

The Commentator

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, 500 W. 185 ST., N.Y., N.Y. 10033

Issue No. 6

Rav Aharon On Mada

by Yitzchak Blau

The Torah U'Mada lecture series continued on Wednesday, December 2 with a talk given by Rav Aharon Soloveitchik. Lamport Auditorium was filled not only with students, but with men and women of various ages, indicating the interest of the Jewish community at large.

After Dr. Miller's introduction, Rav Aharon began by reiterating the five approaches to Torah U'Mada he had mentioned in last year's lecture. Mada can be used as a medium to Ahavas Hashem, for Yishuv Medinah, as a means of self-fulfillment, as an aid to Torah, and to show the beauty of the Torah to our brethren. He pointed out that this does not mean that everyone must learn Mada with all these approaches in mind. Each individual must take into account his talents and inclinations. For example, it is certainly possible to attain Ahavas Hashem without Mada. The Rambam in Sefer Hamitz-

vos (positive commandment 3) writes that we should study God's commandments, teachings, and works to reach love of God. The sequence indicates that Torah is the primary medium.

Rav Aharon then discussed Rav Boruch Beer Leibovitz' responsa which quotes Rav Chaim Soloveitchik as preferring risking your life in the army to going to college. This was contradicted by the fact that Dr. Aharon Soloveitchik, Rav Aharon's cousin, had been told by Rav Chaim to go to college. Based on a story which he had heard, Rav Aharon theorized that there were special circumstances in the case quoted by Rav Boruch Beer.

Following that, the issue of Bitul Torah was raised. How much time is one obligated to learn daily? There is a dispute in Menachos (99b) how to understand the verse in Yehoshua of "This Torah shall not depart from your mouth."

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Mall Talk

by Ari Levitan

A meeting regarding the future of the pedestrian mall was held on December seventh. Members of various student organizations were invited by Rabbi Marc Mandel, Assistant to the Dean of Students. Attending the meeting were representatives of the YC Student Council, Accounting Society, Economics Society, WYUR, Commentator, Young Republicans, Calendar Committee, JSS, IBC, SOY, Political Science Society, Hamevasser, AIPAC, and Senior and Junior class presidents.

Dr. Louis Levitt, Professor of Social Work and Community Relations Representative, led the discussion. He stated that three steps will occur before the mall is able to become permanent. First, public hearings will take place in the community dealing with the mall. Second, the Community Planning Board will meet and vote whether or not the mall should stay. Third, the City Commissioner of Transportation will make the final decision.

It was evident from the start that confusion existed on the nature of the meeting. The memorandum received by the student representatives stated that "We will be seeking your input regarding the future of the pedestrian mall Your perspective and opinion is most valued and necessary." However, Dr. Levitt informed those present "We need your help, that is why we're having this meeting." The help required is as follows: First, signatures from residents of the area are needed for a petition (written

in both English and Spanish) showing support for the mall. It was pointed out that students of YC are considered residents. Second, probably early in February, a public meeting regarding the mall will occur. Student volunteers are needed to show support.

Many aspects of the mall were discussed. The major reason for the pedestrian mall is to add security to the area. Three and a half years ago, an organized group in cars shot at students and buildings. The mall therefore acts to constrict the flow of traffic on Amsterdam Avenue. Additionally, by not allowing cars to park in front of YU buildings, added security measures are taken. Students raised the objection that much of the traffic disobeys the posted signs that require cars not to go on Amsterdam Avenue between 183rd and 185th street at certain hours. Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration and Director of Personnel, commented that there is significantly less traffic now on the street. Apparently, drivers have taken new routes and do not use these or nearby streets.

Neighborhood concerns were also discussed. Regarding the claims that YU took away parking spaces, it was pointed out during the meeting that fifty spaces were lost and a hundred and sixty-two were added for the community. YU paid for installations of additional street lights, and provides a guard and van service north of 190th street where angular

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The Miami Boys Choir, directed by Yerachmiel Begun, at the Channukah concert, sponsored by YCSC. They performed with Keshet before a record crowd of 1,300.

Summit Rally

by Daniel Barenholtz

On Sunday December 6, two hundred and fifty thousand American Jews descended upon Washington for an unprecedented march. Others, such as Martin Luther King's followers and AIDS victims, have marched on the Capitol to demand more rights for themselves; this Sunday's participants, however, came not to demand anything for themselves, but for the well-being of others - namely Soviet Jews.

To the four thousand year old cry of "Let My People Go", a quarter of a million people made the march from the Ellipse to the mall at Capitol Hill. The Yeshiva University

the crowd came. The speakers consisted primarily of Jewish organizational leaders, supportive American politicians and freed Soviet refuseniks.

As the Jewish leaders delivered their messages to the crowd, they stressed that the rally was not one of protest, but one of support for the administration in its quest for improved human rights in the Soviet Union. It was declared that we will not stand idly by as other humans suffer and that Soviet Jewry must remain an issue until every individual is granted the inalienable right of emigration. Among those speaking were Shoshana Coradin, head of the National

move towards the Jewish public which regards Bush as anti-Israel. Jack Kemp also spoke about the imperative upon Americans to speak out for human rights, "...for if we don't, who in God's name will?" Other hopefuls visible were Alexander Haig, Albert Gore, Robert Dole, and Paul Simon. Mayor Koch and Governor Kean were also present as were other politicians. One particularly well received address was delivered by a prominent civil rights leader. To loud cheering he recalled the Jewish people's involvement in the black civil right's movement. This undoubtedly included many individuals standing in Sunday's crowd.

Many prominent Soviet emigres were also on hand to light the candles of the menorah



contingent of 500 regrettably arrived too late to participate in the march, and proceeded straight to the sight of the rally. There, the program opened with a band singing popular Hebrew songs with people of every religious persuasion joining in. Then, after an impressive spiritual by Pearl Bailey, the numerous speakers were introduced as their turn to address

Council of Jewish Federations, and Morris Abram, president of the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

Presidential hopefuls figured prominently amongst the American politicians who spoke. Candidate Vice-President Bush delivered what many considered to be the finest speech of the day. Many interpreted this as a conciliatory

and speak to the huge crowd supporting the cause. Heroes such as Natan Scharansky, Ida Nudel, Yosef Mendelovich, and Vladimir Slepak addressed the crowd in encouraging terms. They spoke of how they had been helped by our activities in the past and how we must continue them in the future. They pleaded that America

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Editorials

Leadership By Example

This past Sunday Yeshiva University celebrated its annual Chanukkah dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Perhaps the most important fundraising event of the year, this particular dinner offered an interesting and somewhat controversial choice of speakers: Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres; and Madame Jihan Sadat, widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and leading women's rights activist.

Both selections proved provocative as almost two hundred Satmar Hasidim protested the presentation of an honorary degree to Mr. Peres. A formidable contender for the Prime Ministry and leader of the Labor coalition, Mr. Peres advocated what he called "pluralism" for Israel and the right of every Jew to "express his own Jewishness," frequently quoting Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik and other Rabbinical sources.

The presence of Mrs. Sadat even more criticism from both Arabs and Jews. Dr. Lamm, in his presidential address, noted the intense storm of condemnation visited upon her by other Arab figures for her willingness to speak to Jewish organizations, especially one so closely identified with Israeli causes. In Jewish circles, of course, many considered the invitation to Mrs. Sadat to be improper for a Yeshiva University sponsored event, a view heard among a significant portion of the student body as well. However, Mrs. Sadat, through a relatively bland but emotional and nostalgic recollection of her husband's role in the Camp David process and his historic visit to Jerusalem, succeeded in enrapturing all but the most skeptical.

While many may find fault with the University for hosting a prominent Israeli politician closely associated, whether properly or not, with secular Zionism and pluralism, and the widow of the man who launched the 1973 war and, according to some critics, practically stole back the Sinai, YU has exhibited an admirable quality of courage and conviction. First, by demonstrating that YU can allow for constructive dialogue and the presentation of a multiplicity of viewpoints concerning the future of the Jewish State, it has emphatically rejected those who would fill us with hatred for one another.

Equally important at this juncture in Arab-Israeli relations, Yeshiva University has openly declared its support for the achievement of peace between Arab and Jew, a peace that for all of its faults has prevented major loss of life between Israel and Egypt since its inception. As Dr. Lamm eloquently stated, "Principle without peace" results in rigidity and distrust and ultimately is no better than peace at any cost. Without peace between Jew and Arab we can not survive. Drawing on the example of Maimonides, Dr. Lamm recalled that once Jew and Moslem lived side by side in peace and maybe one day will do so again.

In its determination to make that politically difficult statement, Yeshiva University has demonstrated the true characteristics of leadership for the Jewish community to which it perennially lays claim.

Once Started, Never Finished

The recent display of mass solidarity in our Nation's Capital in support of and to demand the freedom of Jews from the Soviet Union teaches us a number of meaningful lessons. To begin with it shows the Jewish leadership in the United States that when we set ourselves to accomplish something for the right reasons we can get it done. The Jewish leadership balked when Natan Scharansky said he wanted and expected 400,000 Jews to come to the Summit Rally. And rightly so, for if the turnout had been small the event would have been far more embarrassing than effective. However, the figure proposed in return by the Jewish leaders, a figure not worthy of quote, was itself embarrassing and showed a lack of faith in the people they represent.

Certainly there can be a level of apathy amongst Jews, as we well know, however, when the threat is real, we band together and come out in force. People in Michigan or California didn't charter planes as if they were going to a royal wedding and just to say they were there. They went because the threat to Soviet Jews is real and maybe only 200,000 people on the Mall in Washington can make people perceive that threat as real.

A second lesson we learn is that when we rally together against such a threat as the violation of the basic human rights of our brethren in another part of the world, there can be no wavering of support amongst the Jews who are free. It is a time when the Orthodox, the Conservative, and the Reform Jews join with other civil rights-conscious people and voice their disdain for the totalitarian regimes that allow and promote such treatment. It is not the time for any particular sector of Judaism to publicly boycott such a display of commitment. Such "holier than thou" attitudes cause to expand the branches of Judaism as perceived from both within our religion and from without.

Another lesson must be learned not from the rally itself but from the Soviet reaction, or lack thereof, to it. We must not for a moment think of the rally in the past and rest on our laurels. The fact that General Secretary Gorbachev would not even recognize questions pertaining to human rights in this an era of glasnost and while in Washington where he chatted his way into the hearts of Americans, underlines the evil of his and any other Soviet regime and means that we as Jews must step up our efforts to get the gates opened once and for all.

It is unfortunate that the rally could not have been held at the conclusion of the summit rather than on the eve of it in order to deflect some of the favorable public opinion that Gorbachev and the Soviets garnered during their stay. Their public relations coup allowed Americans to look beyond the issues and admire the Soviet leader's enigmatic personality. As Jews we cannot look beyond at least one issue and must concentrate our efforts to make sure that others don't as well.

The Commentator

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In With A Wimper

Recently, a much heralded and eagerly awaited publication was ushered in with all the excitement of the deregulation of the London Stock exchange: The Big Bang. Long promised, it created a casual turning of heads and a sigh of "What was all that fuss about?" At least that one was on time.

The publication in question is the student Guide to the Perplexed. Unfortunately, this year's guide is liable to give more perplexity than guidance. Admittedly, there were innumerable problems with financing and computer usage, but then, every other student publication has also experienced and surmounted such difficulties. More noteworthy among the errors is the absence of many names in the 'Z' section, an "oversight" according to the editors. These errors prevail throughout especially in the printing of telephone numbers. A nice innovation that also failed to measure up to its promise was the correction sheet posted up on each floor prior to publication. Of course, if one had been assigned a different room it could prove immensely difficult to track down one's entry to correct it.

Another annoyance has been the air of flippancy attached to the production. Many jokes are in less than ideal taste, and some are frankly obnoxious: By saying of the faculty, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach." The students involved assume for themselves an, as yet, undeserved air of accomplishment. Perhaps greater attention to content and less to wit would have seen a useful guide printed in November.

Still, the job has been completed, with nothing printed that a fair amount of blue ink won't render accurate, and the cover is, after all, rather interesting.

Engagements

Nahum Barischansky & Sarah Leah Nachtigel

Gary Beitler & Sheba Stern

Yaakov Borow & Malke Friedman

Judah Hartman & Rina Gang

Martin Lifshutz & Rhonda Kaiman

Elhanan Weinbach & Evabeth Blond

Further Use of Mr. Ratnovsky

To the Editor:

Excited and interested are the words which describe my reaction to the article in the last issue of The Commentator about the librarian, Alex Ratnovsky.

There is a large group of Yeshiva College students who wish to delve Dostoevsky and other Russian novelists in their original Russian form. Those of us who speak and are familiar with the basic grammar and structure of the Russian language know that its verse has more room for creativity than many other languages. It was established in the last article that Alex Ratnovsky has the knowledge, experience, and

academic qualifications to teach this much desired subject.

When I approached Dean Rosenfeld concerning this matter, he mentioned two potential problems. Firstly, the Dean is afraid that native Russians will use this literature course to exempt out of the English Literature requirement. There is a one word solution to this problem: No. French speaking Canadians cannot fulfill the language requirement with an elementary French course. Certainly this is not a reason to deprive wanting students of the course.

Secondly, Dean Rosenfeld argues, if YU were to hire a teacher, it might prefer one

with a Ph.D.

Why should Alex Ratnovsky suffer the same bureaucracy here that he left Russia to escape from? It is obvious he has the qualifications. His thirteen years of teaching at the University of Moscow hail his extensive teaching experience; that he does not have a doctorate is merely a function of Soviet bureaucracy and anti-semitism.

If there is any University that can give Alex Ratnovsky the opportunity that he is truly qualified for, I believe it is this one. It is not our prerogative, it is our obligation.

Robert B. Berman, YC '88

An Old Republican

by Moshe Weber

With only three months remaining until the primary season and New York State primaries in April, the Young Republicans of Yeshiva College feel it necessary to heighten the consciousness of students with regard to the Republican campaigns. A major objective of the Young Republicans is to present as many Republican candidates' views as possible.

In keeping with this policy, the Young Republicans and the Political Science Society held their first in a series of events pertaining to the coming election year. On December 2nd, Lloyd Green addressed a small but enthusiastic group of students in Furst Hall. Mr. Green is the Special Assistant to the Bush campaign in New York State. Despite the curtness of his speech, Mr. Green effectively established three major points. He gave an overview of the entire campaign explaining the complexity of the New York primary. Since N.Y.S. has 34 Congressional districts it can become quite confusing when voting for your delegates to represent your candidate.

