

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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

March 18, 1988

Yeshiva College Cracks Down on Cheating

By Steven Major

Countless rumors, stories, and facts have been circulating regarding cheating that occurred at Yeshiva College during the final examinations period of the fall semester. The event which stimulated these conjectures occurred in Furst Hall, in room 501, where Dean Rosenfeld manifested his abhorrent opposition and intolerance toward acts of cheating on exams by publicly tearing apart the test paper of a suspected cheater.

The administration declares that, at the time, it had been "tipped off" by a group of students who voluntarily came forth to inform the administration that copies of Dr. Levine's microeconomics final exam was in circulation amongst students in his class. Unnerved by this surprise piece of information, the administration had to confront this disturbing predicament. With only one day before the exam and with limited recourse, the administration instructed Dr. Levine to devise a totally new test.

The administration also arranged to obtain a list of suspects. The hawking eyes of the administration focused upon the ten to fifteen students believed to be part of this "elite" group. Suspicions were then aroused when a student requested to leave the room in order to pray Mincha while the test was being administered. Permission was granted. However, after finishing the Mincha prayer, the individual unexpectedly proceeded to the bathroom. An administrator witnessed the student as he exited the men's room. Puzzled by and suspicious of the student's actions, the administrator walked into the bathroom and spotted a notebook of class notes from Dr. Levine's microeconomics course lying on the bathroom sink. With this circumstantial evidence, Dean Rosenfeld approached this person, took his test paper and ripped it up.

The notebook proved to add an interesting intricacy to the case because it belonged to another student in Dr. Levine's class. Thus this cast the two students in a light of possible, perceived by the administration as probable, guilt.

An analysis of the evidence

was logical and sufficient evidence, according to the administration, to prove the guilt of the student whose name appeared in the notebook. Presumably he had intended to switch his examination booklet with a booklet of pre-written answers. Furthermore, it was reasoned that possession of the original microeconomics exam was sufficient demonstration in intent.

Naturally, the administration began a thorough investigation of the matter. Although the administration would not reveal the outcome of the investigation, Mr. Robert Katz, Assistant to the Dean, said: "The grades given to each of the two students in their microeconomics course reflect the amounts of guilt and punishment." Currently the administration believes that the incidents relating to these students were unrelated to one another, so that each was dealt with separately. Several faculty members and administrators have voiced their opinions that the forceful action by the Dean was necessary, for it imparted to the student body that cheating will no longer be tolerated.

There were other reported instances of cheating during finals. In particular a student asserted that during one final a group of students were blatantly exchanging information. An administrator passed by and merely told the group to "cut it out."

The responsibility of the college towards acts of cheating within Yeshiva College is an issue of some magnitude and controversy. Mr. Ken Wagner, Associate Director of Admissions, contends that YC's obligation is two-fold. First, "It should be made clear to every student that cheating is not to be tolerated... we should do whatever it takes to make cheating as difficult as possible." Secondly, "anybody caught cheating must be severely punished."

The administration specifies that it cannot act on cases whose facts remain uncorroborated. Evidence is the key. Furthermore, the administration feels that the extent of cheating at YU is exaggerated and that there has been no escalation

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Head Basketball Coach, Honathan Halpert, and his Assistant, Jeffrey Furock, embrace after Furock received a plaque honoring him for his 11 years with the Maccabees. The presentation took place at halftime of the team's final home game on March 1st.

Rabbi Rabinowitz Steps Down as Dean of IBC Will Remain as IBC Teacher in Talmud and Halacha

By Larry Portal

After having served for more than twenty years as Dean of Isaac Breuer college, Rabbi Jacob Rabinowitz has decided to set aside this position and instead devote his time to his primary and first endeavor - teaching.

Rabbi Rabinowitz began his teaching career at Rabbi Jacob Joseph School in 1948, immediately after he was ordained from RIETS. He taught there for nine years until 1957, when he then joined the Yeshiva University faculty. At Stern College, he taught chemistry and was the director of religious guidance as well. In 1966, he became the first Dean of Students of both YC and SCW, second only to the president, Dr. Samuel Belkin. Dr. Belkin invited Rabbi Rabinowitz in 1968 to assume the position of Dean of Erna Michael College (now known as IBC) which he happily accepted. In 1976, Dr. Lamm appointed Rabbi Rabinowitz Dean of undergraduate Jewish Studies which he accepted while retaining his position at IBC. He relinquished the former post in 1986 to become Chief Officer of the Torah Education Network with which he is still actively involved.

In deciding to leave the deanship of IBC, Rabbi Rabinowitz conferred with the appropriate personnel. It was everyone's belief that it would be in the best interests of the university to have him teach in IBC because of his long association and the love he has developed for it. Conceivably, Rabbi Rabinowitz's experience and vast capabilities would be beneficial to students in any Jewish Studies program, but having developed a special relationship over the years at IBC, he prefers to remain in an IBC classroom. Although IBC offers a wide gamut of courses including Jewish

Philosophy, Jewish History and Halacha, Rabbi Rabinowitz is most comfortable teaching Gemora and Halacha.

This change of pace will be especially beneficial to Rabbi Rabinowitz's students - students who are at a crucial time in their lives. "Nineteen and twenty year old students, whose minds are fairly set as to the way in which way they would like to conduct their lives, need



special attention," remarks Rabbi Rabinowitz, referring more specifically to those who have not yet developed a love for learning Gemora. He will continue to convince his students that never again in their lives will they have an opportunity to learn as they do right now.

Leaving his administrative position will be beneficial for Rabbi Rabinowitz as well. In contrast to an administrator whose job entails a forty hour work week for eleven months a year, a teacher at IBC has it somewhat easier working for either three or four days a week. In addition, Rabbi Rabinowitz will have his summers for his own leisure - time which will undoubtedly be spent for learning, family, and writing for various publications. As a dean, he could not enjoy this luxury because of the constant administrative tasks which had to be taken care of all year long.

Duties which Rabbi Rabinowitz held simultaneously as Dean, he will continue to hold as a teacher. One key position is as Executive Officer of the Torah Education Network (TEN), an organization created and maintained through the joint efforts of YU and other organizations. Its main objective is to broaden the educational services to the North American Jewish community.

Indeed, seldom in his career has Rabbi Rabinowitz confined his interest and efforts to IBC alone. Until two years ago, when he was chosen for this position at TEN, Rabbi Rabinowitz was Dean of Jewish studies at YU. Needless to say, these additional positions contributed to a long and toilsome day. However, according to Rabbi Rabinowitz, being Dean of IBC is neither as arduous nor as time consuming as being the Dean of Yeshiva College for instance. There are fewer students to administer and less courses to deal with.

Hence, he has the option to teach courses as well as to regulate them, an opportunity of which Rabbi Rabinowitz has taken advantage. Similarly Rabbi Yudin, Dean of JSS, teaches courses in his program.

In addition to his rabbinical and administrative abilities, Rabbi Rabinowitz also received a Master's degree in chemistry from Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn. His professional affiliations include the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, the Educators Council of America, Eastern Associations of College Deans and Advisors of students, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Epsilon and Alpha Epsilon Delta. He has written articles published in "Analytical Chemistry" and "The Pedagogue Reporter", in addition to his wide gamut of contributions on Jewish topics.

Inside . . .

The Yeshiva Macs: '87-88
A Splendid Season

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Editorials

Puppet or Senate

Cut short those summer vacations! Sorry, can't spend the holidays in Israel! What - you're from California and can't afford to fly home a little over a week after you got here? Too bad. School will be in session starting August 29 thanks to a decision by YU's President, Dr. Lamm.

For those of you still unaware, the past few months have been marked by uncertainty over when Yeshiva College will begin the Fall session due to the earliness of the Yomim Tovim. The matter was submitted to the YC senate, which recommended a late start in mid-September. Unfortunately, Dr. Lamm did not agree, and we begin in August. It is unfortunate not because of the early start per se, as that issue, like every issue, has its pros and cons. However, in the administration's disregard for the Senate's decision lies cause for embarrassment. Granted, the SCW Senate voted in favor of an early start, yet no attempts to reconcile the two senates, perhaps through a joint session, was endeavored; rather, Dr. Lamm simply picked a date he thought best for whatever reason.

The Senate's minutes, posted to inform the student body of its proceedings, did not explain the decision, and indeed, one wonders if the senators were aware of the reasons. While the president is under no obligation to disclose his reasons, such a statement would be a simple matter of courtesy and respect. Those same minutes point to Dr. Will Lee, a faculty representative to the Senate, as saying that it is the administration, not any lack of student impetus, that keeps a "lid" on the Senate.

Some reasons mentioned unofficially as possible grounds for the decision to begin early include the desirability of beginning Yeshiva sessions in Ellul and of spending Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in the Yeshiva. Regardless, the issue is not the wisdom of starting early, disputable as it is, but the way in which the decision was reached. It is unpardonable to recommend the use by students of such recourse as, for example, the Senate, and then to casually disregard the opinion of that body. Through such methods the expression of student opinions becomes little more than naive farce.

College Controversy

With the end of the school year fast approaching rumors abound throughout the campus as to the developments we can expect upon our return next year. Having experienced rapid changes over the past few years with the addition of the pedestrian mall, SSSB, Tenzer Gardens, the plus-minus grading system and many other alterations and improvements, students understandably view the coming term with both eagerness and trepidation. One theme that seems to be particularly persistent involves the possible merger of James Striar School and Isaac Breuer College, two of the three Jewish Studies divisions.

