

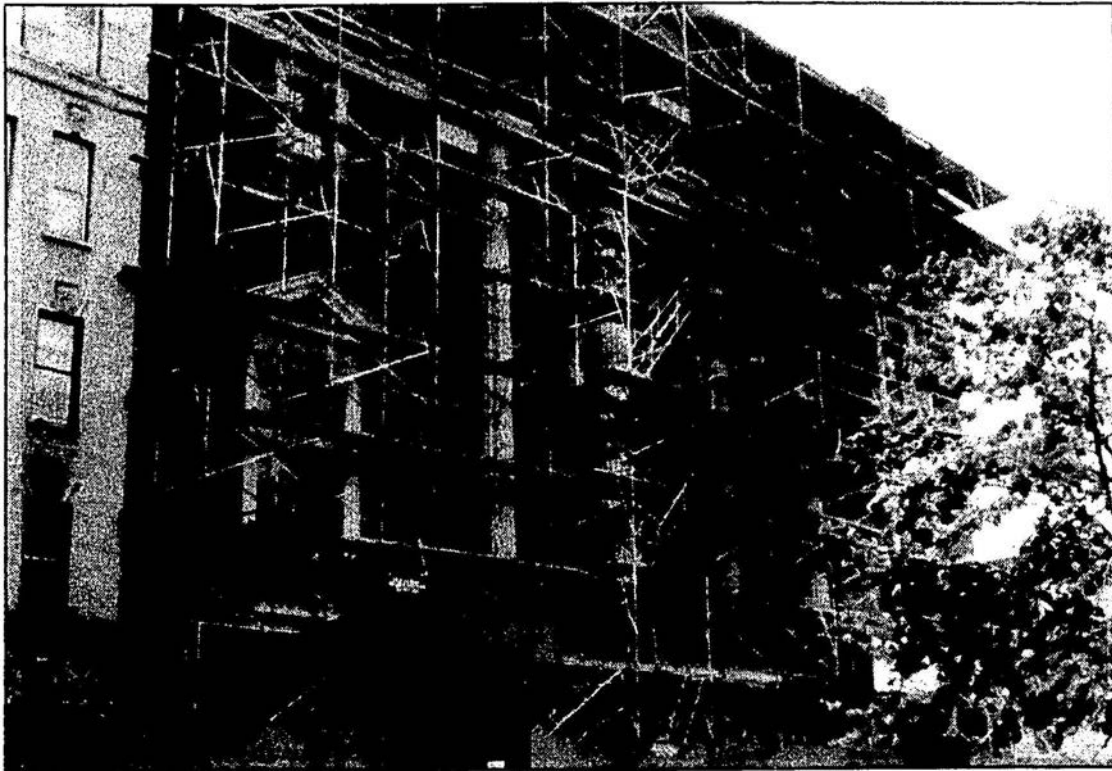
The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

October 25, 1988

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

VOL. LIII NO. 2



Schottenstein Center facade under construction.

Schottenstein Center Update

by Eric Melzer

Unanticipated structural problems in the foundations of the Schottenstein Center, the new home for a number of YC clubs and societies, have arisen, probably forcing the postponement of the building's Grand Opening.

After several initial delays, the center, located on St. Nicholas Avenue and 185th Street, has been scheduled for completion by December 1st. However, Mr. Jay Blazer from the Department of Facilities Management has said that "there are additional difficulties which may delay the building's opening for a while."

Dr. Sheldon Socol, Vice President of Business Affairs, elaborated. "Target Builders really has a little more time than

December 1st. The building will open in phases from the bottom up. The theater could open by March. But in that case, it would really not be of any benefit to the Dramatics Society. There would only be temporary facilities. New problems involving the building's structure arose which are currently being dealt with. It is also difficult to work on the building in the winter. I am quite sure that the theater will be open by September. By then we will have permanent facilities."

Originally, there were numerous objections that the building did not conform with parts of New York City's building code. However, Hector Melo, an inspector, said that all objections have been handled. This delay is one in a series that have plagued

the center.

When it is eventually completed, the Schottenstein Center should be a major asset to the college. The basement will house the theater, which is equipped with separate storage rooms for props, scenery, and costumes. There will also be mechanical rooms, a sound control room, and a ticket room. The theater itself will seat 284 people and will also be able to accommodate people in wheelchairs.

There will be a shul on the first floor which can hold about 500 people. Its attractive features include nine stained glass windows and a marble bimah. According to Mr. Blazer, the shul will be used not only for davening, but for schoolhouse

Continued on Page 6.

President Lamm Delivers "State of YU" Address

by Behnam Dayanim

Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, delivered his annual fall address on the state of the University at an open meeting of the Executive Council on October 11. The Council, composed of top administration members and responsible for conducting the general affairs of the institution, opened the meeting to those students and faculty members deemed "active and interested" in the University's well-being, according to YU Executive Vice President, Dr. Egon Brenner. The audience was composed mostly of administrators, however, with less than a dozen faculty members and a handful of students, all from YC, in attendance.

Though much of his speech focused on the various graduate divisions of the University, Dr. Lamm did list several accomplishments and shortcomings of the past year within the undergraduate schools, as well as objectives for the future.

Among the achievements cited was the significant increase in enrollment, attributable to increased demand for the dual program and efforts to improve YU's academic and physical environment, according to President Lamm. He also pointed with pride to the success of the Max Stern Scholars Program and the establishment of the similar SSSB Jacob Burns Scholarship, named in honor of the major YU/SSSB benefactor. Dr. Lamm heralded the growth of the Torah U'Mada Project from a "modest program" involving a few students to one that has "raised the level of discourse" on both undergraduate campuses. Furthermore, he praised the quality and dedication of the faculty in all of YU's divisions and particularly noted needed additions to the Cardozo School of Law. Finally, Dr. Lamm expressed hope that the Albert Einstein

College of Medicine would soon resolve the delicate concerns of both Montefiore Hospital and Long Island Medical Center over a perceived "incongruity" in its relations with the two hospitals and called on the various departments of the University to view the impending Middle State accreditation review, conducted once every ten years, as a valuable opportunity for introspection and improvement rather than as a tedious chore.

Addressing the need for improvements, Dr. Lamm specifically mentioned the need to improve the Jewish studies curriculum for all undergraduates and to continue in attempts to alleviate the space problem endemic to all YU campuses.

Much of the remainder of the President's speech dealt with fiscal concerns of the University. Characterizing the financial picture as "not rosy," Dr. Lamm revealed that fund raising had not been able to keep pace with recent increases in spending. He pointed to the immensely successful Centennial campaign and the simultaneous last-minute rush of many philanthropists to contribute heavily before tax reform laws took effect as factors in an inevitable decrease. Add to that the more forbidding economic climate in the wake of the stock market crash of last year and the reason for caution becomes apparent, he stated. YU lost twelve million dollars in that calamity, a figure Dr. Lamm called fairly modest due to prudent management by the Investment Committee. Nevertheless, he said the loss still hurt, particularly since much of the money pledged in the aforementioned Centennial drive and at such events as the annual Chanukah Dinner is not readily available for a variety of reasons. These include the nature of the time spans of the gifts, some pledged years in advance, restrictions on the purposes for

Continued on Page 4.

SSSB Forum on Japan

by Yechiel Gordon

On Wednesday evening, October 19th, on the first anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash, the SSSB Dean's Forum hosted Dr. Kenneth Grossberg, Professor of Marketing, to lecture on the business perspectives between Japan and the Jews. Dr. Grossberg earned his M.A. and Ph.D in Politics and East Asian Studies from Princeton University. He also studied at the University of Tokyo for several years. In 1973, he was elected a Junior Fellow of the prestigious Harvard Society of Fellows and spent the next several years teaching, writing, and continuing his research. In that period, he published three books. In 1983, he founded Orient West Consultants Inc., a firm that specializes in helping American companies succeed in Asia-Pacific markets. In 1984, Citibank hired him as their full-time strategy chief in Tokyo for their consumer branch in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Grossberg began his lecture with the topic of anti-Semitism in Japan in order to



Dr. Kenneth Grossberg addresses student audience.

fully explain the business relationship between the Jew and Japanese. He stated that over the past several years many articles have appeared in Japanese newspapers with anti-Semitic overtones. He addressed the question of why the Japanese would increase their anti-Semitism now and, especially with the Japanese so economically powerful, why would they attack the Jews with such

venom?

At present, the maximum number of Jews in Japan has been placed at around two thousand. Dr. Grossberg explained that the sources of anti-Semitism are the Christian missionaries and Western anti-Semitic literature, translated into Japanese. There had been a ban on these missionaries, but it was lifted in 1873, resulting in

Continued on Page 5.

In This Issue

- American and Israeli Election Coverage, p. 8-11
- Commentator "On-Site" Survey, p. 14
- New Basketball Assistant Coach, p. 16

EDITORIALS

YU's Poll Tax

Once again, the YC student body finds itself complaining of inconsideration by the Administration. The subject this time is Election Day. The Administration provided no free time on November 8th for students to either vote at home or at a nearby booth in the Heights. For most schools, this would pose no real obstacle for the students, however, for a YC student who finds no respite in his schedule between the morning and evening, this inconsiderate policy poses a most disturbing possibility of students not voting.

Not Another Council, Please

Last year, amid much controversy, two new positions were created on the YCSC Executive Board. The Vice Presidency was divided into two, one representing the liberal arts division and one the new business school. In addition, the Vice President for Business Affairs was granted by the Student Council the right to form an "association" of which he would be "President." The Vice President for Liberal Arts, elected solely by Yeshiva College students, was to sit as an observer at all meetings of the new association.

This complex arrangement, concluded only after severe pressure exerted on a reluctant Student Council by the SSSB administration, has now resulted in the unfortunate confusion against which THE COMMENTATOR unsuccessfully argued last year.

The wording of the amendment to the YCSC Constitution, as distinct from those provisions adopted at SCW, deliberately emphasized that the new SSSBSA was not to be a council, but rather a subsidiary organization of the umbrella Council. The "president" of SSSBSA is not a Council President on par with the YCSC President or, for that matter, even the established Jewish Studies Presidents. In fact, his position is more closely comparable to that of the Vice President for Liberal Arts or the president of any society on campus. The very fact that the remaining officers of the Council are elected by ALL of the students attests to the fact that every undergraduate male student of YU is represented by YCSC.

Already we can see the first fruits of the unwise acquiescence of last year's Council to this confusing, byzantine arrangement. The Vice President for Business Affairs has been mystifyingly included in the weekly Presidents' meetings held with the Dean of Students to discuss various issues of concern, diluting the already fragmented student representation to the administration even further. Additionally, the SSSBSA is planning to write its own constitution independent of that of YCSC, a privilege specifically denied it by virtue of its status as a subsidiary of the Council and, at any rate, entirely superfluous as the association's functions and responsibilities are clearly delineated in last year's amendment to the YCSC Constitution calling for its founding. Any desired changes may be made through that route. Now, SSSBSA indicates that it would like to be included in councils' sponsorship of various events, none of which are remotely related to the specifically business-oriented functions for which it was intended. THE COMMENTATOR is unaware of any other society on campus ever being accorded that prerogative.

Much of the blame for this year's chaos, which has caused regrettable acrimony on both sides of the dispute, lies with Dean of Students, Dr. Nulman, who, after initial hesitancy, vigorously pressured the Council into last year's agreement and, during the first few weeks of this term, encouraged practices of the sort mentioned above. However, it seems Dean Nulman has realized his excesses as he has publicly stated that any constitution drafted by SSSBSA must be approved by YCSC or his office will not honor it. Even more welcome is YCSC President Mordy Leifer's tough stance indicating his belief that any constitution for the Association is unnecessary in light of the already adopted amendment. Both these figures should maintain their positions in the face of the intense pressure that is sure to follow from an administration so intent on justifying and publicizing the creation of the valuable business school itself that it ignores the merits of the arguments concerning other aspects of its existence.

Regrettably, much of the fallout from this debate may hurt the fledgling SSSB in its attempts to establish itself as a vital part of the University or stir up resentment of its Association's board. That is not at all intended. The lesson that can be learned from this fiasco is that, at the end of this school year, in order to avoid unnecessary harm to sincere and dedicated students already in leadership positions, the experiment known as the SSSBSA should end. A viable outlet for SSSB students can be maintained through the continuation of the two Vice Presidents concept and the existence of a Joint Business Society under the auspices of YCSC. Furthermore, academic deans of the various schools at YU should attend to the business for which they are uniquely qualified: academics. Should the academic office of SSSB devote its energies solely to those areas, it would do more to ensconce SSSB in the consciousness of the University than would any amount of political posturing and interference in student governmental affairs. A harsh bit of mussar, but, in light of what we are all witnessing, entirely justified.