Mr. Green went on to list Vice President Bush's credentials, ranging from two-term senator to Director of the CIA. Mr. Green raised the question of why George Bush should be elected President, and answered by expounding Mr. Bush's leadership abilities. As VP he was head of the Special Task Force on Terrorism and has met with European and Soviet leaders. Mr. Green ended by emphasizing the importance of registering to vote and participation in the election process.

The lecture developed into a question and answer period in which students found out more about Mr. Bush's views on current affairs. Responding to a question about Mr. Bush being labelled a "wimp" by the press, Mr. Green explained that bad press is unavoidable. However, Mr. Bush turned this around by winning debates and winning the Florida Straw Poll. One student mentioned that the baby boom will one day have a great impact on social security benefits. Mr. Green

said that being that social security is so dear to the American public, George Bush has no intentions of tinkering with the current social security program. In addition, as far as economic programs, just as in his seven years of office President Reagan has not raised taxes, Mr. Bush does not plan to raise tax rates to make up the deficit. A logical question which then followed was, how does Mr. Bush differ from the President? Mr. Green replied that Mr. Bush believes in higher education as a greater priority. He stressed the importance of more students making use of college education. In answering a follow-up question about tuition, Mr. Green stated that Mr. Bush is in favor of tuition tax credit, though it may not be a priority.

Naturally, foreign affairs namely Israel, was a key topic. Mr. Green admitted that there may be a cut in Israeli aid, but that domestic programs are also taking cuts as a reflection of overall reforms. He added that in terms of defense, Mr. Bush favors establishing a home port in Haifa, basing sixth fleet supplies in Israel, and he supports President Reagan's present policies in the Middle East. When one student asked about American aid to foreign nations, Mr. Green replied that Israel should not be America's sole ally in the Middle East.

Students asked about undertakings of the present administration, and where Mr. Bush stands. Mr. Green acknowledged the Vice President's support for continuing research and development on SDI (Star Wars), continuing the INF treaty, and reaffirming support for the Contras to bring democracy to Nicaragua. Mr. Green also stated that Mr. Bush favors school prayer.

Mr. Green summed up his own views on George Bush, calling him a "conservative man with a moderate temperament." Bush lent a tone of moderation during the student uprisings of 1968. When legislation would have penalized educational institutions, he helped tone down the situation. Mr. Green said that despite his not being

an ideologue, Mr. Bush has strong ideas, especially defense and taxation.

Careers

To the Editor:

All too often there is criticism about our school in our student newspapers. So it is with great pleasure that I can be the bearer of good news.

I recently had a great problem that was so bothersome I could not function normally. Ever since we were little we have been asked, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" I have been answering this question the same way all my life: A doctor, or maybe even a surgeon. Well recently after taking various pre-med courses I was unsure if this was what I really wanted. After a while I became so unsure that I wanted to search for a new field of interest. Soon I realized that nothing really suited me.

A friend told me about a new career guidance counsellor at Yeshiva University. At first I thought, "What could they tell me I could not tell myself?" I made an appointment reluctantly. After forty minutes of meeting with Naomi Kapp I realized that I was very wrong. I felt so comfortable I was willing to divulge all the personal information necessary in making a decision of this type. Mrs. Kapp sounded like she knew all the right questions to ask. I felt very confident that she really knew what she was doing. It felt so good to talk with someone who really could help me with my problem. After I left her office there was still at least two weeks of work before I would really have a concrete answer to my problem. While my original dilemma was still unsolved, I did not feel my usual tumultuous self. I guess just knowing that you are being guided by someone who both cares and knows is, in itself, a relief.

I know that after this letter is read Mrs. Kapp's schedule will become further overcrowded, but I am confident that she is ready to handle this new situation in a proficient manner as always.

Michael Ungar
YC '89

Israel Notes

Syria puts its army on red alert in preparation for Israeli retaliation to the night of the kites - the terrorist attack by hang-glider which left six soldiers dead. Israel was warned through American diplomats not to retaliate. For the first time in ten years, an Israeli soldier is wounded on the Egyptian front...(see box) ...William Nakash is extradited to France after long legal battle... Mike Stolovitzki, a veteran of the Israeli Tourism Corps, was named head of the newly formed American Express Israeli desk... Minister without portfolio, Mr. Yitzchak Modai, is joining the select cabinet in place of Moshe Arens, who quit over the Lavi affair.... 5% of Israeli draftees receive releases for religious reasons...The Maarach gains power while the Likud slips, this over the past 2 months, although for the past year both are equally stable...(see box)....Prime Minister Yitzchak

Shamir stresses that voices of glee from arab leaders, including Egypt, about the attack on the northern border, are very disturbing.

Soldier Hurt Near Egypt

For the first time in ten years, an Israeli soldier was wounded on the Egyptian front. An I.D.F. soldier, on a common patrol, was attacked by hand grenades and small arms fire from the Egyptian side of the border. In Cairo, the Egyptian foreign minister Ismael Abdel Magid said that it was a small incident and should not be taken seriously. An Israeli patrol discovered a 30cm break in the fence between Israel and Egypt. While investigating the area of the break, they were suddenly attacked: Two hand grenades were thrown at them, and small arms fire was heard. According to military sources, a group of terrorists had activated the electronic fence, then waited for the patrol to check and attacked this patrol.

An Apology

To the Editor:

I would like to apologize for the extremism inherent in the title of my recent letter, "Scandal in the Caf." The term "scandal" is more sensationalist than informative and represents irresponsible journalism.

"Injustice in the Caf" would have been a more appropriate title. It was not the intention of this writer to generate antagonism toward any establishment but rather to publicize what he saw as an injustice, hoping that it would be rectified.

Since publication, I have spoken with some of the waiters.

Even though they now get food credit slips in denominations of \$4, these sometimes disgruntled employees may just "frown & bear it" (rather than stick their necks out to complain) in order to protect their opportunities for future employment.

I am pleased to have learned that steps have been and are being taken to rectify the situation I described in my previous letter, and I am happy to note the fine work of Mr. Alan Solomon, manager, and his efforts in achieving a good rapport with the students.

Asher Meth, RIETS '86

Summit Rally

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should not be taken in by empty promises of "Glasnost" while four hundred thousand Jews are held cut off from their people. In lighting the Chanukah menorah, they expressed the hope that the light of religious freedom will soon shine in darker parts of the world. Other personalities of note appearing were folk singers Peter Yarrow and Mary Travers from the famed Peter, Paul, and Mary, long time human rights activists, who easily started everyone singing their popular ballads "Light A Candle" and "If I Had A Hammer". Elie Wiesel reminded the crowd of the dangers of silence and said that had we gathered like this in 1942, the fate of European Jewry might have been different.

The Yeshiva was able to send 500 students due to the low cost of the trip. This was made possible by subsidies provided

by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Coalition for Soviet Jewry. In addition, a number of rebbeim came along and gave shiurim on two of the buses.

Overall, the mobilization for Soviet Jewry for Summit '87 was a success. What remains to be seen is how important a role the issue played in the dialogues between President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev.

Painfully, it became known during the rally that a counterpart demonstration Monday in Moscow had been brutally broken up with many individuals assaulted. Apparently, as Mayor Koch said, Glasnost has not meant any real changes in the fundamental nature of "the evil empire". Still, as two hundred and fifty thousand of us sang to close the day: "Od Lo Avdah Tikvateinu - they still have not destroyed our hope."

Pre Med Events

by Gabe Sosne

The 1987-88 academic year for Yeshiva University's New York Zeta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta - the premedical honor society - has been quite busy. On November 4, Dr. Yvon Cayne M.D., Ph.D., of Cornell University's Memorial Sloan Kettering Research Center, spoke on the latest developments in leukemia research. The lecture was attended by approximately seventy YC and SCW students. Dr. Cayne summarized the general aspects of leukemia and focused on areas he believes are worth pursuing. Specifically, he is interested in how vitamin D and steroids affect lymphocyte differentiation and how drug resistance develops in leukemia patients. Students were enthused with Dr. Cayne's speech and many posed questions at the program's end.

On November 19, a general meeting for all pre-science students was held at YC with another strong student turnout coming to ask questions and receive pre-med information from Dr. Barry Potvin, the pre-health advisor. Dr. Carl Feit, Professor of Biology, attended and answered relevant questions.

On the weekend of November 20-21, the pre-med society held their annual shabbaton at Stern College. Friday night's activity focused on medical ethics and participants were divided into different groups to discuss a number of cases handled daily by physicians.

On shabbat afternoon, Dr. Isaac Herschkopf from the New York University Medical Center spoke on the changing medical field aspiring pre-meds face.

Upcoming events at YC in December include mock medical school interviews posed by Dr. Gil Shevlin and Dr. Potvin. At Stern on December 14, Dean Purpura of AECOM will speak on student life, the admissions process, and the curriculum of the school. Dr. Richard Nochimson of the English department is interested in aiding all students who will be applying to medical and dental schools next year with writing applications and MCAT essays. All interested students should contact Dr. Nochimson. Also, a fundraising and membership drive will be held towards the end of the month.

This year's society is interested in learning from the student body what kind of events and functions can run to serve them best. Anyone interested in joining, lending constructive advice and ideas, or helping organize events should contact Gabe Sosne at YC or Barbara Farkas at SCW. The society looks forward to hearing from you and seeing you at future events.

Senior Check

by Marc Scheiner

The Dean's office has recently implemented a system that is hoped will alleviate a major area of difficulty for graduating seniors. This system, called the senior check, is a manual check performed by Mr. Robert Katz, Assistant to the Dean, of the academic records of all juniors and seniors to determine which requirements have been fulfilled and which remain to be fulfilled.

According to Mr. Katz, this system was devised in an attempt to resolve the perennial problem that faced graduating seniors. Many seniors received notices after their graduation indicating that they had not in fact graduated due to their failure to complete all their requirements. Mr. Katz said, "What we want to do is check the records of juniors. This way it gives them plenty of time to take any courses that they still require."

Yet this system is not without its own problems. Many stu-

dents have discovered mistakes in the checks that were performed on their records. Mr. Katz said that because he had to check over two hundred and fifty records manually, mistakes were inevitable. This does not mean that all apparent mistakes are really mistakes. The fact is that summer courses, special exemptions, and any note from the Dean will not show up on the transcript.

In an effort to resolve this problem, Mr. Katz plans to review the records with each student when he performs senior checks next year. The reason he did not do so this year is because he felt an urgent need to rush out the checks for graduating seniors. In addition the Registrar's office has already discussed plans to computerize the senior check. This will take two to three years to set up.

Mr. Katz noted that all SSSB students will have only their YC credits checked by him, while Dr. Jaskell, Assistant Dean of SSSB, will check those credits taken in the business school. He also stressed that the senior check is not the final word; a mistake on the check does not necessarily mean that the Registrar's records contain that mistake. Thus students who suspect an error should verify the check with Mr. Katz or the Registrar.

Business Tomorrow

by Martin Lifshutz

We enter a large room filled with students and corporate executives from across America. The event is "Business Tomorrow XIII: Corporate America in the International Arena". This is an annual conference sponsored by the Foundation for Student Communication, Inc., publishers of "Business Today" magazine. However, there is something that distinguishes us from all the other participants - we are wearing "kipot".

Last year, 1200 students from 200 universities were selected from a dean-nominated pool to apply to the conference. With the addition of our new business school 10 students were chosen by Dean Michael Schiff of the Sy Syms School of Business to apply. After many essays 200 students were chosen to attend the three day seminar held in Chicago. Included were Martin Lifshutz and Moshe Blech. Of the 200 universities from which students applied, few had two representatives from their school, some were not represented at all.

The theme of the seminar was "American Competitive-ness." The issues that stemmed

from this topic were: What should be our government's role? What should be our attitude towards Japan? How does the new entrepreneurial attitude in American corporations help our industries? To discuss these issues we spent three days listening to expert speakers and then interacting informally in workshops, discussion groups, and problem-solving sessions. One of the speakers was Alan Bloom, author of "The Closing of the American Mind," who addressed the issue of needing a good liberal arts education in today's business world. We also spent two hours working on a tough management problem with a group of high-level executives. In order to resolve the question we assumed the role of the actual management of the case studies assigned.

"Business Today" magazine was founded in 1968 for Princeton University undergraduates in response to the violent peaks of campus hostility toward business and government. Its purpose was to inspire the improvement of communications between business and students. Through

cont. on next page

Classic Society

The Gamma Delta chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honorary Fraternity, was reactivated at Yeshiva College on November 22, after a one-year hiatus, with the initiation of two new members at the home of the faculty adviser, Professor Louis H. Feldman. Also attending were twenty former student members.

The meeting opened with the singing in Latin of "Gaudeamus Igitur" ("Let Us Therefore Rejoice"). A tribute was paid by Professor Feldman in memory of his predecessor Professor Bernhard Floch, the Yeshiva chapter's founder, the one hundredth anniversary of whose birth it was. His contributions to the classics both in the University of Vienna and at Yeshiva College were recollected by Rabbi Manfred Fulda, one of the original members of the chapter.

The assignment for the initiation trials of the two new members consisted of translating the Hebrew text of the 'Shema' into acceptable, classical Latin. Those present challenged various aspects of the translations, including playful charges of christological insertions and heresy. Ultimately, however, the candidates, Yacov Balsam and Yehudah Lindenberg, were unanimously initiated.

Mr. Balsam was then elected "prytanis" (president) and "chrysophylax" (treasurer), and Mr. Lindenberg was elected "hyparchos" (vice-president) and "grammateus" (secretary). Various projects for the academic year were discussed and the meeting closed with a rendition of "Est Vere Socius Bonus" (For He's A Jolly Good Fellow).

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS JOINT BUSINESS SOCIETY SPEAKERS FORUM

**1) Wednesday
Dec. 16, 1987**

"Careers in Sales"
**Sharman Paulhaus Russ Berrie
& Co. Stern Room 518 Club Hour
Stern Room 518 Club Hour 2:45
— 3:45 PM.**

**2) Thursday
Dec. 17, 1987**

"Career in Sales"
**Sharman Paulhaus Russ Berrie
& Co. Belfer Room 411 Club
Hour 2:45 — 3:45 PM.**

**3) Monday
Dec. 21, 1987**

Careers in Banking & Finance"
**Jay Pomeranze Senior Vice
President Bankers Trust will
lead a panel discussion. Room
411 Belfer 8:00 PM.**

**4) Monday
Dec. 28, 1987**

**"Commodity Trading" Nathan
Fruchter Clarendon Ltd. Room
411 Belfer 8:00 PM.**

and Today

the years the circulation of "Business Today" has grown to over 200,000 and is the nation's largest student-run publication.

