

# The Commentator

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

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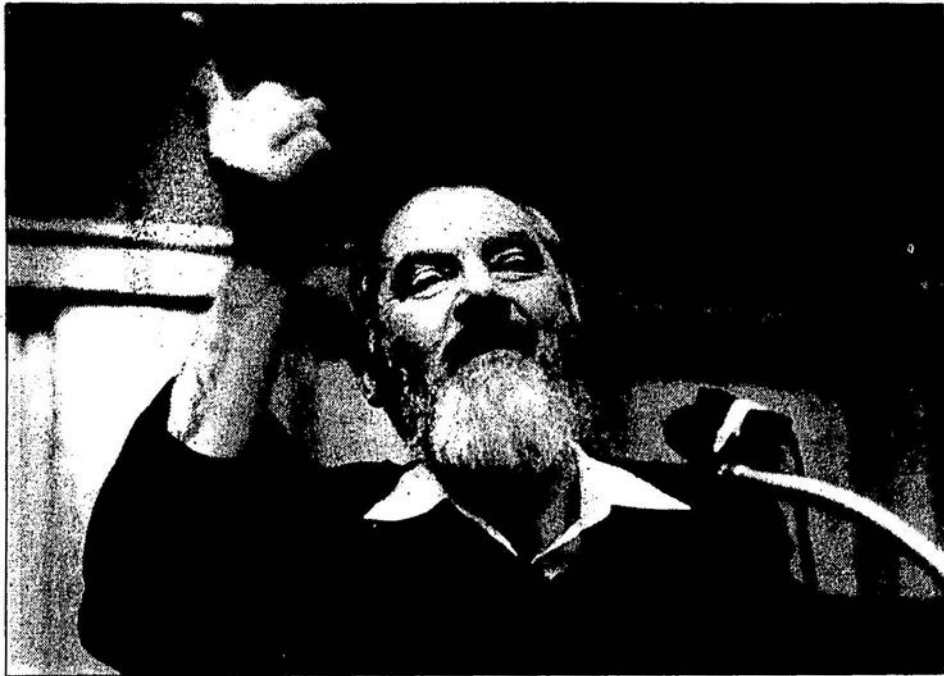


Photo by J. Sandler

Meir Kahane emphasizes point during well-attended Feb. 14 lecture.

## Kahane Lectures on Territories

### Draws Full House of Students

by Jonathan Greenblatt

On Tuesday night, February 14, the Yeshiva College Student Council sponsored a Torah lecture given by Rabbi Meir Kahane entitled, "A Perspective on the Halachic status of Non-Jews living in Israel."

Rabbi Kahane, a controversial Jewish activist, is both founder and leader of the rightist Kach movement and the banned Kach party in Israel, and he is now Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivat HaRaay HaYehudi ["The Jewish Idea"] in Jerusalem.

The rabbi began his lecture by stating that one is prohibited by religious law from relinquishing any part of Greater Israel.

He further stated that all leading Torah scholars agree that, if it weren't for the issue of "saving a life" it would be unarguably forbidden to give up any land. "The Torah specifically states, 'A chosen people in a chosen land,'" he said.

Quoting Maimonides, the speaker pointed out that "we are not allowed to leave any piece [of land] in Israel in the hands of our neighbors. This, says Maimonides, is the commandment known as Milchemet Mitzvah, a mandatory war."

Looking to Biblical sources, Rabbi Kahane pointed out in both the case of Yiftach, one of the Judges, and the nation of Amon, and that of David and the nations of Amon and Aram, the Jews went out to fight rather than relinquish control of any land in Israel to foreigners.

"Abraham our forefather was punished and further tested by God because of his signing a treaty with the Philistines relinquishing land in Israel. Only in our days," said Kahane, "does the enemy come offering 'peace' and we say, 'here, take this, take that.' Peace now, Peace immediately, Peace in ten seconds."

A further question is whether the duty of "saving a life" counteracts this obviously important precept. Rabbi Kahane said, "Regarding the other precepts such as Sabbath or Yom Kippur, if one is very ill

and it's dangerous, then transgress. The Torah almost never asks the Jew to take on something that's dangerous. One precept, however, is always dangerous and that is the precept of mandatory war. People always die in war, yet, nevertheless, the Torah orders us to go to war. Thus, there is no concept of "saving a life" by this precept.

"Why is mandatory war so important? The answer lies in sanctifying God's name. If we lose, our cities will become theirs and their gods. Their gods will appear superior and God will appear weak.

"The entire issue of 'Hillul Hashem,' desecration of the holy Name, exists whenever the Jew is defeated," claimed the lecturer in a didactic tone. "It was after the epitome of the worst 'Hillul Hashem,' that of the Nazi Holocaust, that God decided, 'enough!' Now he has begun to sanctify himself through us. Now he has returned Israel to us and made her mighty."

Rabbi Kahane declared that the Jew must choose between democracy and Judaism, as "Democracy was never and will never be a Torah concept. Judaism is not Thomas Jefferson," he asserted. He added that politics and Torah are inextricably linked, and one must find a gadol [a highly learned scholar] and abide by his views.

His gadol, the speaker said, is Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, who visited YU this week. However, he added that he has earned semikha himself and so only goes to Rabbi Eliyahu when "I have a question."

Rabbi Kahane decried the corrupting influence of Western culture on pure Torah thought, singling out Modern Orthodoxy for his most caustic comments. YU President Norman Lamm is regarded by many to be the maven of Modern, or "Centrist," Orthodoxy.

In response to one hostile student, who peppered the activist with queries regarding his

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## Merit Scholars Attend First Retreat

by Barry Kaye

On Sunday, February 12, the first event intended for all of YC and SCW's Merit Scholars was held at the Riverdale Jewish Center. Under the auspices of the Torah U'Mada Project, this ground-breaking event attempted to highlight the conflicts and attributes of the field of Psychology in a Torah framework.

Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman acted as moderator of a panel discussion on Torah and psychology. Starting the discussion was Dr. Joel Comet, who elucidated the concept that psychology provides the methodology for change and that Religion provides the direction. Citing numerous Torah authorities, including Maimonides, Rav Yisroel Salanter, and our own Rav Soloveichik, he purported that change can be accomplished either through a spiritual experience or via an individual's hard work on his character.

Next on the panel was Dr. Ike Hershkopf, Psychiatrist and professor at NY Medical College. He told a number of vignettes based on his experiences as a physician, illustrating

the difference between neurotic and healthy religious belief and practice. Essentially, Dr. Hershkopf advocated that a healthy individual is one whose practices fall within the mean of his community. Those whose religious observance are beyond these norms he views as indicative of a unhealthy individual. His story of the man who spent over four hours in intense prayer each morning and thereby was unable to maintain a job seemed like a valid example of an unhealthy individual. The point was made clear that these people would probably have been unhealthy as members of any faith. Their compulsive tendencies were not necessarily an outgrowth of their Judaism.

Concluding the panel was Dr. Yitchak Handel, a psychologist and MTA Rebbe, who spoke on the Torah view of psychology. His basic premise was that Judaism generally does not conflict with psychology, since the bulk of psychology can be found within the Torah. He maintain that the Torah merely has problems with certain psychologists' theories. Citing Rav Luzzato's Path of the Just in

which he states that outer actions determine inner feelings, Dr. Handel made a comparison to a similar premise found in Gestalt psychology. Yet, Dr. Handel pointed out that in judging a particular Psychologist, you must assess his theory, goal, and methodology to determine whether he fits into the Torah perspective.

The panel discussion was preceded by a case study involving apparent conflicts between Torah and psychology, in which the students were asked to play the role of the psychologist. One of the more controversial issues was over whether or not a Jewish marriage counselor may aid an interfaith couple in patching up their marriage if so asked.

The retreat concluded with dinner and a speech by Rabbi Michael Rosensweig of MYP, the topic of which was, "the means and goals involved in Torah U'Mada." Rabbi Rosensweig emphasized the idea that the means should be fused with spirituality. He also posted two dialectical caveats: that we must not forsake, nor mistake the means for the goal.

## YU Lags on Handicap Access

by Daniel Oshinsky

Most students on their way to the Beit Midrash rush up the stairs by the main entrance to Tanenbaum Hall without even being conscious that they are there. But for a student confined to a wheelchair these stairs would represent a daily obstacle.

While the Yeshiva University Undergraduate Catalogue calls the Beit Midrash the "Intellectual focus of MYP" and others have dubbed it the "heart of Yeshiva College," for the wheelchair-bound, this important center of learning could only be entered with difficulty. In fact, the lack of ramps in and out of Tanenbaum Hall is indicative of a general scarcity of provisions for the handicapped



Photo by J.J. Hornbliss

Student Yossi Altein faces obstacle of steps leading into Tanenbaum Hall, ironically, the Main Campus has seen little of these improvements. For instance, like the Beit Midrash building, Furst Hall presents problems of accessibility

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On Campus and Off.....p. 8
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# EDITORIALS

## Where Are Our Leaders?

Meir Kahane spoke at YU last week to a crowd of mostly enthusiastic students that filled Rubin Shul to capacity.

One of the few surprises in the otherwise predictable evening was the introduction delivered by a rather sincere student who welcomed the speaker "on behalf of YCSC."

Well, who was this person? He was Shmuel Speiser, the YC junior responsible for bringing the founder of Kach to Yeshiva.

What is his position on YCSC? He has none.

Why was he acting "on behalf of YCSC?" Because our student council seems to have confused sponsorship of a lecture with endorsement of its contents and therefore established as a condition of approval that Mr. Speiser must preside. To sponsor an event and then attempt to abdicate all responsibility by not showing up is not an act of leadership. The next time YCSC sponsors a controversial speaker, an official representative (board member) should attend to ensure the orderly conduct of the affair and to demonstrate that it is a student council that not only tolerates but encourages open discussion on important issues of the day.

Faculty, administrative and rabbinical representatives also failed to appear. Granted, few of these groups attend any student function, but a speaker that can attract and apparently persuade such a large number of students as did Kahane deserves attention.

Furthermore, the fact that the self-proclaimed visionary perpetually claims that the great halachic minds of today quietly agree with him but fear to openly admit it warrants either confirmation or denial from our own rebbeim. The speaker's implicit attacks on Dr. Norman Lamm, and all of modern Orthodoxy, increase the necessity of response from the YU Presidential Suite.

Our students deserve courageous leadership from their elected leaders, rebbeim and faculty. So far they don't seem to be getting it.

## Peace Now

In a school in which official dormitory policy requires students to use headphones for their late-night stereo playing, it seems incongruous that four noisy engagement parties in Morgenstern lounge were allowed to rock the dormitory during a recent seven-day period.