While officials insist no decision has been reached, speculation about such a proposal, in light of IBC Dean Rabinowitz' impending retirement, has created concern among both JSS and IBC students aware of the issue. Critics of such a move argue that each school caters to different types of students with different needs and that combining the two divisions would only result in a failure to satisfy anyone. In addition, they argue that both JSS and IBC students cherish their unique identities and would resist any attempts to form one larger, less cohesive mass.

On the other side, proponents claim an amalgamation of JSS and IBC into one division would allow expanded course offerings for all students, would permit the streamlining of some faculty by eliminating duplicate courses, and would be a step toward removing some of the divisiveness among Yeshiva College students by eliminating one

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CONGRATULATIONS

Ceil Levinson

Marilyn Winn

on reaching 25 years of service
to Yeshiva University.

You see, we noticed.

of our many artificial classifications and stereotypes.

Whatever the respective merits of either argument, a proposal of such obviously profound and far-reaching effects should be discussed and debated by the students and faculty of both schools before a decision can be made.

The administration should not follow its woefully familiar example by attempting to decide this over the summer, as has been the case in a number of other difficult and controversial issues. If so, it may discover many irate and affronted students in the Fall.

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LETTERS

To Set The Record Straighter

To The Editor:

Recently you published an article by a student who did a critique on JSS. The student is not in JSS and his article did not reflect the opinions of most of the school's faculty nor its students. I would like to point out a number of the problems with his critique and set the record straight.

1. The author claimed that 3/4 of our student body are yeshiva graduates. A 'yeshiva graduate' implies eight years of attendance in a Day School and four years at a yeshiva high school; less than 1/2 of the JSS students have such a background.

2. The article then explained why there are so many yeshiva students in our program. He claimed that students came to JSS for an easier course load.

Allow me to explain the admissions process at YU. After an initial interview with the Office of Admissions a pro-

spective student is sent to one of the Jewish Studies Departments for placement. If a student with a full yeshiva background he is tested and if there is a chance that he could be admitted to MYP he is referred to that office for testing. It is by no means embarrassing for a yeshiva high school graduate to want to master basic skills in learning, which is what our students are taught. JSS is and will always be proud to cater to such a need.

3. It was an insult to myself and I'm sure to my students the next piece of misinformation reported. "Classes are delivered in a similar fashion to that of secular classes," the author accused. The only similarity I can see is that our shiurim are given on the second floor of Furst Hall. I would like to know which class the author sat in on to make such a claim! He is more than welcome to attend our shiurim

any morning he may be surprised.

There are a couple of crucial facts about us that were omitted from the article:

4. One of the benefits of teaching a JSS course is working under Rabbi Benjamin Yudin. Rabbi Yudin is well known in our Yeshiva and throughout the U.S. In addition to his excellence as a teacher and a Rov he is well known for his warmth and true Tzidkus. Whenever you visit our office you can find Rabbi Yudin speaking to a student. He is constantly showing his concern for the boys whether it be for their academic achievement, religious growth or their overall well being. All too often administrators are so worried about their administrative duties that they forget about the student; many of them can take a lesson from our Director.

5. Baruch Hashem, over the years Torah study has been

on the upswing in the world in general and in our Yeshiva as well. It has caused however a split in YU between the 'learners' and the 'not yet learners'. New students come to school and soon after they see the split they have to make a choice which path to take. I meet many of the prospective students before they enter and they tell me that one of the reasons they would like to attend Yeshiva is to live in this atmosphere where they will be able to grow in their Yiddishkeit. Two years later when this student is not davening every day and is not shomer Shabbos, I wonder whose fault it is.

So many of us have worked for the wonderful kiruv organizations in this area yet we ignore the need for kiruv in our own home. Kiruv means closeness not kumzits. When new students come with a will to learn they are not welcomed with open arms rather they

are left to find things themselves. The Rebbeim can only do so much, there must be reinforcement from fellow students. If there are two to three hundred talmidim from MYP in the Bais Hamedrash every evening, why is it so hard for JSS boys to find Chavrusos. I am familiar with all the arguments - lack of time, a need for their own bkias seder etc. but is one hour a week too much to help some one else find the beautiful Ruach Hatorah that exists here?

True the nature of student body of JSS has changed over the years and we must change as well to accommodate them. But with an unharmonious Yeshiva, progress will be virtually impossible.

Let the increased learning in the Yeshiva bring us together instead of splitting us apart.

Sincerely,
Arnold Kanarek
JSS faculty

A Note of Thanks

Letter to the Editor:

NOTE: This letter was to have appeared in an earlier issue of HAMEVASER. However, due to technical difficulties and current financial troubles being experienced by HAMEVASER, it is being printed in COMMENTATOR.

We at the Yeshiva University Student Minyan would like to extend our thanks to our rebbeim who joined us for the Yamim Noraim here at Yeshiva. They include Rabbis Blau, Y. Cohen, Handel, Lamm, Reichman, Schachter, and Twersky. Their presence enhanced our tefillot and our Yom Tov.

We express a further thanks to all those people who helped in the arrangements for Yom Tov, including Rabbis Charlop, Cheifetz, and Miller, Rabbi Feivel Reiss (Rav HaMachshir of the Cafeteria), and Mrs. Berger, Dean of Libraries.

A heartfelt thanks is extended to all those who helped in the preparation of the Beis Medrash.

A "job well done" is extended to Messrs. Steve Berkowitz, Herman Colon, and Jose Pujols of Housekeeping and to their fine crews who cleaned and set up the Beis Medrash. We also note their continued support in ensuring a clean and neat Beis Medrash every Shabbat.

We also commend the Departments of Maintenance and Plant Operations on their timely contributions, and to Facilities and Management and to Security for their help.

Asher Meth, Gabbai
RIETS '86

Cutting Cafeteria Costs

To The Editor:

We all know that YU Food Services runs up a large deficit. How large is known only to those who have access to the financial records. What is the cause of the deficit? Obviously, costs are higher than income. This points to two possible solutions - (1) raise income, (2) cut costs. The first solution entails raising prices, untenable and likely to cause student unrest. Thus, the second solution is the only option. The cafeteria must reduce its costs and run itself more efficiently, to be able to provide quality food at a price that the students can afford.

How can we cut costs? Many suggestions have been put forth by many parties. A qualified consultant would be one who has experience in running a large-scale kosher food service,

thus being attuned to the need for scrupulousness in kashrut and efficiency in food service. Lacking the necessary experience in these areas, there are still some suggestions that even the layman can make.

(1) Are we properly staffed? Are there enough workers on each shift? Or are we perhaps over-staffed? Are there any positions that can be eliminated? Are we using the staff efficiently?

(2) Everyone tries to be cost effective when purchasing products for their homes - clothing, furniture, food. People will try to buy wholesale instead of retail; they will buy at a sale when the opportunity presents itself. The fewer middlemen involved, the cheaper the cost. Are the purchasing practices of the cafeteria cost effective? Being

such a large-scale operation, the cafeteria should be buying most of its products directly from the distributors, bypassing the many levels of middlemen. (They would not go to the supermarket to buy a week's worth of pasta, would they?) If we are not buying directly from the distributors, why not? If we are buying directly from the distributors, are we paying the lowest price available, or are we perhaps overpaying even at the distributor level? If a product of comparable quality and kashrut can be purchased at a lower price, do we jump at the opportunity? If not, why not?

Do we have an adequate stock of projected food-needs on hand, say an extra week's supply of non-perishable foodstuffs, in case of emergency and/or a missed shipment? Do

we run a weekly inventory to guide us in our regular purchases - buying more of fast-moving items and less of slow-moving items? Is the stock rotated, so that everything in the store is relatively fresh?

(3) Besides providing for regular meals in the cafeteria, many parties and office lunches are catered by our qualified staff. As we know, student meals are subsidized. To balance this out, catering can be a very lucrative business, biting a big chunk out of the deficit. We have witnessed conflicting signals on the catering front. Mr. X is told that we cannot cater his son's Bar Mitzvah; we simply do not do outside catering. A few weeks later, Mr. X wants to know why, if we do not do outside catering, Mr. Y is having a catered kiddush for his son's aufuf. Why not cater?

Before making wholesale changes in the operation of the cafeteria, let us explore these and other avenues of cost trimming.

Asher Meth RIETS '86

Effectiveness of the Yeshiva College Senate

To the Editor:

In his article "YC Senate: Is it Effective," Mr. Dov Pinchot refers to the student senate representatives as "a lobbying opportunity for the students" and quotes one senator as calling it "the only collective voice of the students to the administration and faculty." The question arises as to how the senators are to know the opinions of their colleagues. From my year and a half at Yeshiva University, I can recall but one occasion on which the Senators went polling their fellow students for their input and views on a certain issue (specifically, the starting date for the Fall

'88 semester).

One could easily argue that it is not the job of the Senators to seek out opinions; rather, it is up to the students to see their representatives and voice their opinions on those issues that concern them. Early last year that would have been possible. The minutes of each meeting, including plans for discussions at future meetings, were prominently and conscientiously posted after every meeting. This important practice seems to have been abandoned, leaving the students ignorant of the issues under discussion. The one open meeting held earlier this year is certainly not enough to keep

the students fully informed!

Mr. Pinchot writes, "Within the structure of the Senate, all three branches of Yeshiva College are represented: The administration, the faculty, and the student body." For this to be true, there must be some

communication between the students and their chosen representatives. This can only be achieved by keeping the students properly informed of that which they need to know.