In 1971, the organization's founders decided to personalize the communication between students and executives. The staff organized the first "Business Tomorrow" conference in Washington, D.C. Five hundred of the nation's top student and business leaders gathered for three days of discussion, debate, and speakers. One of the highlights of the conference was a dynamic debate between Milton Friedman and Ralph Nader. Since that time the organization, now called the Foundation for Student Communication, has held thirteen national conferences and seventeen regional conferences across the nation.

Rav Aharon

cont. from page 1

Rabbi Yishmael takes it literally while Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai says that recital of Kerias Shema in the morning and at night is sufficient to fulfill this halacha. In Berachos (35b), Rabbi Yishmael learns from "and you will gather your grain" that the verse in Yehoshua should not be taken literally and Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai argues. Both tannaim seem to contradict themselves.

To answer this as well as other problems, Rav Aharon turned to Hilchos Talmud Torah of the Rambam. In the first chapter, the Rambam writes that every Jew is obligated to set aside time for learning in the morning and at night. Yet, in the third chapter he says that one who wants to perform this mitzvah ideally, and merit the crown of the Torah, should not focus on other things? Rav Aharon explained that the mitzvah in

Yehoshua has two levels. The standard obligation can be fulfilled by simply setting aside times, but the obligation for one who strives for the crown of the Torah is continuous involvement. This second category constitutes a minute part of Klal Yisroel. With this idea, our earlier contradiction can be answered. Rabbi Yishmael was referring to the first category in Berachos and the second category in Menachos. Rabbi Shimon was doing the exact opposite and in reality there is no dispute.

The final major issue of the lecture was conflicts between Hazal and modern science. Rav Aharon advocated a reconciliation of the two. There are a number of places where demons and evil spirits are used in halachic contexts. The Rambam and the Meiri do not take these terms to mean literally supernatural forces, but rather gave rational explanations.

In tractate Shabbos, Rav

Yossi holds that cooking in the hot springs of Tiberias would constitute the melacha of cooking because the springs are heated by the fires of Gehinom. Rav Aharon pointed to the springs' volcanic origin. In Yirmiyah (19; 4-6) the valley of Gai Ben Hinom (the root of the name Gehinom) is described as a place of fire. Thus, Gehinom in the gemara can be understood as referring to fire of volcanic origin and not the place itself.

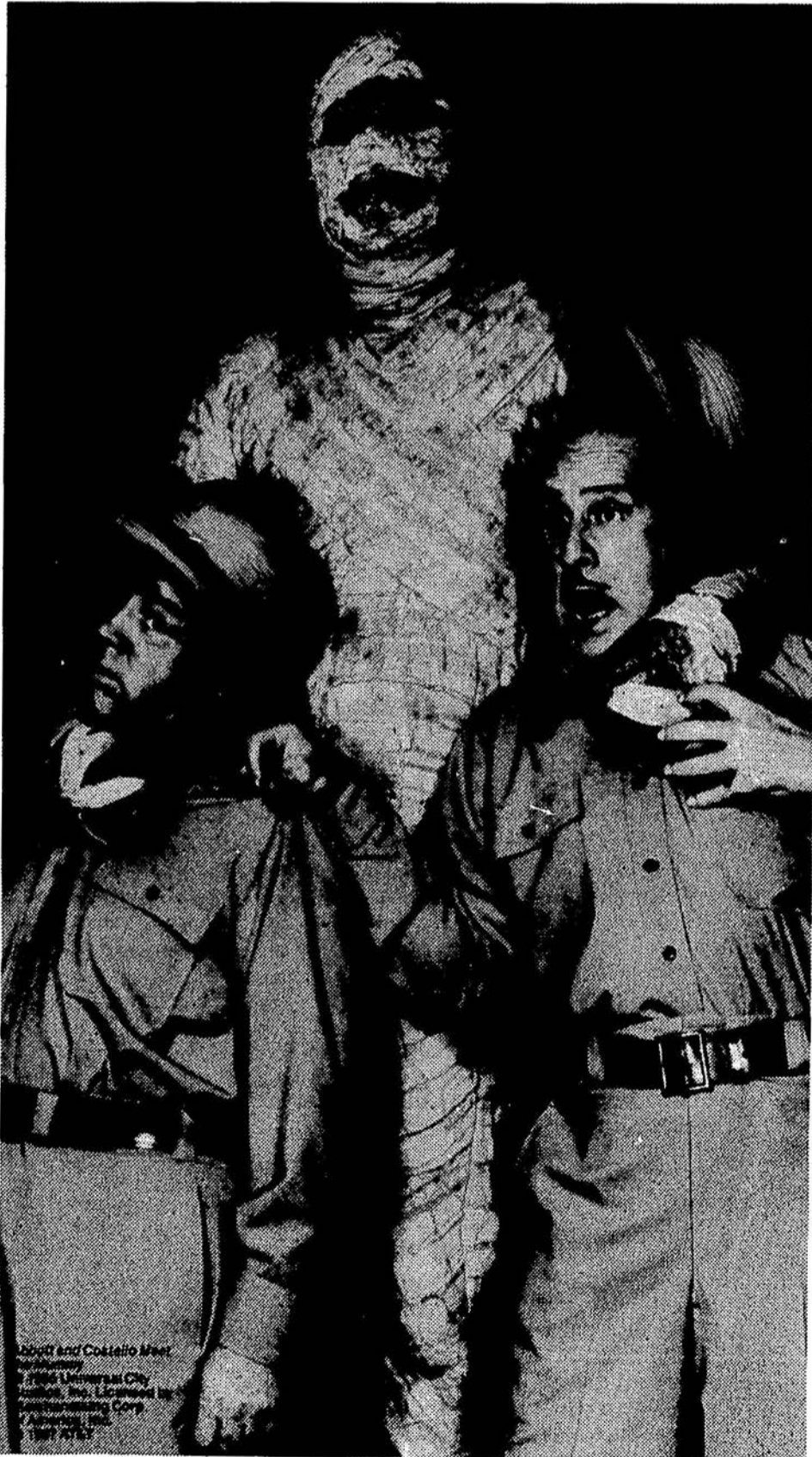
The gemara (Shabbos 107b) brings down an argument whether or not one who kills lice on Shabbos is culpable. The Rabbanan say he is released because lice do not reproduce normally and are not comparable to the case in the mishkan which teaches us the melacha. However, modern science has shown that there is no spontaneous regeneration. Rav Aharon suggested that the gemara means that lice reproduce differently than other animals (it requires an envi-

ronment of decay), but not that it does not reproduce bisexually.

Rav Aharon concluded by discussing the theory of evolution. He did not think it conflicted with Beraishis because the Medrash states that there were previous worlds. However, he rejected this theory on other grounds. It denies the concept of the individuality of man who was created in the image of God as opposed to the animals. He also thought it ridiculous to say that chance mutation created the complexity of the human body. It is important to note that Rav Aharon feels that evolution should be taught at YU. He related a story about Rav Simcha Zissel Brodie who said that a ban should not be placed on reading this material. Rather, we should act in an ethical manner that will cause people to doubt our connection with animals.

The audience reaction was very positive and they seemed to especially like the stories. We look forward to hearing from Rav Aharon again.

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Mall

cont. from page 1

parking was added to alleviate the problem of lost spaces. Additional claims that traffic would increase terribly on nearby streets has not become a reality according to Mr. Rosengarten. True, he states there is more traffic on those streets but not an enormous increase. Further claims that YU constructed the mall without telling the neighbors is also untrue. A thousand flyers in English and Spanish explained to them what would happen. YU had also talked with the traffic committee and community board in advance. Claims that accidents and fire hazards would arise as a result of the mall were also disproved. Mr. Rosengarten stated that the number of accidents was rising before the mall's existence. Since the construction of the mall, less accidents have occurred. The reason for this is that less vehicles use the road and the ones that do go slower. The Fire Department stated that the response time to emergencies are the same or have been improved. Furthermore, the emergency lane that goes through the side of the mall, has never been used.

A report describing the various contributions that YU has accomplished in the community was provided to the student representatives. The report states that YU has helped the community with housing, education, health, immigration, children, public transportation, business improvements, parking, recreation, services for the elderly, and community life.

Dr. Levitt explained that the mall provides a safe environment to be used by all of the community. He added that presently the mall is in a temporary condition, and if it becomes permanent, changes will take place to make the mall more practical and more attractive. For now, the fate of the pedestrian mall remains uncertain.

The Russian Experience

by Etan Tokayer

The Russia Experience - how can one describe it? The inevitable question so quickly asked to all returnees is "How was IT?" To attempt to answer such a question is virtually impossible and almost ludicrous. Nevertheless, one high school student who had returned from a mission to the Soviet Union cleverly responded to that densely packed question (How was IT?), "When you have about ten hours to speak, give me a call." This in fact, is the most proper response; for a mission to the Soviet Union involves a myriad of components.

One could discuss the months of preparation required to make such a trip possible. One could discuss just his experience involved in entering the Soviet Union. Interaction with the Soviet authority, the common citizen, or the tour guides also provides a wealth of interesting data. Observations of Soviet society, economy, as understood by the tourist can mark a fascinating essay. Certainly, the treatment of foreigners in comparison to the treatment of the average Soviet citizen is also an interesting point of discussion. Any tourist, however, with an open eye and keen sense of perception could discuss any or all of the aforementioned issues.

It is only a certain kind of tourist - the one whose tourist map includes the living room of Refusenik Russians - who can bring to light a deeper understanding of the Soviet Union and greater feeling towards the plight of the Soviet Jews. One valuable way to relate such insight and help ensure clarity of presentation unadulterated by any commentary is to present the reader the human experience as told by the Refuseniks combined with one's personal observations of his interaction with the Refuseniks and their community.

It was Tuesday afternoon approximately 8:00 P.M. Moscow time. Zev Liebowitz, my partner, and I had made our first telephone contact. The woman on the other end of the phone, in a circumspect yet excited tone of voice, gave directions coupled with a set of instructions of how, where, and when to meet her. We set out on our first journey during the Soviet railway system. This scenario was to become a regular occurrence for Zev and me as our days in the Soviet Union zoomed forward.

Still, it was the first occurrence which brought us in contact with Leah and Natan Schwartzman. (Some names occurring in this essay have been changed to protect the identities of the Refuseniks.) Leah and Natan have been Refuseniks for 12 years. When they decided to apply for emigration over a decade ago, their Jewish identity meant little more than a stamp on their passport.

Upon achieving greater awareness of the Jewish nation and Judaism due to the repercussions following their application for exit, Leah and Natan have become ardent Zionists with a deep desire to live in the traditional land of the Jews. Leah is a Hebrew teacher - a dangerous profession in the U.S.S.R. In her words she, "is not a teacher. I just know a little and they (the students) know a little less than I." Leah continued to tell of the current dearth of better teachers. This unfortunate situation has developed ironically through the good fortune of these better teachers who have been allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Within five minutes of our arrival at the Schwartzmans' home, the doorbell rang. In a moment, Natan was out of the room, and the door opened behind him. We remained with Leah and whispered among ourselves. So excited to speak Hebrew with others, Leah almost burst into laughter. So touched was I by her dedication, burning idealism, and love for Israel that I almost burst into tears. Quietly, Leah removed from a drawer Russian newspaper clipping dealing with Israel. One article dealt with a massive hunger problem in Israel. The second article discussed a master-puppet relationship between Washington and the Jewish State. Leah wanted to verify any validity in the articles. What, Leah wanted to know, was the state of affairs in Israel at the time. As the three of us spoke in Hebrew, Zev and I helped Leah with her grammar and vocabulary and she, in turn, did the same for us. "How wonderful it is," she exclaimed, "we are all each other's teachers!" Since this was our first meeting, we were a bit inexperienced, and, thus, Zev and I neglected to bring anything other than a small recording of Jewish music. We left it with Leah and Natan as a wedding gift for their son who was married only days before we arrived. When we asked the Schwartzmans what we could bring them, Leah responded in her quiet and tender 12 year old voice of hope, "We need one thing and one thing only - an exit visa to Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel."

The Schwartzmans unfortunately are not the only long-term Refuseniks. Eugene and Tanya Gilbo have also been Refuseniks for quite a few years. Eugene is a University graduate with two Ph.D.s in science. He published a book on mathematics and was earning approximately 400 rubles a month as a professor of science. This is one of the highest paying professions in the Soviet Union. Eugene felt the Soviet system was replete with falsehoods and could bear the system no longer. He knew that as a Jew he had the privilege to apply for exit. (Only individuals with

family outside the U.S.S.R. can apply to emigrate. This excludes a large percentage of the Russian population).

Since the Gilbos' visa application was rejected, they have faced difficult times. Eugene was fired from his job on the basis of underqualification. Suddenly Eugene was under-qualified! How could this occur? The answer lies in the effectiveness of the K.G.B.: As the facts reveal, all of Eugene's degrees were retroactively revoked and were declared null and void by the University.

Former Professor Eugene Gilbo now spends his days and his mental resources as a bookkeeper. "To me," Eugene said "we are free. We no longer live two lives - one in the office and one at home. They (the authorities) know who we are and what we stand for. We are more free now than ever before." Although Zev and I had not known much of the Gilbos' background previous to our meeting, we had decided to bring the Gilbos some clothing and some coffee (items which are needed and are valuable in the U.S.S.R.). After we gave Eugene the items, Tanya jumped from her chair, ran to her cupboard and insisted we take two Russian cups as souvenirs. Eugene, for his part, demanded that we accept two classical music records as a memento. Even in the depths of their suffering, typical of many Refuseniks, the Gilbos saw themselves as individuals required to give of themselves, of their home and of their time. They sought nothing in return. They seek but one thing, and that is to emigrate to freedom.

It was at a freedom demonstration in Moscow that Lev and Marina Forman met. Approximately one and a half years ago, Marina and Lev were married. Since that time, their home has been open for anyone who wishes to learn about Judaism, Jewish History, Hebrew, or Zionism and related topics. Their home is virtually a crossroads of Jewish activism. Marina succeeded in writing and publishing several scathing journalistic jewels which found their way to the Western press. Marina pursued her penchant for writing and proceeded to pen her most critical piece. She hoped to publish it in the West. Only two of her close peers were privy to her plan.