These long, raucous affairs obviate any chance for effective study in one's room, not to mention sleep. Meanwhile, spacious Weissberg Commons sits quiet and empty, a fine facility relegated to infrequent use. The slight inconvenience of walking to Belfer for engagement parties would more than be compensated in the peace and quiet granted long-suffering Morg residents.

There is no conceivable reason not to implement this simple solution now.

## Societal Accomplishments

Kudos go to the Sephardic Club and Cultural Society for setting an enviable standard in partially filling the usually barren YU social calendar.

We hope that these two YCSC societies continue their so-far impressive performances and inspire YU's other, more lackadaisical organizations to duplicate their peers' achievements.

## The Computer Age: Closed at 11

Belfer's computer room offers a vast array of terminals, printers and qualified supervisors yet lacks the one essential — accessibility. After 11 p.m. access is limited to those lucky enough to contact someone on the one available phone line in the room who does not mind the inconvenience of leaving his terminal to open the side door downstairs. And if no one is present, or the line happens to be busy, the student is out of luck. On these cold winter nights the reality that students are being deprived of easy entry into computer facilities is made all too clear. The solution is apparent: keep Belfer's front door open all night and end the second-class status of the serious student.



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# The Commentator

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## The Office of the Dean of Students has relocated to Furst 416

### ON-SITE SURVEY

#### 1. In which dorm do you currently live?

Morg 33.3%

Rubin 33.3%

Muss 33.3%

#### 2. In which dorm would you most like to live?

Morg 50%

Rubin 26%

Muss 24%

#### 3. Where do you study most?

Dorm room 55%

Library 28%

Opened class room 6%

Student lounge 5.5%

Other 5.5%

Survey conducted by David Ottensoser. Total polled: 60.

More "On-Site Survey" on pages 6-7.

## BS'D OHAVEI SHALOM TSEDAKA FUND

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## From the Editor's Desk

by Behnam Dayanim

"That which does not directly harm another's quality of life should remain within the realm of individual choice."

That statement, despite periodic exceptions and infringements, aptly summarizes Western political and social thought.

Does that sentiment bear any applicability to our YU community?

The question of the proper extent of administration circumscription of student activity applies to a wide variety of issues, ranging from academic freedom to social events. Yet, one area strikes closer to home than any other. This type of regulation applies unevenly and governs the most intimate aspect of a student's stay at Yeshiva. I refer to dormitory life.

YU's dormitories possess a large number of restrictions, many designed for the safety and security of the students (for example, the notorious and probably ill-advised oven ban), with several others concocted to coerce a standard of conduct someone believes to be appropriate for a Yeshiva student.

Regulations that fall under the latter type include a ban on playing cards, timers of all sorts for Shabbat use, nebulous restrictions on content of wall decoration and, until recently, a prohibition of television sets in the rooms.

Now without delving extensively into the subject, allow me to point out a few inanities of this system of regulation, both in procedure and result.

### Who Determines Conduct?

First, who determines what constitutes "proper" conduct for a YU student? Such determinations are presumably somehow connected to Orthodox Jewry. Are they made by YU's rebbeim? The state of Orthodox Jewry at large? The Rabbinical Council of America (to which most American Orthodox rabbis belong)? I suspect that if one were to ask several YU rebbeim for their opinions on the desired prescription of dormitory conduct, beyond certain fundamentals, there would be a great deal of disagreement. I would venture further to say, based on four years of experience in the dorms, the answers would tend toward the unrealistic.

Second, why aren't students involved in the process of determining these rules? Probably, because the administration views it as none of our business. The party line almost certainly includes two rationalizations. The first advocates the existence of ill-defined "obligations" (beyond dormitory fees) attached to the "privilege" of dorm occupancy, notwithstanding the school's unwillingness to assist the undergraduate in locating scarce, nearby apartments. The companion argument posits students' sheer incompetence to self-regulate in areas involving the slightest hint of religious ramification.

The reality is that admitting students to the formulation process would risk exposing the underlying root of almost all of the religious right-left tension at YU: the fact that YU admissions policy is not, and perhaps never has been, consonant with YU internal direction. Putting it more plainly, YU does not confine itself to recruiting the kind of student whom YU insists on pretending it has enrolled. Attempting to fit the student to a preconceived mold of behavior and thought, rather than shaping that mold to the student seems a bit like the cart pulling the horse.

Finally, the idea of a resident appraisal form, filled out by resident advisors who, though almost invariably well-meaning and sincere, are not qualified professionals, offends. These forms attempt to evaluate everything from the neatness of the student's appearance to his hashkafa. How anyone can measure someone's hashkafa, and of what possible relevance either of those categories has to the Offices of Residence Halls or Student Services, goes unanswered.

Last year, after much equivocation and contradiction, the administration announced that these forms would be available for inspection in the Dean of Students' office. It would behoove those interested in seeing how they have been evaluated to request access.

### "Dirty Magazine Searches"

We are adults living in an ultimately juvenile atmosphere. There are no curfews in our little world, no "dirty magazine searches" such as you might find in traditional yeshivot. But there are "hall monitors" (resident advisors), and obscenely intrusive laws are on the books. How many of you would protest if, one sweltering May day, the school suddenly decided to enforce its unilateral ban on shorts on campus. Those of you who live nearby may swallow the inconvenience, reasoning that you can go home on the weekend and do whatever you please. Those of you who never wear shorts may not care. What of those who live here seven days a week, for whom this, practically speaking, is home? Would any adult take kindly toward being regulated as to dress in his own home?

In the end, what it comes down to is yes, living in the dorm of an unabashedly sectarian school (no matter what the legalities) entails certain reciprocal curtailments of personal privacy and freedom, but the extent of these inherently coercive and unjust measures should at least loosely follow the maxim with which I began this column. If it doesn't bother anyone else, or measurably impinge upon the desired atmosphere of the dorms, then don't regulate it.

Of course, all of this does run headlong into the stone wall of

## Salary Dispute

To the Editor:

RE: S. Grossman, "Nobel Laureate Joins SSSB Faculty", THE COMMENTATOR, February 7, 1989.

The article states: "Yet sources indicate, and Dr. Schiff confirms, that Dr. Modigliani will earn a salary in excess of \$50,000 for the spring semester..."

My recollection is that Mr. Grossman said that "there were rumors about that the salary was in excess of \$50,000." My response was that I do not respond to rumors, and that faculty salaries are not discussed for publication.

I suggest that the next issue of THE COMMENTATOR informs the readers of this oversight in reporting.

Michael Schiff  
Dean,  
Sy Syms School of Business  
[ED. THE COMMENTATOR stands by the substance of Mr. Grossman's report, including Dean Schiff's present refusal to release confirmation or denial.]

## Overzealous Security

To the Editor:

On February 8, I bought \$40 worth of groceries at Key Food on W. 187 St. and Broadway and asked to have them delivered. They were not delivered until 27 hours later.

On February 9, after hearing nothing from the store, I went there to investigate the problem. I talked with both the store manager and the Key Food district manager. Both informed me that the YU security prohibited the deliveries and banned the delivery vehicle and personnel from YU grounds. When Mick Orshowitz, the driver of the delivery van - with aspirations of one day becoming a police officer - arrived at Key Food, he apologized and offered to drive me back to YU.

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halacha. What to do, for instance, about the persistently non-kosher? There, so to speak, lies the rub.

One could ask why such a person attends YU at all, but that would be a laughably arrogant and small-minded attitude toward a fellow Jew perhaps seeking answers to questions very different from our own. Better to hem and haw a little, maybe deny the existence of such waveringly observant members in our midst for the sake of appearances and proceed to create a patchwork of legislation that implicitly allows all to conduct their lives as they please. YU already does the first two, let's see a little more of the third.

Correct the most blatant parodies of legitimate regulation, confining it to matters of safety and basic preservation of a generally observant atmosphere, and either eliminate or drastically curtail the ridiculous resident appraisal form.

The forms already have been the subject of a mini-revolt among resident advisors last

# Response

## Students 'Mugged' on Bus to NYU

To the Editor:

In light of the fact that Professor Modigliani receives \$50,000 a semester in salary plus free transportation and housing, we find it shocking that the Yeshiva will not cover the cost of a bus ride to N.Y.U.

Last week the Yeshiva Macs played the N.Y.U. Violets in a basketball match. In a rare, striking display of good will, posters were put up advertising the availability of transportation to and from the game if there would be enough student demand. There was plenty of demand, however, the "good will" of the Yeshiva was illusory.

At first, everything seemed to be going as planned, and the bus was soon halfway to its destination. However, as soon as this point of no return was reached, the captive audience was treated to a most interesting revelation.

Very innocuously, a speaker began to praise YU's generosity in chartering the school bus. After the jeers and catcalls, which usually greet a speech of that nature, died down, the coup-de-grace was delivered. All students were told that they would have to contribute two dollars to subsidize the cost of the bus. No prior mention was made concerning this "donation," neither on the posters nor upon boarding the bus.

Faced with little choice, and coerced by Mordy Leifer, most of the students put up no resistance and coughed up the toll. Nevertheless, there was a small group of students that refused to give in to the pressure and did not pay.

One of those students, David Sloan, was outraged at this deception. "I think it's disgusting that they waited until we were halfway there before trying to blackmail us for money," he said.

Another student who did not pay also felt strongly on the matter. "I would have gladly paid the two dollars. What bothers me is that they made it seem that the ride was for free."

Marty Jacobs, one of those who paid, commented, "We should have been informed prior to embarking."

The end result: those students who did not pay were not allowed on the bus for the return trip and were forced to fend for themselves on the subway at night.

Michael Bernstein  
David Sloan  
YC '91

year. One of the many who talked to me about the matter said he was accused by a superior of either prevarication or naivete in his reports concerning one student, and others simply refused to fill out the darned things.

This is not an halachic approach, not an optimum in any sense; it's a strictly practical

## Senator Replies

To the Editor:

It was with great interest that I read Mr. Michael Ungar's letter concerning the Senate's discussions of teacher evaluations at Yeshiva. As a Senator, I would like to briefly inform your readers of the deliberations which occurred in the Senate during this past semester concerning these evaluations.

A task force consisting of Senators Avi Morell, Mrs. Rebecca Stearns, and myself was instructed to research the purpose of teacher evaluations and to make appropriate recommendations. We came to an initial conclusion that the forms could be used for two purposes: to help teachers improve their courses and teaching methods, and to provide materials that could help the administration make decisions regarding teachers' requests for reappointments, promotions, tenure, etc.

After discussions with several faculty members, the task force came to the conclusion that the Yeshiva faculty, which has veto power over all Senate recommendations and decisions, would reject any attempt to impose the usage of evaluations as a criterion in determining tenure and promotions. With this in mind, we felt that evaluations could still be useful to help teachers improve their courses.