Trashing Torah U'Mada

THE COMMENTATOR will not sit idly by as Yeshiva University takes in attack after attack to her philosophic foundation, Torah U'Mada — whether the aggressor be found without or within the University itself. The latest recreant assault was an article in the October seventh issue of The Jewish Press, written by last year's visiting professor at YU, Paul Eidelberg. Professor Eidelberg, claiming the ability to speak without prejudice, expressed not the slightest humility in viciously discrediting a philosophy supported by such men of immense stature as Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik, YU President Norman Lamm, and Rav Aharon Lichtenstein. This Professor of political science seems quite at home lecturing these Rabbanim (all of whom have received Ph.Ds in the humanities) on what truths may be gleaned from a purely Judaic education. Professor Eidelberg pretentiously accuses these men, and in fact all who support the ideal of Torah U'Mada, of obliviousness to the corrosive effect of moral relativism. But he cannot withhold himself from going one step further: "The salesmen of Torah U'Mada are misleading Jewish students and, of course, philanthropists who

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In the future THE COMMENTATOR will only announce engagements submitted to THE COMMENTATOR mailbox in the Dean's Office.

THE COMMENTATOR "On-Site Survey" appears in this issue on page 14.

support such programs." Ironically, by presenting his over simplified analysis in such a surprisingly unprofessional manner, it is the vainglorious and opinionated Professor Eidelberg who is culpable of misleading.

There exists a different, but nevertheless, serious challenge to Torah U'Mada festering within the walls of the University itself. This souring and in some cases outright rejection of the Yeshiva's philosophy by certain Roshei Yeshiva is an affront to the Moreh D'Asrah of YU, Rabbi Norman Lamm. The Torah U'Mada lecture series has, more often than not, provided a forum for speculation on the validity and utility of Torah U'Mada, rather than an exploration of positive approaches to this philosophy.

Torah is, without any question, primary in the cultural synthesis espoused by YU. If the individuals who teach the Torah side reject the desirability of this synthesis, the philosophic foundation of this unique Yeshiva University will never attain the greatness to which it aspires.



From the Editor's Desk
by Behnam Dayanim

Many internal contradictions inherent in the credo of an Orthodox Jew who professes a socially liberal political agenda arise from differing conceptions of the nature of authority and communal responsibility. The modern liberal advocates an essentially libertarian agenda, encompassing the implicit constitutional right to privacy, while the Orthodox Jew learns to accept strict rabbinical authority in all religious matters of interpretation and acquires a strong sense of responsibility for the welfare of members of the community.

Within the purely social sphere, the liberal tends to adopt a somewhat anti-authoritarian aura, rejecting governmental intrusion into sensitive aspects of an individual's lifestyle and personal moral code, with which the traditional Orthodox Jew can never feel entirely comfortable. The nature of religious tradition relies heavily on rabbinical authority, to the point where, even on matters of religious philosophy rather than actual law, the most vocal dissenter invariably seeks to find some respected rabbinical source to support his or her contention. This ingrained inclination toward an oligarchic structure in the theological sphere negatively influences the Jewish attitude toward perceived rebelliousness in the secular realm as well.

Additionally, John Locke's concept of individual sovereignty and independence of action finds scant concurrence in the traditional Jewish mindset. While the liberal may proclaim the freedom to pursue any action that does not directly harm another, the Jew views members of the community as interdependent. The individual is "his brother's keeper" and as such bears responsibility for preventing harm and suffering, even that which is self-inflicted.

In this area from which the pronounced Jewish predilection toward economic liberalism springs comes also the severe backlash toward social freedoms to pursue "evil" actions. When one person hurts himself, he or she spiritually wounds the entire community and offends God.

Though in the past the struggle for civil rights and economic equity has induced the Orthodox Jew to identify with liberal ideologies, the increasingly visible social agenda, combined with increased economic success, is now pushing that same Jew and his children steadily rightward.

For me, an unabashed liberal in an age when such an appellation seems more an epithet eerily reminiscent of the term "Communist" during the darkest days of the conservative McCarthy era (two can play the label game, Mr. Bush), this presents severe philosophical difficulties. I appear as either an intellectual hypocrite or a well-meaning observant Jew unfortunately contaminated by Western culture antithetical to the true path. Neither explanation is flattering and I believe neither to be accurate.

We live in a pluralistic society founded upon a premise of diversity of thought and freedom of action. Though I, as a "frum" Jew may find abortion upon demand morally unacceptable, I may not impose my value system on someone who does not share it. Even the seven Noahide laws, guidelines of behavior for all peoples regardless of religion, may be subject only to the jurisdiction of a Jewish Beit Din, and by extension a Jewish society, and in none of these classically liberal issues do I find incontrovertible proof that a Noahide prohibition is indeed violated.

In order to participate fully in a democratic society, we must free ourselves from the flock

mentality, the reflexive subservience to authority, that dominates our religious perspective. We must instinctively recognize that secular political authority is not necessarily synonymous with superior wisdom or scholarship and constitutional interpretation does not rely on masorah and oral transmission.

More significantly, this intellectual renaissance must cut both ways. We must pay more attention to the ultimately accepted maverick elements in our own religious history, the Pharisees for example, and the wide range of divergence and dissent on almost every conceivable hashkafic issue. More recently, we can look with pride to the bold leadership of Rav Yosef Soloveitchik, "the Rav" who influenced more than any other the present state of Modern Orthodoxy (now "Centrist") at YU and at large. For those who forget or have never heard, his pronouncements at times defied the strongly expressed collective opinion of his few peers, yet today many of these are regarded among our community as settled.

None of us nor our leaders can lay claim to the immense wisdom and piety of such a man. Nor do I ignore the unfortunate, temporary lack of both a Sanhedrin and true Semikha in the original sense. Yet we all bear the responsibility of educating ourselves in our religious heritage and in rigorously critical thinking, so that we may challenge, probe, and ultimately arrive at points of view concerning the innumerable areas of hashkafic uncertainty.

Within the realm of thought, distinguished from that of law, much room for informed disagreement exists within our Orthodox tradition. We should not forego that opportunity for constructive engagement of these problems, studying the numerous opinions of Chazal and modern Gedolim and formulating our own purely personal responses that may or may not directly coincide with a previously recorded position. The current absence of such an atmosphere in all Orthodox circles, even the most progressive, speaks ill of our academic integrity and precludes the reemergence of a truly liberal Orthodox Jew.

Attention Seniors

If you are interested in on campus interviews in business, computers, finance, or marketing, please contact the Sy Syms School of Business, immediately.

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Student Court 1988-89

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Jeffrey Gross - *Associate Justice*

Matthew Braunshweiger - *Senior Justice*

Fred Zemel - *Senior Justice*

Barry Hawk - *Junior Justice*

Ethan Benovitz - *Clerk*

Shmu Katz - *Bailiff*

Election Results

Jr. Class Special Election

President - Edward Stelzer

Freshman Class Election:

President - Behzad Dayanim

Vice President - Jonathan Paley

Treasurer - Steven Lauderdale

CARTOON COMMENT

Responsa
Lasco Connection

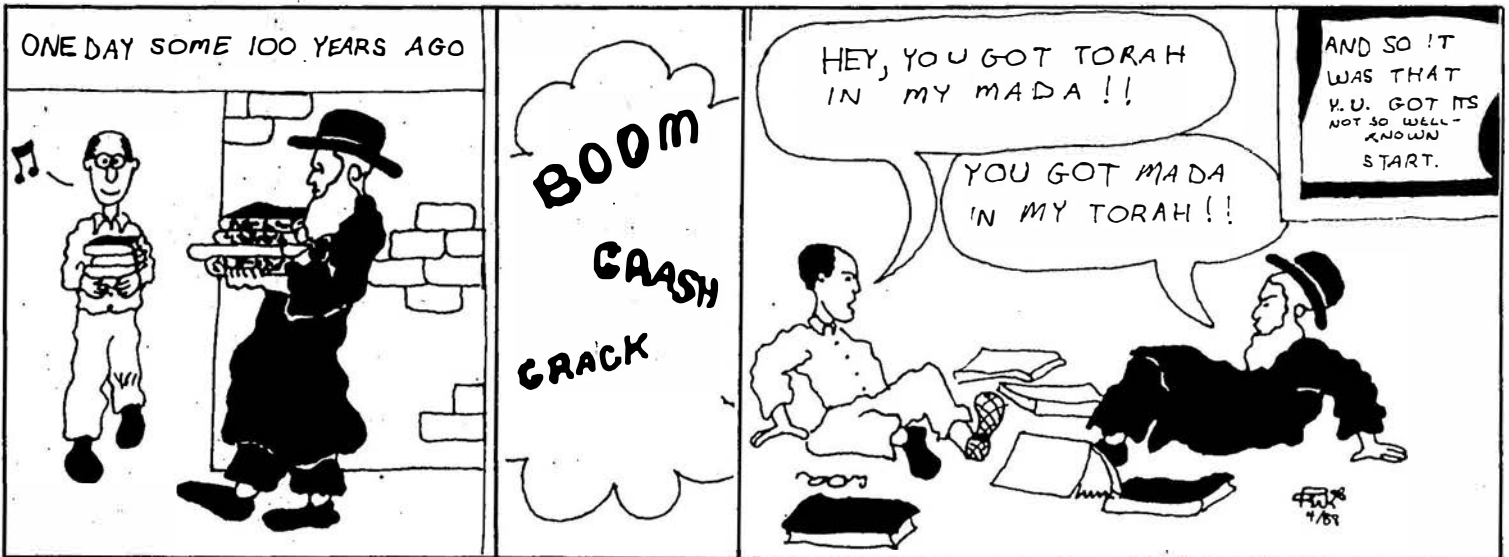
To the Editor:

In your two comprehensive and informative articles on the Macs (September 8, 1988), you wrote about a fine young prospect from Miami, John Lasco. What you didn't tell the readers, though, was that Sam Lasco, John's father, was the manager of the Macs (then known as the Mighty Mites) in the mid-1960's. At YU, history and tradition are precious commodities, even concerning the basketball team.

Joseph C. Kaplan YC'68
Teaneck, NJ

Watch for the annual YCSC/SCWSC
Chanukah Concert Coming Soon!

Announcement provided courtesy of The Commentator



Improved Cafeteria Salad Service

by David Sheffey

There is now an alternative to junk food at Yeshiva University. With the new fruit/salad bar in the cafeteria, you can put your money to better use than by buying simple carbohydrates.

The man responsible for this new addition to the cafeteria is Mr. Jacob Lieberman, the new Director of Food Services at Yeshiva University. Basically, he explained, a new level of health consciousness prompted the creation of this service.

The fruits and vegetables are delivered fresh every day after being purchased from the Hunt Point Market. Mr. Lieberman maintains that his "highest priority is the students," and that "they have to be happy with the food they eat."

One question that students have had, though, has been the cost of twenty cents per ounce for a salad and fifty cents for a fruit. Perhaps that is a valid complaint for students living on a budget, but, in comparison to the prices of similar services at other universities' kosher cafeterias, the YU cafeteria prices seem fair. N.Y.U. also charges twenty cents per ounce of their salad, while Columbia requires students to buy salads with their meals, which almost always cost a flat fee of six dollars. (The salad bar there, though, is an all-you-can-eat bar.)

Mr. Lieberman says that he is "always open for new ideas." Yet he needs serious and regular input from the student body. Although he has received some feedback, he feels that it has not been enough. In two to three weeks, a survey will be distributed by the Food Services Committee, says Shmuel Katz, the Committee's head, to uncover student opinions regarding the food services. He added that it is important for each student to make suggestions and voice any displeasures.

Continued from Page 1.

which the money may be used, and the ability of YU to draw only on the interest of those funds donated to the Endowment Fund of the University. Dr. Lamm explained that the second type of gift, that with restrictions on use, accounts for the sometimes mystifying decisions by YU to proceed with some worthy project while neglecting more immediate needs.

"Forum on Academic Integrity," a recent symposium sponsored by the Faculty/Student Affairs Committee, turned out to be a very stimulating and meaningful discussion for the very few who attended.

Dr. Richard Nochimson, chairman of the committee and master of ceremonies for the evening, called the forum "potentially very valuable" and did not understand the low turnout. "I suppose people felt they had other things to do," he said. A lack of publicity may have been the culprit; many students surveyed on campus said they were unaware of the event.

Still, any program designed to reduce the cheating problems of last semester has to be viewed as a step in the right direction.

According to student panelist Jeff Ifrah, a senior, teachers could be doing much more to prevent cheating than they currently do. He told the story of a teacher who knew a copy of his test was circulating among students before the exam and did nothing except give the very test he knew many of them had already seen. Ifrah also called for mandatory attendance and more assignments to keep students "on their toes."

Other student panelists suggested the "honor system" as an alternative to current YU policy. Some had taken courses at other colleges under that system and were impressed with its results. Dr. Carl Feit, a biology professor, agreed that the system could work at YU but only in an environment where the notion is prevalent that "cheating is shameful."