At the time Marina was pregnant. To her surprise, two K.G.B. officials contacted her and presented her the following threat. "If you publish the article, then either you or your baby will not leave the delivery room alive." Lev reasoned that he had waited forty years for a wife and child, and he was not going to lose both now. With this consideration in mind, Marina did not publish the article. Nevertheless, both Marina and Lev continued to pursue their other activities. Their home remained a center

of activism, and they continued teaching.

In order to endure good medical attention, Lev and Marina bribed a certain physician. This practice is common in the Soviet Union. Marina subsequently entered the hospital. Soon after she was admitted Marina was hooked up to an intravenous unit. The purpose of the unit was to help her weak heart during the actual delivery. Marina awaited the doctor. He never showed. She fell into semiconsciousness. She could not even cry out for help. Miraculously, the department head was present. More striking, however, is the fact that he dealt with the problem and delivered the child. A general policy in the Soviet Union

Aliyah.

Aliyah, settling in the land of Israel, represented the future of the Jewish people. There is, however, a long and difficult yet rich history attached to the Russian lands. It was in Russia that Jewish scholarship rose to great heights. There existed great yeshivot such as Mir, Telz, Klezck, Voloshin and Slobodka, and famed leaders and Talmudic scholars such as Rabbi Israel Salanter, Rabbi Shneur Zalman, Rabbi Nosson Zvi Finkel and Rabbi Issar Zalman Meltzer. Among the many ways to categorize the Jews in Russia (in fact, they are not a harmonious unified group), one can divide the population in the following manner. There are those Jews

the world." The old men who speak fluent Yiddish and know the prayers completely by heart come to the synagogue, the last link of the glorious but so distant past.

Moshe Aarenstein, an elderly man who lives in Moscow, grew up during the glorious days of Russian Jewry. He was privileged to study in the Yeshiva of Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan, also known as the Chofetz Chaim. To Moshe, names such as The Ohr Someach, and the Chofetz Chaim, are not textbook pseudonyms; rather, they represent real people, as real as Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik are to the present day American community. Moshe Aarenstein, could speak only a biblical Hebrew. To him modern Hebrew is as foreign as is the thought of moving to Israel. Moshe spoke of the synagogues, of the cemeteries, of his father (whose Bible commentary sits in manuscript

Avram and Moshe Aarenstein, there is no future - only memories of the past.

While the elders cling as best they can to what once was in Russia, the younger generation, void of such knowledge of the past, bustles with activity as it marches onward looking forward to a bright hopeful future. For these individuals, there is no Russian Jewish past. They are beginners to Judaism. To many, the term Jew is an idea recently learned. They were products of the Soviet system. They were completely void of religion or Jewish identity. But the tide has shifted, and across the Soviet Union there is a Jewish renewal of activism - a renaissance of the first order.

One prime example of this new activism is Dov Schwartzman's newly founded organization. The organization is called Second Generation. This group of Refuseniks challenges more than those of their parents. The second generation is aware of its identity. These children of Refuseniks have been barred from leaving the Soviet Union simply because their parents were refused. The Second Generation members,

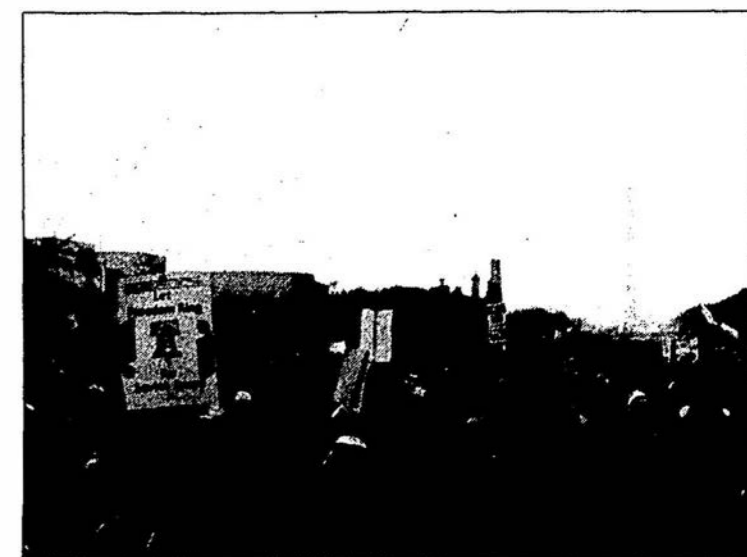
Polansky. Pinchas, the key organizer of one adult education movement in Moscow received permission to settle in Israel together with his family. (Pinchas was given very short notice, and this left him with much to do before departing.) Pinchas's group runs programs for the unaffiliated Jew as well as educational sessions for the individual with more advanced skills. Pinchas and his assistants will admit anyone into the classes - no questions asked. It is, therefore, possible that any individual in a class could be a K.G.B. employee. Nevertheless, Pinchas's group remains undaunted. Before he departed, Polansky trained two of his students to take over the operation. In the final analysis, the Jewish educational movement from the Soviet Union to Israel is, indeed, the hope of many Soviet Jews, the life of such Russian Jews is not limited merely to internal striving, emotional drive or psychological fortitude in the face of overwhelming odds. Despite the efforts of the K.G.B., the Jewish community remains active.

Slava Shiffin and her family have also played an important role in Jewish activism. Under the auspices, a treasury of Hebrew books have been obtained from the West. Her nineteen year old daughter acts as Hebrew teacher and seasoned educator of Jewish law.

Another example of the current mode of activity is the recent action of Menachem Yofom and his friends. Together they have uncovered perhaps one of the most fascinating finds in recent years. With the help of the elders of Kovno, Menachem discovered the library of the Slobodka Yeshiva. Approximately 2,000 books were found. Volumes of the first Talmud edition printed were located. Menachem's group was able to secure approximately 300 works and save them from inevitable deterioration.

Yet Jewish activism has even surfaced in areas thought to be impossible just a short time ago. Following the vision of spiritual survival, Alex Lukatzky and his associates were able to secure a building and construct within it a ritualarium. The construction was complete in less than three weeks. The K.G.B. warned Lukatzky that the ritualarium must be demolished. After Alex disregarded the unfriendly advice, the authorities sent in their own men who cemented over the ritual bath. When the community found out what had transpired, Alex wrote a threatening letter to the local officials. "The Jewish community," he wrote, "considers the act of the K.G.B. as a pogrom and the Jews plan to publicize this fact to the communities throughout the world." Immediately the ritualarium was restored, and the government expressed its shock at the notion of a pogrom or of any form of persecution occurring in the Soviet Union.

Persecution of the Jews has throughout the centuries been the hallmark of his transient mode of existence. However,



today these Soviet Jews have staked out their next region of settlement as their last one. These Jews are finally going back home. They are going to Israel. Whereas emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel is, indeed, the hope of many Soviet Jews, the life of such Russian Jews is not limited merely to internal striving, emotional drive or psychological fortitude in the face of overwhelming odds. Despite the efforts of the K.G.B., the Jewish community remains active.

The single most dangerous threat to Soviet Jewry, however, is the Western Jewish perception of the Soviet Jewish predicament. "Never before," said Anatoly Scharansky, "has the perception of American Jewry been so far from the reality." We must see through the complex veneer that Mr. Gorbachev and his public relations experts have master-

fully put forward. If the K.G.B. (i.e., the Soviet government) finds that its carefully coordinated gestures of goodwill have been effective in smothering American Jewish activism then the fate of Soviet Jewry is sealed.

The challenge to American Jewry is clear. We must continue our efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews. We must not allow Mr. Gorbachev, who has passed the most stringent anti-emigration law in Soviet history, to win his battle against the Jews by default. The American Jewish community must not succumb to Mr. Gorbachev's affected displays of human rights reform. With the torch of tyranny firm in the hands of this sly and pragmatic Soviet premier, it is incumbent upon every individual to carry his own flame of truth and justice in pursuit of freedom for all Soviet Jews.

CONGRATULATIONS

by Marc Mandel, Assistant to the Dean of Students

For the eight-hundred plus students who traveled to Washington on behalf of Soviet Jewry, December 6th is a day we will never forget.

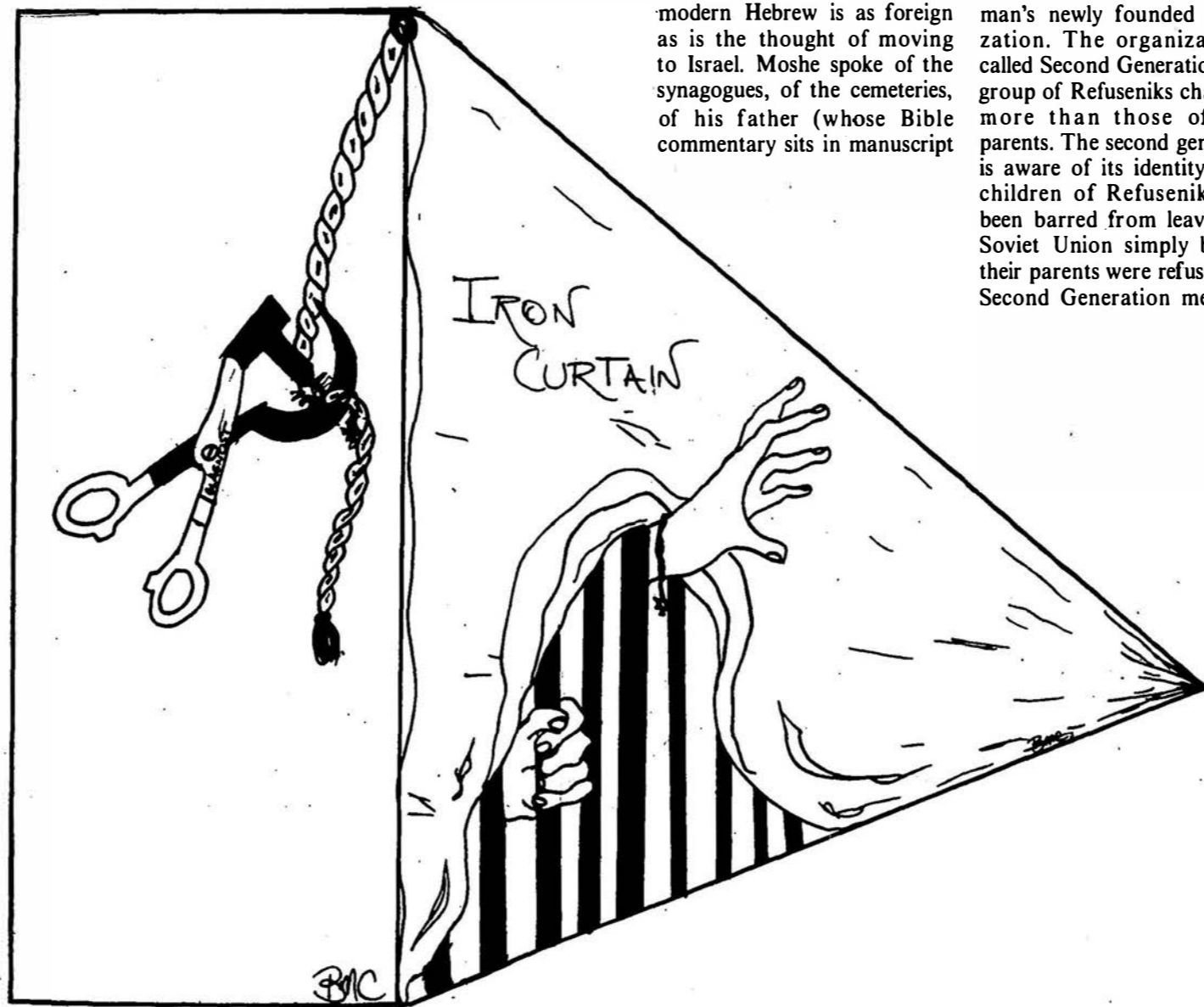
The nine buses that left YU were the most from any school, synagogue, or organization in New York State. The rally was a moving, emotional event that captured the hearts of all 250,000 people there. For students and youngsters who were too young to have understood Viet Nam and the civil rights movement, our students proved to all that today's students are more than just a bunch of future "yuppies." We demonstrated our concern for Jewish people all over the world and proved that human rights and social justice are a priority for students.

This special camaraderie that was felt between the students that day will never be lost to all who traveled to Washington. When Judah Hartman and Rina Gang announced their engagement on the bus and everyone was singing and dancing, it was a perfect ending to a historic day. When our

very patient young bus driver hugged Judah at the end of the day, it was another indication of the special chemistry permeating the whole event.

Yes, there were some complications and scary moments. Never in my life will I forget the horrified faces of the old couples searching for their buses in lot number 8 on that cold, dark winter night. We had difficulties because we were traveling with nine buses that were split up on the way. But thanks to the many helpful students, we pulled through. In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Mazer Yeshiva Program were able to arrange that shiurim would be given on some of the buses going to Washington, D.C.

A quote from Mark Twain reads: "Never allow schooling to interfere with your education." On Sunday, all of us interrupted our schooling to get an education in human rights, caring, and social justice. Let YU always lead the way in fighting for Jewish causes whether it be Soviet Jewry, security for Israel, or a Jerusalem that maintain its true character.



which is strictly upheld is that no doctor addresses the needs of another doctor's patient. (This policy is not related to medical or professional work ethics; rather to Communist economic planning.)

When Marina awoke in the recovery room, the doctor accosted her and advised that if she were ever to have a child again in the U.S.S.R., she should be on better terms with the government. He continued to explain that the doctor whom Marina and Lev had bribed was under direct orders from the K.G.B. not to deliver the baby. Furthermore, he was to arrange that her death appear to be caused by a weak heart's failure. "This time God and I were on your side. Next time you won't be that lucky." Said the doctor. With this true tale in mind, the child was named

bonded to the Jewish past; the other group has forged its bond with the Jewish future.

Walking into the Moscow shul, one steps through the portal of history and finds himself thrust into a distant world. Much of the synagogue seems ancient. There, however, have been certain significant changes. The present Rabbi, State paid, leads a personal life devoid of Jewish values. The Rabbi who preceded him married outside of the faith. The synagogue cantor, who is also State paid, is actually a professional actor. Gone are the days when praying in the synagogue was a highly emotional, spiritual, and awesome endeavor. Plastered on the front wall of the synagogue is the prayer for the Welfare of the U.S.S.R., "the protector of peace and harmony throughout

form in Moshe's apartment), of the Soloveitchicks from Brisk, of the sunset that was, and of the twilight that is. Judaism is dying in Russia, and Moshe watches as the last grains of sand whirl down the hourglass of history.