However, an initial recommendation to require all teachers to distribute evaluation forms for purposes of self-analysis was rejected on the Senate floor almost immediately.

In the meantime, the exact nature of the form of such evaluations came into question. While most Senate faculty members felt that the most useful form for improving courses would be one which would direct students to give thoughtful, informative comments (i.e. a carefully worded open evaluation form), other faculty Senate members felt that only responses that could be statistically analyzed would be useful.

In our last meeting of the fall semester, the Senate adopted a resolution which recommended that the faculty use a single open ended form. The Senate also decided to discuss the issue of statistical forms this semester.

I venture to say that all of the Senators were aware, are aware, and are constantly reminded of the inadequacies of this resolu-

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guideline for coexistence that is not designed for the classical yeshiva which makes no pretense to something else. It is merely the logical extension of the entity that YU has become, reflecting its dual identities of yeshiva and university and its extremely diverse student body, few of whom came here with the same expectations, goals or purpose.

## Philanthropy Society Off to Good Start

by David Firestone

The newest student organization at YC is the Philanthropy Society, headed by Daniel Wolff and Dani Rapp. It was created toward the end of last semester and has already raised \$1,750 through can and bottle collection, student donations, and concession sales at the YCSC Chanukah Concert. The money helps students at YC who are in need of emergency funds and also contributes to the Shabbat meal program, which is coordinated by the Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights.

Dean Nulman said, "This is one of the best projects I've seen in my five years at YU. I've seen two similar projects fail, but this time I think it'll be different; the Philanthropy Society is under good, strong leadership."

The idea was conceived by Daniel Wolff during the "Aseret Y'mai T'shuvah." He wanted to give "tzedakah," but he didn't want to put financial burden on his parents. He noticed that the guys use a large amount of cans and bottles, and if they would somehow collect them, they'd be able to raise a decent amount of money. So he and a few close friends collected cans and bottles. It was a small-scale operation, but it achieved its initial goal.

Wolff's friends later convinced him to try to create a club, using the infallible logic that if they were an organization they would be able to raise more money and help more people. Wolff commented, "Getting started was the hard part. Facilities Management was against our setting up can/bottle dispensers, because they were afraid the dispensers wouldn't be emptied on a regular basis, thus possibly causing a rodent problem. YC has witnessed similar projects that have failed due to the fact that the dispensers were not emptied on a regular basis. Thanks to the help of Dean Nulman and Assistant to the Dean Jeff Chaitoff we were able to reach an agreement with Facilities Management."

Thanks to the generous support of YCSC and SOY the Philanthropy Society received the money it needed to get off the ground. The next step was to get student involvement. Volunteer forms were mailed to everybody. "The response was amazing," said Dani Rapp, "We're almost at the point where we have more volunteers than we can actually use."

The Philanthropy Society would greatly appreciate donations of your time, money, and/or suggestions. Their next effort will be a Purim raffle.

# CAMPUS NEWS



Buyers from all over NY area browse at sale.

## SOY Sefarim Sale

by Gabriel Feder

This year's SOY Sefarim Sale, under the direction of YC seniors Alex Berman, David Saks, Jeff Paley, and Shimon Laufer, who comprise the governing board of SOY, has proven to be quite a successful venture.

The nearly one thousand titles of sefarim came from thirteen different publishers and distributors. They were obtained on a consignment basis for sale at twenty percent below retail value.

Ira Olshin, sales manager of the event, predicted a gross of

\$150,000 and a net profit of approximately 10,000 dollars. According to SOY Treasurer Alex Berman, the high profit margin is due to management's ability "to keep expenses down while maintaining quality service."

Furthermore, there have been many large purchases made by representatives of various communities. It is estimated that there were between 500 and 600 people present daily at the sale, of whom 95 percent departed with a purchase.

Additionally, representatives

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## IBC Dean Vents Dismay at Admin Insensitivity

by Bruce Schanzer

In the last issue of THE COMMENTATOR, an editorial discussed the secretarial difficulties that IBC has been experiencing. In light of recent events, IBC Dean Jacob Rabinowitz was again contacted to address this topic.

The dean expressed shock at the whole affair. He explained that he "wasn't aware of this policy decision not to provide a temp [temporary secretary]" immediately upon the previous secretary's departure.

Dean Rabinowitz said he is "dismayed that he [Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services and Administration] knows so little of the working of an academic office that he would suggest this at one of the busiest times of the year."

The dean also questioned Mr. Rosengarten's feeling that one Jewish Studies office could fill in for another. Dean Rabinowitz did note that the temporary secretary, finally hired in the wake of continued difficulty in locating a permanent employee, is "very nice and pleasant," and that "she cares about what she is doing" in spite of the abrupt nature of her arrival.

When Mr. Rosengarten was notified of Dean Rabinowitz'

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## SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### EVENTS

Tue. March 7, 1989  
Dean's Forum Featuring

Dr. Henry Kaufman

## "Forces of Changes and Continuum in the Next Decade"

8:00pm Room 411 Belfer  
(7:00pm Van Stern Dorm)

Tue. March 14, 1989

## Joint Business Society Dinner

New York Hilton  
6:00pm

For Reservations Call:  
Jeff Fishman 928-5480  
Julie Savitsky 696-4067

GLATT KOSHER

## Deli Kasbah

### New York Delicatessen

Israeli Grill & Salad

LUNCH-DINNER

12 PM to 11 PM

Friday 9 AM-2 PM / Saturday nite till 1 AM

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Kugels-cholent-gefilte fish, Stuffed Cabbage-  
Stuffed Pepper and much much more

Delivery for special affairs,

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## "Yemenite Delight" Attracts Large Crowd to Sephardic Club Shabbaton

by A. Jeff Ifrah

The most well-attended shabbaton so far this year took place at Stern College for Women on February 10-11 — the Sephardic Club's "Yemenite Delight." With as many as 150 people in attendance it was certainly one of the most successful Sephardic Club shabbatonim in the club's twenty-five-year history.

After introductions by club presidents Jason Ohayon and Ruthie Gabay, Rabbi Zechariah Najjar, a Yemenite and rabbi of Ohel Shalom of Brooklyn, spoke briefly. The crowd thereafter headed back to the Stern Dormitory lounge for a stimulating lecture by Dr. Ephraim Isaac.

Dr. Isaac is currently on leave from Harvard, where he obtained his Ph.D. in Semitic languages. He is now a participant at the Semitics Institute of Princeton University in New Jersey.

Dr. Isaac, dressed in traditional Yemenite and Ethiopian garb, spoke of differences in current versions of the Hebrew language. He explained with great detail the differences inherent in the Yemenite Hebrew contrasted with those of North African, European, and Middle Eastern dialects. In addition, he answered questions concerning the effects of music on the body's neurological system and speculation concerning the earliest settlement of Jews in Yemen.

Following a well-stocked Oneg Shabbat, sponsored in part by YC student Ben Zalta, was a workshop concentrating on the future of Sephardic culture. Sephardic culture faces extinction here in America due to high rates of intermarriage between Ashkenazim and, to a lesser extent, to non-Jews.

Following lunch on Shabbat afternoon, those in attendance

were greeted again by Rabbi Najjar before eventually attending New York University Medical Center for the traditional Shabbat Bikur Cholim visit.

Sephardic Club events, such as the shabbaton, this year have been quite successful both in terms of attendance and satisfaction. YC Sephardic Club President Ohayon explains the success this way. "It's dependent on two things, consistent, large turnouts and programming that is both educational as it is social. Because they enjoyed themselves at the club's first few programs, they come back time and time again." Ruthie Gabay, SCW Sephardic Club president, adds, "everybody wants to see the events attract as many people as possible, and, therefore, they give it their all."

The next club event is planned around Purim. The club also plans on sponsoring another shabbaton after Pesach.



The Moshe Ariel Dance Co. (above) appeared with singer Yoel Sharabi at Sunday's "Yemenite Heritage Festival," held in SCW's Koch Auditorium as part of "Yemenite Awareness Week."

## YU Hosts H.S. Editors

by Dov J. Pinchot and Steven Major

Approximately 30 high school editors from all over North America came to YU for a special Editors Conference, February 16-19. The conference was jointly sponsored by YU's Office of Admissions and the Torah High School Network, an organization comprised of students from high schools in the United States and Canada.

According to co-organizer and Torah High School Net-

work Director Jeff Lichtman, the conference "enabled the kids with talents and interests to explore journalism from a Jewish perspective, to hear observant Jews in the field address some of the issues and conflicts, and that one can still maintain integrity in the media."

On Thursday, February 16, Religion writer for the New York Times Ari L. Goldman addressed the conference. An Orthodox YU graduate, Goldman spoke on the unique oppor-

tunities to enlighten the public on religious issues and beliefs. "A reporter can provide illuminations through an article," said Goldman, "It's an ability to use journalism toward a significant purpose, not merely as a livelihood."

On Thursday night, the editors were treated to dinner and a roundtable discussion with YU's student editors. Representing THE COMMENTATOR were Editor-in-Chief Behnam Dayanim and Executive Editor Dov J. Pinchot. Hamevaser governing board member Yitzchak Blau, Zvi Bornstein of Hamashkif, Amy Mehler and Joan Weiner of The Observer and Chana Freiman of SCW literary journal, Besamim were also present.

## R. Carmy Discusses Torah U'Mada in Context of Yirat Hashem

by Mike Eizenberg

On Thursday, February 9, Rabbi Shalom Carmy delivered a lecture in the continuing Torah U'Mada series within the broader topic of Yirat Hashem.

Rabbi Carmy dealt with three specific issues. He began by dealing with essentiality of understanding our inward spiritual experiences such as Teshuva Tefilah and Yirat Hashem. Rabbi Carmy asserted that the study of Mada is an avenue to understanding our inner feelings. For example, Aristotle's treatment of the tragic hero and

SOY—Cont. from p. 4

from SSSJ were present to raise money for sending sefarim to the Soviet Union, as the Soviet Union is now allowing Hebrew books to be imported. They employed an innovative method whereby purchasers could simply add a contribution to the price on their checks. SOY has agreed to keep tabs on such additions and present SSSJ with one lump sum at the end of the sale.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to add seforim to the Beit Midrash, finance SOY's

Among the questions asked of THE COMMENTATOR editors were how they find time for social activity in view of the amount of time the paper requires and how administrative and self-censorship is avoided.

Among the events over the rest of the weekend were "Ethics in Journalism/Communication" by Mr. Stephen Labaton, the Legal Affairs reporter at the New York Times, and "Saturday the Producer Stayed Home" by television producer Molly Resnick. The topics complemented the purpose of the conference which, according to Assistant Director of Admissions and co-organizer Judah S. Harris, "provides an introduction to media, to see Jewish role

models who acknowledge their interests and incorporate them into their religion."