Michael Oppenheim
YC '89

568-4600

Under supervision of KAJ

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The Scene in Israel SSSB from the Outside

NOTE: These pictures and companion articles were provided COMMENTATOR by Mr. Steven Spector, who has recently returned from Israel and has recorded his experiences and impressions on film and in print. This section is provided our readership as part of our continuing coverage of the unrest among both Palestinians and Jews in the Jewish State and reflects solely the opinions of the author. "PALESTINIANS SPEAK OF UNITY, JEWS OF DIVISION"



During my most recent visit to the Holy Land, I first witnessed the great divisiveness afflicting Israel's Jewish population. Just two hours after landing at Ben Gurion Airport, I took a taxi to Jerusalem. As it was shortly after 1:00 PM Friday afternoon, I had enough time to take a peaceful stroll down Ben Yehuda Street, an outdoor pedestrian mall. There were innumerable protests up and down the street. These were not protests against the Palestinians rioting in the territories, but demonstrations of Jew against Jew. These photos depict the scene. For instance, one man claiming that members of Peace Now, a left wing political movement calling for relinquishing land in exchange for peace, "are traitors," and another stating that territorial compromise offers "the only logical solution." Given all the enemies surrounding us, why do Jews feel the need to fight among ourselves? Perhaps the answer lies in the tension under which all Israelis live. "GROWING POLARITY"



At least 86 Palestinians have been killed, 186 Israeli soldiers have suffered injury and thousands of Palestinians have been detained and arrested in the disturbances, which began on December 9 of last year. The insurrection has sharpened distinctions in Israeli public opinion between those, largely in Israel's Labor Alignment, favoring a peace settlement involving territorial concessions and those, such as Israeli Prime Minister and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, who oppose such compromise. The controversial American proposals are based on the premise that Israel must eventually trade some of its occupied territory for peace. If we are to survive, we must learn to live together and resolve our conflicts peaceably. "WHY THEY THROW STONES"



by J. Katzauer

In an interview with him recently, Dr. Norman Schlessberg, retired chairman of the accounting department, stressed that his intent was not to rake up the dirt yet again but rather to present his opinions and advice in the hope that some lessons may be learnt from past errors. Although this applies primarily to administrators of SSSB, it is not exclusive of others.

The two main problems are the attitude of the new Business School and the debacle of Professor Colchamiro's tenure. In reply to a letter from Dr. Schlessberg with regard to the treatment of Mr. Colchamiro, Dr. Brenner, Senior Vice President of Yeshiva University, wrote, "You are aware that Arthur Colchamiro has left for a position at Hofstra, which is closer to his home."

This was hardly an accurate description. Mr. Colchamiro was hired by Dr. Schlessberg with the prior agreement that he would be quickly due for promotion on three conditions. These were that he 1) is a good teacher, that 2) he stays up to date with developments in his field, and 3) that he would be involved with the students and the school. "He was a gifted teacher, one of the finest teachers I have ever seen in my life. The people who judged him had never sat in a class of his. I did. For him to be fired is an outrage, not only to the students but also to the accounting program." Then, discussing his interest in the students, "He got to know the



qualities of every student in the department. I can't help thinking what placement will be like this year. Even when he knew he was being forced out he continued to work with the Accounting Society."

The ramifications of losing Mr. Colchamiro were still more troubling. Promises had been made which were now ignored. Both Dr. Egon Brenner, Dean Rosenfeld and Dean Bacon knew of those promises, as they could not have been given without authority, but they were forgotten. Then in making the decision on tenure, people who hardly knew Mr. Colchamiro were responsible for his future and passed judgement in one hour. "What gave them the right?"

It seems that the Business School is interested in qualifications without demanding teaching ability. But there should be a mix in the faculty: Researchers, writers, and good teachers. "What is the point of having a highly developed program which cannot attract students? It seems to me that

somebody should sit down and think out the policy for the school."

He had heard the much believed theory that Dean Schiff is trying to achieve autocratic control of the business school, but said, "I cannot believe that. Dean Schiff does not work in a vacuum. There are people who have things to say about it like the Board of Directors, and they must sit down with Dean Schiff and decide policy for the future."

Another problem now heard is the changing of the curriculum. Key among the changes is the reduction of Intermediate Accounting to three credits. All teachers who have taught the course have expressed concern over this as they could never finish the material in a four credit course. "To cut that program seems unbelievably short sighted. It is the backbone of accounting, everything else develops from it. To cut non-profit accounting seems also to be a mistake as it is on the CPA exam. I would have thought that if you were replacing a man who has seen the growth of the department, you would ask him at least his opinion on changes. To reduce Intermediate is an enormous error. If you take a look at the NYU program it will be almost the same as here, and my experience in the outside world shows me that the NYU program has not achieved a higher rate of acceptance than the YU program. These considerations are a matter of judgement. To dismiss a teacher like Colchamiro is unforgivable."

"I started this interview by saying that I realize that things have already been done, and the focus must be: Is there a lesson to be learnt from this? A couple of things. Promises. We are trumpeting that this is the first institution of its kind under Jewish auspices. It's a sad way to start by breaking commitments. I thought we stood for something more than that. Secondly, don't we have an obligation to teach? I thought that's what the plan behind a university is; and when you push aside teachers of that caliber, it seems to me you're not looking at the primary aim...I am hoping that this interview will reach a few of those people with a say and they will say, 'Where are we going. What's done cannot be changed, but how can we make sure it does not happen again?'"

Many have assumed that the reason that the Palestinians throw rocks, makeshift fire bombs, and other primitive weapons, is because they have made a political and moral decision to use non-lethal violence. But the Palestinian youths themselves reportedly admit that such tactics are employed for operational military reasons. They throw stones in order not to have to face Israeli tanks. They feel that if they used guns, it would provide the Israelis with an excuse to retaliate with their full firepower and decisively end their resistance.

The daily dialogue between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers is obviously not influenced by the teachings of Gandhi. A typical exchange might sound something like this: "I am going to rape your mother and sister; you're a maniac (in Hebrew the connotation of this term is much harsher than in English - eds.)," and a favorite of Palestinians, "If you were a real man, you would put down your gun, come over here, and fight."

The fundamental challenge to the Palestinians living in the territories and unhappy with Israeli rule should be, in the words of Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, to "stop using stones and start using words."

NOTICE:

Brooklyn District Attorney,
Elizabeth Holtzman will be
speaking at the Student's Yom
Hashoah Program on April 13th
at 8:00 p.m. in the Rubin Shul.

Commemorative Issue

Thoughts on a Maccabee Season

by Bob Andrews

They had just lost a heart-wrenching cliffhanger to New Jersey Tech, the perennial goliaths of the conference. Walking out of Tech's Ent-whistle gymnasium, Coach Halpert of the 8-7 Macs was surrounded by several of his dejected players and was talking about the slim possibilities of a post-season trip to the E.C.A.C.'s.

One of the players turned to me and said, "He's got to be kidding." He wasn't.

And so Yeshiva's Maccabees, for the first time in their 55 year history, earned a post-season tournament berth. It's not often that the words "rank" or "seed" are associated with Yeshiva, but in this season the number eight was very, very special.

Some random thoughts on the season that was:

- The main reason for their first tournament bid ever - confidence. There exists a fine line between confidence and over-confidence and the Macs never overstepped that boundary. They knew they had to go 7-1 during their last eight games, and they did.

- Best win of the year: The Hunter game, hands down. It was their Carte Blanche to the E.C.A.C.'s.

- Most important win of the year: Yeshiva 68 Stevens 66 at the Stevens Barnyard. The Macs needed this win badly, or they would have found themselves in fourth place in the IAC.

- Ugliest win of the year: Yeshiva 71 at Maritime 56. Mrs. Schwartz' third grade class played a better game that night.

- Most heartbreaking loss: NJIT 74 hosting Yeshiva 71. It was one of those losses where you watch a game on ESPN and the cheerleaders are crying on each other's shoulders after it's over.

- The one loss that should never have happened: Stevens 57 at Yeshiva 46. The Macs don't play well on the second night of consecutive games, but come on - Bard and Stevens back-to-back don't exactly intimidate anyone.

- Poorest sport of the year: Who else? Vassar's coach, Dennis Gallagher, who approached Lior Hod before his record-breaking game and courteously informed him that Lior would not be allowed to break the record against HIS team.

- Poorest sport of the year, part 2: Gallagher vaulted into a frenzy when no technical foul was called on Yeshiva when the Mac's faithful showed their appreciation for Lior as he broke the all-time scoring record.

- Most satisfying wins of the year; a tie: Yeshiva 80 at Vassar 71, Yeshiva 80 hosting Vassar 69. Den-nis, Den-nis.

- Worst arena: The Stevens Tech Barn. Let's put it this way - I would rather play in the MTA gym. Finishing a close second is Pratt's Fieldhouse. Did you ever play basketball inside an airplane hanger?

- Classiest opposing coach: Wally Whitaker of Stevens. A nice guy and a great coach. He gets more out of his team than anyone else. Also worthy of mention are NJIT's Jim Catalano and Laddy Wilson of Polytech.