Rabbi Yosef Blau singled out the pressurized, career-obsessed

atmosphere of YU as the major cause of cheating. Students, he feels, will act dishonestly if it means good grades, good graduate schools and good jobs.

The most significant thing about "Forum on Academic Integrity" is that it took place. Students and teachers have realized the need to actively combat cheating and have joined forces to create an academically honest YU.

Swimming Facility Delayed

by Bruce Schanzer

The Gottesman Pool, a multi-million dollar facility donated by the Gottesman family of Rye, New York, is one of the most ambitious undertakings in the University's Centennial Development program. This facility will have a 25-meter pool with five lanes, a whirlpool, a sauna, and a showroom, as well as showers, lockers, and a lounge. Scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 1988, this project has met with a number of delays and, according to YU Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol, will not be built until the weather permits in late spring.

Dr. Socol comments that preliminary tests and architectural plans have been completed, and that the University is still in the process of organizing the subcontractors and the materials, as well as garnering further funds.

Concerning its use by SCW students, Dean of Students, Dr. Efrem Nulman, states emphatically that "the pool is for YC students only—and you can quote me on that."

In two to three weeks, student leaders will have a meeting to provide input concerning the blueprints before the plans are to be finalized. After this meeting the final plans for the pool will begin to take shape.

According to the Forbes 400 1988 List, Universities with the Highest Net Worth Among Graduates are:

Princeton	\$763 million
N.Y.U.	\$756 million
Stanford	\$714 million
Columbia	\$629 million
Yale	\$618 million
M.I.T.	\$584 million
Harvard	\$484 million
YESHIVA	\$375 million



YU does eschew such gifts on occasion, if their acceptance would "skew educational priorities," according to the President.

Dr. Lamm did laud the growth in the Endowment Fund, backbone of any credible university, from 34 million dollars ten years ago to approximately 130 million dollars today.

The President placed the 1988-89 operating budget at 250

million dollars, though he declined to describe its distribution among the various schools. Blaming increased costs on government attempts to reduce reimbursement of federally sponsored research, congressional attempts to tax endowment funds and make donations more difficult, and new regulations in the areas of discrimination prevention and asbestos, Dr. Lamm stressed the need for

fiscal responsibility in all departments of the University. In addition, he cited the skyrocketing expense of insurance premiums as contributing to the general financial strain. In an area of much concern among the faculty, he pointedly promised to improve salaries "as best we can" without excessively raising tuition and compromising the institutional mission of offering a YU education to deserving

people. The issue of faculty salaries has proven contentious in the past, involving a landmark Supreme Court case which the faculty lost, and generally substantiated allegations that average faculty compensation lags behind that of most comparable universities.

Dr. Lamm concluded by reminding those present of the difficulties experienced by the institution in the 1970's when YU became insolvent and almost had to declare bankruptcy. The President pledged that he, the Board of Trustees, and the boards of the various schools "cannot, dare not, and will not spend in excess of our revenue" again and declared, in a phrase perhaps unintentionally evocative of the 1960's, "We shall overcome."

Warhol Review at YU Museum

by Gilaad Deutsch

Andy Warhol's "Ten Portraits of Jews in the Twentieth Century" will be exhibited in the YU Museum this fall. Produced in 1980, this project was the brainchild of Manhattan gallery owner Ronald Feldman, a personal friend of the recently deceased pop artist. Originally conceived by an Israeli publisher as one silkscreen of late Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, the undertaking soon evolved into an accumulation of ten works depicting various personalities ranging from poet Gertrude Stein to Dr. Sigmund Freud.

The eclectic selection was due in great part to economy rather than to the artist's personal preferences. Warhol, a self-described "business artist," sought to manufacture a collection appealing to as many buyers as possible. The originator of mass-produced art, which he churned out in his studio called "The Factory," Warhol always had his eye set on the bottom line—money. And he profited greatly from this venture, selling all 200 limited edition portfolios for \$12,000 each.

This is not to say that there is no artistic merit to Warhol's work. The silkscreen process, besides facilitating the monetary benefit of mass-production, also provides certain aesthetic qualities. The portraits are monumental, colorful tributes to some of the greatest personalities of our time.

Each print is over four feet high and three feet wide. The works are so large that only four frames that the museum currently possesses are big enough to hold them. Therefore, only four portraits can be shown at a time. The first four selected are those of Martin Buber, Albert Einstein, Franz Kafka, and Meir. Sarah Bernhardt, Louis Brandeis, Freud, George Gershwin, Stein, and the Marx Brothers are on reserve for later.



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WYUR Loses Transmitter Hopes to Return by Dec. 5

by Larry Hartstein

WYUR's 21st season failed to get underway this month when its ailing transmitter died, killing along with it the bulk of the station's first semester programming.

Station Manager Jeff Sarasohn, who discovered the electronic board to be inoperative upon his return to YU after Sukkot vacation, hopes the new board will arrive in time to start broadcasting on December 5th. Because reading week would lurk only a few weeks away, WYUR plans to air only special programming, such as remotes from Bernstein's restaurant and Maccabees' basketball games, through the end of the first semester. Regular programming, student-hosted shows that are the heart of WYUR's schedule, will most likely begin next

semester.

The collapse of the station's board came as no surprise to many WYUR officers. "Anyone who's heard it the last year or two knows about the buzz that's been over the air," said Sarasohn. "One of the sad policies of YU is, 'If it hasn't broken yet, wait 'till it breaks before we buy a new one,'" added Programming Director Shmuel Katz. "With a little foresight we would have been starting in the middle of October."

Still, Sarasohn believes, the upcoming move of the station to the Schottenstein Center made renovations on the current setup in the Student Activities building inconvenient. "It is a lot of money to lay out if you're going to move. So we'd been doing our best to keep the board alive,"

said Sarasohn. As it is, the new electronic board from Radio Systems will be portable enough to be moved easily from the Student Activities building to Schottenstein.

Yet the temptation to wait for Schottenstein was probably not the only factor involved in delaying the purchase of a new board. According to Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students, the transition between Student Council administrations makes it difficult to appropriate funds over the summer for items not required on a yearly basis. The new board is a one-time expense, and apparently only the complete breakdown of the old board was able to force the wheels of progress in motion.

The new board will cost approximately \$7500, according to Sarasohn, with the student councils of YC and SCW sharing the bill equally. Societies and clubs will feel the expense. "Each society is definitely going to get a little bit less," said YCSC President Mordi Leifer. "People are going to have to manage their budgets very carefully," said Dr. Nulman.

Dr. Yehuda Don: SSSB Professor Survived Nazis, Fought in Palmach

by Avrum Aaron

From the calm and soft-spoken manner in which Dr. Yehuda Don expresses himself, one would be hard pressed to imagine the many hardships of his earlier years. Dr. Don occupies the Ludwig Jesselson Chair in Economics and he teaches Principles II and Microeconomics.

Dr. Don was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930. Through the intervention of the King of Sweden and a series of forged papers, he was saved, along with a large number of other Budapest Jews, from deportation to the Nazi death camps. After the war, in which he lost a large part of his family, he refused "to believe the regimes of the world" when they offered safe return to their remaining Jewish populations and decided to emigrate to Palestine. For the next two years he met with much opposition in his effort to settle in Palestine. He spent one year in a camp for displaced persons in Germany, three months in a D.P. camp in southern France, and nine months in jail on the island of Cyprus for attempting to enter Palestine.

Shortly before the United Nations decision to establish a Jewish homeland, Dr. Don received permission to settle in Palestine. He recounts that "in the next four years passed four decades." He served in a religious unit of the Palmach on Kibbutz Sdeh Elyahu during the War of Independence. During these four years, he helped found the settlement of Nir Galim.

increase in Japanese tourism.

Dr. Grossberg believes that Israel is suffering from what he calls an "American disease, a short term profit orientation and a lack of strategic vision for one's company or industry." He refers to America because "the Americans are the major power guilty of this disease; the Europeans tend to have a longer term perspective and as a result European companies tend to do better than American companies in the Japanese market."

The Japanese have offered Israel the opportunity to set up a banking industry, but, due to the cost involved, Israel has shown little interest. Dr. Grossberg feels this is a tremendous error in Israeli judgement because "these financial institutions are not just banks, but conduits in a foreign country for trade and relations. Without them, there is a tremendous liability; the embassy can only do so much."

Dr. Grossberg concluded the forum expressing that he per-

Dr. Don entered Hebrew University as a member of the first class of soldiers discharged from the Israel Defense Forces after the war. His "accidental" interest in economics was aroused by a "boasting fellow" who claimed it to be the most difficult department where only the elite student could achieve an "A" grade. Dr. Don accepted the challenge and earned an "A". He graduated from Hebrew University in 1951 and received his



Dr. Yehuda Don

doctorate from the London School of Economics in 1961.

Dr. Don began his teaching career at Hebrew University and accepted an invitation to lecture at Bar-Ilan at its inception. In addition, Dr. Don has taught at many American universities, including Harvard and U.C.-Berkeley.

When speaking of his YU students, Dr. Don's voice assumes a joyous pitch. "I love YU students because they are smart. Most are very gifted in their potential intellectual abilities." He compares YU students to those at Harvard and Berkeley. On a less laudatory note, he adds that "they try to optimize their presence in class," in an attempt to achieve "the highest grade with the least amount of studies." On the whole, he considers his job "a challenge, most interesting and pleasing."



Over 150 students attended the SSSB Jobs Fair, hoping to make business contacts. Pictured is SSSBSA President Bruce Taragin and a firm representative.

Japan

continued from page 1.

popularization of the image of the Jew as Christ killer. That same year saw the translation of *The Merchant of Venice* and its mandatory introduction into the high school curriculum. Japanese dictionaries define the word Jew with "unflattering synonyms," such as usurer, miser, and evil merchant.

Past alliances and experiences have badly tarnished the image of the Jew in Japan. Among these were the anti-Semitic propaganda in the era of the Bolshevik Revolution, the alliance in the Second World War to the Nazis, and an anti-Semitic platform in the election of 1935, calling for the murder of all Jews under Japanese control. Dr. Grossberg also pointed out that there have been Japanese who have rejected the anti-Jewish propaganda, citing the example of Sugihara Sempo, who secretly provided visas to Jews escaping Nazi occupation.

After World War II many American businesses were afraid to do business with Japan, but some small Jewish firms did start transacting with the Japanese. However, instead of feeling gratitude toward the Jews for helping them recover, the Japanese began to spread the image of Jewish traders coming to

exploit the Japanese.

Dr. Grossberg pointed out that the Japanese have consistently towed an anti-Israel line, due to their strong reliance on Arab oil. In 1973, they joined in an embargo on goods to Israel. "Ironically," Dr. Grossberg explained, "this was a blessing for Israel - if the Japanese would export their goods to Israel this would destroy the Israeli economy."

There are many examples of open anti-Semitism in Japan today. Jewish literature in bookstores is labeled under "Jewish Problems," creating the impression that even legitimate works somehow grant insight into solving the "Jewish Problem." Uno Masami, a popular fundamentalist Christian Minister, has written a number of anti-Semitic books. He believes that the recent rise in the value of the Yen is part of an international plot to destroy Japan. He has stated that the United States economy is controlled by four powerful Jewish families: the Rockefellers, Mellons, Morgans, and Duponts - while the President is advised by two Jewish advisors, Shultz and Weinberger. Dr. Grossberg emphasized that to the Japanese it is not obvious who is not Jewish, since the accepted image of the Jew is someone politically

strong and financially successful. Masami concludes that only Japan and the Soviet Union can stand in the way of Jewish domination. Another anti-Semite, Kometami, has received two literary prizes for his efforts.

Although there is a very negative image of the Jews in Japan, the Jews have suffered no discrimination as a result. Dr. Grossberg feels there is a tremendous need to educate the Japanese about the Jews, for tremendous trade potential exists between Israel and Japan.

During the past few years there has been a steady increase in bilateral trade between Japan and Israel. In 1985, the trade numbers between the two countries were 350 million dollars. In 1986, the figures almost doubled to 630 million, and in 1987 these figures reached 850 million dollars. Currently, Japan trades more with Israel than with Poland, Yugoslavia, and Norway. Israeli exports have risen 55%, mainly behind diamond and agricultural exports, while Japanese exports to Israel have risen 23%. Last spring Mitsubishi started selling cars in Israel, in defiance of the Arab boycott.

During the past year, a Japanese Foreign Minister visited Israel for the first time ever. Since then, sixteen different delegations have visited Israel. The past year has seen a 50%

**YU RECRUITING:
ACTIVE SOCIAL LIFE
LUSH CAMPUS**

The President Speaks

by Mordy Leifer

The Student Council would like to welcome everybody back from their vacations and we hope that everyone will once again acclimate themselves to University life in both academic and extracurricular activities. The Yeshiva College Student Council will play a vital role during your years at Yeshiva, supplementing your education by meeting the student need for a "life outside of the classroom."