Reb Avram is the sexton of one Russian Synagogue. He, like Moshe Aarenstein, is a man linked to the Jewish past.

As I saw him unroll one of the Torah scrolls, I saw a man living at one with his precious holy book. He did not only live by the Torah, with Torah, or in accordance with its laws, but also, to him the Torah was his home, a last bastion of security and faith. Reb Avram spoke of the legend of Rabbi Isaac Elchonon Spektor. He too, spoke of the days of glory. Yet for people such as Rabbi

many of whom were elementary school children when their parents first applied for emigration are now adults beginning lives of their own. Second Generation has formally declared itself to the Soviet Union authorities and hopes to rally support for its cause.

Yet this cause is not the only activity in which Dov Schwartzman and his newlywed wife are involved. The Schwartzmans are active in the Jewish beginners movement. They run programs in their home on Shabbat, and they are also in the formative stages of printing Russian translated texts. Although they service a great need in the Soviet Union, the Schwartzmans have once again applied for emigration and hope to settle in Israel.

Such was the dream and now is the reality of Pinchas

The Tay-Sachs Issue:

Choosing the Options

by Tzvi Dresdner and Robbie Wind

A mass-screening program to identify Tay-Sachs carriers will soon be conducted at Yeshiva University. This program is especially important at YU since Tay-Sachs is a genetic disorder that runs principally among Ashkenazic Jews. At present, there is a lot of confusion on campus regarding Tay-Sachs and the issues involving mass screening programs. Many students are not familiar with any aspect of the disease, or with the benefits of being tested in a mass-screening program. Some students might avoid the test due to ignorance, while others, afraid of a bad outcome, assume they are better off not knowing. In general, the emotional upheaval and general hysteria that might result from a mass-screening program has prompted many physicians and community leaders to recommend against testing. This article will discuss the medical, genetic, and social aspects of Tay-Sachs disease. Emphasis will be placed on the issues surrounding mass-screening programs, and the benefits and detriments that concern specifically YU students.

Firstly, what is Tay-Sachs disease? At about six months of life, Tay-Sachs children develop symptoms such as loss of peripheral vision and an abnormal startle response. This gradually leads to total blindness, mental retardation, and paralysis. Death is inevitable between the ages of 3 to 6. Tay-Sachs is a genetic disorder which exists at birth. It is not an epidemic and it is not contagious, but the emotional effects it can have on the parents of a Tay-Sachs child are perhaps more detrimental than any disease. Parents must then watch their child's suffering and inevitable death. Another problem is that financial support for such a child can be approximately \$75,000 a year.

The purpose of Tay-Sachs screening is to identify Tay-Sachs carriers. As I have mentioned, Tay-Sachs is not a disease of adults; carriers are just as healthy as non-carriers. This term is used to identify a genetic status that allows an individual to pass along Tay-Sachs genes to his children. Without understanding the complex laws of genetics, it is still possible to understand the basic rules of Tay-Sachs inheritance. Regarding carrier status, a carrier and a non-carrier have a 50% chance that their child will be a carrier as well; it is impossible for them to have a Tay-Sachs child. If two carriers were to have children together, there would be a 25% chance of Tay-Sachs,

a 50% chance of carrier status, and a 25% chance of a totally Tay-Sachs-free child. According to recent statistics, among Ashkenazic Jews 1 in 25 are carriers, and consequently, there is a 1 in 625 chance that two carriers will meet. Mass-screening programs hope to prevent, or at least identify, the marriage of two carriers.

The big issue is whether mass-screening programs are a proper way of dealing with the Tay-Sachs problem. The religious restrictions of Orthodox Judaism only help make the issue more complicated. There has been much correspondence in medical journals concerning the pros and cons of mass-screening programs. For example, a medical advisory board in Dayton, Ohio suggested to the Jewish community there that a planned mass-screening

"It is not an epidemic, and it is not contagious, but the emotional effects on the parents are more detrimental than any disease."

program not be conducted. In a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine, a member of that advisory board, Dr. Murray Kuhr, defended the board's conclusion by explaining that the Dayton Jewish community consists of 1800 people between the ages of 16 and 45. According to the statistics, 72 of those are carriers, and therefore there will be two marriages between two carriers. From these marriages, one in four children will have Tay-Sachs. Dr. Kuhr explained that the mental anguish the informed carriers will suffer is not outweighed by the occurrence of just a few Tay-Sachs children.

This problem of mental anguish is, perhaps, the most serious allegation against the conducting of mass-screening programs. The informed carrier has a terrible mental burden which might lead to his or her avoiding social situations. If the carrier is secretive about his status, it could lead to feelings of guilt, as well as trepidation of the time in a

relationship when he must reveal his genetic anomaly. If the carrier is not secretive about his condition, it could lead to social stigmatization. These problems are all based on the fallacy that a carrier is of inferior health. As I have explained previously, a carrier has no physical manifestations of Tay-Sachs, and if married to a non-carrier, will not have Tay-Sachs children. But the world is ignorant of these facts, and the social problems of the informed carrier are real.

Many physicians, however, disagree with Dr. Kuhr. They recognize the fact that mass-screening is presently the only way of dealing with this dreaded disease. These physicians are familiar with the 5 years of pain and suffering that the Tay-Sachs child and its parents must endure. The mass-screening programs identify any relationship between two carriers who can then either decide not to have children, or more commonly, have an amniocentesis during pregnancy. If the amniocentesis indicates a Tay-Sachs fetus, an abortion can be performed. Most physicians feel that amniocentesis and abortion is the proper way of dealing with Tay-Sachs. Those in favor of mass-screening feel that the possible problems of informed carriers are outweighed by any method which can prevent the definite suffering caused by the disease.

The situation at Yeshiva University is even more complex. Orthodox Jewish Law (halacha) prohibits, in most cases, the abortion of Tay-Sachs fetuses. In addition, the close-knit, family oriented Orthodox Jewish community compounds any social and emotional problems an informed Tay-Sachs carrier might endure. YU students have four options regarding Tay-Sachs screening. The first, is simply, not to be tested. The benefits of such a choice are, obviously, the lack of any emotional or social problems that result from being identified as a carrier. Unfortunately, avoiding an issue is not always the proper way of dealing with it.

A second option is the individual testing of couples

just prior to their marriage. The benefit, once again, is the absence of any informed carriers. But if test results reveal that both are Tay-Sachs carriers, then difficult decisions will have to be made. Assuming that abortion is not an option, the couple can decide either to break their engagement, or if they decide to get married, they can adopt (there may be halachik problems with this as well), or have children and take their chances. All of these choices involve much emotional suffering.

A third option is to take part in a mass-screening program. Couples could then discuss the Tay-Sachs issue once they have developed a serious relationship, but prior to anything as official as engagement. By identifying Tay-Sachs carriers, relationships between two

"YU students should not approach the Tay-Sachs issue with apathy, but should examine all possible avenues."

carriers can be prevented, and all the more complicated problems such as abortion and adoption can be avoided. But in the Orthodox community, the social stigmatization of known Tay-Sachs carriers can be a serious problem. For those whose lifestyle involves shidduchim (pre-arranged marriages), being a carrier can result in problems, as many parents seek only perfection for their children. They do not realize that a carrier and a non-carrier cannot have a Tay-Sachs child and, therefore, being a carrier is of no significance. For those who are more modern, being a known carrier can involve problems in dating, as many people will just prefer to avoid dating carriers, and consequently not have to worry about getting themselves tested. In addition, regardless of one's lifestyle, there is still the psychological burden that an informed carrier must bear. A carrier might avoid social situations, or harbor feelings of inferiority and feel blemished.

But there is a fourth option, which will be followed at YU this month. A new type of mass-screening program, run under Orthodox auspices by an organization called Dor Yesharim, does not have many of the problems of other mass-screening programs. With this system, all those tested are not informed of their status, but are given an identification number. All records regarding who is a carrier and who is a non-carrier, are kept not by names, but by these identification numbers. Upon giving the organization two numbers, they will reply "compatible" or "non-compatible". Compatible couples are not told if one or neither of them are carriers. In this way, carriers are never informed of their status, except in that rare situation where two carriers meet.

By not informing carriers, there are no emotional or social problems among the Tay-Sachs carriers. Prior to shidduch, or after a couple has been dating for a while, a simple phone call can determine their Tay-Sachs compatibility. This system seems to be ideal, in many respects. There is, however, one problem. Because all records are kept by identification numbers, compatibility can only be determined if both people have been tested by Dor Yesharim.

Each of the four options have their benefits and detriments. YU students should not approach the Tay-Sachs issue with apathy, but should carefully examine all possible avenues. Those who feel they would not be bothered by the emotional and social problems of being an informed carrier, might wish to be tested by a screening program run by a local hospital such as Mt. Sinai or Einstein.

Dor Yesharim is prevalent in the "shidduch" community, but is rapidly spreading throughout the Modern Orthodox Community as well. The organization hopes to conduct testing programs at NYU and Columbia in the near future. But those whose social circle is not primarily made up of Orthodox Jews might not wish to choose Dor Yesharim. And some people might feel it is best to avoid the entire issue and not be tested at all.

But for those who are Orthodox, and whose spouse will undoubtedly come from the Orthodox community, the Dor Yesharim program is quite obviously the most advantageous. They can be assured that although they will most probably never have to bear the burden of being an informed carrier, they are still capable of avoiding the disastrous experience of having a Tay-Sachs child.

The upcoming testing will be provided in conjunction with the December 23 & 24 blood drive, and will be provided as a service to the YU community for a nominal fee of \$5. Special arrangements will be made for those who cannot afford the service. Students will have a choice of donating blood, being tested for Tay-Sachs, or both.

YCDS Presents "The Elephant Man"

by J. Katzauer

This semester the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society has decided to tackle one of the most ambitious projects in its history. After last year's "Deathtrap" and "Noises Off", the time was felt ripe to produce a serious and artistic play that

Frederick Treves in "The Elephant Man and Other Reminiscences", 1923, was reprinted in "The Elephant Man, A Study in Human Dignity" by Ashley Montagu in 1973.

John Merrick was born in Leicester, a town in the rural,

his own way in the world by prostituting his body for all to see. In this fashion, as a feature in those novelties of the period, the human circuses, he toured many parts of Europe, staying in each until his hosts grew tired of the fascination and threw him out.

meant mental retardation, Merrick was a normal and well-spirited man underneath his deformities.

In this, a Dr. Anthony S. Beukas production, a number of problems have been tackled and, on the whole, overcome with imagination approaching brilliance. The play is a difficult concept for most YU students who can visualize precious little beyond their own microcosm of life. The Elephant Man is staged in a class-divided London at the height of the Victorian era. It is awfully challenging for the cushioned college student of the 1980's to place himself in the hand-to-mouth brutality of the 1890's South London, where the loss of a job presented the palpable taste of starvation and homelessness.

Then, what was the stage to look like? How could the set achieve visually the effect that was intended by the script — a haunting, jolting comment on society and philosophies — without seeming trite by comparison? I may not spill the beans, but once understood, the purpose of the set construction compels admiration. The play, as performed by YCDS, is definitely an original. The lighting, sound and set are used to a dimension that make the Broadway version seem boring in comparison. For on Broadway The Elephant Man was presented as one might have seen it in its historical time. YCDS makes no such claims. The lights are used in coordination with the mood of the

scene to create the mood of the audience. Technically, it may be said that the play is as near perfection as has ever been seen in YCDS.

Now the players take the stage. Jordan Goldberg as the Elephant Man, is at his truly inspiring best. In "Deathtrap" he played a neurotic worrier who was frightened into a heart attack. In this play he portrays Merrick in a sensitive and passionate manner that is so real one wonders whether he is the victim of split personality. When he is good, he's inspiring.

Playing against him is Rick Siegel, or Dr. Frederick Treves. As a new actor, it took him a while to find himself in such a sublime part. Yet when he did so, people who had seen countless rehearsals were astonished at the smoothness with which his emotions transformed into those of Dr. Treves. These two actors could carry the play alone.

Eli Beylus, as Ross, has found a part in which he need not act — he merely drops his inhibitions. Quite simply, it is brilliant. Behniam Dayanim, or a mildly Scottish character called Carr Gomm, is honest even if, on occasion, his accent comes from the American Midwest. Bishop How, Avi Adler in his normal alias, gives the feeling that he should become a man of the cloth if he isn't one. This show has brought out a convincing holier than thou attitude that fits beautifully with the Bishop. Kenny Rocklin, who plays the

cont. on page 11



CAST: Dr. Treves - Rick Siegel; Mr. Carr Gomm - Behnam Dayanim; Ross - Eli Beylus; Circus Creatures - Marc Mendleson, Mickey Zuroff and Steve Felsenthal; John Merrick - Jordan Goldberg; Bishop How - Avi Adler; Mrs. Kendal - Lenny Rocklin; Snork - Howard Pries; Policemen - Lawrence Stroll and David Glickman; Brussels Man - Mike Unger; Lord John - Judah Rosenstien; Count - Alan Ronkin

would shake its audience as well as entertain it. "The Elephant Man" was chosen.

The play by Bernard Pomerance was based on the life, and more hauntingly on the death, of the original "Elephant Man" John Merrick. The story, originally recounted by Sir

and in those days, depressed Midlands of England, to a working class family about the year 1863. His family could not afford to keep him as, at an early age, he was already afflicted by a terrible disorder. He grew up in a shelter and as soon as he could left to seek

At age twenty he was rescued from his life of pain, humiliation and poverty by Dr. Frederick Treves of the London Hospital who gave him a place to live for the remainder of his short life. Treves was fascinated by him for in a world where physical deformity usually

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Three Survive Marathon

by Moshe Adler

On Sunday, November 1st, three members of the Yeshiva University track team took part in one of the most gruelling events in all of sports, the New York City Marathon. Avi Berger, Moshe Adler, and Yoni Parshan spent countless hours preparing for this big event. Each of the participants trained hard, running 45-55 miles per week in the weeks prior to the race.