YU decided to host the conference to show the students that "YU is the only university that provides for an atmosphere where one can incorporate one's interests in life into one's religion," explained Mr. Harris, "and not simply feel that religion is just one part of his or her life."

The program also included an evening with Sara Lee Kessler, anchorwoman on WWOR-TV.

In the end, Ramaz junior Debbie Sabban summarized, "the conference was a good idea, to meet new people, exchange ideas with them and write together."

are invited to be with someone who you admire, you are overjoyed, yet also fearful and taken aback. Liberal arts and literature remove this experience from the abstract and make it more tangible, Rabbi Carmy stated.

The third topic he dealt with was our constant quest to apologize for our Yirat Hashem (or lack thereof). We tend to use Yirat Hashem as a prerequisite for scholarship, he stated. However, he argued that for some this becomes an insurmountable burden and constant excuse. Rabbi Carmy stated that, in reality, Yirat Hashem is a goal of scholarship. As it states at the end of Ecclesiastes, Yirat hashem is "all of man" and his goal.

publications, and clean up the Beit Midrash.

The more-efficient-than-in-the-past handling of the computer system is credited to the programs designed by in-house computer experts under the guidance of Asher Brander.

IBC Dean

Continued from p. 4

comments, he chose not to discuss the dean's sentiments. Rather, he mentioned that the period between the hiring of a temporary secretary and that of

a full-time replacement is an opportunity for the implementation of a more organized secretarial system among the various Jewish Studies divisions.

He explained that a new secretary schedule is being adopted by the divisions so that there will always be a secretary available to students.

Mr. Rosengarten concluded by saying that YU is "going toward a better-organized department based on everyone's cooperation. The final winner is the student."

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# Quality of L

## Unrest With Shabbat Program

by Doug Rosenthal

Shabbat, considered "the memorial of the Exodus from Egypt," has evolved into a modern-day exodus from Yeshiva dormitories. Despite the Yeshiva's continual attempt to upgrade Shabbat programming, the multitudes of local students still retreat each Thursday evening to the comfortable confines of their homes. The Yeshiva's deflated attendance on Shabbat weakens any possibility for a truly spiritual atmosphere.

Several students were eager to clarify the reasons for the problem. "The best way to explain it, is the 'domino effect,'" said Scott Bugay, a junior from Chicago. "Once a handful of guys leave, many more follow suit."

Junior Joseph Wolf echoed Mr. Bugay's sentiments claiming, "You need more people on Shabbos."

Yet an aspiring semikha student, wishing to remain nameless, sharply differed. "It is not the number of people which constitute the essence of the problem, but rather, a sterile and stale atmosphere," he said definitively. He continued, "YU on Shabbos is exactly like YU during the week albeit without melakha [forbidden types of work]."

Sadly enough, the performance of melakha in the dorms on Shabbat opens a Pandora's Box of embarrassing, yet real, problems. One student recalled a Shabbat when he had seen two other students flicking the light switches on and off repeatedly, simply to defy the observance of Shabbat.

To quote what a YU alumni once said, "the television must have been tired Saturday night. After all, it had not slept all Shabbos."

One junior complained of the TV checks and 'dorm raids' which occasionally take place arguing, "A person's rights shouldn't be" trampled upon "on Shabbos in the dorms."

Such incidents have prompted students like Keith Landsman, a senior from Forest Hills to regrettably comment, "Shabbos is simply not treated with a 'Yeshivish' atmosphere." Mr. Landsman is not alone. Other students have called it "apathy," "a void," or "a lack of electricity." Call it what you will, the fact remains there is some key ingredients missing in Yeshiva on Shabbat.

The problem seems to lie outside the Yeshiva residence hall program, which according to Rabbi Joshua Cheifewoitz, Director of Residence Halls, "strives to provide an educational yet warm Shabbos atmosphere. The program is an integral component in both the educational and Yeshiva experience."

Rabbi Cheifetz stated the programs keep within the boundaries of the Torah U'Mada philosophy, explaining that "weekly, informal discussions provide students with an outlet to voice their opinions on selected Jewish topics and allow them to consider their secular classwork from a new perspective."

In an ongoing effort to improve the caliber of Shabbat programming, the administration has introduced an additional minyan this year. The minyan, comprised mainly of students from the James Striar School, is led by Rabbi Maury Wruble, a JSS faculty member and resident of the neighborhood. Rabbi Wruble also fre-

quently invites students to join him for kiddush and meals in his home. This has provided a welcome alternative to the standard meal plan offered by Food Services.

However, YC junior Shmu Katz who is in charge of the Shabbat meals, is quick to declare. "The meals are really not that bad. Guys just perceive things as being bad, allowing the cafeteria to suffer from a poor reputation based on past years' disappointments."

Mr. Katz noted, "Guys used to complain about the quality of the meals but I have recently been granted control over the menu, which will allow for marked improvement." He regarded the recent Hawaiian Chicken dish as a big success, as well as a pleasant variation from the routinely boring roasted chicken."

For those students who complain that Food Services is an unreasonable expense, it is worth knowing that each meal costs only seven dollars, which does not only include the food. The price also covers a full range of Shabbat Zemirots and a D'Var Torah, a big 'plus' since it was not always part of the program.

Following the Friday night program, students are urged to go to Rubin Shul for a discussion, considered the spiritual highlight of the evening. On Shabbatot sponsored by the Student Organization of Yeshiva, these discussions are conducted by various distinguished Roshei Yeshivot or other unique personalities. Rabbi Cheifetz proudly claimed, "This semester we have an outstanding lineup of speakers amongst those slated to speak is Dr. Aaron Kirschenbaum, a

Professor of Law at Tel Aviv University."

Students will have the rare opportunity to hear an expert in the field of law, who is also a talmid hakham, compare the American and Israeli legal systems," said Rabbi Cheifetz.

Though all SOY Shabbatot attract a distinctly larger crowd than usual, attendance seems proportional to the popularity of the speaker. Senior David Glatt commented, "though I've only stayed in the dorms five times in the past five semesters, I make sure to stay when Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rosh of Yeshiva Har Etzion, is going to speak." Mr. Glatt's remark supports the Yeshiva's intention to foster a certain closeness between a rebbe and his students, as well as an overall sense of unity in the Yeshiva.

Unfortunately, many students do not capitalize on this opportunity, maintaining there is an irrefutable need to go home. Junior Neal Lehrman said, "I simply must get out of school."

Shmu Katz explained, "At other universities, students live a 'college' life. They have more leisure time to go to the movies or attend school activities and events. At Yeshiva, students live a 'class' life. There is little time for anything else."

One senior said, "I go home because it's convenient. I only stay on 'Grub' Shabbos because then it is more convenient for me to be here."

'Grub' Shabbat is the name attributed to the weekend before finals. Students with an examination on Sunday morning, find it convenient to remain in the dorms the Shabbat before. Despite the increase in attendance, the atmosphere is so tense



Two students enjoy dormitory

and the students so pressured, it is probably worse than a typical Shabbat. Students choose to either study or sleep all Shabbat, neglecting the holiness of the day.

A junior from Los Angeles complained, "The campus is rather small and there isn't any change of scenery during the week. At least on Shabbos I get a chance to visit friends and see new places."

This seems a valid point and the Yeshiva realizes the need for a change of pace. The administration has therefore established the JSS Home Hospitality Program in conjunction with Breuer's Synagogue. Under the program, neighborhood families welcome students mainly out-of-towners, into their homes to experience Shabbat with them.

According to Rabbi Cheifetz, several students have already become very attached to their family. Hillel Horowitz, the head dorm counselor, has taken it upon himself to arrange additional housing throughout the metropolitan area for students looking for a change of scenery. Also, local students are always being encouraged to invite out-of-towners who are faced with this disadvantage.

## Dorm Decor: Aesthetically Speaking

by Joseph Wolf

"A man's home is his castle," -what then is his dorm room? At YU, students select their living quarters from the big (the only) three, and more often than not base their selections on ambience/atmosphere and rep-

utation. Consequently, the more aesthetic qualities of the dorm rooms themselves receive very little attention. The following is an attempt to classify YU's dorm rooms from an architectural or physical point of view.

Muss Hall, still affectionately referred to as Riets and more recently named 'X' hall by the student guide, has been remodeled. While the rooms lack size, the limited space has been put to good use. The closet space is tight and the dresser space cramped, but the Muss chairs definitely take the prize. Each floor in Muss offers its own drinking fountain and mailboxes. Once you learn how to take the elevator up to your floor, Muss offers a simple, yet comfortable place of residence.

In Rubin the situation differs somewhat. The rooms, large

though they may be, simply lack character. Most rooms wind up wasting a huge chunk of space (of course, putting in a Nerf hoop court easily remedies that situation). The beds generally are uncomfortable, and who can forget those invisible walls? They conduct sound so well that your neighbor three doors down can wake you up by receiving a phone call or playing a radio. No discussion of Rubin would be complete without mentioning the currently abandoned shower division project.

Who designed Morg? Neither of the other residence halls offers so much, yet so little. Enter a room, any room — the layout is mandatorily the same. You soon realize there is no room for a personal touch. Was all the furniture bolted into place to prevent students from stealing

half a desk? The positives: The rooms are comfortable, no space is wasted, and the walls actually contain the sound, for the most part. One pet peeve, and those of you on the left side as you enter will surely agree: Getting out of bed to pull that stupid little string gets to be a nuisance. One glaring error in design: The sinks next to the door, compounded by those doorknobs that don't turn (quite an interesting novelty), have caused many in Morg to be knocked halfway across the room by an overzealous visitor or roommate as they try to wash up. Muss has sinks at the back of the room. This design would have made Morg almost perfect. The two elevators (most of the time) and the central campus location help make Morg the overwhelming campus favorite.