The general functions of the Student Council are to represent the needs of the students of YC/SSSB to the administration and to enrich the YC/SSSB students' extracurricular lives. In order to succeed in performing the former, the Student Council will allot designated times throughout the semester for open meetings, at which students from all classes will be able to address their needs and express their individual opinions on appropriate subjects of concern. In addition, my room and telephone numbers are available for those who wish to speak with me privately or to draw my attention to a matter of immediacy. To succeed responsibly in the latter goal, the Council has chartered scores of clubs, societies, and organizations that

appeal to the students' interests. These groups are for you. I urge you to capitalize fully on the potential to become involved in the organizations that appeal to you.

Yet a primary obligation of the Student Council is to manage your monies, our budget, responsibly. Consequently, at times we will be forced to deny the monetary requests of particular clubs or societies.

It is with this in mind that we would appreciate your understanding our goals and objectives. YCSC ought not to sponsor every event, but, rather, the individual clubs and societies should sponsor the events with reasonable fiscal constraints.

Nevertheless, YCSC has thus far staged a very successful theater party for all freshmen during their orientation. In addition, the turnout at the Senior Classes' annual "Welcome Back Party" was unprecedented. The Junior Class, under the direction of Eric Rothman, sponsored a night on the ice at Sky Rink, which also proved to be a spectacular event.

These events have paved the path to what I am sure will be considered an outstanding year for all students and YCSC.

Science Test Postponed; Rumors Abound

by Steven Major

Nervously awaiting his arrival in order to start the exam, Professor Irving J. Borowitz stunned his organic chemistry students by angrily proclaiming that their exam could not be administered at that scheduled time. The exam, therefore, would be postponed. Professor Borowitz explained that he had been informed by Dr. Egon Brenner, YU Executive Vice President, that "the exam was for sale."

An aura of shock and outrage permeated the room in a matter of seconds. The level of intensity radiated by a class of eager and devoted students no longer prevailed. The tense mood, derived from a mindset based on an anticipation of their first exam in organic chemistry, was

shattered.

A group of frustrated students appropriately proceeded to Dean Rosenfeld's office. In a statement to these students, Dean Rosenfeld declared, "there is a rotten apple in the organic chemistry class; somebody has acquired the exam and is selling it." Upon being questioned on the verity of this charge, the Dean contended that the administration's source of information was probably true; that is, a "trustworthy and reliable" student had informed Dr. Brenner of this incident. Furthermore, Dean Rosenfeld said, on Professor Borowitz's behalf, that the new test would be completely comparable to the original exam. Reassuring these students, Dean Rosenfeld added, "Professor Borowitz is a very

fair grader and always goes to extremes to protect his students."

Professor Borowitz offered yet a different account of what had transpired. Not mentioning anything about a student informant, Professor Borowitz said that Dr. Brenner had told him that "a copy of the test paper had been found in a waste paper basket." As of yet, no concrete proof has been presented to substantiate either version.

So, what really happened? Which one of these two stories is true, if any? Or was this entire episode merely the result of a rumor? Indeed, many Yeshiva College students are eager to ascertain the answers to these questions; to determine what is fact and what is fiction.

SCHOTTENSTEIN

Continued from Page 1.

lectures as well.

The second floor will be the new home for the Belz School of Music. The floor will contain five music rooms, three practice rooms, four sound rooms, and one recital room. The third floor will have new offices for THE COMMENTATOR, the Yeshiva College Student Council, and WYUR. There will also be art studios and a lounge area on this floor. A student lounge will be located on the fourth floor, but will not be completed by next year.

The Dramatics Society is very excited about the eventual opening of the Schottenstein Center. Dr. Anthony Beukas, faculty advisor to the Society stated, "The play which will be performed for the Grand Opening is called "The Boys Next Door." It is a play which is going to be exceptional, particularly because it is going to be in the new building." Beukas' only reservation about the new building concerns the size of the storage rooms. Nevertheless, he, as well as the rest of the Dramatics Society and the entire Yeshiva College student body, is eagerly awaiting the building's completion.

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YU Sephardic Studies Department:

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

by Jeff Ifrah

While students at Yeshiva University are predominantly Ashkenazi and the school is usually regarded as an Ashkenazi institution, Y.U. began providing for its Sephardic students in 1964 when it established the Sephardic Studies Department and the Sephardic Studies major. Y.U. has been faced with the challenge to integrate the Sephardim while helping them to maintain their unique cultural heritage. Rabbi Blau, mashgiach ruchani at Yeshiva, explains that "there's a lot to be learned from the Sephardic world; why should it be right to Ashkenazify (sic) them?" The Sephardic Studies Department was thereby created to preserve and solidify Sephardic culture and identity. Rabbi Mitchell Serels and Dr. Haham Solomon Gaon currently direct the program.

Rabbi Serels attended Yeshiva University as an undergraduate and as a semicha student. He was the second Sephardi to earn both his B.A. ('68) and Semicha ('71). Rabbi Angel, currently rabbi of the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue in New York, was the first to do so (Semicha '70). Rabbis Serels and Angel were the first students involved with the Sephardic Studies Department. Rabbi Angel remembers those years fondly. "We would study Shulchan Aruch with Dr. Gaon in addition to taking regular courses and participating in a Sephardi minyan every now and then." Rabbi Angel credited Dr. Gaon for influencing his career choice. "Dr. Gaon was a great

inspiration; without him, I wouldn't be a rabbi. He was a great influence...all my memories of Dr. Gaon are just wonderful."

With the invaluable assistance of Dr. Gaon, Dr. Dobrinsky, the late Ivan Solomon, and the late Dr. Belkin, the Sephardic Studies Department has expanded, providing some 18 courses in IBC, MYP, SCW, and the Belz

"There's a lot to be learned from the Sephardic world."

School of Music. These courses include hazzanut, history, philosophy, safrut, and other subjects. Currently, a special course in Yemenite hazzanut is in preparation. The Sephardic Studies major, offered through IBC, covers all of these courses in addition to, or in some cases as a substitute for, the regular coursework requirements of that school. According to Rabbi Serels, course offerings have increased over the years but only five students have earned a degree in Sephardic Studies. This June, two more students will complete the degree.

The department is also responsible for a variety of cultural events. This year's "Semana Sepharad" (Sephardic Week) is just a preview of the

upcoming events which the department will sponsor to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Spanish expulsion. The primary purpose of these events, which will take place a total of seven times in different locations, is to present the history and music of Sephardim and to explore their Spanish roots. Featuring a scholarly lecture followed by a musical presentation, the program will premiere at Stern College for Women on December 11th. The remainder of its itinerary includes stops in Highland Park, N.J., Canarsie, Cedarhurst, the Sephardic Home for the Aged—all in Brooklyn—and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan's Upper West Side. The series of presentations concludes on December 17 at La Casa de Espana at 314 East 39th Street.

Among the many dignitaries who will be on hand at the final event are the President of the Jewish Community of Spain, Samuel Toledano, Ambassador to the United Nations Francisco Vaillar, and His Excellency, the Ambassador to Washington, Julien Santa-Maria. The latter's interests are primarily focused on strengthening the bonds between Spain and the Sephardic Diaspora. Ambassador Miguel Aldasoro, the Consul-General of Spain in New York City, as well as other dignitaries and representatives from the National Tourist Office of Spain, will also attend.

According to Rabbi Serels, the main objective of the Sephardic Studies Department and the Sephardic Community

Activities Program is "the revival and maintenance of Sephardic Heritage through the education of students, the development and strengthening of the community, and ensuring public knowledge of the Sephardic population." He feels that his goals are being accomplished, as evidenced by the increasing number of Sephardic students attending Yeshiva University. Presently 110 Iranian, Syrian, Moroccan, and Balkan Jews attend Yeshiva College, while another 42 Sephardic women attend Stern College for Women. Rabbi Serels attributes their interest in Yeshiva University to the Sephardic Community Activities Program. "Although," he points out, "there is never just one factor alone that brings a student to Yeshiva University." Rabbi Serels noted proudly that the Sephardic Studies Department of Yeshiva University is one of the few institutions to receive funds from Sephardim all over the world.

The Sephardic Studies Department's programs have also helped to raise Sephardic consciousness and curtail anti-Sephardic prejudice. "There isn't as much anti-Sephardic feeling as there used to be among faculty or students at YU I remember when someone would say we as Sephardim haven't accomplished anything since Maimonides. But now that we're succeeding here in numbers, those feelings are beginning to dissipate as we overcome hardships."

The potential Sephardi students of the world are recipients

of additional programs such as "Realidad" (Reality), sponsored by the Sephardic Community Activities Program, which educates Latin American Jewry by teaching the essence of Jewish practice and thought.

Nevertheless, the majority of the Sephardim involved with the department are Americans. For the most part, they are from Brooklyn or have become natu-

"It is very hard to integrate the Iranians with the rest of the Sephardim."

ralized citizens after fleeing Iran. There are others from communities like Seattle, Washington, where Sephardim of Turkish descent have settled. This diversity, according to Rabbi Blau has actually become a hindrance in some areas. "It is very hard to integrate the Iranians with the rest of the Sephardim (who were born in America)." Rabbi Serels illustrated a different problem related to the topic. He feels much more needs to be done to attract more than merely a third of the Sephardic community in Brooklyn to Yeshiva. "Their community is very mercantile. The image of the University has to be transformed for YU to reach those who maintain a high school-straight-to-business mentality."

Continued on Page 12.

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U.S. Election 1988

Dukakis: Time for a Change

by Behnam Dayanim

Walk down any New York City street at any time of the day or night and count the homeless who beg for money or sleep on sidewalks or in subway stations. That's one reason to vote for Mike Dukakis. Take a look at your next college tuition bill and wonder how you're ever going to pay for it. That's another reason to vote for Mike Dukakis. Stroll down the winding streets of Jerusalem's Old City to the Kotel and think about how nice it would be if Israel's staunchest ally joined tiny Costa Rica in recognizing the "City of Gold" as the official capital. That's a third reason to vote for Mike Dukakis. Finally, think about how badly the environment has been neglected and even deliberately abused during the last eight years, what kind of world you want to bequeath future generations, and even in what kind of world you would like to live just a few years down the road. That's yet another reason to vote for Governor Michael S. Dukakis on November 8.

Michael Dukakis offers the intelligent, concerned voter, whether liberal or moderate, an alternative to another four years of environmental and economic neglect, legislated morality, and patchwork, directionless foreign policy. In addition, he offers to the college student hope that there is relief around the corner and to the Jew reassurance that America's traditionally strong relationship with Israel will intensify and that American Jews need not fear the imposition of an official religious morality.

Governor Dukakis has consistently recognized the impending dangers to our global environment. Unlike his Republican opponent, George Bush, he is no late convert to the cause, vigorously protesting "I am an outdoorsman!" to the national television cameras. Governor Dukakis has been the first Massachusetts Governor to attempt to rid Boston Harbor of its centuries-old pollution. However, his program budget was slashed by the administration whose Vice President now piously proclaims his love for the environment. Dukakis opposes all offshore oil drilling, a practice that disrupts the entire coastal ecology wherever conducted and that has been advocated by both Reagan and Bush most recently in California. Dukakis also proposes a specific plan of action to deal with the festering problem of acid rain and has consistently supported such environmental protection laws as the Clean Water Act, renewed just this year. Even Bush's running mate, the otherwise abysmal Dan Quayle, supported this legislation while President Reagan, with Bush's

wholehearted agreement, attempted to veto its renewal.

On the economic scene Dukakis has offered a series of detailed proposals to once again make college tuition affordable [ED: Please see accompanying article], provide health insurance for those who currently have none, and increase the availability of housing for the homeless. The need for such programs is clear. Ask any college senior who has been here for four years how many people he remembers seeing begging on the street when he was a freshman. An honest answer will prove shocking. Universal health insurance simply requires businesses of a certain size to provide it for their employees. This will cost some money in the form of price increases to consumers, yet the need exists and Bush's alternative would merely add the currently uninsured to the government chuck wagon with no indication where the necessary millions will be found.

Dukakis' positions on the immense budget and trade deficits need little explanation. He does not echo past Republican promises to eliminate the budget deficit in four years, but rather to substantially reduce it, a serious offer from a thoughtful man. The trade deficit and increasing foreign ownership in the U.S. are not matters of little concern to him or his running mate, as they appear to be to their opponents if their statements and track record serve as a guide.

Another little-debated yet extremely important factor in this election is the Supreme Court. With all three liberal Justices facing probable retirement during the next term, a Dukakis Presidency could make the difference between the continuation of the precariously balanced middle-of-the-road Court or an activist, extreme conservative bench. The "Christian Nation" concept of intrusive government, frequently praised by President Reagan and endorsed by many of Bush's most vocal supporters could come one step closer to reality with the nomination of one more Robert Bork. History teaches that it is never in the best interests of any minority to allow a mindset where the religious values of the majority are imposed upon the populace by the government.