Although the race started at 10:50 AM, festivities surrounding the big day were in full swing over a week in advance. The Sheraton Center held its annual marathon convention and the various elite runners gave seminars on styles and techniques of running. The week was capped off with the big pasta party the night before the race. For the majority of the runners the feast took place at Tavern on the Green in Central Park. For the 30 or 40 Jewish runners, Cheers sponsored a kosher pasta party. Besides the obvious enjoyment of gorging oneself with free pasta and Perrier mineral water, the carbohydrate in the pasta aids runners in delaying "hitting the wall," a term used by runners to describe the passing of the 20-22 mile mark in the race. Physically, at this point, the body is in agony and it feels as though you are running into a brick wall. According to the experts, by loading up on carbohydrates the night before the race, "hitting the wall" will be pushed off, if not removed.

After months of preparation, the day finally arrived. At 5:30 AM, hoards of runners traveled on crowded subways towards the New York Public Library, where hundreds of buses were waiting to transport the 22,000 runners to Staten Island, the location of the starting line.

Upon arriving at Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island, a minyan was held for Jewish runners from all over the world. People from as far as Israel and London took part in this pre-race event. After last-minute preparations, everyone packed the tip of the Verrazano Bridge for the beginning of the race. After a short ceremony and speech by Mayor Koch, the cannon was fired and the race began.

The first of the five boroughs was the half mile of Staten Island on the first half of the Verrazano Bridge. As the runners traveled over the bridge, the boats in the harbor tooted their horns in a sign of encouragement.

The next borough, Brooklyn, guided the runners through the various ethnic towns and communities of the area. Hundreds of thousands of spectators came to cheer on and aid the runners with water, first aid, and to show overall support. We would especially like to thank Dov Elefant for coming down to 4th Ave. to show his support in cheering on the Yeshiva runners.

As the Yeshiva runners passed through Williamsburg, the spectators cheered and encouraged the runners in both English and Yiddish. The Hatzolah ambulance was on the side of the road giving the runners various forms of medical attention.

The Polansky Bridge, which separates Brooklyn from Queens, was the half-way point in the race. For most of the

the sidewalks were mobbed with supporters cheering every step the runners took. Water stops every mile became of utmost importance. The lack of water could have resulted in dehydration, forcing a runner to withdraw from the race.

After running 4 1/2 miles down First Avenue, the runners crossed the East River and entered the last of the five boroughs - the Bronx. The 20-



runners, the first thirteen miles were not difficult. Everybody enjoyed the run and basically set themselves into their own rhythm.

As the runners left Queens and entered Manhattan, the fifteen-plus miles had already started taking its toll. Many people stopped running and walked up the 59th Street Bridge. A medical station located in the middle of the bridge was full to capacity taking care of runners' blisters, cramps, and other ailments.

Once the runners reached Manhattan, the crowds of First Avenue took over. Sometimes seven and eight people thick,

mile marker, located in the Bronx, signifies what runners claim to be the psychological half-way mark in the race. Often runners believe that running the last six miles is as painful, if not worse, than the first twenty.

After a short stay in the Bronx, the runners re-entered Manhattan for the last time. Five miles to the finish line. At this point the agony and pain inflicted on the legs shows in the faces of the runners. Many runners slow down their pace, and others stop totally, all of this in an attempt to gain energy for the last push.

At last, Central Park and

the final three miles. The closer the runners get to the finish line, the louder the crowds get. At this point the runners are running on will alone. The physical body is beat, the legs are totally numb, but once the finish line is in sight, the adrenaline flows and all other thoughts are erased from the runner's mind. The feeling of crossing the finish line has been described as one of the most fulfilling emotions complimenting human endurance.

Once the finishing medal is put around the runner's neck, he realizes that he has completed one of the most grueling and enduring events in all of sports.

The Yeshiva University track team congratulates its three members for taking part in and for finishing this most challenging event. Moshe Adler, finished in four hours, twenty-nine minutes, and four seconds, Avi Burger finished in 4:59:06, and Yoni Parshan finished in 5:16:02.

Irish and

by Mitchell Nathanson

Wednesday night's Fighting Irish' defeat of the Saints, coupled with Tuesday night's Wildcats' victory over the Bruisers, paved the way for a first place showdown. The confrontation will take place in the final regular season game. In their earlier meeting the Wildcats held off the Irish in a close 2-1 contest. The Irish must win to capture the regular season title. A tie would give the Wildcats first place based on head to head competition.

The Irish and the Saints were tied at one entering the third period; the final score was Irish 5, Saints 2, but not without controversy. In the opening period the Saints seemed to have scored the first goal until Michael Bramson went over to the scorer's table and confessed that the puck had gone through the net and not passed the goal line. Bramson explained, "I was sure that they would be just as honest were it the other way around."

In the second period, with the score tied at one, the Saints mounted an attack on Irish goalie Wayne Feder. The puck went behind the net and referee Ari Schertz whistled the play dead. Schertz explained that he had to be overly cautious due to the sorry state of the hockey nets.

Unfortunately, Schertz was inconsistent in the third period when a similar play developed. This time the Irish were mounting pressure at Saints goalie Eitel Forman. In the midst of the confusion around the goal crease area, the decrepit goal was discombobulated, and yet play continued although the goal was pushed aside by at least a foot. Approximately five seconds later the puck was sent in the area where the net was originally located and rolled to where the relics of the goal were resting. When the whistle was blown, The Irish were surprisingly awarded a goal to put them ahead 2-1.

At the time, Schertz explained that he felt the goalie moved the net and wanted to see if the puck would clear the goal area. Referee in Chief, Mike Ratzker, stated that the rules are very clear on this issue. As soon as the net is moved from its proper place the whistle should be blown. If at the referee's discretion the goal was moved intentionally, a penalty should be assessed. He added that he himself made that call the last time the Irish and the Saints met.

When approached after the game, Schertz stood up to the criticism. He conceded that, "Were I to do the game again, I would change my ruling on the second goal."

Irish captain Shmuel Soffer said, "One call did not make the difference in the game. We dominated the third period and won by three goals. Anyway, the purpose of intramurals is to have fun, not to waste time *cont. opposite page*

Scorcher In Pit Bulls Out

In the final regular season game of the first semester, the Scorchers clinched the fourth playoff spot as they defeated the Ducks, 51-35, behind the outstanding play of Lazer Borgen and Ronnie Morris. The Ducks, who'd won three straight to tie the Scorchers in the standings, were eliminated from playoff contention.

The Scorchers jumped out to an early 17-4 lead en route to a 24-14 halftime advantage, mostly on the outside shooting of Bruce Taragin (9 points). Taragin was held in check in the second half but Borgen and Morris scored almost at will after intermission as the Scorchers were never in jeopardy of losing their lead.

Borgen led the Scorchers with 19 points while Morris added 13. The Ducks were led by Phil Schwartz and Barry Finkelstein, each of whom scored 12 points.

THE MOB 66 PIT BULLS 46

The inside play of Ari Blaine was once again all the offense the Pit Bulls could muster as they suffered their second straight embarrassing loss and were eliminated from playoff contention. The Mob exploded in the first half and led 40-16 at halftime, as Richard Scharlat scored 12 of his team-high 14 points. The second half was somewhat chaotic as The Mob scored on countless fast breaks and the Pit Bulls on uncontested layups inside.

Meyer Neiman finished with 12 points and Daniel Loscove, 10, for The Mob. Blaine finished with 29 points for the Pit Bulls.

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Wildcats Shooting for First

gripping about calls that won't be changed."

The Irish did score to make it 3-1 just 17 seconds later, but Forman was quick to admit, "My concentration just wasn't there." Larry Hartstein added, "That was definitely the turning point of the game. When Schertz gave them a free goal, it took the wind out of our sails."

The playoff picture is getting clearer as four of the five teams have already clinched. The Raiders guaranteed themselves a third place finish by defeating the Devils 9-1. Hesh Meulghay once again led the Raiders with a hat trick. It was his second of theseason. Ari Schertz added three of his own as the Raiders built a 9-0 lead. Goalie Stuart Morduchowitz had his shutout broken with under four minutes remaining in the game.

After losing their first two

games of the season, the Raiders have gone on a roll, winning their last four games while scoring an incredible 29 goals and conceding only nine.

Week five saw the biggest upset of the season when the Wildcats, who have proved to be greater than every team they have played, and the Devils, who had yet to prove themselves greater than any, met in what was supposed to be this season's mismatch.

It was not to be. The Wildcats' undefeated string, in which they had yielded but one goal a game, was snapped at four by the Devils. The game was close through two and a half periods with the score either tied or the Devils ahead by one goal. At the nine minute mark of the final period, with the Devils ahead by a score of 5-4, the Wildcats unleashed an all out attack. This left the

defense vulnerable, and the Devils capitalized on their opportunities by scoring three goals in the final 2:40 to ice the game at 8-4. The Devils were led by a four goal performance from Brian Jedwab in securing the first victory of the season.

Moshe Blech, disappointed that his team's record was blemished, was more frustrated by the team's poor defensive performance. "We took great pride in only allowing one goal a game. Although I hoped it would last, you sort of knew it had to end. I don't want to offer any excuses. Sometimes those things just happen. I'm sure we'll bounce back."

Michael Chill was quick to offer excuses. "Midterms! Our starting goalie wasn't there, and neither was our back-up, or back-up-back-up, Steve Weiss. We were short on

manpower."

In the previous game, Weiss, a last minute replacement, made Robert Levinson's hat trick stand up. He allowed one goal and defeated a depleted Saints team, 5-1.

The Wildcats were sparked by the return of goalie David Schlüssel. Schlüssel, who has allowed one goal in each of his games, maintaining his astounding, and needless to say league leading goals against average at 1.00, by defeating the Bruisers 5-1.

The final playoff spot will go either to the Bruisers or the Devils. The Bruisers can clinch with a victory over the streaking Raiders or a Devil loss to the Saints. The Devils must hope that the Bruisers fall, and that they can secure at least a tie against the Saints. A tie in the standings would be advantageous to the Bruisers, who defeated the Devils in their only meeting this year.



cont. from page 9

actress Mrs. Kendal, is learning ever better how to act a lady without being effeminate. It is interesting to watch a YU student tackle a female character, and not many students have the audacity to attempt the challenge. Kenny does and is quite successful.

The rest of the cast play multiple characters with varying degrees of ability. This mesh of talent has led to nightmarish rehearsals when some fellows with basic eye-hand coordination problems consistently miss their cues despite threats, exhortations and pleas. However, by the time of production one hopes they will have meshed well enough to give the effect to some of the more gripping scenes of the play.

The accents required for the play, ranging from Oxford English to pure Cockney, would be challenging for an Englishman to pronounce. It may be asking too much to expect perfect efforts from these Americans, but with some, were one to ask any less it would be at risk of insult. They've got it.

Overall, the Dramatics Society has put on a play with the potential to outreach almost anything yet done by them. It only remains to be seen whether the ingredients will provide the right mix for brilliance. One has the nagging suspicion they will.

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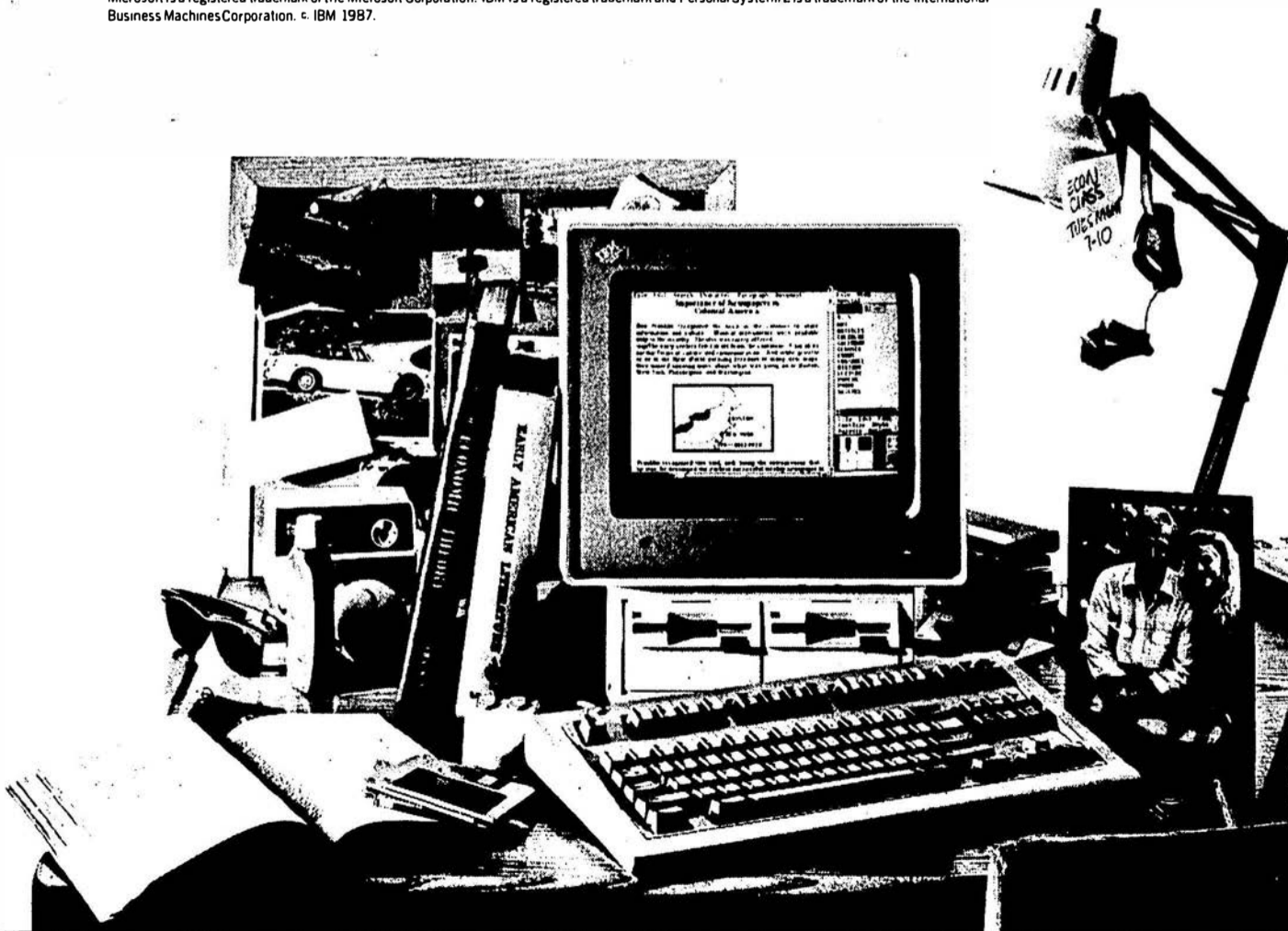
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Yeshiva Sports

MACS Shock Vassar, Nearly Upset NJIT

by Larry Hartstein

The Maccabees are 4-3 but they could very well be 7-0. They've lost three tough conference matches by an average of seven points. Yet after a scintillating near upset of defending conference champion New Jersey Tech, the Macs know they are capable of beating anyone on the schedule.