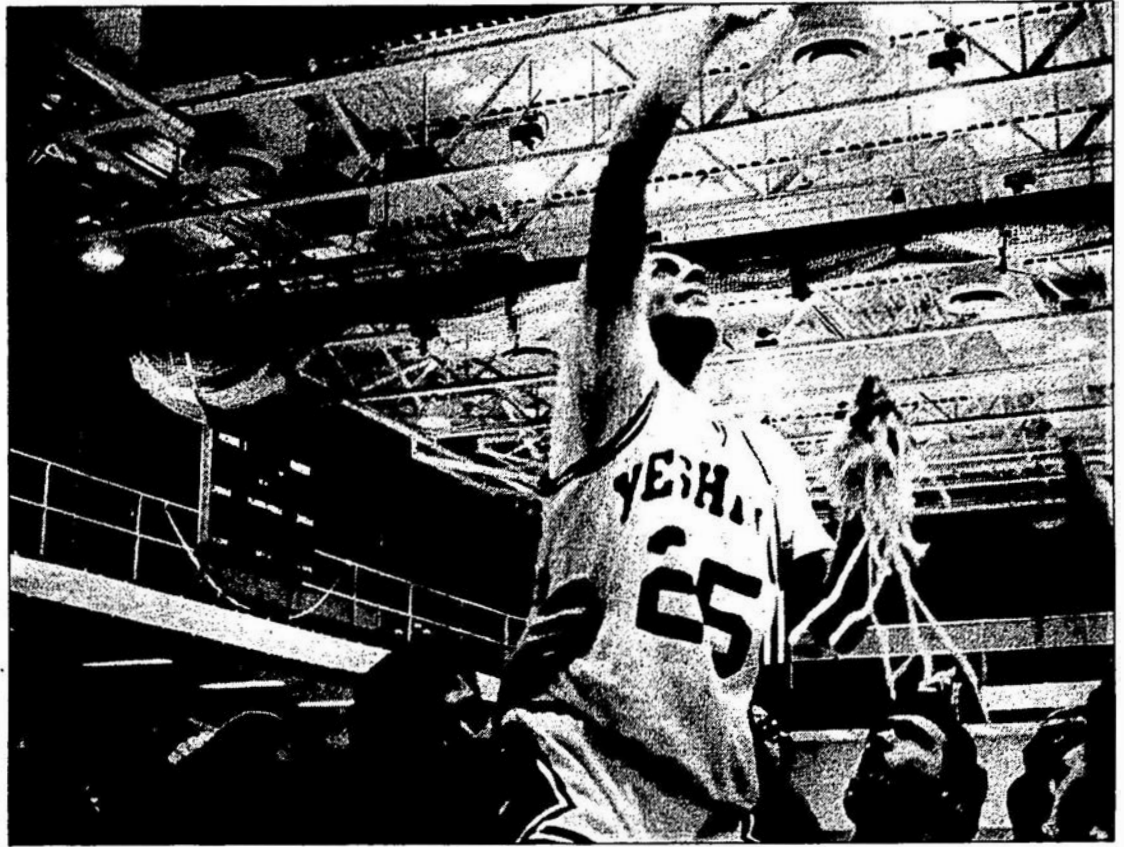
- Most structured athletic department for a Division III school: NYU has three assistant coaches, two trainers, three advisors and four publicity people for their basketball Violets. Yes, but did they make the E.C.A.C.'s?

- Most meaningful statistic (?): The Macs were 4-0 in games NOT broadcast by WYUR.

- Most meaningful statistic, part 2: Ayal Hod set a Yeshiva record by crashing to the floor 11 times against Vassar.

Remember when - Ayal scored 29 at Stevens, his biggest game of the year... Benji pulled 10 rebounds and dished out seven assists without scoring a single point against Vassar, sacrificing himself for the team... Baum decided that for once he would shoot and scored 12 against Polytech... Yudi hit for 17 straight points at Vassar... Marty subbed for Lior at New Jersey for ten minutes with Lior in foul trouble, and held the fort so beautifully... Hesh scored five points in one minute at Vassar, bringing Yeshiva back from nowhere... Jan hit one three-pointer, then another, then one more... Donny got more for his time than anyone... Sammy would get the call for some strength, and show up every time... Asher put the fear of God into Maritime's Purzner... Gottlieb's three-pointer at Hunter with no time left, even though Yeshiva was up by 21... Zev's six rebounds in three minutes at St. Joseph's... and Jon's sterling defensive play after defensive play... Danny showing up every game even with a broken leg.

And some more thoughts: I can understand teams like Yeshiva looking past teams like Pratt to teams like Jersey City State, but I wonder, who does Bard look past? ... Talk about a tough season, not only did John Leonard have to coach Maritime (2-23) this year, but he was also responsible for cleaning the gym and pushing in the bleachers after the games. Sort of makes you appreciate



Lior is #1!

by Larry Hartstein

The Macs led 12-10 at the MSAC on February 24 against Vassar when Jeff Baum received an outlet pass and began a fast break up the left side of the court. Baum spotted a streaking Lior Hod on the right wing. Lior was about to break Harvey Sheff's all-time scoring record with a thunderous jam. But he never got the ball; Vassar's Steve Aaron tipped the pass out of bounds. Sheff's mark of 1500 points would stand a few seconds more.

From underneath the basket, Benji Reichel inbounded a high pass as Lior extended to catch it. He came down on the right box of the foul lane, went straight up and, disdaining the backboard, calmly sank the shot. For any interested trivia buffs, 15:25 showed on the clock.

Coaches Halpert and Gurock embraced Lior, and why not? The Macs four-year record with Lior of 51-38 is the best in school history, and the captain never missed a game.

the YU maintenance staff, doesn't it? ... Speaking of appreciation, I'm convinced that the Max Stern Athletic Center is the Madison Square Garden of Division III basketball. It is without a doubt the most well kept, well lit, and spacious facility of any arenas the Macs play in... Macs fans don't know how well they have it... If people only knew how much Mike Cohen did for the Macs this year...

Finally, a word about the coaches. For two gentlemen who spent so many years coaching so many poor teams under such poor conditions, this season must have been the realization of a lifelong dream. And Drs. Halpert and Gurock deserved it all. Congratulations!

Sheff's record stood for six years; how long will Lior's? "Hopefully it won't last long, because my brother is probably going to come back and take over. But, hey, I don't mind, one and two, the Hod brothers? I don't care, I love it," said Lior.

Lior started the season needing to average 18.3 points per game, and for a while it appeared he would fall short of Sheff. He failed to score 20 in any of his first five games and, remarkably, didn't hit a single three-point shot. But a trip to Farmingdale, Long Island, to play Polytech cured Lior's ills. He canned his first three-pointer on his way to 23 points.

After a three-game streak of 18 points apiece against Molloy, Mt. St. Vincent, and Stevens Tech, Lior poured in 90 in three games against Polytech (33), St. Joseph's (30), and West Conn. (27). Observers called it one of the most impressive scoring binges in YU history. Besides racking

up points in a hurry, Lior pulled down 42 rebounds and dished out 24 assists in those three contests. Yet as he entered the Vassar game only six points shy of 1500, Brewers' Coach Dennis Gallagher still doubted whether Lior would break the record that night. And despite Gallagher's pre-game warning to Lior that the forward would have to wait for another night to become number one, Lior ended the suspense less than five minutes into game.

YU fans who noticed Lior was having a phenomenal season were not alone. The E.C.A.C. named him to its weekly honor roll three times this year, including a co-player of the week award. The Independent Athletic Conference recently gave him the League MVP award.

How does Lior feel about hanging up his hightops? "I'm going to be real disappointed when I leave. This is a big part of my life."

Hods Rack Up Honors

by J. Katzauer

The Hod brothers, Lior and Ayal, now rank first and sixth on the all time Yeshiva scoring list with 1541 and 1333 points respectively. While Lior is at his Olympus, Red Blumenreich, Ira Bader, Stuie Poloner, Harvey Sheff and, of course, Lior, stand between Ayal and the all-time scoring crown.

While pushing towards the top the Hods have passed such stars as Ronnie Schwartz, Joey Eaves, and Dave Kufeld, and in the process managed to impress not only Yeshiva's rivals but also the E.C.A.C. They were recognized for four consecutive weeks by the E.C.A.C. Statistical Depart-

ment with weekly honors. For the final four weeks of the season, the E.C.A.C. commended at least one Hod in their honor roll for his play. The highlight came in the week of February 20, during which Lior was named co-player of the week together with Gus Williams of Ramiupo.

As far as post season all star teams are concerned, the MACS 6'5" forwards have found honors with Lior receiving the MVP award, and Ayal being voted to the IAC second team. The three tri-captains, Lior, Ayal, and Yudi Teichman, are also prime candidates for Jewish All-American honors.