The issue of most concern to YU students and alumni probably lies in the area of American-Israeli relations and the possible influence of Jesse Jackson on a Dukakis administration. Disregarding the merits of the topic for the moment, however, it is necessary to point out that the surest way to increase Jesse Jackson's influence in the Democratic Party is to not vote for

Michael Dukakis. A sitting Democratic President can much more effectively repel any attempts to usurp his position than can a demoralized and divided opposition party.

Irrespective of the Jackson issue, Governor Dukakis has presented the most favorable foreign policy agenda toward the State of Israel of any major party candidate in this decade. He has stated his firm intention to recognize the city of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, effectively precluding any future United States pressure to cede the eastern half as part of a peace agreement with the Arabs. Furthermore, he has displayed more respect for Israeli sovereignty than have the Republicans through his announced policy of allowing the parties in the region to work out their own agreement with no coercion from the U.S. as to specific concessions. The only direct American role lies in security guarantees for the Jewish State and a willingness to assist in the arrangement of any talks should they be desired.

His top Middle East policy advisors include such dependable friends of Israel as Representative Mel Levine of California; neither Jackson nor any of his staff has been at all involved with foreign policy formulation in this area, and top Dukakis aides have repeatedly insisted that they will not play a role in the future. Perhaps the noticeable lack of enthusiasm and support displayed by Jackson in the campaign thus far should be attributed to irritation over neglect by the Dukakis campaign. Even should some late signs of affection become evident, this would most likely result merely from an understandable aversion on the part of Jackson to being blamed for a possible election defeat.

The presence within the Bush campaign of both prominent Nazi collaborators and supporters of the P.L.O. should disturb Jews more than the easily identifiable and thereby preventable theoretical danger posed by Jackson. Seven Eastern European fascists had attached themselves to the Bush campaign, only resigning when accounts of their past affiliations became public. Bush noticeably refused to denounce them or their past activities. (Sounds vaguely like Jackson and Farrakhan, doesn't it?) Furthermore, the chairman of Bush's New Hampshire campaign and possible Cabinet member during a Bush tenure, New Hampshire Governor John Sununu, is an Arab-American actively involved in Arab organizations who remains to this day the only Governor to refuse to condemn the infamous United Nations "Zionism is Racism" resolution.

	DUKAKIS	BUSH
Ending nuclear weapons testing	YES	NO
Increased funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars)	NO	YES
MX Missile	NO	YES
Production of chemical weapons	NO	YES
Tougher economic sanctions against South Africa	YES	NO
Military aid to the Nicaraguan contras	NO	YES

CANDIDATES

THE ENVIRONMENT

	DUKAKIS	BUSH
Acid Rain	Reduce annual sulfur dioxide emissions by 12 million tons.	Reduce annual sulfur dioxide emissions by millions of tons.
Clean Water	Ban ocean dumping by 1991; supported renewal of the Clean Water Act.	Ban ocean dumping by 1991; supported Reagan veto of the Clean Water Act.
New Nuclear Reactors	No, until new safety measures are devised.	Yes, with high safety standards.
Offshore Oil Drilling	No, except where environmental quality will not be compromised.	Yes, except in sensitive areas.

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Many other reasons to vote for Michael Dukakis include his understanding of the modern, complex world in which the East-West conflict is not the most important issue confronting many Third World nations. He opposes legislation to create a 90-day sub-minimum wage that would effectively reduce salaries earned from summer employment. And he understands the need to judiciously choose those weapons systems

we can afford and not simply approve every new gadget conjured up by the Pentagon. As Dukakis says, "We cannot have national security without economic security." When each and every one of us exercises our responsibility to vote on November 8 for the leader of our nation, we should bear in mind the nature of our choice and vote with our heads and with our hearts. VOTE MICHAEL DUKAKIS.

NATION AT A CROSSROADS

Peace and Prosperity with GOP

by Dov J. Pinchot

Too many of us have lost sight of the wondrous goal for which this country was founded: freedom. By freedom, I not only mean freedom from foreign intrusion; but freedom to do what I please, provided it does not damage the nation. Freedom of opportunity was and still is the most unique aspect of the United States of America. With this freedom of opportunity comes the freedom to grow, to expand. Thus, progress becomes the result of natural ambition. Now it may seem trite to say that the Republican party stands for this freedom of opportunity, while the Democrats somehow stand against it, but in many respects, such is the case.

The Republicans want to see the country return to the way it used to be - a country run by the people, not by the Federal government. The Bill of Rights was written to limit the Federal government, to preserve the energy and ambition of the states. The Democrats want Washington to run too many details of the country's life. For example, the Republicans are dedicated to the idea of freedom to education. It is unjust that merely because you are white or Jewish, a school will not accept you once they have filled their quota for white students. The Republican Platform calls for the abolition of quotas.

The greatest danger faced by the Republicans in this election is that the voters will take for granted the achievements of the last eight years and look only to the shortcomings and the areas

left open for improvement. Once the "biggies" are out of the way, these being peace and prosperity, we all focus on other issues. I will not belittle the importance of education, assistance to the poor, child care, or the environment. But we must not overlook the fruits of the Reagan agenda: family income is up 9.1% since 1981; unemployment is at its lowest level in fourteen years; productivity is rising; industrial output is increasing. Ronald Reagan turned the country around, despite the almost daily predictions that his plan would fail. It has not yet, and this fact both disturbs and baffles the skeptics. Everyone claims that taxes must go up; the next President will have to raise taxes. But what do you think they said to Ronald Reagan? Yet, he has remained true to his word.

The next President will have the opportunity to appoint several important Supreme Court judges. Many see this as cause for alarm, should the Republicans stay in office, unaware that under the dominance of liberal judges, the court has backed itself into such a corner on the issue of private rights that they would be hard pressed to even outlaw incest (see Eisenstadt vs. Baird).

There have been areas where the Reagan Presidency has fallen short. But the benefit of an election is that it forces the candidates to address those areas of weakness. Thus, George Bush has concentrated on such issues as the environment, education, drugs, and child care more

than his predecessor has. Combine this with the already strong Republican policies which have led us into peace and prosperity and you should have an unbeatable combination.

Foreign policy cannot be overlooked in a day and age where strategic weapons are spreading across the globe almost as quickly as communism does. In this area, the Republicans hold all the cards. Reagan held tough on SDI and suddenly the Russians were at the table, willing to talk. The result was the monumental INF treaty. Still, the Russians have demonstrated no change in the size or intentions of their armed forces. Communism is trying desperately to spread throughout Central America; only a strong foreign policy will deter it.

Finally, we turn towards Israel. This Republican Platform is the most pro-Israel one ever. It recognizes that the foundation of U.S. Middle East policy should be the moral and strategic relationship with Israel; opposes creation of an independent Palestinian State; calls for specific steps to institutionalize the strategic partnership with Israel, among which is the Arrow project: a new anti-missile defense system.

The party that brought you peace and prosperity is now poised to improve the weak and troubled areas in American life. They will not do it by handing money through corrupt bureaucratic agencies; they will do it the old fashioned way, by giving the freedom back to you.

Candidates Offer Plan On College Education

by Barry Kaye

In the 1988 Presidential campaign, college students are faced with two candidates who have distinctly different views on the issue most pertinent to our college education - cost.

Governor Dukakis has made a proposal, labeled the Student Tuition and Repayment System (STARS), which would innovatively try to combat rapidly escalating college costs, in the face of stagnant wages for most middle-income Americans and constrained Federal student aid programs. Under STARS, all students would be able to borrow money to help finance their education; however, instead of having to make traditional loan repayments, borrowers would repay their loans in the form of added payroll taxes, once they enter the work force. Repayments would be set at a fixed percentage of each borrower's earnings; thus STARS would not unfairly burden borrowers

who have low incomes. The plan is simple and would entail no new government subsidies. In contrast with existing programs, there would be no defaults, which now cost the Federal Government about 1.6 billion dollars a year.

Meanwhile, Vice President Bush has outlined a four-point program to aid students in the battle against spiraling college costs. Bush believes the key to affordable higher education is a College Savings Bond program, modeled after a regular U. S. Savings Bond. However, unlike the U. S. Savings Bonds, the interest would be tax free unless diverted away from college tuition. In addition, Bush advocates: the establishment of Education Savings Accounts, modeled after an Individual Retirement Account; an expansion of income contingent loan programs which adjust payments annually to fit the income a graduate earns after college; a

strengthening of debt collection procedures; and continued funding of educational grants in conjunction with work study programs.

Thus, on Nov. 8, the way in which our future college bills will be paid will be decided by the voters.



THE ECONOMY

	DUKAKIS	BUSH
Deficit Reduction Plan (first priority)	Improve tax enforcement.	Flexible freeze on spending.
Increased income taxes	LAST RESORT	NO
Minimum wage increased to \$4.55/hr.	YES	NO

CIVIL RIGHTS

	DUKAKIS	BUSH
Equal Rights Amendment	YES	NO
Constitutional amendment to prohibit abortion	NO	YES

AT A GLANCE

Universal Voter Registration Act	YES	NO POSITION
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	DUKAKIS	BUSH
Child Care	Federal assistance and standards.	Tax credit for working parents.
Parental Leave	Guaranteed.	Up to employer.
Increased federal student loans	YES	YES
Guaranteed basic health insurance	YES	NO

Sources: Candidate Position Papers, 1988 Democratic & Republican Platforms, The New York Times, and Washington Post

The Unpopular President

Three presidential elections in the 1800s denied the most popular man the Presidency.

Andrew Jackson received far more votes than John Quincy Adams in 1824, but Adams won the presidency.

Rutherford B. Hayes won the office in 1876, but Samuel J. Tilden had 250,000 more votes.

In 1888, Benjamin Harrison had nearly 100,000 fewer votes than Grover Cleveland, but the following year Harrison took

office as president.

In each case, the candidate won the most votes in the Electoral College.

The Electoral College isn't always the final word. The House of Representatives decided the 1800 election after two candidates tied in the Electoral College. Thomas Jefferson became President; the defeated candidate, Aaron Burr was chosen Vice-President. ☆

Israel's Confusing Political Maze...

by Reuben I. Levine

Stepping into a cab at the central bus station in Jerusalem, I ask the driver to transport me to the corner of Balfour Street and Aza. The diligent cab driver, with the precision of a tankist, fights through the barrage of traffic lights, weaves between Egged busses and double-parked cars, and dodges squabbling pedestrians. Finally we travel south past Gan Sacher, a park in which we Americans once played football. I spot on top of a hill the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament building. Turning to my silent driver, I ask in Hebrew, "What's going to be with our country?"

The driver, in an excited, almost prepared fashion, begins to ramble, "I don't know. There are two and one-half million people in Judea and Samaria.

We can't just kill them. We must let them live, but I'm tired of doing two months per year of reserve duty. If we give them a little land now, the next thing they'll want is my living room. I can't make enough money to pay my bills, and half of whatever I do make gets eaten by income tax which goes to Knesset members so they can vacation in Switzerland. I can't even go to see a movie on Friday nights without ultra-Orthodox ridicule. Who do they think they are?"

The above complaints, based upon an actual conversation I

had while in Israel for the Yomim Tovim, continued in similar fashion, often sarcastic but quite serious. The driver finally confronted me with a shocking question as to my solution for the mess. I wonder why a cab driver would ask me, an ordinary passenger, for a political solution. Did he possibly think that I, too, was starting a political party? Don't they have enough from which to choose already? Yet who exactly are these many contenders?

Israeli political choices seem to reside on two levels. First, one must decide whether to vote right or left. Once that task has been completed, the Israeli must gaze into his well-tossed salad and pick out his favorite vegetable. Is this possible?

Looking to the right of the Israeli political arena, there are many parties, such as Likud, Tehiya, and the recently benched Kach.

As the largest of the right-wing organizations, the Likud Coalition for the past term has been viewed as the majority party, though recently no one group has substantively controlled national policy. Likud's leader, Yitzhak Shamir, still seems to be mentally bearing his M-1 rifle. Shamir refuses to relinquish an inch of Israeli land to the "refugee" Arabs, claiming that their probable affiliation with the Palestine Liberation Organization justifies denial of

even an iota of independence within the present borders of the State of Israel. The policy on how to deal with the uprising of Arab youths has evolved from shooting live bullets, to beatings, and now to the less lethal form of ammunition, plastic bullets. Israeli soldiers no longer serve the purpose of border protection, but are instead ironically practicing the multiple forms of riot control.