### ON-SITE

1. How often do you stay?  
Often:  
Occasional:  
Almost Never:  
"Grub" Shabbat:

2. How would you describe your dorm?  
Spiritually enlightening:  
Enjoyable:  
Dull or boring:  
Relaxing:  
Wouldn't know:  
Do not remember:

3. What is the main reason you stay?  
No girls:  
Family atmosphere:  
Other commitments:  
Too dull or boring:  
Not "Yeshivish":  
Often stay:

This is a random sampling of YU students. Doug Rosenthal. It is not intended as a scientific indication of the feelings and opinion of the entire student body. Each respondent's name is recorded.  
Total number of responses:



# Life at Yeshiva

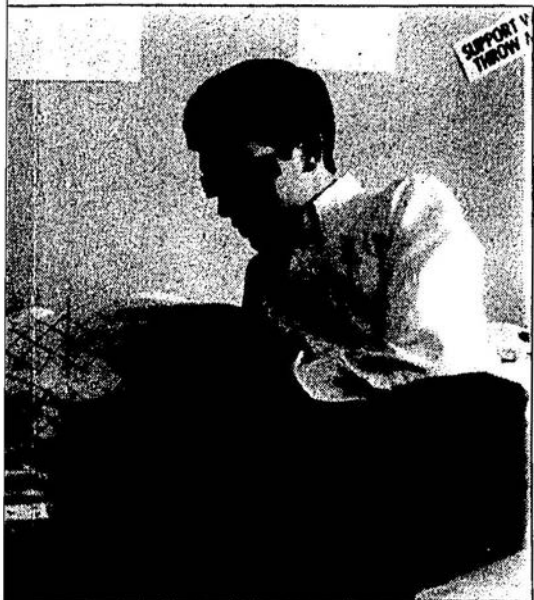


Photo by J.J. Hornbliss

## Residency Rules to Live By

by Alex Wittenberg

Even though the vast majority of students at YC spend most of their time in the dorm, many are unaware of the body of rules and regulations they must follow as residents of Rubin, Muss, and Morg. These rules, set by the Department of Student Services, exist as part of an effort to create what Dean Efrem Nulman calls "the best sense of security, safety, and comfort" for students at Yeshiva College. Every rule is meant to form an atmosphere conducive to Torah and secular studies.

Many rules, such as the safety regulations are designed to protect students from undue hazards. This includes the ban on toaster ovens. Dean Nulman emphasizes that toasters, in spite of popular opinion, are dangerous due to their exposed heating elements. Other rules serve to make living conditions comfortable for all students. Limits on late-night noise, methods for hanging posters, and distribution of flyers fit into this category. A large number of rules are based on Halachic consider-

ation, most notably the ban on women in the dorms and improper attire.

All rules are determined by Student Services. When a change in regulations comes into consideration, the University's administration, most notably Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, Dean Nulman and Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Director of Residence Halls, will make the necessary decision. As with already-existing rules, the security and comfort of the students affects the decision. Once a change becomes official, it is added to the list of rules mailed to all students each summer.

This list serves as the basis of YC's best method of enforcement: self regulation. Dean Nulman comments that many regulations would be part of a student's personal standards. Most people would expect their neighbors to meet these standards without being forced. If a rule is not adhered to, students will often try to deal with offenders through the Student Court or the administration.

Seventy to eighty percent of the violations Dean Nulman hears of are reported by students.

When self-regulation fails, resident advisors (dorm counselors) and Rabbi Cheifetz can step in. Dean Nulman emphasizes that the administration tries not to be a police force. Most students are presumably mature enough to care about their "home" without the school watching over them. In cases when this is not so, though, the college can, and often will, take charge.

In extreme cases, the school will take some form of disciplinary action. In these situations, the violator will find his case examined closely. Circumstances are taken into consideration, as is the student's prior history and the appraisal forms filed annually by dorm counselors. The final decision on punishment is often left to the Student Court. Other times, Rabbi Cheifetz or the individual's counselors make the choice. When the punishment is harsh, Dean Nulman will attempt to get

opinions from Dean Rosenfeld and other major figures. Punishments range from probation to expulsion.

This system is often criticized. Many rules, most notably the toaster oven ban, are unpopular. At times the college is perceived as being alternately too strict or too lenient. Dorm counselors are often accused of being "snitches," and some reportedly feel the appraisal forms are unfair to students. The Student Court met with opposition after taking action.

Nonetheless, the dormitory regulations still fit the needs of an administration desiring to not be a police force. Dean Nulman stresses that these rules are in place to create a good atmosphere at YU. Most students, in the Dean's opinion, are mature enough to behave and reasonable enough to make sensible choices. The rules exist merely to help students in making these choices. These rules, whether students like them or not, help keep order just a bit better.

tory contraband: playing cards.

Another popular reason for going home for Shabbat is the lack of co-educational programming at the Uptown Campus. Senior Jeffrey Haskel asked, "Why can they have Shabbos events at Stern but not at YU?"

Another senior said, "Yeshiva seems to think that with girls on campus you can't maintain a religious or Shabbos atmosphere."

In actuality, Rabbi Cheifetz said he is not against a co-ed Shabbat at Yeshiva as long as it is sponsored by a particular club or society. "Depending on the number of girls interested," he said, "accommodations can be arranged with families in the neighborhood." However, he said it was too late to schedule such a Shabbat this semester.

Whether or not it is the lack of students that is responsible for the 'stale' atmosphere or the atmosphere which drives students away, it is likely the situation will not remedy itself in the near future. If Yeshiva can produce electrifying events such as the Purim Chagiga or such a spiritual environment like that on Yom Kippur, there is no reason why Yeshiva should not be able to boast a truly successful Shabbat program.

## Comparative Dorming in the Heights

by Shukie Grossman

Not too removed from Manhattan's illustrious Waldorf Astoria, embedded in the heart of scenic Washington Heights, rests Yeshiva University's Uptown campus, home to almost 1000 students, over 900 of whom occupy the University's dormitory facilities.

At first glance, a newcomer might not equate the elegance of a YU dorm with that of the Waldorf Astoria, yet in a relative sense, that equation might not be too far-fetched. Considering what many larger, more affluent universities offer as housing facilities for their students, occupants of Yeshiva College's three residence halls may very well inhabit the creme-de-la-creme of New York City's myriad of collegiate housing.

Though certainly each of YC's splendid trio of dorms possesses drawbacks as well as advantages, there can be no doubt that the latter outweigh the former. The close proximity of all three locations to the classroom buildings affords a YC student the convenience of returning to his room several times during the day, alleviating the burden of a rigorous schedule ever so slightly. In addition, the spaciousness of virtually every room on campus provides comfort and maneuverability in excess of many of Manhattan's more expensive studio apartments. In fact, with a homely

furnished room, food service at his finger-tips, and minyanim at all hours of the day, the YC dormitory tenant enjoys perhaps the finest standard of undergraduate living conditions.

Nevertheless, many students contend that these generalities overstate the actuality of the circumstances and have created somewhat of an internal rivalry regarding which of YC's three superior residence halls reigns supreme.

According to YC junior Ami Aharon, who recently moved from Muss Hall to Rubin, "It's very inconvenient to return to your room [in Muss Hall], therefore I didn't until late at night." Mr. Aharon also claims that "It felt degrading walking through my ex-high school [MTA] to get to my college dorm."

Junior Avraham Schreiber, a Morg resident and Muss expatriate asserts, "I put my time in," referring to his motivation to make the switch.

Nonetheless, many residents of Muss Hall are quite satisfied with the facility and are quick to point out that aside from its closeness to the Beit Midrash, Muss also boasts the most stylish rooms and newest bathrooms on campus.

Muss resident Ian Kaufman calls attention to two relatively unnoticed features of his dorm. "First," Kaufman claims, "there's no elevator, so at least I

get a lot of exercise. Secondly," asserts Kaufman, "I don't have to invest in a radio because my Spanish neighbors on 187th St. provide that need."

Perhaps the most popular dorm on campus is Rubin Hall, home of the cafeteria and contiguous to the Max Stern Athletic Center. Though some students complain about the noise level resulting from paper-thin walls and an ostensibly less "mature" crowd, the majority of Rubin's residents are quite content.

Newcomer Lawrence Burian professes, "I was surprised at the quality and convenience of the rooms in Rubin." Burian also admits "it's very nice to have a gym, cafeteria, and game room in my own basement."

Morgenstern Hall (more affectionately referred to as Morg) is probably the campus's most practical dorm. With a central location, its residents needn't step too far to reach the Beit Midrash, library, gym, or cafeteria, not to mention Grandma's and Shaller's.

According to Morg resident Dovid Weinstein, "The more mature crowd [in Morg] makes for intellectual conversation when coming up the elevator (one of two which provide sufficient floor-to-floor transportation)."

Sophomore Jonathan Greenblatt points out that "soda is only sixty-cents in the base-

ment of Morg," which is five cents cheaper than any other machine on campus.

Michael Appel, an eighth floor Morg resident contends, "Living in Morg affords a panoramic view of Washington Heights and the Harlem River." Yet, according to Mr. Appel, not every feature of Morg provides a favorable effect. He explains, "Due to the permanent fixture of our furniture, we're too inhibited from free expression in terms of decor."

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Residence Halls Director, feels that "Muss Hall is far superior in terms of basic structure." In addition, of the three dorms, Muss provokes the fewest complaints from residents. This no doubt results from the "modernizing" and refurbishing of Muss Hall, which has elevated its rooms to aesthetic heights far above Morg or Rubin. But Rabbi Cheifetz concedes that Morg is more popular, for several reasons, most notably because "it's closer to the center of student life."

However, Rabbi Cheifetz also sees a psychological reason for Morg's popularity. He feels that there is a perception among students that residing in Morg is a privilege, and, therefore, most desirable. But, in reality, Rabbi Cheifetz says it holds no great advantage over either Rubin or Muss.

### E SURVEY

Do you stay at YU for Shabbat?

- Always: 14%
- Occasionally: 15%
- Never: 52%
- Don't know: 19%

How do you describe a Shabbat in the dorm?

- Exciting: 14%
- Relaxing: 4%
- Boring: 15%
- Stressful: 24%
- Don't know: 56%
- Remember: 1%

Do you leave the dorm on weekends?

- Always: 9%
- Occasionally: 36%
- Never: 23%
- Don't know: 16%
- Remember: 2%
- Stay: 14%

This survey was conducted by Doug [Name] a scientific survey but merely as a candid opinion of the student body. Conducted every [Date] solely to prevent duplication of results. Number surveyed: 100.

# Rabbinical Involvement in Politics: Right or Wrong?

by A. Jeff Ifrah

Sporadically, at this time of year, upcoming Student Council elections have encouraged certain Rabbinic faculty members, almost exclusively in MYP, to endorse or oppose candidates for student offices. YC senior Behnam Dayanim remembers his unsuccessful bid for YCSC Junior Class President of 1987-88. "I recall when I was running for Junior Class President certain rebbeim, one in particular, would both denounce events and issues with which I had been associated and would urge their students, usually by implication, not to vote for me."

Although students in the shiurim related several stories of such occurrences, Mr. Dayanim asserts that the overall impact was minimal. "I don't think anyone who was going to vote for or against me changed their minds, but it probably made those who hadn't intended to vote come out and vote against me."

During last fall's presidential campaigns, students again heard the voices of their rebbeim instructing them for whom to vote and sometimes for whom not to vote. One YC Senior told of his rabbi. "He assured us as follows, 'I'm not telling you who to vote for, I'm telling you not to vote for Jackson.'"

Such rebbeim told of their prophetic visions of what a man like Jackson would do to the Jewish Community and Israel. They, therefore, felt obligated to come out and endorse Bush, or not endorse Dukakis.