Yeshiva Maccabees - You Never Looked So Good

The Record Stats

by Leonard Gross

Conference record: 5-5
 Overall: 16-8 Playoffs: 0-1
 - Home: 7-4 Away: 9-4
 - Before Florida: 7-5 Florida and after: 9-3
 - When they scored 70 or more: 13-2
 - Games decided by 10 points or less: 6-5
 - Team stats: Average points scored: 72 Average allowed: 64
 - Field goal percentage: 54, Free throw percentage: 64, 3 point percent: 40
 - Average rebounding margin: 12
 - Opponents' field goal percentage: 45%
 - Team milestones: Tied most victories for season: 16 (1955-56).
 - Tied least losses for season: 8 (1958-59, 54-85).
 - Most field goals in a game: 50 (at St. Joseph's 2/20/88).
 - Most made three pointers in a season: 35
 - Most field goals in a season: 704
 - Most points in a season: 1818
 - Individual Records: Tied most

three pointers for a game: 5, Lior Hod (West. Conn., 2/1/88)
 - Most career points: 1541, Lior Hod.
 - Most field goals in a regulation game: 17, Lior Hod (West. Conn., 2/1/88)
 - Most games played and started, career: 91, Lior Hod; season: 25, Ayal Hod, Lior Hod
 - Individual Leaders: Scoring: Lior - 19.7 Ayal - 19.7 Teichman - 15
 - Rebounds: Ayal - 11.5 Teichman - 10.7 Lior - 10.2 Reichel - 8.2
 - Assists: Lior - 5.8 Teichman - 5.2 Baum - 3.6
 - Steals: Baum - 3.3 Lior - 2.7 Teichman - 2.5
 - Blocked shots: Reichel - 2.2 Ayal - 1.5 Lior - 1.3
 - Field goal percentage (minimum 50 taken): Ayal - 66 Teichman - 63.4 Baum - 60
 - Free throw percentage minimum 50 taken: Teichman - 89
 - Three pointer percentage (minimum 6 taken: Levine - 83.3 Lior - 37.9 Teichman - 36



A Mac-nificent Season

By Larry Hartstein

From the chilly November evening in Poughkeepsie when Yudi Teichman hit his last six shots to hand Coach Halpert his 100th victory, to the magical February night when Lior Hod became number one, the Yeshiva Maccabees excited, entertained, and enthralled their fans on their way to a glorious season.

How glorious? There was the E.C.A.C. bid, the two sweet wins against Vassar, the miracle at Hunter, the twenty point comeback at Molloy, and the payback at Stevens Tech. There was Ayal breaking 1000, Lior breaking 1500, Baum tossing look-away passes, Reichel showing inside muscle, and Teichman doing everything.

Of course, there were inglorious moments as well. See N.Y.U., at Pratt, and Stevens Tech I. Overall, though, 1987-88 was the finest Maccabee season since 1952-53. Essentially the same cast of characters from 86-87, the MACS proved that a year of experience can make a huge difference.

The MACS entered the homestretch at 12-7 and knowing they could ill afford more than one loss if they were to make the E.C.A.C.'s. The loss came at West Conn., where N.Y.U., N.J.I.T., and Hartwick had fallen as well. The 14-8 MACS faced a must win situation when they hosted Vassar on February 24, and they responded with a memorable 80-69 win over their arch rivals. A look at the final leg of the Maccabee season.

- Yeshiva 78 Poly Tech 54:
 Jeff Baum nailed several

perimeter shots and Lior tallied 33 as the MACS pounded the Engineers

- Yeshiva 110 St Joseph's 75

The MACS set a school record for field goals made with 50. Donny Furer dribbled between the legs of a Bear's player, Lior notched 30, and the MACS rolled to their sixth win in a row.

- West Conn 69 MACS 64

Only the MACS stood between the Colonials and another I.A.C. title. True, West Conn was to face Maritime two days later, but only the MACS posed a real threat. And, as expected after holding off the MACS, West Conn mauled Maritime 104-55 to finish 9-1 in the conference, tied with N.J.I.T. for first place.

West Conn. led 31-23 when the MACS reeled off an 8-0 spurt towards half-time. The Colonials escaped to intermission leading 37-33, but they knew they were in for a dog-fight. The MACS came out of the lockerroom smoking. They ran off seven straight points to lead 40-37 with 15:50 to play. The game became so intense that two technical fouls were called on Colonials' guard Gerry Corrigan, and at one point Teichman and Corrigan nearly exchanged blows. Maybe, the MACS lost their concentration, because they just could not convert enough free throws to win. West Conn. led 65-61 when Lior sank an unbelievable turn-around three pointer with eighteen seconds left. But Colonials guard Sean Morros hit two big free throws to seal the win. Corrigan led West Conn. with 16. The

MACS gave a tremendous effort, but they could not overcome 14 missed free throws.

Interestingly enough, a look at the statistics reveals that the MACS' foul shooting improved remarkably since their Florida trip. Before soaking up the rays they shot a horrid 58%. The darker Macs hit 68% of their charity tosses.

Lior again led the Macs with 27.

- Yeshiva 80 Vassar 69

Once Lior had the all-time scoring record out of the way with 15:25 left of the first half, his brother Ayal took complete control of the game. Vassar tried a box-and-one, a collapsing zone, and anything else they could think of, but they couldn't even slow him down. He scored 32 points as Lior fed him continuously throughout the game. Baum's steal and lay-up made it 75-65 for the Macs and Coach Gallagher's timeout could not prevent the inevitable. The Macs beat Vassar for the second time and avenged last year's two defeats. Lior broke the record, Ayal dominated the paint, and the Macs moved closer to an E.C.A.C. berth. All in all, it was a rather good evening.

- Yeshiva 79 Pratt 69

One day after receiving an E.C.A.C. tournament position, the Macs took care of some unfinished business. Pratt's in-your-face, man-to-man defence, which had shut down the Macs in December, didn't seem all that stingy to a tournament-bound team. It certainly didn't bother Ayal who scored 33 points, 19 of 22 free throws. With the score tied at 26 late

in the first half, the Macs exploded with nine straight points. Lior's monster jam ended the first half at 35-26 Macs after Pratt's Tim Lewis missed a jumpshot with eight seconds left.

Although the Macs jumped ahead 39-26 right after intermission, the Cannoneers would not fold and eventually tied the game at 60. But Ayal's layups and free throws, along with another great steal by Baum ensured the Macs' 16th victory.

Assistant Coach Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, retiring after the season due to other commitments, accepted an award at half-time for his eleven years of service to Maccabee basketball. Dr. Gurock is a warm, talkative and engaging man who knows his basketball, and the Macs made sure he went out a winner.

Coach Halpert made sure to recognize two of the Macs who are sometimes overlooked. "One of the unsung heroes of the team is Benji Reichel. Benji just does everything. He's not taking many shots a game, he's getting rebounds; he's playing defense. He's one of my most intelligent players," said Halpert. "And one of the reasons we're doing as well as we are is because Jeff Baum has sacrificed himself tremendously. He's a major contributor."

Maccabees fans were also major contributors to the team's success. When a school of 1500 students regularly draws over 600 fans to a game, something special is happening. During this special Maccabee season, the Macs more than returned the favor.

E.C.A.C. At Last

by Larry Hartstein

In the aftermath of the Macs' 89-77 tournament loss to the Jersey City State Gothic Knights, spectators tossed around cliché after cliché to describe the Macs' performance.

- "They have nothing to be ashamed of."

- "They can hold their heads high."

- "They gave it their best shot."

- "They put out 110% effort."

- "They gave everything they had from buzzer to buzzer."

And there can be no doubt that each cliché applies.

The Macs played the 10th ranked team in the country to a standstill first half, gave the Gothics a severe scare, and gained respect for themselves throughout the E.C.A.C. The Macs proved that their tournament berth was no fluke, that they could compete with the best Division III teams in the country.

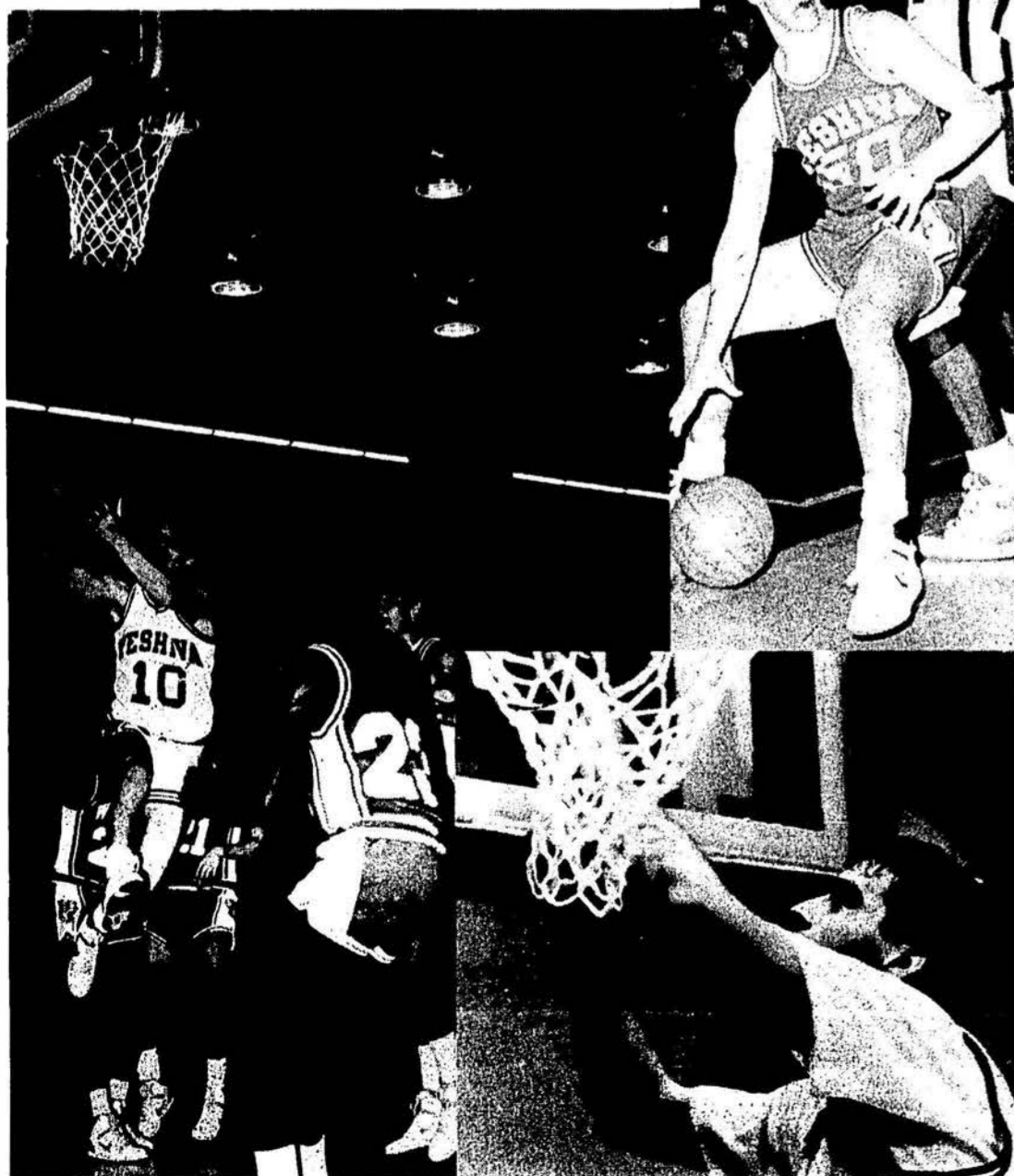
After probably the most entertaining half of Maccabee basketball all season, the MACS trailed only 43-40. Twice they had grabbed one point leads only to watch them erased as fast as you can say "Gothics' fast break." So although the Macs were in the ballgame from a scoreboard