The Likud ticket also boasts the presence of a man quickly growing in popularity, Benjamin Netanyahu. As Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations, he is known for his eloquence in both Hebrew and English and his stern but passive domestic approach. He is also probably the most capable of tackling the immense tasks facing the country on the international front. However, he occupies a position too low on the Likud totem pole of tough men to become a prominent figure in directing Likud policy and action in the next term.

As for Likud's economic goals and program... Sounds great, huh?

For our next vegetable, we call on Tehiya. This party's televised advertisements depict much bitterness toward the intifada, or Arab uprising. To its members, tolerance of Arabs is intolerable. Furthermore, the Tehiya position attempts to elicit anti-Likud sentiment. One of the ads focuses on clips of

Mrs. Geulah Cohen, one of the party leaders, complaining over Likud's lack of cooperation in endorsing most of Tehiya's proposals. The nevertheless evident teamwork between the two parties makes dogs and cats appear veritable comrades.

The extreme right Kach, Meir Kahane's organization, is the most aggressive in its Arab approach. Meir Kahane's idea of the demographic solution can easily be termed the "get rid of 'em" policy. He hopes to pay the Arabs to leave, though using force as a last resort is quite conceivable and, from the tone of his public addresses, somewhat enjoyable. In any case, he who agrees with this agenda can return to his salad bowl as Kach has been ushered out of the political race. They have been ruled an undemocratic, racist regime with dictatorial tendencies and have therefore been politically excommunicated. Rabbi Kahane intends to appeal this verdict, but the general feeling is that Kach will remain barred.

To the left of the political arena await such players as Maarach (Labor Alignment), Meimad, and Ratz.

The Labor Alignment is the largest of the left-wing heavyweights. The Alignment's leader, Shimon Peres, is a man of essentially socialist core who often dodges the rapidly emerging capitalist gunfire. He played an instrumental role in the

withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon in 1985 and claims that his economic actions have forced the labor unions to "tighten their belts," thereby braking the previously snowballing rate of inflation. In spite of his claimed success, most of the Alignment's television ads and public appearances tell more of Shamir's shortcomings than of Peres' accomplishments. In fact, it sounds like a Republican campaign.

As far as dealings with the Arabs, Peres favors an international conference with P.L.O. members present to voice their views. In essence, this amounts to recognition of the P.L.O.

Economically, the Alignment was hoping to place their money on their "bucking bronco," the Histadrut, Labor's trade union federation. However, on October 11, The New York Times reported that Bankers Trust had filed suit against Koor, a company owned by Histadrut and one of Israel's largest fiduciaries. The report stated that Koor defaulted on a twenty million dollar loan to Bankers Trust and the indignant lender is demanding its liquidation. Other firms may follow Bankers Trust's example as Koor owes other "foreign banks more than 400 million dollars." This situation poses negative implications for the Alignment and may positively aid Shamir should he decide to step in and save the

Continued on Page 11.

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Meimad Gaining Popularity

by David Ottensoser

With the upcoming elections to the Israeli Parliament only two weeks away, a new religious political party is gaining impressive popularity in its attempt to procure seats in the Knesset and, more importantly, to redefine Israeli politics.

Mahane HaMercaz HaDati (MEIMAD), or the Israeli Centrist Religious Camp, was founded some six months ago by Rav Yehuda Amital, one of the roshei yeshiva of Gush Etzion. He hesitantly entered the political arena due to the necessity of providing an alternative to the established parties. In light of the State of Israel's crucial political and cultural challenges, Meimad came into existence hoping to furnish sorely needed leadership.

The dilemmas facing Israel today are numerous and complex. Perhaps the most salient and glaring of these problems are the widening rift between religious and secular Jews, and the political deadlock with the Arabs. In order to begin solving these problems, Rav Amital, who had previously insisted that he was merely Meimad's spiritual authority, reluctantly agreed to allow his party to declare him its leader. Rav Amital, hailed by many Israelis and non-Israelis alike to be the country's only "voice of hope," considers this campaign a religious obligation. As he himself states, "I have no choice."

Israeli society is having a Jewish identity crisis. Unlike the previous generation which, although anti-religious, was at least cognizant of Jewish concepts, the current generation is completely ignorant of Judaism. This absence of awareness has contributed not only to a lack of communication between secular and religious Jews, but also to the increasing antagonism between the two groups. This schism affects many facets of Israeli life. Issues such as keeping movie theatres and discotheques open on Friday night are being vehemently debated. Secular Jews perceive the Torah's sole concern to be the prevention of a sports complex from being constructed in Jerusalem. Such an image of the Orthodox Jew must be transformed, according to Israel's newest alternative. Rav Amital urges that not every minor religious debate be deemed worthy of going to war over. "Haredim--the reactionary Orthodox--throw stones at cars on Shabbat? So use another road."

Additionally, the Torah is now for the first time being seen by secular Jews as a threat to peace and national existence. This feeling is manifested through the matter of territorial compromise. The left is in favor of giving away land and the extremist right, led by Meir Kahane's Kach party, believes any withdrawal from any land held by Israel to be inconceivable. Rav Amital claims that extremists are distorting Biblical

precepts to justify forced expulsion of Arabs and the absolute refusal of constructive dialogue. He offers an analogy to his position: "If a person has to amputate a limb to save the rest of the body, he'll go first to ten doctors. You think and weigh and weigh again. But you have to consider it." If land can be exchanged for true peace, the option must remain open. It is difficult to say whether and how much territory would be given away should the Arabs ever agree to sit at a bargaining table, but Rav Amital maintains that this feeling of willingness must be verbalized in order to commence on the road to peace.

"Rav Amital considers this campaign a religious obligation as he himself states-'I have no choice.'"

Rav Amital basically adheres to the premises of Gush Emunim, namely that the land of Israel is holy and belongs to the Jewish people, causing his emergence as dissenter of that aspect of religious Zionism to be a shock to many. He conceived the "Hesder" yeshiva network. A Hesder student is the synthesis of Talmud scholar and soldier, the pride of worldwide Jewry. Gush Etzion, located on the West Bank, is the largest and most heralded of these military yeshivot. Rav Amital fought in some of the toughest battles of the Israeli War of Independence in 1948 as a seventeen year old immigrant from Nazi-torn Hungary. He once said his greatest wish during the Holocaust was to die fighting for the Land of Israel. Some attribute his apparent reversal to the impact of the deaths of Gush students who have died in Israel's past two wars. Eight were lost in the Yom Kippur War and four in Lebanon.

However, others are not surprised at all by Rav Amital's shift. He has always been a pragmatist willing to accept and face reality. Sensitivity to changing circumstances is his and Meimad's credo. "And if we have to give up land for peace? The interests of the Jewish people come first. Meimad is ready to change its position; the situation is fluid. Our only criterion is the good of the people of Israel. We have to live in reality, not fantasy."

Reality, according to Rav Amital, is bridging the chasm separating religious and secular Jews by explicitly pointing out the values of Judaism. "First comes the Jewish people, then the Torah, then the Land of Israel." He places the supreme priority on the unity and sovereignty of the Jewish people and state. Land is the third priority. He obviously hopes to never have to forfeit land, but he clearly states his willingness to think along those terms.

Zionistic and non-Zionistic religious parties, by pushing legislative demands that are perceived as coercive and intrusive, have exacerbated tensions

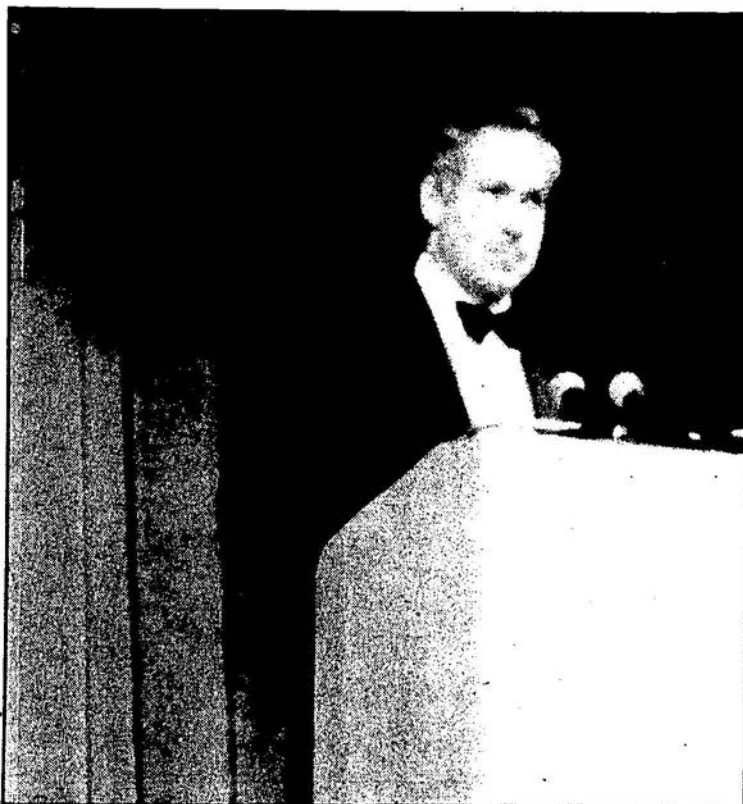
with Israelis and generated disdain toward Torah and religious Jews. Since Rav Amital abhors such tactics as coercion, communication and discussion at all levels of Israeli society on all topics have been established as the mainstays of Meimad's platform.

Rav Amital and Meimad's philosophy of compromise has attracted criticism that, though the party rests on sturdy foundations and aspires to lofty goals, there are no clear means or plans of achieving these ends. "Naivete" is how one Lawrence, New York resident phrased it at a recent parlor meeting for Meimad in that community that

was attended by Rav Amital.

Ever the talmudist and not a politician, the rosh yeshiva responds to these charges by citing a midrash, a Biblical tale, from Parshat Noah. "After the flood, when Noah exited from the ark, upon seeing the destruction that the world had suffered, he cried out to God, 'How can You have let this happen to Your creations?' 'Noah, you fool,' replied God. 'I warned you of this 120 years ago. What did you do to try to prevent it?'"

This story best illustrates the reason why Rav Amital left the insulated, intellectual religious life of Gush Etzion to assume this most controversial political position. It will not be said of him, "Where was Rav Amital before the flood?"



Former Israeli Ambassador to U.N., Netanyahu

Political Maze

Continued from page 10.

sinking conglomerate.

Meimad, the party of Yeshivat Har Etzion's Rav Yehuda Amital, asserts the importance of unity, internal tolerance, and the abolition of the enormous bureaucratic walls that have developed over the years. The Arabs are not their main concern. On that subject, Rav Amital feels that either land or autonomy would be a fair trade if it would allow Israel to return its sword to its sheath and in turn redirect the nation's resources toward its mounting internal tidal wave of problems. That is a new concept, but so is the party. [ED: Please see accompanying article for further information on Meimad and its platform.]

Finally, far to the left Ratz cries out its "Peace Now" slogan. Whether that implies the granting of autonomy or independence to the Arabs with the ease and speed with which Crazy Eddie offers electronic sales or the invitation of Arab neighbors to Jewish children's bar-mitzvot and weddings remains quite unclear and even more frightening.

The above-mentioned parties represent only some of the options facing Israeli voters. Others include the established religious parties such as Shas, the ultra-Orthodox Sephardic party whose supporters include the Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and Aguda, Shas' Ashkenazi counterpart. Mafdal, the Mizrahi party, cares most deeply about education, retention of religious prerogatives, and growth in the public sector. Its positions on the intifada and

the economy float somewhere in the shadows of its agenda and are rarely explained. There even exists a party called the P.L.P. that exclusively represents the Arab citizenry. The list of all shades of every classification extends further, but the reader by now should be as baffled as our hopeless cab driver, so I will cease any additional introductions.

One can see that much of the debate rotates around the Arab demographic situation; however, were it not for the relentless pressure exerted by such foreign dignitaries as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the warped pen of the international media, this issue would not occupy a place of such enormous concern.

The issues that should be at the center of public debate are economics and internal social affairs. Instead, these parasites perpetually infecting Israel's political structure stand second and third to some stone throwing rebels.

Whatever the end result of the elections, one can only hope for two eventualities. First, the substantial victory of one party should be sought, allowing prompt and decisive action to solve the existing dilemmas facing the state. Should another national unity government between right and left emerge, as was the case in the recent term in Parliament, resolutions of these staggering issues will be rendered idle and ineffective by an iron anchor of endless argument and insufficient action. Secondly, if one party does succeed in regaining the now-

"Benjamin Netanyahu is probably the most capable...but occupies a position too low...to become a prominent figure in directing Likud policy."

fragmented throne of the Knesset, the remaining parties and the entire population should cooperate with the majority's legislative program. Otherwise, political chaos will persist.

In fewer than two weeks, Israelis will crowd the polls and elect an expected savior with magical answers and solutions. It is truly unfortunate and painfully obvious that the one appropriate party, led by the Son of David upon a white donkey, is not on the ballot this year.