In late September, the dilemma of who to vote for was complicated yet further. The Jewish Press released an endorsement of then Vice President Bush for the presidency, as did a long list of prestigious American rabbis, many of them from YU.

Mr. Liebb, the editor of The Jewish Press, would not comment on how the paper received the names of Yeshiva University rabbis, but did mention why he felt compelled to endorse Bush despite a more popular journalistic trend of non-endorsement.

"Considering the issues, people expected us to take a viewpoint, and, in the interest of the Jewish people, Bush, while not the ideal candidate was...closer to our causes than Dukakis." Mr. Liebb admits that Rev. Jackson was very influential in The Press' endorsement, while he belittles the importance of John Sununu, the current White House chief of staff.

For the readers, it might have appeared as if Yeshiva University actually endorsed Mr. Bush. However, the endorsement by Yeshiva University rabbinic faculty, according to Dr. Efram Nulman, Dean of Students, was not an official Yeshiva University endorsement, rather a personal opinion of the individual rabbis.

Dean Nulman asserted, "Part of the function of the rebbe is to have an influence over his students." While Dean Nulman won't personally endorse a candidate and would admonish one of his employees for doing so, he

believes in academic freedom and the putting forth of important opinions by Yeshiva University faculty. He notes, however, that a faculty member's endorsement cannot be issued as equivalent to that of YU's merely by association.

"Nobody can represent Yeshiva University [but] the President of Yeshiva University; anyone else who wants to must receive his permission," he declared. Officially Dr. Lamm, and/or Yeshiva University, did not endorse either candidate.

While Dean Nulman has been asked to speak on behalf of candidates, he has consistently replied, "No, my personal viewpoints are irrelevant."

Director of MYP Rabbi Zebulon Charlop replied similarly yet felt his rabbinic faculty had not acted incorrectly. "My own personal style would dictate for me, anyway, not to endorse candidates. I don't believe I've ever endorsed any candidates," except one in a local election with whom the rabbi was close. "I think most, if not all, rebbeim from my recall, very rarely endorsed anybody unless they felt very strongly" about the issues and thus acted as an exception. "It's hard to put a ban on this—something may come up which" the rabbi feels compelled to endorse, Rabbi Charlop stressed.

Rabbi Charlop agrees with Dean Nulman's view of the unique rebbe/talmid relationship which allows for such endorsements. "Rabbi Charlop explained, "Because a rebbe is

more than a professor in terms of the [role model] he constitutes vis-a-vis Jews generally who are observant, [students] look to the rebbe for a view that is refined by his learning and piety."

These students, according to Rabbi Charlop, are obliged at the very least to act with extreme caution and serious consideration. After all, if the learned rabbi comes to a decision, and he feels it warrants public expression, he has the right, according to Rabbi Charlop, to express that opinion.

Does a rebbe constitute an all knowing figure whose word must meet fruition by his students?

Rabbi Charlop answered, "I can imagine in some circles this would be the view, but I think that our rebbeim have a sense of what democracy is and what free will means in elections and how central the concept of free choice is in our democracy. They're certainly not unmindful of constitutional rights that when they tell their students what candidate they're for, and even cause them to follow their example, implicit is, we hope you follow us, we think even you ought to follow us, because of our experience, knowledge of Torah, etc.; but equally implicit is that we understand that you might not follow us. We don't really place our electoral endorsement on the same level as a p'sak din or Hilchot Shabbat.

"Finally," Rabbi Charlop concluded, "I think that it can fall into the category of 'Talmid Haham Sheh'makhal Al

K'vodo, K'vodo Makhul. The rebbe certainly expects the student to exercise his free judgment in these areas."

Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik, one of the few rabbinic faculty who did not come out and endorse a candidate views things ambivalently. Rabbi Soloveichik refused a Jewish Week correspondent's request for an endorsement, nor did he at any time make his voting intentions public.

The venerable rosh hayeshiva tells his co-religionists that for them to persuade others how to vote is both "unjust and un-American."

Rabbi Soloveichik asserts that choice at the ballot box is a constitutional right which no rabbi may retract from his student. The rabbi also states that it is an erroneous view held by some students who believe "Kavod HaRav," respect for one's rabbi, necessitates one to vote as his rabbi instructs, or as the rabbi votes himself.

The rabbi points out that while there are some examples of hero worship in Hasidic movements, nowhere is it inherent in the tradition of those who observe Torah who aren't Hasidic. It follows, therefore, that a talmid should not be led to think that because of an obligation to "Kavod HaRav" he must vote as does his revered rabbi.

Rabbi Soloveichik quoted from his great relative, Rabbi Chaim Volozhin zt"l, the greatest student of the Vilna Gaon zt"l, to illustrate his point. From

Cont. on page 10

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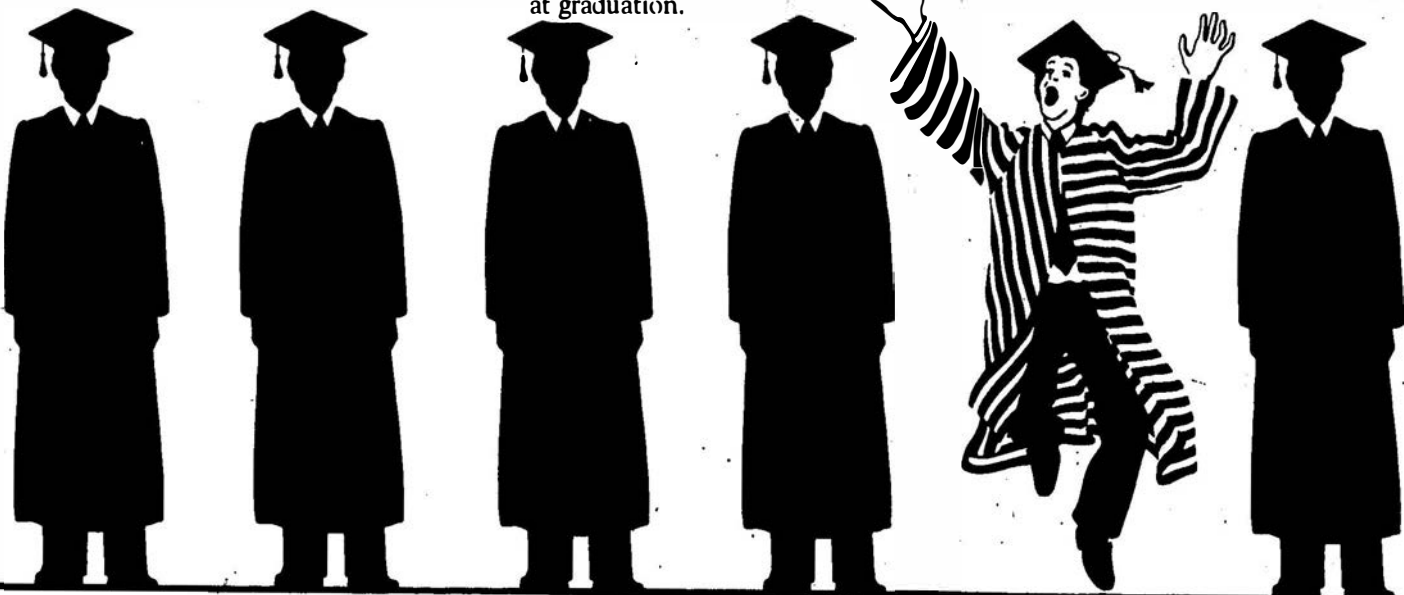
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## — Responsa continued

### Senate Reply *Continued from page 3*

tion. No, the evaluations are not mandatory. No, the resolution does not guarantee that teachers will listen to the criticisms of their students, let alone read them. No, the resolution does not call for the use of such forms to determine whether a faculty member is an asset to this institution and should be rewarded accordingly.

It would seem to me, however, that the Senate has nearly exhausted its usefulness in this respect, and that the burden of enforcing, and perhaps expanding, the use of teacher evaluations falls upon the students. If enough students like Mr. Ungar believe that evaluation forms are a necessity to improving the academic life at Yeshiva, they should thoroughly petition their teachers, administrators, and newspaper editors. The Senate cannot be effective if its constituency, in this case the student body, is not vocal.

Avram Goldstein, Student Senator  
YC '89

## Security

*Continued from page 3*

I think that this policy is ridiculous. The delivery service is of great benefit to YU students who cannot carry their groceries up the hill. A great many people use this service. Mick informed me that the YU students are

good business and he is more than happy to deliver to them. However, he has had too many altercations with security lately to continue service to YU students.

When Mick dropped me off at YU, a security guard immediately ran up to us and vehemently ordered that the van be removed from the property. I am glad to see that the YU security force is alertly protecting us from our groceries.

J. Steiner  
YC '92

## “Who is A Jew” Op-ed Attacked

### To the Editor:

Barry Kaye's opinion piece in last week's Commentator (“Who is a Jew?” is Thankfully Dead”) in which he dismisses the issue of halachic conversions as being “for all intents and purposes” dead, misses the point behind the legislation. He fails to realize how important it is for both the State of Israel and world Jewry to adopt a single, universal standard for conversion.

While the number of people who convert to Judaism in the diaspora and then make aliyah is pitifully small, nevertheless any gentile undergoing a specious conversion process should not

be labeled a Jew for the purpose of acquiring citizenship in the Jewish state or for marrying a Jewish spouse, because such a person, in the eyes of the Torah, remains a gentile in every respect. Such a person has no connection with the Jewish people, their history, or their destiny. And such a person is totally incapable of fulfilling the sacred task of raising a new generation of Jews.

Mr. Kaye errs in his example of a non-observant Jew who, failing the “litmus test” of Sabbath observance, kashrut and other commandments, nevertheless establishes criteria for his “Jewishness” in other areas such as synagogue participation. According to Mr. Kaye, such a person may still “feel” Jewish, implying that such a nebulous standard should suffice for determining who is an active member of the Jewish people, as opposed to the “narrow-minded” (read “halachic”) view espoused by the more divisive elements of the Jewish community.

One's membership in the holy nation of Israel (yes, holy!), whether active or inactive, is not subject to the vagaries of human emotions or to any subjective criteria whatsoever; rather, the Torah lays down the sole standard for Jewishness: being born of a Jewish mother or conversion as specified in the Shulhan Arukh.

Anyone failing to meet these requirements is not a Jew and never will be a Jew until he fulfills them. To label gentiles who have not met these condi-

*Continued on page 10*

## Kahane Lecture

*Continued from page 1*

lengthy arrest record and retention of U.S. citizenship, Rabbi Kahane vigorously defended himself. He claimed responsibility for bringing the Soviet Jewry issue to the world's attention through his bombing of a Soviet building in New York and asserted that he needed American citizenship to enter the country in order to raise funds.