perspective, they were out of it if they could not slow down the game's frantic pace. They couldn't. The Gothics, playing with an unlimited supply of fresh bodies, turned a three point comfort zone into an eleven point cushion to start the second half. The Macs simply did not possess the necessary depth or conditioning. What appeared to be an unimpressive full-court press by the Gothics in the first half developed into a vaunted defensive weapon against the tired Macs.

Ayal Hod led all scorers with 25 points, followed by Yudi Teichman, who collected 17 rebounds to go with his 21 points.

Again, the outstanding Macs' fans pumped up the team, who must have thought they were playing a home game. The students had been buzzing about the E.C.A.C. game all week, and they nearly willed their Macs a victory.

As expected, the Macs failed to upset Jersey City State. Unexpectedly, they kept the outcome in doubt until late in the game. Thankfully, they gave us moments to savor, even cherish. It may be a while before it happens again.



To Our Favorite Team The Y.U. Maccabees...



...on such a successful season.
A special Yasher Koach on
breaking the school record
with 1541 points. And to
Jonny Halpert on his
100th victory as coach.

**Wally and Marsha Fingerer and
the Hollywood Young Israel Community.**

Mazal Tov Jonny...

It's good to celebrate with
you in the good after going
with you through the bad.

**Rabbi Norman Amsel
Maccabees Head Manager '71-74**

Congratulations to the Macs
on a record season and the
ECAC Playoffs.
Good Luck for the future.

Red Blumenreich

To Coach Halpert
and the '87-88 Maccabees...
Congratulations on your
outstanding achievement.

Kenneth Jacobson, YC '64

Warmest Congratulations
to the '87-88 Yeshiva
Basketball Team on your
unique and outstanding
achievement.

**Rabbi Dr. & Mrs. Irving Koslowe
Coach and Captain 1937-1939**

Congratulations to
Lior Hod
and the entire '87-87
Maccabees Basketball Team.

**Dr. Mrs. Paul Merlis
and Family, Atlanta, Ga.**

Congratulations to...
Coach Halpert on his
outstanding season.

Dr. Harold Perl

Congratulations to...
Coach Halpert
on an outstanding season.

**Your Friend and Fellow Alumnus
Steve Singer**

Congratulations to the '87-88
Yeshiva Maccabees
...to continued success
in the future.

**Mr. Neil Tilson
V.P. NDC Corp.**

The Russians Are Here For Better or Worse

by Leonard Gross

Walk into the "Beit Midrash" at 4:00 in the afternoon when it is empty of the noise and the people, and in the back corner you will see the Rabbi of Moscow studying with a tutor. He has come all the way from Russia to sit here for three months, between these four walls to learn all he possibly can. He rarely leaves the walls of the Yeshiva because his days and nights do not leave him with the time or energy to do anything else. The sight of the fifty year old man injecting all of his strength into his studies is if not impressive, absolutely awe inspiring. The families of Rabbi Shayevich and Cantor Pliss (the cantor of the Moscow synagogue - also studying in our Theological Seminary), are left in the Soviet Union for the duration of this visit - certainly not by choice.

Walk out of the "Beit Midrash", and the romantic, pure, image of these two unique individuals is soiled. People within our community and outside of it, criticize them for their insincerity, and we, the University, for our obstructed vision.

Black and white intonations have generated sweeping categorizations of these two individuals. The effigies created often resemble the sensationalized characters of a Robert Ludlum spy novel. Even in the last issue of "The Observer", when Rabbi Shayevich was presented by Ms. Deena Yellin as a "member of the Soviet Anti Zionist Committee, who is well known to be associated with the K.G.B.", it was a classic oversimplification of a situation which requires a tremendous amount of depth and insight. Limiting the issue to the finite conceptions of "Good", "Bad", and "The K.G.B.", reflects as much reality as trying to squeeze a six inch ball into a five inch box.

The idea to have the Rabbi and the Cantor study at Yeshiva University belongs to Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue. Rabbi Schneier, who has been active in the Soviet Jewry movement since 1965, had always wanted the Rabbi to study in a Yeshiva outside of Russia. Not wanting to send Rabbi Shayevich to a capitalistic country, the Soviets conceded to sending him to the Rabbinical seminary of Budapest, the only one in eastern Europe. "Today", Rabbi Schneier proudly says, "because of changes, I have been able to send these two to America - this is a first which they have not permitted to any other religious denomination." Rabbi Schneier elaborated on some of the factors that influenced their decision: "When the Minister of Foreign Affairs was here two years ago, I took him to YU, and explained that it is my alma mater, and a great place of learning." Rabbi

Schneier claimed that this familiarity helped break down the Soviet's apprehensions.

Although he is often sharply criticized by many of his contemporaries whom are active in the Soviet Jewry movement, Rabbi Schneier strongly believes that "Any religious function in the Soviet Union, or eastern Europe, must operate within the framework of government laid down rules. The answer here is operating with government guidelines." It logically follows that certainly Rabbi Shayevich and Cantor

a good thing. It is crucial to realize, the only way the institution of the synagogue can exist is through the means of the government.

Many people, even activists undermine the validity of the synagogue and its staff with the argument that any refusnik would not come near it with a ten foot pole. Although there might be some resentment towards the synagogue by refusniks, it is critical to understand why. The refusniks are rebelling against the entire

Jewish community. In essence, they might be riding a double edged sword - a game that is hard for the Western mind to comprehend, but one they must play to survive.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Leader of "Kehilat Yeshurin", and esteemed activist paraphrases "Ethics of Our Fathers": "No Jew should judge another until he is in his place." "Certainly", he continues, "they should not be criticized publicly."

The question which probes the nature of our two visitors

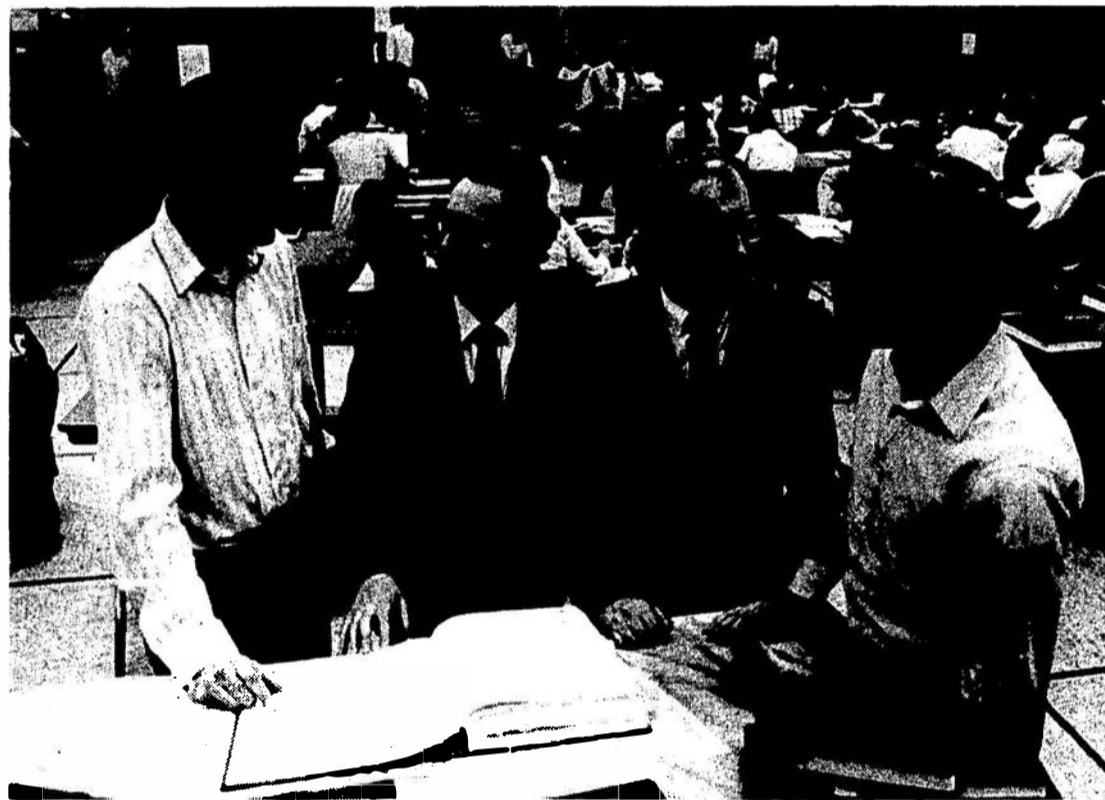
at YU. "Any publicity will be used by the Soviet Union to give the impression that Jewish life is normal and free in the Soviet Union." Ultimately this influences American Public opinion - which influences our government - the political impetus behind freedom for Soviet Jews.