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Sephardic Studies

Continued from Page 7

However, for those who have chosen to interrupt their careers for Yeshiva study, a comfortable atmosphere exists in the Sephardic Club. The club began around 1965 as a picture session. But when Rabbi Serels attended, it blossomed into "the organization of the Sephardim on campus." Rabbi Serels adds that "It conducts its own minyan, Shabbatonim, and special events; but being Sephardi is not the only thing they do. They're accounting majors, pre-health majors, et cetera. They're a good group of guys, who help one another to ensure minyan attendance and they help tutor each other in English. The group is rather cohesive for its size." Rabbi Blau also mentioned that the integration of the Sephardim extends beyond the Sephardic Department. He attributed the students' progress to Rabbi Serels, asserting that "a lot of progress has been made, and a lot of it has to do with Rabbi Serels because he fights for the Sephardic students."

Rabbi Serels boasts of such Sephardic graduates of the program as Rabbi Kassoria (RIETS '83) of Greater Washington; Rabbi Benzaquen of Kahal Yosef Congregation, Los Angeles; Rabbi Yaakov Shamarra (YC '75, RIETS '83) of Leeds, England; and Rabbi Angel (YC '67, RIETS '70). Rabbi Serels serves the Scarsdale Sephardic community. Interestingly enough, Rabbi Blau points out that "the Sephardim haven't produced enough rabbanim to service their communities yet, although there has been improvement."

When asked to identify any problems that the department is facing, Rabbi Serels singled out the lack of a Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva (although Haham Gaon is temporarily the Rosh Yeshiva,

ing to Rabbi Serels "last year an attempt was made to add a Sephardic counterpart to JSS dinim classes, but nothing came out of that."

When confronted with this



Rabbi Yudin - Director of James Striar School

he does not teach a gemara shiur) and lack of cooperation in scheduling Sephardic courses in JSS.

The students have made requests for a Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva and a specifically Sephardic Talmud shiur. According to Rabbi Serels, plans are under way to meet the students' requests. Rabbi Serels asserts that "the largest segment of Sephardim here at Yeshiva University attend JSS. Yet JSS is the only Jewish Studies Division lacking courses geared to meet the needs of Sephardim."

"Sephardic students are in JSS either because their Hebrew studies were interrupted by revolution or they simply come from weaker day school programs." Both Rabbi Serels and Haham Gaon have offered their time to teach courses in JSS, but no one has responded. Accord-

ing to Rabbi Serels "last year an attempt was made to add a Sephardic counterpart to JSS dinim classes, but nothing came out of that."

"The lack of a Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva... (who teaches) a gemara shiur and lack of cooperation in scheduling Sephardic courses in J.S.S" are problems facing the department.

flexibility. JSS is a block program mandating enrollment in certain courses every semester, though during the senior year the students may choose electives, if there are no outstanding requirements. Rabbi Yudin hopes that eventually, "depending upon the numbers," a senior elective specifically for Sephardim will be scheduled. Rabbi Yudin added, discouragingly, that students seemed ambivalent about the idea of creating "Sephardic" courses.

Conversely, "IBC has been the most helpful in promoting the program, both in concept and in scheduling, as well as in dedication. Rabbi Serels asserts, "It began in IBC, and since Rabbi Rabinowitz's appointment as Dean, it has continued to flourish."

Rabbi Rabinowitz responds, "My warmest wish is that the bright Sephardim will go back and teach in Sephardic Communities. It's the Sephardic student who can really relate because of his community background, whereas an Ashkenazic student has to prove himself. Most students have other professional interests—I don't deny them that right. I only hope we can reach more bright students and entice them to pursue such careers." Echoing Rabbi Rabinowitz, Rabbi Blau added, "We haven't found the avenue of finding enough Sephardic fellows who can be dorm counselors or teachers, for example, in an informal sense. We need to work on this area."

Rabbi Dobrinsky (who came to be known as Haham Bueno on account of his name, which in Slavic means "good") is not Sephardi, but he has always encouraged the program since he was appointed as its director in 1964 and as University Vice-President in 1973. "He gave a tremendous amount—and set the wheels in motion," according to Rabbi Serels. The Haham and Rabbi Serels came here permanently mostly because of Rabbi Dobrinsky's help. Rabbi Angel echoes these sentiments. "Dr. Dobrinsky was a very positive force in raising consciousness. As a human being he was a superstar, a tremendous friend, a lifetime friend."

Dr. Dobrinsky's recently published dissertation, "The Treasury of Sephardi Laws and Customs," can be found in many Sephardic homes. Rabbi Serels

is also working on publishing his dissertation on the Jews of Tangiers. Recently, in a joint venture, Haham Gaon and Rabbi Serels published "Sephardim and the Holocaust." The book is a collection of information from the lecture series of the same name as well as from other sources. The book is available in soft cover from the Sephardic Community Program, 4th Floor, Furst Hall.

"Rabbi Yudin added... That students seemed ambivalent about the idea"

Rabbi Serels concluded by reiterating his hopes that courses will soon develop, especially in JSS, and that more Ashkenazim will become involved in the courses. Rabbi Serels is very happy to note that at Yeshiva University, Sephardim constitute no less than 12% of the student body. "It is very large, considering that overall we are but 3% of American Jewry." He added jokingly, "We must be doing something right, or perhaps we're just lucky."

Rabbi Blau mentioned the terrible disasters Israel experiences integrating the Sephardim (both religious and non-religious). While YU isn't able to

"Most students have other professional interests. I don't deny them that right."

solve all the problems, the Sephardic Studies Department is helping preserve and enrich Sephardic identity and culture. "It cannot force itself upon the students. It can only encourage the students and make the program more attractive." In the end, each student is ultimately responsible for enriching his culture and perpetuating it.

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The Lighter Look



by Jonathan Miskin

"I gotta tell ya, Myrna, I'm gettin' so I'm the best darn gumshoe this town has ever seen. I mean, I cracked this case quicker than you can say Agatha Christie. See, it seems there was this argument. It was a brief but bitter dispute on whose picture appears on the five dollar bill. Hank claimed that there was no doubt that the man was Abraham Lincoln. Walter said that it was a portrait of Irving McWirther, a famous Lincoln impersonator. Walter's obstinacy enraged Hank, who pulled out the silverware drawer and came at Walter with a large serving spoon. But Walter grabbed a double-edged carving knife and stabbed Hank nine times in the ankle. Finally his Ph.D. in Cutlery Identification had proven its worth."

Myrna stared at me in admiration and amazement. "Gee, boss," she said, "how do you do it?"

"Pure genius, sweetheart."

Myrna handed me a tall glass of grapefruit juice and said, "Don't rest on your laurels too long; your next client, a Mr. Burnstein, is here."

Burnstein was a short, con-

cerned fellow with hexagonal glasses.

"What can I do for you, Mr. Burnstein?"

"Does 'second floor Morgengstern, Yeshiva University' mean anything to you?"

I put down my grapefruit juice and nodded. The second floor of the Morg dorm is where all the student hotshots live: Newspaper editors, student council presidents, hall monitors. Burnstein produced a crumpled piece of paper and handed it to me. It read:

To Whom It May Concern:
The 2nd floor of Morg has been kidnapped. At gunpoint. If you ever want to see the 2nd floor again, have one million kiwi fruits at the basketball court next week. Don't try any funny stuff or we'll drop the 2nd floor down the elevator shaft. We've killed before and we won't hesitate to kill again.

Signed,
People Against Tripling Up
P.S. A couple of tickets to Hawaii would be nice, too."

I put down the ransom note and squinted at Burnstein. "That's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. How does one steal a floor of a building?"

"Nevertheless it's been done. I'm Ralph Burnstein, owner and manager of Burns Security at Yeshiva U."

I laughed. "You must have a top notch team of guards over there to let an entire floor slip under their noses."

Burnstein got defensive. "I have no doubt that my men will locate the missing floor and apprehend the bandits."

"If you're so confident in your boys, why are you hiring me?"

"For our image, detective. For our image. Let me explain. Up at YU we've got Burns security guards posted at every building. They sit at little desks and gaze into space, their walkie-talkies jabbering noisily 24 hours a day. Everybody laughs at my men and thinks that they do absolutely nothing. But in reality, they are a crack team of security marvels! Their behavior is just a performance to hide their fantastic guarding capabilities. All of them have worked for the FBI, RCMP, or UJA. They've got detecting skills you've probably never heard of: intelligence, counter-counter-intelligence, counter-intelligence-counter, intelligence-counter-counter,

intell-"

"O.K.! O.K.! So why the low profile?"

"Well, if the students knew the truth, they'd be coming for help every time they misplaced their teddy bears."

"So what do you want me to do?"

"All we want is for you to snoop around a little and make yourself known. Then, when we solve the case, you'll get all the credit and our reputation will be saved."

I spent the next week at YU, doing detective stuff: taking fingerprints, questioning witnesses, wearing a trenchcoat. Amazingly, Burnstein was right about the guards. They appeared to be a bunch of incompetent simpletons, but when we met at midnight in the biology lab to discuss our progress, they talked like satellite information systems.

"I've checked out Daniels and Lerner. Although they do have brothers with plaid shirts, the teeth marks I lifted from their toothbrushes don't match the singing voices we recorded in the shower."

"We all agreed that the culprits had to be among the

discontented students living three to a room, who had vented their rage against the most privileged in the student body. But I questioned all the triplets; none of them seemed to be the type of kid you'd catch sneaking out of the dorm with a floor under his shirt.

By the end of the week, the guards were successful and their deductions were baffling. "Quite simple really, detective," said Burnstein, "In fact we got most of our clues from the ransom note. Two facts pointed to the Southern Hemisphere: kiwis and Hawaii. So the kidnapers were two guys from Australia. And it wasn't three to a room they were protesting, but the term 'tripling up.' Apparently, south of the equator they say 'tripling down.'"

I collected my paycheck from Burnstein's office and took one last stroll across the campus. I waved at the guard in the booth between the dorms. He ignored me. I saluted the guard at the library. He feigned sleep. I watched kids run out of Rubin without even acknowledging one of the world's greatest law enforcers. If they only knew. If they only knew.

The COMMENTATOR "On-Site Survey"

Do you plan to vote in the Presidential election?

Yes	73%
No	19%
Unsure	7%

If yes or unsure, do you support Bush/Quayle or Dukakis/Bentsen?

Bush/Quayle	70%
Dukakis/Bentsen	8%
Undecided	14%
Other	7%

How closely have you followed the campaign?

Very closely	32%
Somewhat closely	52%
Note very closely	16%
Not at all	—

Which of the following is your primary source for information: on the campaign and the candidates' positions on the issues?

T.V.	33%
Radio	5%
Daily paper	54%
Magazine	3%
Other	5%

If a daily paper, which one?

New York Times	81%
Wall Street Journal	3%
New York Newsday	—
New York Post	6%
New York Daily News	3%
USA Today	6%