He seemed to lose his carefully controlled composure, however, when dealing with that same student, labeling his adversary's remarks the “arrogance of ignorance.”

Alluding to his last, much more tumultuous visit here three years ago, the politician denounced picketers who had disrupted his speech as disrespectful of his status as rabbi.

After the lecture, THE COMMENTATOR talked to Shmuel Speiser, the YC junior who planned the lecture, for com-

ment. “I have been active in Kach since my first year in Israel two years ago,” said Mr. Speiser. He complained of the “difficulty in the Yeshiva College society system” in scheduling the event. “The Israel Affairs society was originally going to sponsor it, [but didn't] as they said, they had no one to introduce him.” The Political Science society also refused to touch it, he stated. Last week, YCSC agreed to sponsor the Torah lecture if Mr. Speiser would make the necessary introductions.

Mr. Speiser also complained about the YU's lack of cooperation. “We originally asked for Belfer Commons. Ruben Shul was simply not adequate for this lecture; 50 people were turned away and not permitted to enter. “Obviously”, Mr. Speiser said, “many students wanted to hear Rabbi Kahane.”

### The Commentator - YCSC Junior Class

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# Handicap Access at YU

Continued from page 1

for the handicapped. Rows of stairs line the entrance to this classroom building while a ramp descending from a side door on Amsterdam Avenue into the basement seems too long and too steep to safely transport a wheelchair-bound student. Inside the building, there are no bathrooms or telephones which would accommodate such a student. Tannenbaum Hall, the Gottesman Library, and the three residence halls also lack these facilities. The only exception is Belfer Hall whose bathrooms feature wider toilet stalls, lowered sinks, and tilted mirrors to assist the handicapped.

The campus' sidewalks and street corners are less inviting. In 1987, Mayor Koch initiated a citywide curve-cut program, but the Washington Heights area appears to have been overlooked. Of the ten corner crossings spread along Amsterdam Avenue between 184th Street and 187th Street, only the Southeast corner of 186th Street near the library allows for a smooth descent from sidewalk to street level. And since a similar depression is not pro-

vided at the southern end, a person in a wheelchair would have to ask for assistance if he wished to cross the street.

Street corner renovations may be the responsibility of the city, but some have questioned YU's own legal standing. Responds Louise Zuckerman, Director of Affirmative Action for the University, "Our position, and this has been our position throughout, is to make reasonable accommodations for the handicapped as required by law."

In 1987, the state approved "required accessibility" legislation to provide for the needs of the handicapped, but Ms. Zuckerman points out that required accessibility only applies to construction begun since then. "If problems arise with older buildings," says Ms. Zuckerman, "then this has to be brought to the institution's attention", she says, "and it has not been immediately taken care of."

Ms. Zuckerman cites a case where the Affirmative Action office was contacted about a problem of wheelchair access at Stern College and had a ramp

installed in twenty-four hours.

Upon request, similar changes have not been made uptown. Ms. Zuckerman responds, "I guess at YC we haven't had the handicapped students because nothing has ever been brought to our attention."

But many YU students know Ms. Zuckerman's assumption is wrong. Despite being severely paralyzed and confined to a bulky wheelchair, YC graduate Yossi Altein has become a staple at morning seder in the Tannenbaum Beit Midrash and is a veteran member of Rav Aharon Kahn's shiur. Mr. Altein also continues to take advanced calculus courses in the college.

Mr. Altein may be well-known by many YC students, but the Affirmative Action Office seems to have remained oblivious to his existence. Although he needs the assistance of two helpers to hoist him up the Tannenbaum stairs each morning, Yossi has never complained about the lack of provisions for the handicapped on campus. When asked why, Yossi responds that the yeshiva has been helpful in other ways, and he does not want to cause

trouble.

YC junior Michael Bramson is Mr. Altein's chavrutah and frequently assists him around campus. He finds negotiating Mr. Altein's wheelchair across curves especially frustrating. But he says students passing by are usually willing to help, so he, too, has never voiced a complaint.

Gloria Dickstein is another handicapped person on campus whose identity might be unknown to the Affirmative Action Office. A YU employee for over ten years, Ms. Dickstein slipped on a patch of ice in front of Rubin Hall last winter, injuring her spine, and is now confined to a wheelchair. But because she works in the more accessible Belfer Hall, Ms. Dickstein has been able to avoid many of the obstacles Yossi Altein must face.

However, she too has complaints. "The wind outside Belfer is terrible," she says. "Also, there are no indicator lights outside the elevators, and the doors close so fast so it's a real guessing game." She also recalls having to miss a union meeting in Furst Hall because no one was available to help her down the ramp.

But, like Mr. Altein, Ms. Dickstein has never taken up these issues with the University.

"The boys at YU are great and security is fantastically helpful," she explains.

While the University may not have been aware of Yossi Altein and Gloria Dickstein's presence on campus, questions arise as to YU's responsibility for handicapped guests who might visit the campus. Perhaps the college has even lost prospective students because of its lack of

proper facilities. Should the University be going beyond the letter of the law?

Judah Harris, as Assistant Director of Admissions at the College, states that to his knowledge, no wheelchair-bound person has ever expressed interest in the College. "All applications go through our office, so we would know if there was a need," he says.

"However", he continues, "we do try to accommodate all people who have an interest in YU. For instance, we have allowed students with learning disabilities extra time when taking SAT's and more available word processing equipment for students whose handwriting would be otherwise illegible. When a blind prospective, I think he was from Ohio, came to visit the College, we had him meet with Rabbi Winefsky, who is also blind, to get the feel of what he could expect from life at Yeshiva."

For students still skeptical about how well the University is meeting the needs of the handicapped, good news may be on the way. On Tuesday, February 14, Ms. Zuckerman telephoned this reporter to say that together with the University Director of Support Services and Administration, Jeffrey Rosengarten, her office is beginning an investigation of the issues raised in this article. "The need will be investigated and our actions will be based on what findings are, and what the law requires," she stated.

Mr. Rosengarten also assured me that financial considerations would not be a factor. "It's not a question of funds", he said, "if there is a need, then we have to provide for that need."

## CFS\* Corner

\*CFS Denotes Commentator Film Society

Movies are shown two or three times a week in Morgenstern Lounge and are selected by film expert and connoisseur Steven Schiffman. All movies, regardless of rating, are subject to Schiffman's approval. THE COMMENTATOR has assembled a crack team of avid movie fans to review upcoming presentations. Joseph Wolf, Joey Loskove, Michael Raskas, and Larry Hartstein comprise the movie review panel.

### Escape From New York

Flash to the late 1990's. Manhattan has been appropriately transformed into a maximum security prison full of hardened criminals carrying almost every disease known to man. Snake Pliskin (Kurt Russell) is assigned the impossible task of rescuing the President, whose plane has crashed inside the penal island. Panelist Wolf calls it "unequivocally the worst movie I've ever seen." Panelist Loskove terms it "quite an accurate portrayal of modern-day Manhattan." Panelist Raskas, faced with the choice of doing schoolwork or watching the film, would lean towards the movie. Panelist Hartstein, on the other hand, strongly

endorses the movie, calling it "an unusual action picture with some great dialogue."

### Ferris Bueller's Day Off

The ultimate day off from school. Matthew Broderick and two friends take a joyride through Chicago in a mint condition, borrowed Ferrari. This comedy classic improves with each viewing. "It's a movie worth doing chazarah on," says Loskove. "Bring your chavrusah."

### Fletch

Chevy Chase is a newspaperman and a master of impersonation in what basically ends up being a hilarious two-hour standup routine. Probably his best effort since *Caddyshack*, Chase shines in this solo role. All panelists agree—hysterically funny and a must-see.

### First Blood

John Rambo (Sylvester Stallone) is a disaffected Vietnam veteran lost in rural America. When society shuns him, Rambo rebels. He battles the National Guard in a bloody forest fight. This, the first of the Rambo trilogy, highlights Stallone's acting ability far more than its successors. "Rambo is a real character you can identify

with," observes Loskove. "Blood, guts, and gore—I loved every minute of it," says Raskas. "My favorite scene is when Rambo stitches up a tremendous gash in his upper arm." Wolf, per usual, disagrees. "I couldn't force myself to sit through it the first time."

### Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

In the spirit of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Harrison Ford stars in a thrilling adventure through the Far East. All the panelists agree—a very good film, but it doesn't quite equal *Raiders*.

### Inherit the Wind

A riveting portrayal of the 1930's Scopes trial, more commonly known as the "monkey trial." Spencer Tracy stars in the story of one man's crusade to teach evolution as a legitimate scientific theory. This age-old classic delivers a vivid picture of the stubborn fundamentalist creationists and their fight for tradition. Undoubtedly the most compelling film on the Morg Movie schedule, *Inherit the Wind* is a cinematic wonder worth seeing again and again.

## "Shiur and State" *Continued from page 8*

Pirkei Avot we learn "to stay at the dust of our rabbis' feet." The word "Me'vek" is used for "dust." Similarly, we find the word with Yaacov. He wrestled with the angel. The word there for "wrestled" is "VaYe'vek" (Genesis 32:25). Rashi explains that they kicked up a storm of dust as they wrestled.

Reb Chaim reminds us to always remain at the dust of the feet of our rebbe; however, sometimes because there's this dust, the rebbe's eyes may become fogged so that he errs,

perhaps endorsing the wrong candidate. So the opposed student chooses to wrestle with his rebbe. But, Rabbi Soloveichik reminds us that the student must do so "with reverence and respect."

Rabbi Soloveichik revealed that he voted for Michael Dukakis in the recent presidential elections, but wishes to mention that he did so not because of the Jewish issues involved, but because of the American issues. He asserted that he voted "as an American."

## "Who is A Jew" opinion Challenged

*Continued from page 9*

tions as Jews is halachically and ethically unacceptable.

The 90% of American rabbis who, according to Mr. Kaye, would be disenfranchised by the passage of such legislation, will not stop performing invalid conversions. However, having the "Who is a Jew?" law on the books in Israel may inspire them to be more honest with their clients by telling them that the "conversion" process which they are about to undergo is not acceptable to a significant percentage of the Jewish community, and that their descendants may not be considered Jewish, either.

Eventually, two groups will identify themselves as Jewish in the near future: those who accept the Torah and its laws, and those who don't. The latter

group, left to its own devices, will disappear while the former, because it embraces the Divine and immutable Truth, will survive and flourish.

Mr. Kaye feels that enforcement of this law, as well as other halachot, causes schism and disunity in the Jewish community. In truth it is the abandonment of Torah which is the source of discord among our people.

