singles players in years. However, the team retained its competitive edge when Aboff was named the coach of this year's team, succeeding Neil Tilson. Not only is Aboff keenly aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the returning players, but he knows the styles of most of the coaches and players of opposing schools.

The YU Tennis team will try to revert to its form of two years ago when it finished 5-3 and came within one game of the Independent Athletic Conference championship. Last year was a disappointing season as the team went 3-4 and lost tough matches that it should have won. The competition within the league should remain fierce with Stevens Tech and NJIT the top teams once again. Western Connecticut, which upset YU last year, may challenge for second or third place, while Maritime and Polytech will battle it out for the cellar.

As always YU will have the potential to beat any of these teams. The singles players are strong and with enough practice will be match tough to challenge the top players from other schools. However, each year it seems to be the doubles that make or break the matches in college tennis. Coach Aboff feels he has found a number of first year players to practice with the top returning doubles players in hopes of finding the best possible combinations.

A number of returning players form the nucleus of this year's team. Top seeded Ben Ungar returns along with fellow captains and singles players Jon Bandler and Robbie Wind. Also returning are second seed, Leon Levy, and Darius Schwartz, Jeff Goldberg, Gideon Schwartz, and Seth Lutnick. Steve Siegel, the team's top doubles player, returns for a second season and will hopefully be paired up as soon as possible to best prepare for the season.

The first year players are untested but the talent that the YU team will have in the future is readily apparent after the first few Fall practices. Ari Pasternak, a top player in Maine, Darrin Hirt, Yoni Weber, Danny Lifshulz, and Jeff Greenwald have all showed promise in singles and doubles.

Coach Aboff has a solid team to work with this season at the team's home courts in Edgewater, NJ, but how far they go, as is the case every year, is in their own hands.



Uri Bachrach takes on Stevens Tech opponent in the opening match for the Ellmen who lost to Tech and Kean in their first two matches

Scorchers Edge Cougars in OT

by Jonathan Bandler

Captain Bruce Taragin hit a driving one-hander and one of two free throws in overtime as the Scorchers held off the Cougars, 51-50, to keep their playoff chances alive. Each team was missing some of their big guns due to midterms but the inside-outside game of Taragin and Ronnie Morris proved to be too much for the Cougars who relied mostly on their outside shooting. Taragin finished with 18 points and Morris had 16, mostly in the second half when the Scorchers, who led 24-23 at halftime, came back from a 33-26 deficit. The Cougars had a chance to win the game at the end of overtime but could not get off a shot. They were led by Jon Bandler and Ronny Korn who scored 21 and 10 points, respectively. The Cougars can sew up a playoff berth with a win over the Warriors in their final game.

DUCKS 48
HOYAS 29

The Ducks pulled away in the second half with a 26-9 run and went on to beat the Hoyas for their first victory of the season. Izzy Kaufman shot 9-of-16 from the field, scoring 19 points, to lead the Ducks and deny the Hoyas their first victory. Dan Yoshor returned from a serious ankle injury to score 10 points and help Mark Ziering on the boards. With the victory, the Ducks kept their slim playoff hopes alive. Shai Shmelzer led the Hoyas with 15 points.

COUGARS 53
PIT BULLS 49

The Cougars broke open a 20-20 halftime tie with some impressive fast breaking and held on down the stretch to edge the Pit Bulls despite a league high 25 points for Ari Blaine. The Cougars led by 11 with 3:27 remaining but the Pit Bulls pressed and scored a number of uncontested layups to narrow the margin. Adam Fishman led the Cougars with 15 points, Shaye Shindler added 13 and Jon Bandler had 12 as the Cougars outside shooting and fast break offset the strong inside game of Blaine and Gerson Levitz, who scored 12 points.

STANDINGS		SCORING LEADERS						
THE MOB	4-0	PLAYER	TEAM	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
PIT BULLS	3-1	Izzy Kaufman	DUCKS	4	32	2	66	16.5
COUGARS	4-2	Alan Berger	DOOBIES	4	27	7	61	15.3
DOOBIES	4-2	Richard Scharlat	THE MOB	3	21	2	44	14.7
SCORCHERS	3-3	Jon Bandler	COUGARS	6	36	5	77	12.8
DUCKS	1-3	Ronnie Morris	SCORCHERS	5	27	9	63	12.6
WARRIORS	1-3							
HOYAS	0-6							

Taubermen Fall to Alumni Once Again

by Zalman Levine

The bright lights of the Max Stern Athletic Center blazed down on an unusual scene: Two long mats resting atop a plastic floor covering, electric cables snaking between the bleachers, tables with food - yes, food! - families milling around, a coach-type person in a snazzy red blazer running here and there, and a few fencing-type people warming up. The Taubermen welcomed their alumni in a gala exhibition match designed to prepare the varsity team for its season opener against Vassar on November 30, and to encourage Yeshiva's past talent to shed its rusty skin and oil its creaking joints. Under the direction of coach Arthur Tauber, the alumni launched a vigorous, intensive, deadly-serious, five-minute retraining program, and with set jaws and gleaming eyes, lunged their way to a 16-11 victory over the Taubermen.

Led by David Feit, Dan Zanger, Steve Rothman, and Murphy Rothman, the alumni put on an outstanding show, aggressively and persistently attacking and attacking and attacking, backing their opponents into the metaphorical rope and forcing them off the liberal strip. The Tauberman witnessed outstanding performances by Zev Goldblatt (3-0) in foil and by Rob Sobel (3-0) in sabre, but could not muster the power needed to sever the age-old tradition of their annual defeat at the hands of the alumni. Spectators had fun, the atmosphere was jovial, the alumni enjoyed refreshments during the match, varsity fencers finished off the scraps after the match, the team celebrated the arrival of a new stainless mat, and all experienced - if nothing else - an unusual Sunday afternoon. The Taubermen are ready to defeat Vassar, and now, on the threshold of the season, we would like to remind the student body of its standing invitation to come to our home matches and to cheer us on to victory.



BANNER CONTEST

At halftime of the YU-Maritime game on Thursday Dec. 3 Banners will be judged on originality and creativity and will be used to decorate The Max Stern Athletic Center. Winner receives free gift certificate to Bernstein's.

Commentator
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