The Macs wanted to give Coach Jonny Halpert his 100th career victory at home against Stevens Tech on November 24th. They failed, losing 57-46 to a team they'd manhandled last season, and shot 18% from the field in the process. Then they faced the task of facing arch rival Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. The Macs pulled out a thrilling 80-71 victory and avenged last year's two close losses to the Brewers. **STEVENS TECH 57 MACS 46**

The Ducks' sophomore Rifat Agi, a native of Turkey, showed why he made the all-conference team last season as he led all scorers with 17 points, 14 in the second half. Twice he utilized his tremendous leaping ability to tip in alley-oop passes.

The Macs jumped out to an early 16-6 lead, mostly on Ayal Hod's inside scoring. However, with 9:58 remaining in the half he picked up his second foul and Coach Halpert sat him down the rest of the half, at the end of which Stevens led 24-23.

Halpert hoped that Ayal would return in the second half to spark the team. However, Ayal failed to dominate as he'd done in the first ten minutes and the Ducks, their confidence buoyed after fearing an early rout, played with poise and discipline and a lot of solid defense.

Ayal fouled out with a team-high 16 points and the Macs could not overcome the nightmarish 5-for-25 combined shooting of their top shooters, Lior Hod and Yudi Teichman. Fatigue definitely played a factor as the Macs were playing their second game in two nights, and the fresh Ducks pulled

away in the second half. **MACS 80 VASSAR 71**

Vassar Coach Dennis Gallagher attended the Macs-Ducks game to prepare his team for its upcoming matchup with the Macs. "Every time I scout them they don't impress me, but for some reason they always play us tough." Tough is an understatement.

Gallagher's team took an early 20-12 lead and Coach Halpert was dissatisfied with the way the Macs were playing defense. He called for a 1-3-1 defense, abandoning the 2-3 zone matchup he'd been using since the start of the season. It paid off immediately and the Macs came back to tie the game at 33 before halftime. In this game Coach Halpert decided to let Ayal Hod play on with two fouls in the first half and the big forward kept out of foul trouble the rest of the half.

Hesh Muehlgay, the team's only Boro Park native, gave the Macs a big boost before halftime, scoring five points and proved that he's becoming a dominating inside force.

The second half was very possibly the teams best half of basketball in years. They shot a sizzling 73% for the half and scored more points (47) than in the entire Stevens Tech game. Yudi Teichman hit his last six shots and finished with 21 points to lead all scorers. Karl Butler led the Brewers with 17 points but was not the same shooter after he caught an Ayal Hod elbow to the head that required him to wear a bandage for the rest of the game.

For the Macs it was Teichman and Benjy Reichel (11 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists) who took control in the clutch. Yet this victory was a team effort in every way. Lior Hod supplied 18 points, including two breakaway slams, and his brother Ayal added 12 points and pulled 16 rebounds. David Gottlieb chipped in 7 points and Jeff Baum's solid work at point freed Teichman for his scoring binge. Baum played so well that he regained his



starting position from Marty Shlakman who had started the first three games of the season.

After the final buzzer had sounded the jubilant Macs lifted their coach on their shoulders in honor of his 100th victory. Halpert had never seen his team so happy. "The best feeling about it was the reaction of the team," he said. "I'm really very touched and moved by it." The team celebrated with champagne in the locker room, and Stevens Tech seemed so far away. "It was a scheduling mistake (back to back games on the first two nights of the season) and we came back tonight and showed how good we really are," said Reichel. **MACS 66 MARITIME 40**

Maritime is experiencing this year what the Macs will have to endure next season. The Privateers lost four starters and only two players remain from last year's squad, including just one senior. In two years they may be very good but this year they are floundering.

The Macs trailed 14-10 when they reeled off 17 straight points to take command. From there they coasted as everyone got a chance to play. Teichman led the way with 12 points. **MACS 78 POLYTECH 61**

Yudi Teichman led the Macs with 16 points. **NJIT 75 MACS 68**

The Macs entered the game on a down note following the Pratt debacle and had four starters nursing nagging injuries. It looked like that would spell trouble against a racehorse NJIT club ranked 18th in the country. However, backed by more than 500 fans at one of their highest decibel levels, the Macs put up a gallant fight that only ran out of steam against a tough, experienced opponent.

Trailing 58-47 midway through the second half Coach Halpert inserted Jeff Baum to play the chaser in the 1-3-1 defense and to the chants of **DEFENSE! DEFENSE!** he rose to the occasion with three key steals, igniting a Macs' comeback that eventually put them ahead on a three-point field goal by Lior Hod off a great pass from Benjy Reichel. The crowd erupted as they sensed upset with five minutes left in the contest. However, on NJIT's next possession, the air came out of the sails as Chris Miles, their all-conference guard was fouled as he canned a three-point field goal. The ensuing free throw made it 62-62 and from there NJIT overcame the Macs' momentum and unnerving fans to hold on down the stretch.

The Macs played their hearts out and had nothing to be ashamed of. However, bad free throw shooting continues to plague the team as they missed a number of bonus opportunities and shot 13-of-23 for the game. Lior Hod led all scorers with 21 points and Ayal Hod and Yudi Teichman each added 18.

The game did show that the Macs have some of the most vociferous fans in Division III and that the MSAC may be one of the toughest gyms for opposing teams to play in. Just ask NJIT Coach Jim Catalano who couldn't wait to get his team out of the MSAC after his team's third hair-raising game there in as many years. Hopefully the exuberance of YU fans and the large 400-plus crowds will continue.

Lior Hod had played four games and was still looking for his first twenty point game of the season. So he went to the videotape. "I looked at films and saw that I was rushing my shot," said Lior. In this game he took his time and poured in 23 points, second only to Ayal's 29 points. However, the game's sour note was when Ayal hurt his thumb, though it didn't seem to affect his scoring.

The game was an up-tempo one which favored the Macs as they ran the break on almost every possession. **PRATT 49 MACS 45 (OT)**

The Macs scored as many points as minutes played in what many observers called the most pathetic display of basketball by two teams ever. The Macs trailed 19-14 at halftime after jumping out to an 8-0 lead. In the second half they came alive to take a 41-34 lead with five minutes left. However, they turned the ball over time after time down the stretch and allowed Pratt to send the game into overtime. In the extra session, the Cannoneers' momentum carried over from regulation and the Macs were too battered to keep up.

STANDINGS

THE MOB	6-1
COUGARS	5-2
DOOBIES	5-2
SCORCHERS	4-3
DUCKS	3-4
PIT BULLS	3-4
WARRIORS	1-6
HOYAS	1-6

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Ari Blaine	PIT BULLS	5	52	10	114	22.8
Alan Berger	DOOBIES	5	35	8	78	15.6
Richard Scharlat	THE MOB	5	35	12	82	16.4
Ronnie Morris	SCORCHERS	6	33	10	76	12.7
Izzy Kaufman	DUCKS	7	42	3	87	12.4
Jon Bandler	COUGARS	7	41	5	87	12.4

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The Russian Experience

by Etan Tokayer

The Russia Experience - how can one describe it? The inevitable question so quickly asked to all returnees is "How was IT?" To attempt to answer such a question is virtually impossible and almost ludicrous. Nevertheless, one high school student who had returned from a mission to the Soviet Union cleverly responded to that densely packed question (How was IT?), "When you have about ten hours to speak, give me a call." This in fact, is the most proper response; for a mission to the Soviet Union involves a myriad of components.

One could discuss the months of preparation required to make such a trip possible. One could discuss just his experience involved in entering the Soviet Union. Interaction with the Soviet authority, the common citizen, or the tour guides also provides a wealth of interesting data. Observations of Soviet society, economy, as understood by the tourist can mark a fascinating essay. Certainly, the treatment of foreigners in comparison to the treatment of the average Soviet citizen is also an interesting point of discussion. Any tourist, however, with an open eye and keen sense of perception could discuss any or all of the aforementioned issues.

It is only a certain kind of tourist - the one whose tourist map includes the living room of Refusenik Russians - who can bring to light a deeper understanding of the Soviet Union and greater feeling towards the plight of the Soviet Jews. One valuable way to relate such insight and help ensure clarity of presentation unadulterated by any commentary is to present the reader the human experience as told by the Refuseniks combined with one's personal observations of his interaction with the Refuseniks and their community.

It was Tuesday afternoon approximately 8:00 P.M. Moscow time. Zev Liebowitz, my partner, and I had made our first telephone contact. The woman on the other end of the phone, in a circumspect yet excited tone of voice, gave directions coupled with a set of instructions of how, where, and when to meet her. We set out on our first journey during the Soviet railway system. This scenario was to become a regular occurrence for Zev and me as our days in the Soviet Union zoomed forward.

Still, it was the first occurrence which brought us in contact with Leah and Natan Schwartzman. (Some names occurring in this essay have been changed to protect the identities of the Refuseniks.) Leah and Natan have been Refuseniks for 12 years. When they decided to apply for emigration over a decade ago, their Jewish identity meant little more than a stamp on their passport.

Upon achieving greater awareness of the Jewish nation and Judaism due to the repercussions following their application for exit, Leah and Natan have become ardent Zionists with a deep desire to live in the traditional land of the Jews. Leah is a Hebrew teacher - a dangerous profession in the U.S.S.R. In her words she, "is not a teacher. I just know a little and they (the students) know a little less than I." Leah continued to tell of the current dearth of better teachers. This unfortunate situation has developed ironically through the good fortune of these better teachers who have been allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Within five minutes of our arrival at the Schwartzmans' home, the doorbell rang. In a moment, Natan was out of the room, and the door opened behind him. We remained with Leah and whispered among ourselves. So excited to speak Hebrew with others, Leah almost burst into laughter. So touched was I by her dedication, burning idealism, and love for Israel that I almost burst into tears. Quietly, Leah removed from a drawer Russian newspaper clipping dealing with Israel. One article dealt with a massive hunger problem in Israel. The second article discussed a master-puppet relationship between Washington and the Jewish State. Leah wanted to verify any validity in the articles. What, Leah wanted to know, was the state of affairs in Israel at the time. As the three of us spoke in Hebrew, Zev and I helped Leah with her grammar and vocabulary and she, in turn, did the same for us. "How wonderful it is," she exclaimed, "we are all each other's teachers!" Since this was our first meeting, we were a bit inexperienced, and, thus, Zev and I neglected to bring anything other than a small recording of Jewish music. We left it with Leah and Natan as a wedding gift for their son who was married only days before we arrived. When we asked the Schwartzmans what we could bring them, Leah responded in her quiet and tender 12 year old voice of hope, "We need one thing and one thing only - an exit visa to Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel."

The Schwartzmans unfortunately are not the only long-term Refuseniks. Eugene and Tanya Gilbo have also been Refuseniks for quite a few years. Eugene is a University graduate with two Ph.D.s in science. He published a book on mathematics and was earning approximately 400 rubles a month as a professor of science. This is one of the highest paying professions in the Soviet Union. Eugene felt the Soviet system was replete with falsehoods and could bear the system no longer. He knew that as a Jew he had the privilege to apply for exit. (Only individuals with

family outside the U.S.S.R. can apply to emigrate. This excludes a large percentage of the Russian population).

Since the Gilbos' visa application was rejected, they have faced difficult times. Eugene was fired from his job on the basis of underqualification. Suddenly Eugene was under-qualified! How could this occur? The answer lies in the effectiveness of the K.G.B.: As the facts reveal, all of Eugene's degrees were retroactively revoked and were declared null and void by the University.

Former Professor Eugene Gilbo now spends his days and his mental resources as a bookkeeper. "To me," Eugene said "we are free. We no longer live two lives - one in the office and one at home. They (the authorities) know who we are and what we stand for. We are more free now than ever before." Although Zev and I had not known much of the Gilbos' background previous to our meeting, we had decided to bring the Gilbos some clothing and some coffee (items which are needed and are valuable in the U.S.S.R.). After we gave Eugene the items, Tanya jumped from her chair, ran to her cupboard and insisted we take two Russian cups as souvenirs. Eugene, for his part, demanded that we accept two classical music records as a memento. Even in the depths of their suffering, typical of many Refuseniks, the Gilbos saw themselves as individuals required to give of themselves, of their home and of their time. They sought nothing in return. They seek but one thing, and that is to emigrate to freedom.

It was at a freedom demonstration in Moscow that Lev and Marina Forman met. Approximately one and a half years ago, Marina and Lev were married. Since that time, their home has been open for anyone who wishes to learn about Judaism, Jewish History, Hebrew, or Zionism and related topics. Their home is virtually a crossroads of Jewish activism. Marina succeeded in writing and publishing several scathing journalistic jewels which found their way to the Western press. Marina pursued her penchant for writing and proceeded to pen her most critical piece. She hoped to publish it in the West. Only two of her close peers were privy to her plan.

At the time Marina was pregnant. To her surprise, two K.G.B. officials contacted her and presented her the following threat. "If you publish the article, then either you or your baby will not leave the delivery room alive." Lev reasoned that he had waited forty years for a wife and child, and he was not going to lose both now. With this consideration in mind, Marina did not publish the article. Nevertheless, both Marina and Lev continued to pursue their other activities. Their home remained a center

of activism, and they continued teaching.

In order to endure good medical attention, Lev and Marina bribed a certain physician. This practice is common in the Soviet Union. Marina subsequently entered the hospital. Soon after she was admitted Marina was hooked up to an intravenous unit. The purpose of the unit was to help her weak heart during the actual delivery. Marina awaited the doctor. He never showed. She fell into semiconsciousness. She could not even cry out for help. Miraculously, the department head was present. More striking, however, is the fact that he dealt with the problem and delivered the child. A general policy in the Soviet Union

Aliyah.