Dr. Israel Miller justifies their presence by the silent position that Shayevich and Pliss have taken. Although that is not necessarily an indication that the Soviet machine will not eventually capitalize on this potential piece of propaganda.

One notable activist admitted to being astonished by how the University could ignore people like Sharansky and Richter.

Dr. Shimon Yantovsky, a religious activist and former refusnik who just left Russia this past October expressed positive sentiments about the two new Russian students at YU. "Its important they are studying Torah now, undoubtedly this is only a good thing."

Yes, it is a good thing. At the very least the double edged sword is only getting sharper. Both Rabbi Shayevich and Cantor Pliss admit that the intense exposure to genuine Torah Judaism and the openness of a democratic society is undoubtedly a special experience, one that perhaps makes one edge of the sword sharper than the other.



Rabbi Shayevich (middle, right) and Cantor Pliss (middle, left) with YU students in the Reis Medrash.

Pliss are cooperating with the government, but this should not necessarily stigmatize them as evil. In fact, Rabbi Schneier characterizes them as quite virtuous: "They are trying to do their best under very difficult conditions." When asked about the popular rumor of the Rabbi being a "mosair" (one who turns over fellow Jews to the government), he responded: "Anyone who takes that charge, come the high holy days, would actually have to say confession for character assassination."

The religious structure of the synagogue in Moscow is similar to that of the fifty years before the Bolshevik revolution, and the intermediary years in Poland between the two World Wars. Then, the synagogue was also an extension of the government, but never-the-less it was often beneficial to the Jewish community. Rabbi Schneier, and many other leaders of the Soviet Jewry movement draw this parallel to the present day situation in Russia.

Dr. Israel Miller, Vice President of Yeshiva University, and active leader of the Soviet Jewry movement, also echoes this position. He explains that although the situation might not be an ideal one, increasing the knowledge, and ultimately the leadership capabilities of these two men, can only be

Soviet system. Anything that reminds them of it, is looked upon with disdain. This idea can be recalled by the zig-zag line that Sharansky walked which defied his last Soviet order. The synagogue still serves as a central meeting place for thousands of Jews on holidays, and as a means to officially practice Judaism: For example, on Passover the synagogue officially distributes "matzah" to the community.

Rabbi Schneier advises that "It is best to have a two track situation. It is best that the refusniks operate in their sphere, and the synagogue in theirs. Just as there are various prayer quorum's that are not part of the regulated structure." People often forget that there are many Jews who are not refusniks, and still would like to perpetuate their tradition without being arrested.

Alex Ratnovsky, professor of Russian Literature at YC, underscores the idea that in Russia "the Rabbi and the Cantor are official people". As "official people" they have no other choice than to be members of the different organizations in which the government instructs them to participate. At times they even serve as a propaganda mouthpiece as well; however that does not nullify their efforts to serve

takes a back-seat when one asks if they should be at YU altogether. While Rabbi Schneier who arranged their fellowship obviously thinks so, and certainly by virtue of their presence, the administration also concurs, many notable activists have expressed strong disagreement. Natan Sharansky for one, called Dr. Norman Lamm, President of the University, after the decision had been made. While it is not clear what the outcome of that conversation was, the initiative taken by Mr. Sharansky certainly reflects a strong reality. Glenn Richter, chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and one of the founders of the movement for the freedom of Soviet Jews, propounds that the University "might not have realized the extent to which the Soviet government will use this as propaganda against us."

Mr. Richter gives the United States' incorporation of the Soviet Union into the American B.A.R.. "The Soviets have ridden it miles, and have used it to validate their own organization. How could the United States complain about Soviet law if it accepts them under their own charter?"

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein outlines the potential danger of the two Russians studying

Cheating

continued from page 1.

in recent years.

At the same time Dean Rosenfeld attributes the "cheating situation" at Yeshiva College to two factors: Students impose many pressures on themselves in that they make grades the most important facet of their college careers. Dr. Rosenfeld says, "the students believe that grades are their only credentials." The second factor he ascribes to the faculty. "The faculty members should be sensitized", they should be more attentive and involved in administering the exams.

When asked if the administration has anything planned for future final examinations, Dean Rosenfeld replied, "I will try to obtain additional proctors." However, he explained that it is difficult to hire proctors because there is a lack of cooperation and interest from the graduate students at Yeshiva University who are usually employed to proctor exams.

Regarding the college's position on and obligation to the acts of cheating at YU, Dean Rosenfeld vehemently concluded, "Any evidence of cheating at Yeshiva College will not be tolerated, but I will not create a police state with security men armed with their pistols."

A Dream Come True

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of various people and organizations the dream of a lifetime came true for twenty year old Yanky Mertz. Yanky is not your average twenty year old. He has been stricken since birth by cerebral palsy, a disease which effects all the muscles of his body. He is therefore confined to a wheelchair with limited verbal ability.

Yanky has been a regular camper at Hebrew Academy for Special Children Summer Program. Every year as the summers come to a close Yanky finds himself saying goodbye to many of his counsellors and friends who would depart for a year of study in Eretz Yisroel. Over the years he has heard many descriptions about Israel, the Kotel and how one day we will all be there together. When you ask Yanky what Meshiach means to him he says in a slurred voice, "walk," he will be able to walk.

As this past summer came to a close, Yanky was once

again depressed for one of his counsellors and closest friends Ari Becker was departing for Israel. That is when he had another one of the counsellors came up with the idea to raise funds to send Yanky to Israel. Through the tireless efforts of many YU, Stern and other students learning in Eretz Yisroel this dream became a reality. This was because over \$2,000 was raised by YU/Stern students, parents, and organizations such as Happiness Unlimited for this trip. Some YU students took it upon themselves to help bring Yanky to Israel while other returning Yeshiva students brought him home ten days later.

The Chessed shown by everyone only began when he arrived in Israel. His ten days were board-free due to the generosity of Jerusalem's Sheraton Plaza. These ten days included a boat ride across the Kineret, visits to Yad Vashem, Kever Rachel, Jericho, Bet Hatfuthot, and others including his dream — the Kotel Hama-

Sharansky at YU

by Moshe Weber

What began as a hopeful idea has now come into fruition. When Natan Sharansky arrived on the YU campus two years ago, President Norman Lamm suggested that he address the student body on future occasions. During the month of March 1988, YU will be priv-

ravi. He was never alone during his trip. He was always surrounded by friends from Camp YU, Stern, and others whom he made in Israel.

Yanky has always had many friends due to the fact that he is indeed a special person. Although he can not easily communicate with others like you and I, he still finds ways to display his emotions to others.

The fact that he was enjoying his trip was evident due to the 24 hour a day smile he displayed throughout his trip.

A hearty Yoshe Koach to all those who participated in this mitzvah.

leged to have ex-refusenik and modern day Jewish hero, Natan Scharansky, conduct a series of lectures dealing with Soviet Jewry. Mr. Scharansky has consented to be a scholar in residence, and in the words of the program coordinator, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, "he will offer himself as a primary source of the Soviet Jewry movement." The lecture series format, rather than a classroom-teacher format, was chosen in order to allow Mr. Sharansky to maximize the number of students from both campuses with whom he can meet.

Mr. Sharansky will lecture on the history of Russian Jewry and its present status. More specifically, the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 15, 1988 at 8:00 P.M. in Belfer Commons will mark the beginning of the series. The subject will be "The Story and Message of Spiritual Resistance." On Wednesday,

March 16, at 2:40 P.M., Club hour, he will speak at Stern college. The topic will be "Fifty Years Under the Hammer and Sickle, 1917-1967." On the Thursday, March 17, at 2:45 P.M., club hour, he will speak in room 501 on the uptown campus. The subject will be "The refusenik's Struggle in the Soviet union 1967-1987." The final lecture will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 8:00P.M. in the Koch Auditorium on "Glasnost and the Jews." In addition, Mr. Sharansky will be dining with faculty and administration on March 15, and with student leaders on March 22.

Student attendance and participation in this landmark event is greatly emphasized for the success of this project. Buses will be running from the uptown campus to Stern and from Stern to the uptown campus. The YC Administration considers it very important that students come to the lectures and show Mr. Sharansky that he was right when he said he "found a piece of Israel in America."

Annual College Poetry Contest

The Academy of American Poets has announced its annual college poetry contest. A \$100 prize will be offered for the best poem or group of poems submitted to the English department or Creative Writing department based on a theme in the Hebrew Bible. The winner will be announced later in the semester.

This contest, which was founded in 1955, is now extended to 159 participating universities across the country, each with its own sponsors. The prizes are supported by alumnae interested in encouraging young writers, by the colleges or universities, or by donors. The YU prize has been sponsored by Ms. Frieda L. Levinsky in memory of her father Moses Bodenstein.

Every five years, the Academy publishes an anthology of selected prize-winning poems, edited by a prominent American poet. The last edition of the University and College Prize anthology, "New Voices: 1979-83", was edited by May Swenson. The Academy expects to compile its next anthology for publication in 1989.