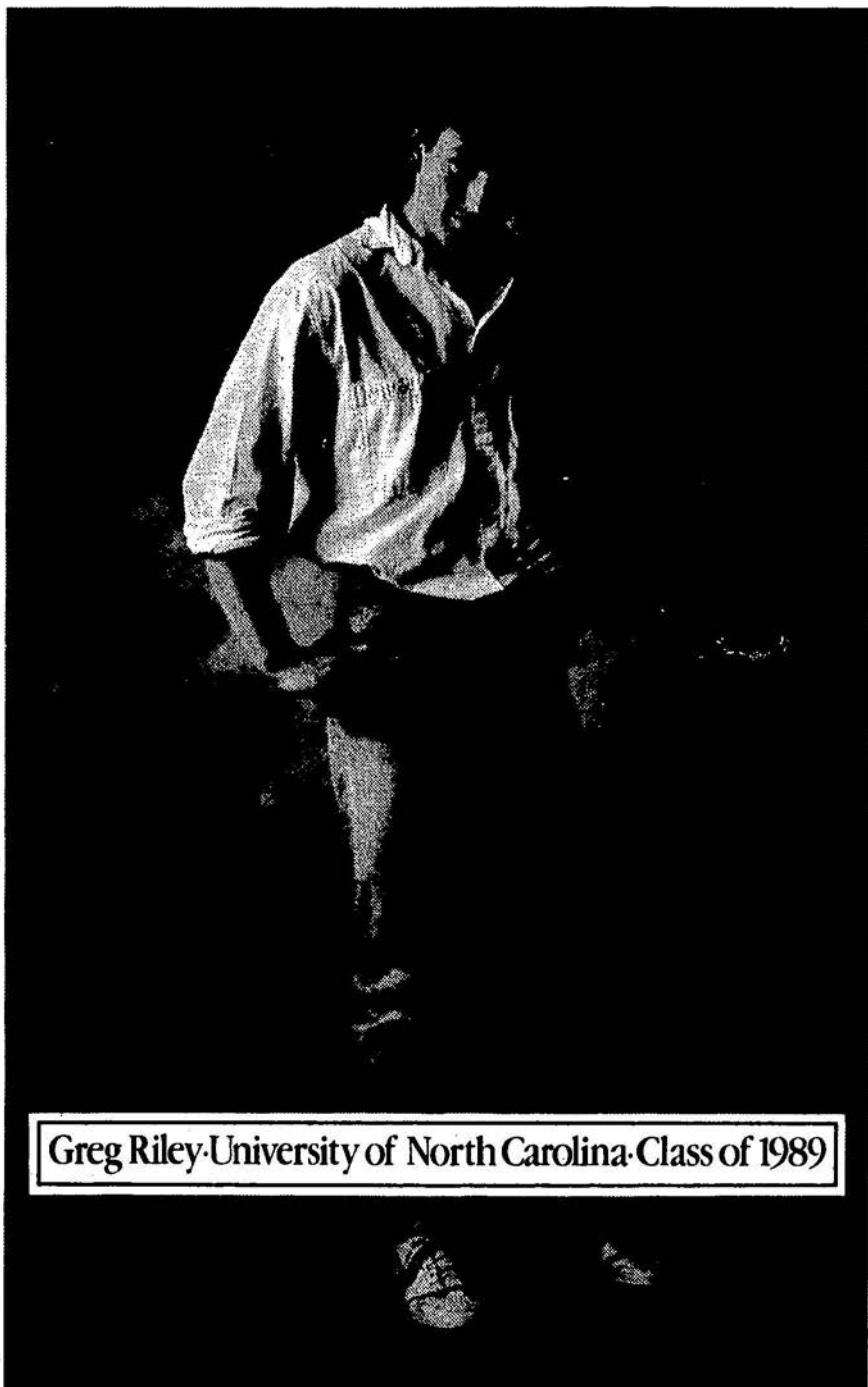
TOTAL RESPONSE: 63
(Percentages have been rounded)

This survey is a random sampling of YC students on campus conducted by Jeff Fleisher. It is not intended as a scientific survey, but merely as a candid indication of the feelings and opinions of the student body. Conducted every issue, each respondent's name is recorded solely to prevent duplication of results.

What exactly is this latest addition to the Y.U. campus?
Submit your responses — The Commentator will print the best replies.



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Greg Riley-University of North Carolina-Class of 1989

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NEW ASSISTANT-Cont. from Page 16.

They have made great improvements,” he said. The coach's intensity is matched only by his caring. He arrived over an hour early one day to practice with Yudi Teichman on three-point drills. He also seems determined to transform Tzvi Hember and Michael Oz, who previously have succeeded in basketball primarily by virtue of their height, into solid ballplayers who can compete on the Division III level. Both of these players participated in “Big Man Drills,” which included jumping and repeatedly striking the backboard with a six pound medicine ball. Although both were thoroughly exhausted by the time official practice had started, perhaps this extra practice and conditioning may be pivotal in a Macs' victory sometime this year.

The coach is realistic about the team this year. He realizes that much height has been lost from last year's team, but he feels that this year we may see more of a pressure defense to create turnovers. Perhaps a better conditioned team may even resort to a full court press at times. If the team can deny the ball inside, then height is not as great a factor as it might be otherwise. As far as offensive chores, the coach says that our two big men may be able to set some pretty good screens to give Teichman the open shots we all know he can hit. Coach Podias predicts sixteen wins, but they may come in more dramatic fashion than many of last year's victories. Perhaps a split with Western Connecticut and a buzzer shot against N.Y.U. will result in two of our wins.

The Macs of '88-'89 are shaping up to be a different ballclub than one we have previously seen at YU. Ayal Hod might not take the ball inside as often. Perhaps he'll even develop an outside shot. Nothing should surprise us this year. So when the team comes out into the first full court press and Ayal hits a three-pointer, just look at the bench at the man next to Coach Halpert. He'll be the one wearing the smile.

SAINTS 6 BRUISERS 2-
Cont. from Page 16.

team many had expected. The team's hustle paid off immediately, and, in a matter of minutes, the Bruisers found themselves facing a four-goal deficit. Michael Bramson began the scoring barrage with a quick goal early in the period. Bramson's scoring play preceded successive goals by team captain Gary Ganchrow, line mate Michael Littwin, and Neil Weinstein.

By the time the third period had begun, the game was all but decided. Unfortunately for the Bruisers, the Saints weren't finished. Relentless forechecking resulted in one more Saints goal by Weinstein, and a defensive blanket held the Bruisers the rest of the way until Sojcher scored with no time remaining on the clock.

For the Saints it was a great start to what should be a very successful season. However, the Bruisers seem to be headed for a very long year.

Crossword

Companion

Solutions to Last Issue's Puzzle



IRISH SEEKING TITLE- Cont. from Page 16.

But one can never count out last year's runners-up, the Wildcats, led by Mike Schreiber and Yechiel Gordon. With league M.V.P. David Schlusel in net, the race for the cup will be a heated one. Propelled by Moshe Blech and Robert Levinson, the Wildcats are definite contenders.

Although it has yet to be seen if Team Seneca, commanded by Stuart Nussbaum, Jeremy Garber, and Yitzi Wernick, has the unity to play well as a team, this expansion franchise is quite powerful on paper. The dangerous combination of J.J. Horn-

lass and Kenny Yaeger, along with the goal tending of Alan Laifer, makes Seneca a force with which to be reckoned. But the heart of the Honesdale bunch is their unusual depth.

With a year of experience under their belts, the next two teams may be battling for the fourth playoff spot. The Saints, captained by Gary Ganchrow, return with some of last year's regulars. Led by Dov Elefant and Moshe Adler, the Bruisers are very solid defensively, despite lacking the offensive firepower of some of the other teams. This defense, along with goalie David Sheer, may be

tough to beat.

There are three additional expansion teams called the Freshmen, led by Harris Pearlman, the Kings, who are captained by Michael Cohen and Jan Wimpfheimer, and the Sabres, directed by Mitch Nathanson and A.A. Witty. Due to the overwhelming number of incoming freshmen on these teams, an accurate prediction of the final results is not possible. Whether the Irish eventually will take the coveted Cup or a dark horse will emerge, it is evident that YU is in for its most competitive and exciting season ever.

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Congratulations to David Glatt who was the first to submit the correct responses to Larry Hartstein M611. Watch for another puzzle in the next issue of THE COMMENTATOR.

Yeshiva Sports

Rod Strickland's H.S. Coach Joins MACS Staff

by Jeff Lumerman

Over the past few seasons, the Maccabees have dropped many heart-breaking games. The two losses to N.J.I.T last year, both of which came down to the last minutes, brought much criticism. Some blamed the coach. Others blamed the lack of conditioning. Still others claimed that, although the team had talent, they lacked "fire" and the desire to win. In hopes of ending the criticisms, the Macs have named Steve Podias as the new Assistant Coach, to fill the void that was left by Jeffrey Gurock, who left after last season.

Coach Podias fits neatly into the ideology of Yeshiva University. "I am happy to be at Yeshiva University because academics are stressed over athletics," he said. In addition to his role at Yeshiva, he teaches History and Language at Rice High School, while coaching the Junior Varsity basketball team. He also is acting as the assistant coach of the Varsity team. Coach Podias has coached many players in Rice High School, most notably Rod Strickland, the Knicks' first round draft choice this past year. However, he would be just as happy coaching future lawyers,



Podias, left, joins Halpert in his first season as assistant for Macs.

doctors, and businessmen, so long as he is able to help them along the road to success. When asked how he could be an asset to the team, the coach responded that he would instill in his players intensity, desire, and a never-say-die attitude. He added that a team can be involved in as many as ten close games in a season. By drilling and conditioning, it is possible to win most of them, but, coupled with determination and intensity, it is possible to win all of them. Anyone in his Basket-



ball class can attest to his intensity. A stereotypically easy gym class has metamorphosed into a menagerie of drills, from suicide sprints to medicine ball workouts. Many students were surprised to learn that homework is an integral part of the class. Coach Podias, however, has already seen results. "While at the beginning of class perhaps two students looked as if they had handled a basketball before, at the last practice there was a good basketball game going on. continued on p. 15

An Open Letter To The Athletic Director

Dear Dr. Shevlin:

With the varsity basketball season not yet underway, it would appear to many that there is not much happening on campus that is sports-related, that is. Yet there is one sport that remains on the minds of a majority of students: baseball.

YU needs a varsity baseball program, and measures must be taken now. Baseball season does not begin until the spring, yet the students alone are incapable of forming an inter-collegiate schedule. Dr. Shevlin, the student body is calling for your assistance in this matter.

All the excuses have been heard, yet none are really satisfying. The student interest is unquestionably there. I cannot believe that fear of embarrassment is a valid reason to hold back on forming such a squad. The newly formed golf team has played its first match. No one reasonably expects this team to turn heads immediately. Nor is it expected that this sport will develop much fan interest on campus. Granted, golf can be a fun and relaxing sport for the few who participate, but it is far from a rousing sport to watch.

The varsity basketball team made its first post-season tournament appearance ever last year. This took many years, including numerous ones without the benefit of a home court. Immediate success for a varsity sport is not expected, nor is it anticipated. Presently we have a number of varsity sports teams that have become respectable over a number of years of inter-collegiate play.

Further, how can a university in New York explain the forming of a soccer team over a baseball team? Soccer has never caught on in the United States, and baseball is the national pastime.

To play varsity basketball, one must possess exceptional athletic ability, height, and agility. To compete as a varsity wrestler, one must possess exceptional strength. To play baseball, one must simply have coordination, along with a modicum of speed and strength. And, of course, a love for the game. At YU, this love is very strong.

I await your reply.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Nathanson
Sports Editor

Hockey Intramurals Begin With Record Rosters

by Saul Kaszovitz

As the 1987-88 hockey intramural league came to a close, it became evident that the league was faced with a serious dilemma. Overly powerful teams were snatching championship titles with regularity. Since many players from previous championship teams, such as the Rebels and the Raiders, have graduated, there is now room for a new champion. Commissioners Marc Fries and Geoffrey Miller formed this season's teams, hoping to create parity.

"We put long, hard hours into weighing the talent and deciding who would be best for each team," said Fries. "This year we have more people signed up for intramurals than in the history of the league. We were forced to make eight teams instead of six. But we hope that we gave each team an equal number of quality players."

With the addition of floor hockey legend Michael "Mer" Mermelstein and the return of Ari Keehn and Shmuel Soffer among others, the Fighting Irish, captained by Geoffrey Miller and Saul Kaszovitz, seem to have the power to bring goalie Wayne Feder his first title ever. continued on p. 15

Track Team Wins First Meet

For the first time in Yeshiva's history, the Cross Country Team swept its competition in a five mile race, raising its two match record to 4-3. The October 23 meet matched YU against City College, Kean College, Polytechnic University, and John Jay College.

The team primarily competes at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The grueling course includes many hills, puddles, and other hazards. These conditions greatly increase the overall difficulty of the five mile course.

On this day the Yeshiva

harrriers overcame these obstacles and the opposing runners to compile their best showing ever. The unique point of this race was that not only did one or two team members have successful outings, but the entire team ran exceptionally well. Newcomer Naphtali Levine set the YU record for the course in a time of 32 minutes, 32 seconds. This was Naphtali's first race for Yeshiva. He possesses the potential to compete against the league's best including division powerhouse, N.Y.U. co-captain Victor Fishman was Yeshiva's second place

finisher with a time of 33:41, knocking a minute and a half off his previous best. Veteran Jon Katzauer finished 50 seconds quicker than his prior best by posting a time of 33:51. First year student Dan Shiller registered an incredible 34:20 considering it was only his second time in competition. Co-captain Avi Berger rounded out the top five with his top time to date, 35:42. Primarily a road race specialist, senior Moshe Adler finished with a respectable 38:30. Junior Jerry Hawk, who had never run four miles let alone a tough five

mile course, finished in 44 minutes.

To illustrate the improvement of the YU team, no one in at least the past two years has run under 35 minutes. On this day four runners eclipsed the mark.

On November 13, the YU harrriers face Stevens Tech and Pratt, two strong teams but certainly in reach of Yeshiva's upstart runners. Hopefully, this race will mark the start of a successful season and future for YU Cross Country.

Saints Defeat Bruisers

The intramural hockey season began Wednesday, Oct. 12, for two of last year's most disappointing teams. In a rather uneventful game, the Saints cruised past the Bruisers, 6 to 2.

The first period proved to be a defensive struggle for both sides. David Miller opened the scoring for the Saints with a goal midway through the first period, but the lead was short-lived. Only seconds later, Alan Sojcher retaliated for the Bruisers, knotting up the game at one apiece.

After the intermission, the Saints began to play like the continued on p. 15

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