Aliyah, settling in the land of Israel, represented the future of the Jewish people. There is, however, a long and difficult yet rich history attached to the Russian lands. It was in Russia that Jewish scholarship rose to great heights. There existed great yeshivot such as Mir, Telz, Klezck, Voloshin and Slobodka, and famed leaders and Talmudic scholars such as Rabbi Israel Salanter, Rabbi Shneur Zalman, Rabbi Nosson Zvi Finkel and Rabbi Issar Zalman Meltzer. Among the many ways to categorize the Jews in Russia (in fact, they are not a harmonious unified group), one can divide the population in the following manner. There are those Jews

the world." The old men who speak fluent Yiddish and know the prayers completely by heart come to the synagogue, the last link of the glorious but so distant past.

Moshe Aarenstein, an elderly man who lives in Moscow, grew up during the glorious days of Russian Jewry. He was privileged to study in the Yeshiva of Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan, also known as the Chofetz Chaim. To Moshe, names such as The Ohr Someach, and the Chofetz Chaim, are not textbook pseudonyms; rather, they represent real people, as real as Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik are to the present day American community. Moshe Aarenstein, could speak only a biblical Hebrew. To him modern Hebrew is as foreign as is the thought of moving to Israel. Moshe spoke of the synagogues, of the cemeteries, of his father (whose Bible commentary sits in manuscript

Avram and Moshe Aarenstein, there is no future - only memories of the past.

While the elders cling as best they can to what once was in Russia, the younger generation, void of such knowledge of the past, bustles with activity as it marches onward looking forward to a bright hopeful future. For these individuals, there is no Russian Jewish past. They are beginners to Judaism. To many, the term Jew is an idearecently learned. They were products of the Soviet system. They were completely void of religion or Jewish identity. But the tide has shifted, and across the Soviet Union there is a Jewish renewal of activism - a renaissance of the first order.

One prime example of this new activism is Dov Schwartzman's newly founded organization. The organization is called Second Generation. This group of Refuseniks challenges more than those of their parents. The second generation is aware of its identity. These children of Refuseniks have been barred from leaving the Soviet Union simply because their parents were refused. The Second Generation members,

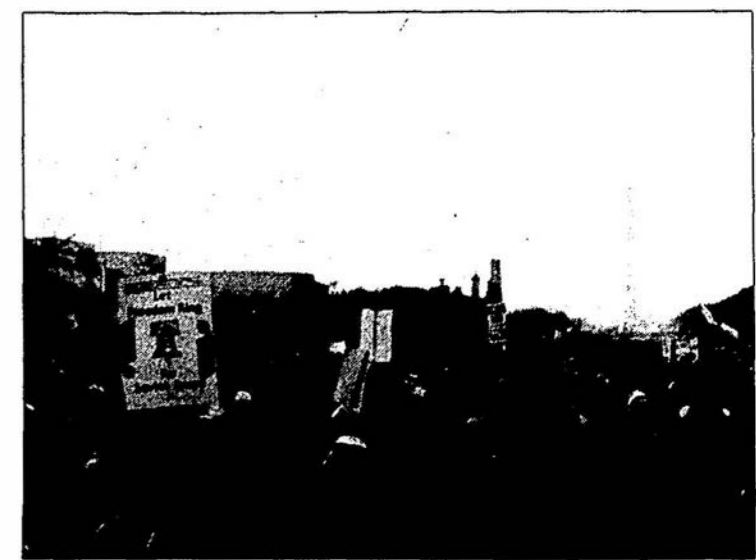
Polansky. Pinchas, the key organizer of one adult education movement in Moscow received permission to settle in Israel together with his family. (Pinchas was given very short notice, and this left him with much to do before departing.) Pinchas's group runs programs for the unaffiliated Jew as well as educational sessions for the individual with more advanced skills. Pinchas and his assistants will admit anyone into the classes - no questions asked. It is, therefore, possible that any individual in a class could be a K.G.B. employee. Nevertheless, Pinchas's group remains undaunted. Before he departed, Polansky trained two of his students to take over the operation. In the final analysis, the Jewish educational movement from the Soviet Union to Israel is, indeed, the hope of many Soviet Jews, the life of such Russian Jews is not limited merely to internal striving, emotional drive or psychological fortitude in the face of overwhelming odds. Despite the efforts of the K.G.B., the Jewish community remains active.

Slava Shiffin and her family have also played an important role in Jewish activism. Under the auspices, a treasury of Hebrew books have been obtained from the West. Her nineteen year old daughter acts as Hebrew teacher and seasoned educator of Jewish law.

Another example of the current mode of activity is the recent action of Menachem Yofom and his friends. Together they have uncovered perhaps one of the most fascinating finds in recent years. With the help of the elders of Kovno, Menachem discovered the library of the Slobodka Yeshiva. Approximately 2,000 books were found. Volumes of the first Talmud edition printed were located. Menachem's group was able to secure approximately 300 works and save them from inevitable deterioration.

Yet Jewish activism has even surfaced in areas thought to be impossible just a short time ago. Following the vision of spiritual survival, Alex Lukatzky and his associates were able to secure a building and construct within it a ritualarium. The construction was complete in less than three weeks. The K.G.B. warned Lukatzky that the ritualarium must be demolished. After Alex disregarded the unfriendly advice, the authorities sent in their own men who cemented over the ritual bath. When the community found out what had transpired, Alex wrote a threatening letter to the local officials. "The Jewish community," he wrote, "considers the act of the K.G.B. as a pogrom and the Jews plan to publicize this fact to the communities throughout the world." Immediately the ritualarium was restored, and the government expressed its shock at the notion of a pogrom or of any form of persecution occurring in the Soviet Union.

Persecution of the Jews has throughout the centuries been the hallmark of his transient mode of existence. However,



today these Soviet Jews have staked out their next region of settlement as their last one. These Jews are finally going back home. They are going to Israel. Whereas emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel is, indeed, the hope of many Soviet Jews, the life of such Russian Jews is not limited merely to internal striving, emotional drive or psychological fortitude in the face of overwhelming odds. Despite the efforts of the K.G.B., the Jewish community remains active.

The single most dangerous threat to Soviet Jewry, however, is the Western Jewish perception of the Soviet Jewish predicament. "Never before," said Anatoly Scharansky, "has the perception of American Jewry been so far from the reality." We must see through the complex veneer that Mr. Gorbachev and his public relations experts have master-

fully put forward. If the K.G.B. (i.e., the Soviet government) finds that its carefully coordinated gestures of goodwill have been effective in smothering American Jewish activism then the fate of Soviet Jewry is sealed.

The challenge to American Jewry is clear. We must continue our efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews. We must not allow Mr. Gorbachev, who has passed the most stringent anti-emigration law in Soviet history, to win his battle against the Jews by default. The American Jewish community must not succumb to Mr. Gorbachev's affected displays of human rights reform. With the torch of tyranny firm in the hands of this sly and pragmatic Soviet premier, it is incumbent upon every individual to carry his own flame of truth and justice in pursuit of freedom for all Soviet Jews.

CONGRATULATIONS

by Marc Mandel, Assistant to the Dean of Students

For the eight-hundred plus students who traveled to Washington on behalf of Soviet Jewry, December 6th is a day we will never forget.

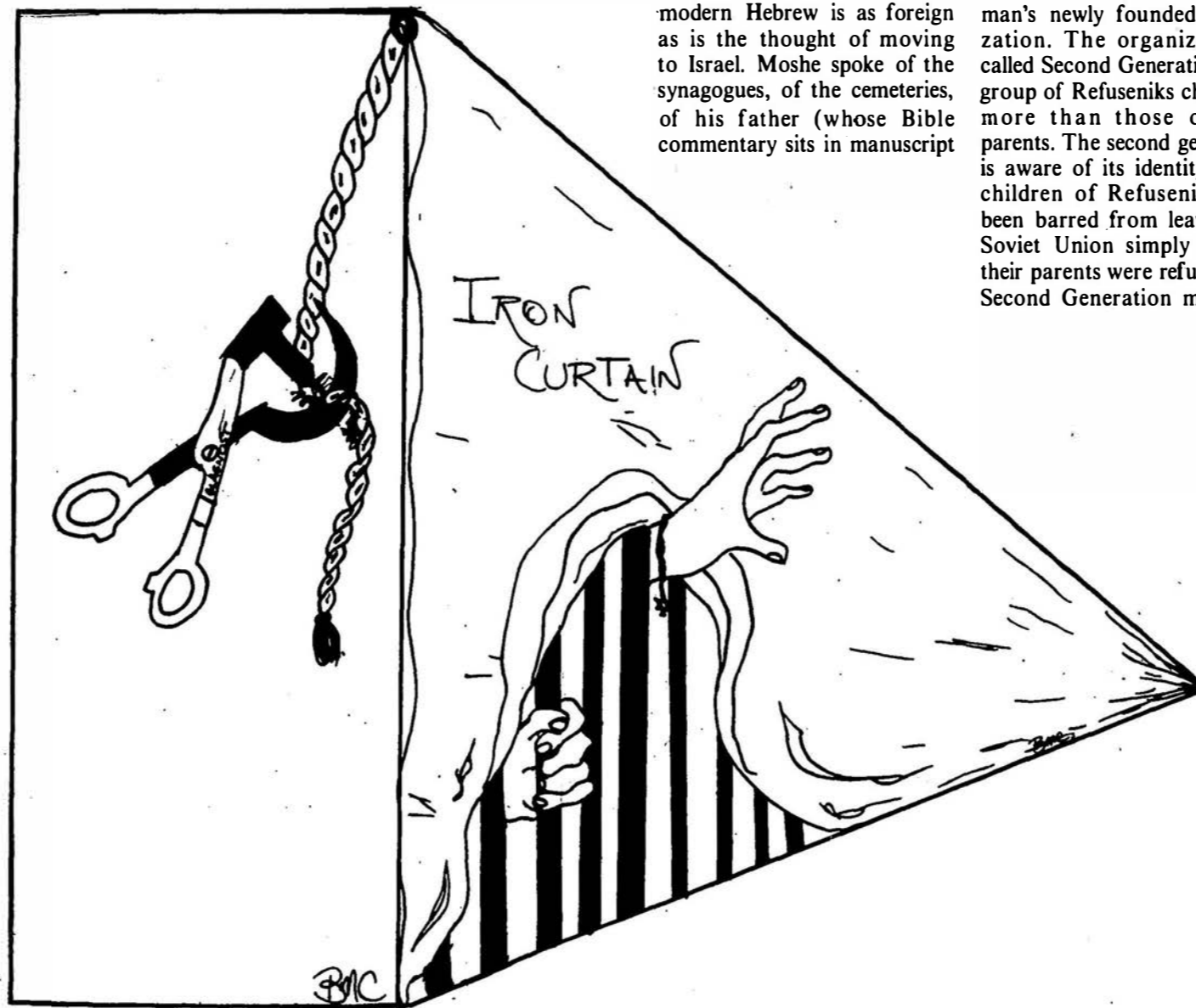
The nine buses that left YU were the most from any school, synagogue, or organization in New York State. The rally was a moving, emotional event that captured the hearts of all 250,000 people there. For students and youngsters who were too young to have understood Viet Nam and the civil rights movement, our students proved to all that today's students are more than just a bunch of future "yuppies." We demonstrated our concern for Jewish people all over the world and proved that human rights and social justice are a priority for students.

This special camaraderie that was felt between the students that day will never be lost to all who traveled to Washington. When Judah Hartman and Rina Gang announced their engagement on the bus and everyone was singing and dancing, it was a perfect ending to a historic day. When our

very patient young bus driver hugged Judah at the end of the day, it was another indication of the special chemistry permeating the whole event.

Yes, there were some complications and scary moments. Never in my life will I forget the horrified faces of the old couples searching for their buses in lot number 8 on that cold, dark winter night. We had difficulties because we were traveling with nine buses that were split up on the way. But thanks to the many helpful students, we pulled through. In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Mazer Yeshiva Program were able to arrange that shiurim would be given on some of the buses going to Washington, D.C.

A quote from Mark Twain reads: "Never allow schooling to interfere with your education." On Sunday, all of us interrupted our schooling to get an education in human rights, caring, and social justice. Let YU always lead the way in fighting for Jewish causes whether it be Soviet Jewry, security for Israel, or a Jerusalem that maintain its true character.



which is strictly upheld is that no doctor addresses the needs of another doctor's patient. (This policy is not related to medical or professional work ethics; rather to Communist economic planning.)

When Marina awoke in the recovery room, the doctor accosted her and advised that if she were ever to have a child again in the U.S.S.R., she should be on better terms with the government. He continued to explain that the doctor whom Marina and Lev had bribed was under direct orders from the K.G.B. not to deliver the baby. Furthermore, he was to arrange that her death appear to be caused by a weak heart's failure. "This time God and I were on your side. Next time you won't be that lucky." Said the doctor. With this true tale in mind, the child was named

bonded to the Jewish past; the other group has forged its bond with the Jewish future.

Walking into the Moscow shul, one steps through the portal of history and finds himself thrust into a distant world. Much of the synagogue seems ancient. There, however, have been certain significant changes. The present Rabbi, State paid, leads a personal life devoid of Jewish values. The Rabbi who preceded him married outside of the faith. The synagogue cantor, who is also State paid, is actually a professional actor. Gone are the days when praying in the synagogue was a highly emotional, spiritual, and awesome endeavor. Plastered on the front wall of the synagogue is the prayer for the Welfare of the U.S.S.R., "the protector of peace and harmony throughout

form in Moshe's apartment), of the Soloveitchicks from Brisk, of the sunset that was, and of the twilight that is. Judaism is dying in Russia, and Moshe watches as the last grains of sand whirl down the hourglass of history.

Reb Avram is the sexton of one Russian Synagogue. He, like Moshe Aarenstein, is a man linked to the Jewish past.

As I saw him unroll one of the Torah scrolls, I saw a man living at one with his precious holy book. He did not only live by the Torah, with Torah, or in accordance with its laws, but also, to him the Torah was his home, a last bastion of security and faith. Reb Avram spoke of the legend of Rabbi Isaac Elchonon Spektor. He too, spoke of the days of glory. Yet for people such as Rabbi

many of whom were elementary school children when their parents first applied for emigration are now adults beginning lives of their own. Second Generation has formally declared itself to the Soviet Union authorities and hopes to rally support for its cause.

Yet this cause is not the only activity in which Dov Schwartzman and his newlywed wife are involved. The Schwartzmans are active in the Jewish beginners movement. They run programs in their home on Shabbat, and they are also in the formative stages of printing Russian translated texts. Although they service a great need in the Soviet Union, the Schwartzmans have once again applied for emigration and hope to settle in Israel.

Such was the dream and now is the reality of Pinchas