Now entering its 53rd year, the Academy of American Poets is a non-profit organization devoted to stimulating interest in the poetry of the United States. In addition to its College Prize Program, the Academy sponsors Fellowships, the Lamont Poetry Selection, the Walt Whitman Award, the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award, and other awards, readings, symposia, poetry workshops, and walking tours in the New York City area. For more information contact The Academy of American Poets, 177 East 87 Street, NY 10128. 212 427-5665.

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Robert Katz, Assistant to the Dean Initiates Junior Check

by David Ottensosser

Commencing Tuesday March first and lasting two weeks until March 15, Mr. Robert Katz, assistant to the Dean, is initiating a new program to assist all juniors in reviewing their current standing, and planning out the completion of their general major requirements before their senior year.

This is a unique opportunity for juniors to receive advice and have any questions answered regarding what courses they may still be required to take in order to graduate the following year. Mr. Katz hopes that as a result of his efforts, ensuing graduating classes will finish their college careers in an orderly fashion, thus avoiding the many problems that past graduates have encountered.

Prior to last years graduation, approximately 30-35 seniors out of a total of 181 received notices from the office of the registrar declaring them ineligible for graduation, because they had failed to fulfill their requirements. The majority of these cases were students who had taken insufficient or incorrect Bible courses, or who had misunderstood the concept of a restricted elective.

That class unfortunately did not have the benefit of a junior check; although they were offered a senior check last September. "This senior check however, is a misnomer, it is really for juniors" explains Mr. Katz. By the time a student is a senior he is usually overloaded with finishing major requirements, applying to graduate schools, and interviewing for jobs. Seniors are not particularly concerned, nor especially enthusiastic about taking a Biblical text or an advanced course in an area outside their major. Thus the dreaded letters of rejection in May, obligating the student to attend summer school. By making the junior check, "An acceptable part of the culture of the Yeshiva student," and informing them one year in advance of their requirements, Mr. Katz hopes to decrease the frequency of this frustrating experience.

Presently this process is being handled manually. It is hoped that by next year there will be a computerized checking system to somewhat alleviate this burdensome albeit important task, which is more important, according to Mr. Katz, than applying for graduation.

Responding to proposals that such a service should perhaps be conducted at the beginning of sophomore or even freshman year, Mr. Katz replied that, "It is neither the function nor the duty of the administration to lead each and every student through his courses by the hand." During freshman orientation Dean Hecht delivers an hour-long speech outlining the academic coursework required of every student. As helpful as this is, the figures seem to clearly indicate that it is insufficient to sustain a student until the middle of his junior year. Granted that this is an institution of higher learning where students are expected to act responsibly, yet it is often in the first and second years that too many unnecessary classes are taken, adversely affecting the students course selection for his remaining two years. This is the cause of graduation complications.

Mr. Pinhas Friedenberg, the University Registrar who is responsible for informing students of their course insufficiencies as they approach graduation, commented on the junior checks: "It is a blessing that we have this service."

Seniors:

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by J. Katzauer

There are many people in and around YU who have etched in their memories the eternal moment of the Elephant Man's death. There are many who can recall the accomplished level of acting that many of the cast attained. There are many who will look wistfully on the past and, turning to

the future sigh, "Never again. It was a unique achievement."

It must be admitted that rarely have we been privileged to see plays of such scope and depth, and its few peers are well remembered for many years. Still, the future must be met, so what better way to continue than by producing

a play that cannot bear any possible relationship to the predecessor. That play is "Wait Until Dark".

In this show, for 'show' must surely be the applicable term, the audience is treated to an exciting and explosive entertainment with the added certainty that no two nights will

ever look the same. Unlike "The Elephant Man", "Wait Until Dark" is a highly technical play and technicalities, obeying a law attributed to Murphy, have a way of making their presence, and even moreso their absence, noticeable. Fortunately, there is more to the play than props.

Despite its appearance as a run of the mill thriller, "Wait Until Dark" does have its stamp of originality. Rather like the Harrison Ford films "Frantic" and "Witness", the play is an action plot with a real emotional development. Despite adultery to the script to make it accessible for Yeshiva audiences, which rules out rather normal heterosexual sympathies, the script is still able to carry the viewer with its twisting of feelings, especially those of Danny Hendrix, a blind man who is the target of a "Sting".

The role of Danny is adequately filled by Rick Seigel, who made his YCDS debut as Dr. Frederick Treves in "The Elephant Man". To those who know the film, he could not be said to cut quite the same figure as Audrey Hepburn, but he does a pretty good job nonetheless. He displays a freshness and spontaneity that are very believable, and what faults exist are based largely in inexperience. It is by no means easy to portray a blind person, there is an instinctive desire to avoid injurious objects, but Rick encounters most of them naturally, even Mr. Roat.

This character, played by Eli Beylus, or Ross, is horrifyingly believable. One wonders whether it is not Mr. Roat portraying Eli Beylus. Essentially, the casting could not have been more perfect, but it scares rather more than satisfies. He is absolutely convincing as a killer and if there is a fault it is that he becomes so involved in the deed and in the weapon that there is a danger of him simply forgetting he is onstage and not in 27b Grogan Street. He obviously enjoys the part of a crime organizer without qualms.

Mickey Zuroff, or Mike, and Gary Berger known as Carlino, play the other two-thirds of the criminal entity. They are people who, although not

forced into crime, have no escape from this scam, and make a wonderful pair. Mike, obviously the brains of the two, is a neurotic wreck with the added calm of owing money to a loan shark. He is not a person one would lend money to but he does possess a conscience, suppressed though it is by fear for his own skin. Unfortunately, his gasping does make the expression of anything a little difficult to understand.

Carlino is a regular, six-pack joe, common garden, hoodlum. He is neither intelligent nor particularly adept at crime, but he does give Mike the much-needed muscular back-up. Gary, in his first acting part, plays him to perfection.

Eli Borow is George, a somewhat retarded nineteen-year-old whose main problem is saying lines normally. His last part was as the psychotic writer Sidney Bruhl in "Death-trap", and as opposite as the characters are he has granted both very convincing and very full-hearted life. Since he is not holding a pair of handcuffs this time he is really a pleasure to watch when he finds George's personality.

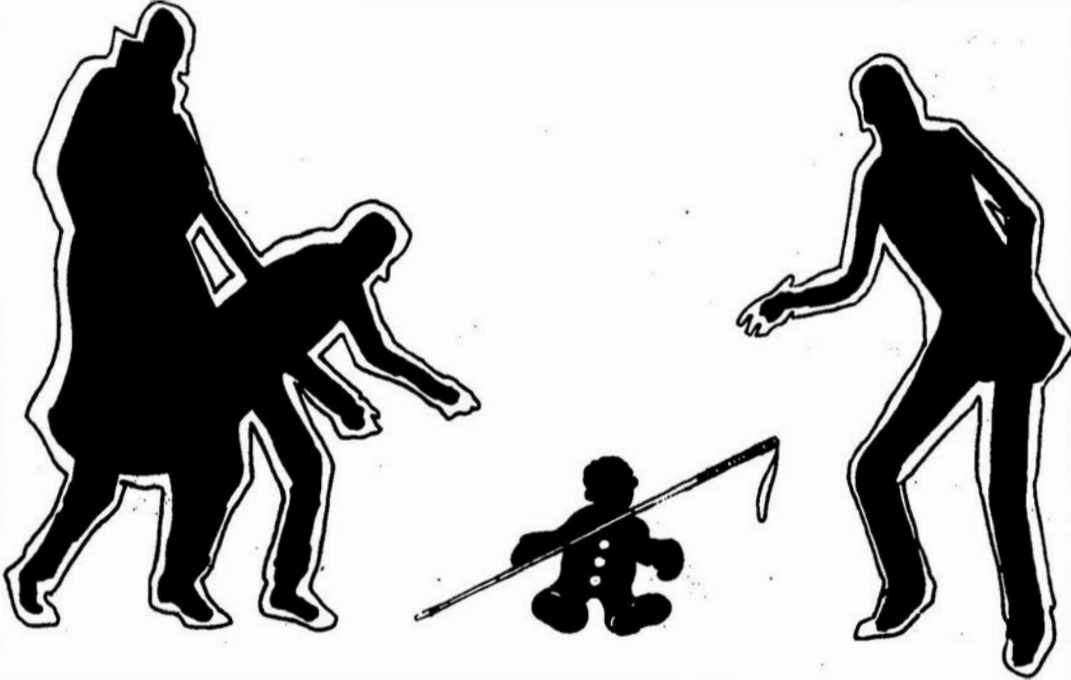
Then we come to Sam Hendrix. Kenny Rocklin, Mrs. Kendal in "The Elephant Man", plays this brother of Danny. Although not physically acceptable as an ex-marine and worse as a smoker, Sam has become a very endearing character. At the end he and George are the only two to retain their innocence. The part is given the grace and the clumsiness of the concerned brother who is still trying to live his own life.

The two policemen, Pesach Cohen and Ari Schertz, who enter only at the end and then only for Pesach to be killed, are quite adequate. Pesach does a wonderful job of dying, but Ari seems to find in his pistol an extension of his manhood and is desperately unwilling to put it down.

On the whole, what with internal, technical and working problems, the cast all give a whole-hearted effort that can be very exciting. Dr. Beukas has here managed to inspire a work about stress and people where we might simply have seen another thriller.

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