By refusing to let the Jewish faith become a free-for-all in which everyone does that which is just in his own eyes, the ultimate reunification of the Jewish people is assured. For the Torah's ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are of peace.

Adiv Burgin  
RIETS

## PICTORIAL COMMENT



Pedestrian Mall survives thru-traffic... barely.



# Volleyball Macs Come Home

The volleyball Macs ended their seven-match road trip showing flashes of their exciting potential while winning their first game of the year.

The Macs travelled to Bard College for a tri-match against Bard and New Paltz. After quickly dropping the first match to New Paltz, the Macs continued to falter, losing the first game against Bard, 15-8. In the next game, the Macs finally caught fire, blazing to a 6-1 lead. The momentum began to swing, and the score moved to 9-8 in favor of YU. At that point, the crisp setting of Yehuda Linden-

berg, sharp hitting of Harry Zemon, and acrobatic digging of Dov Pinchot thrust the Macs into a 13-8 lead. The Macs fought off a late Bard comeback to take the game 15-12. In the last game, the Macs lost their consistency and the match, 15-6.

The long road trip ended on February 15 in a tri-match against NYU and Bridgeport in the MSAC. The Macs, playing without starters Lindenberg (injured shoulder) and Mehrzad Kohansieh (injured arm), extended Bridgeport to 15-13, receiving a tremendous boost from the vociferous home

crowd. The exceptional setting of replacement setter Adam Fishman plus the blocking of Shai Shmeltzer pushed the Macs within points of a major upset. The Macs then dropped the third game, 15-6.

Down two games in the match with NYU, the Macs managed to salvage their self-respect by outplaying NYU in the final game. With outside hitter Dov Pinchot recording three kills and two blocks and Jeff Ifrah and Adam Fishman serving for most of the Macs' points, the team rallied into the lead before finally succumbing

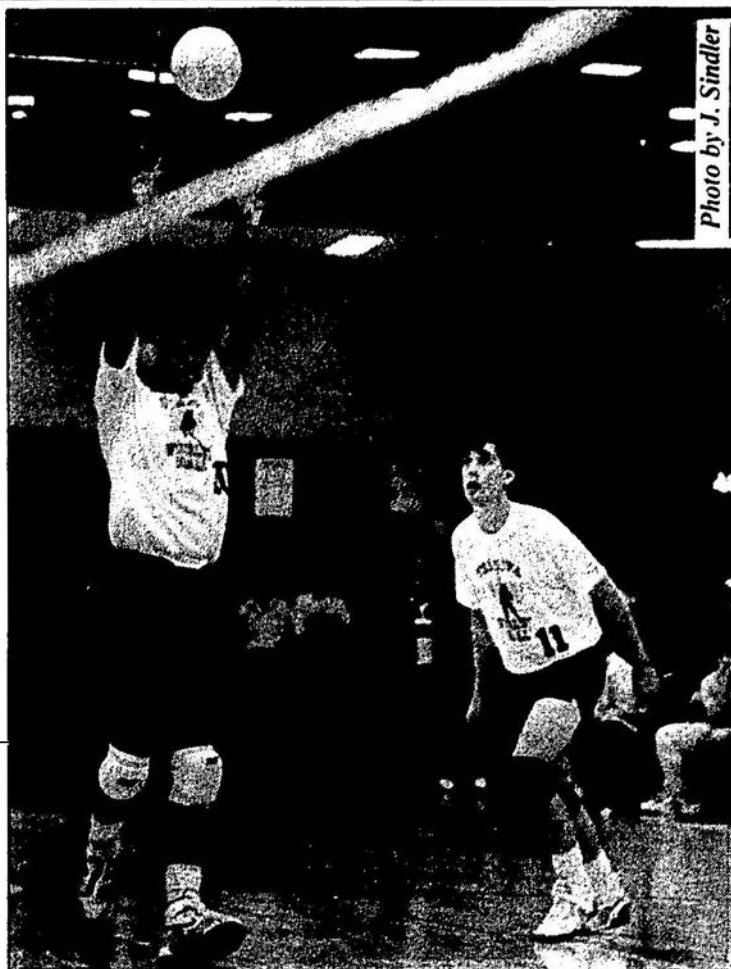


Photo by J. Sindler

Steve Lax watches Adam Fishman set a spike.

# Schick Concludes

by Avrum Aaron

"It was just like 'Hoosiers,'" said Richard Scharlat, describing Freddy Schwartz's three-pointer at the buzzer which earned Team Schwartz a place in the Schick Superhoops three-on-three tournament finals. They fell, 48-46, to the Timberwolves in the championship game. The winners advanced to the regionals at Seton Hall.

The Timberwolves started off the evening with a 71-33 blow-out over Superhoops. They earned the right to play Team Silber, who defeated Team Muehlgay 36-30. Team Muehlgay was hampered by sickness as both Mordy Leifer and David

Weinstein were ill. Bruce Taragin and Danny Saks filled in but they couldn't match Team Silber's all-around ability. Coach Gregory Rhine of Team Silber modestly attributed his team's win to "my coaching ability. We came out flat, but due to my mixing in, putting key players in key roles, we won."

In the other bracket, Team Schwartz defeated the Cougars, despite Jeff Mor's assault from three-point land. At one point, he hit six consecutive treys. The Silverbirds defeated the Killer Millers 65-19 to earn a final-four spot.

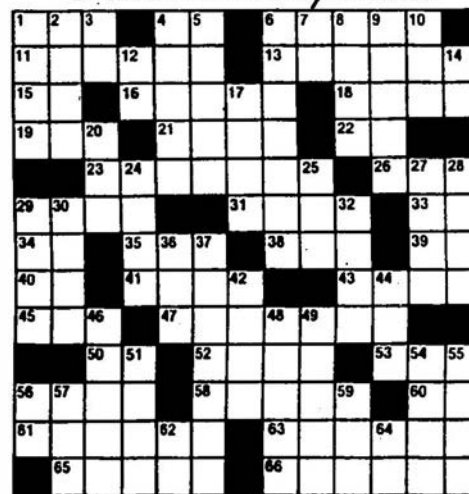
Continuing in the same fashion that breezed them

through their early round games, The Timberwolves defeated Team Silber 58-38 to earn a berth in the final. Team Silber was hampered by an injury to star player Yehuda Blinder.

The second semifinal game was "probably the most exciting game I've ever seen," stated tournament organizer Stanley Watson. Team Schwartz and the Silverbirds were tied at the end of regulation. After the first two minute overtime, the score remained even. In the second overtime, Jeff Silverberg drove to the basket and was fouled. He went to the line and made one of his two free-throws. The Silverbirds received the ball after the foul but proceeded to turn it over. With time running out, Freddy Schwartz swished a three-pointer to give his team the victory.

**Due to technical difficulties, Jonathan Miskin's "The Lighter Look" does not appear in these pages, but will return in our next issue.**

## Crossword Companion



### ACROSS

1. Southern state (abbr.)
4. Prosecuting officer (abbr.)
6. Helped
11. Outdoors person
13. Slanted type
15. Division of the psyche
16. Scornful expression
18. Short note
19. Change color
21. Click
22. Amer. volunteer organization (abbr.)
23. Violation of allegiance
26. Hot beverage
29. Small rodents
31. Snare
33. Type of army discharge (abbr.)
34. Public notice (short form)
35. Also
38. Prepare golf ball
39. Southern state (abbr.)
40. Chem. abbr. for cerium
41. Cat sound
43. Stalk of plant
45. Dine
47. Fill with life
50. Edward's nickname
52. At another time
53. Mischievous child
56. Moisture from eye
58. Subject
60. Either
61. Seed used for oil
63. Get away
65. Puzzle
66. Kept hidden

### DOWN

1. Sharp
2. Woman
3. Be
4. Close; compact
5. Area for combat
6. Aircraft area
7. Indefinite pronoun
8. Wet
9. Vote into office
10. Pale
12. Post script
14. Company (abbr.)
17. Direction
20. And so on
24. 500 sheets of paper
25. No. (Scot.)
27. Rim
28. First man
29. Chemical deterrent
30. Thought
32. Bothersome person
36. Edu. Group (abbr.)
37. Gives
42. Exclusive drinker of wine
44. Prepare golf ball
46. Annoy
48. Cash
49. Positively charged electrode
51. Dull
54. Easy gait
55. Worry
56. Tensile strength (Physics, abbr.)
57. Ever (Poetic)
59. Roman 300
62. 12th Gr. letter
64. Symbol for argon

# Ellmen

Continued from page 12

middleweight duo, defeated their opponents in their respective weight classes with extreme ease. Edelcreek pinned the John Jay representative in little more than half of the first period (1:53). Garfinkel needed less than one minute of the first round to dispose of his over-matched opponent.

In other victories: David Schlüssel at 118 lbs., Seth Gerzberg at 134 lbs., and Shimon Solnica at 142 lbs. Lastly, recognition of determination and a fine effort is due to Efrem Zinkin, who wrestled at 158 lbs. Zinkin, who normally wrestles at the 134 weight class, filled in for a sick teammate and fought a close battle, but he ultimately lost on points.

The final score was 36-23 in favor of Yeshiva. The Ellmen hope to maintain the intensity they displayed in controlling their battles with John Jay as they continue the team's finest season (5-4) in many a campaign.

*Brian Goldberg was first in submitting correct puzzle below. The first to submit a properly completed puzzle to Larry Hartstein (M611) will have his/her name printed in the next issue.*



# New Hockey Club

by David Maryles

Ice hockey is no longer a dream at Yeshiva; it is fast becoming a reality. The new club has begun to create a stir on campus. Spearheaded by President Baruch Ruttner, the society has been welcomed by widespread support. Already, over twenty students have signed up to join the club team, where all are invited to participate. Mr. Ruttner and his committee are currently negotiating with YCSC President Mordy Liefer for financial subsidy and funding.

Mr. Ruttner informed THE COMMENTATOR that he has been in contact with the authorities of the available ice rinks in the metropolitan area. Apparently, skyrink on 33rd street and 10th Avenue in Manhattan has accepted YU as a client. Mike

Bernstein, a club member, says the club has secured the 12AM-2AM slot on Thursday nights at the Midtown rink. Hopefully, this ice time will enable the players to practice together and become comfortable on the ice as a unit.

Club VP J.J. Hornbliss sums up the aim of the newly formed society: "Our goal is to mold a strong club team during the remainder of this semester. Starting in the fall, we plan to join the University Metropolitan Hockey League whose members include NYU and Columbia. A certified NCAA team is in the near future at Yeshiva." Judging from the intensity of J.J.'s tone, this society is on a mission and will not rest until they have succeeded in bringing ice hockey to Yeshiva.

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## Yeshiva Sports

# Maccabee Milestone: Teichman Hits 1000

by Shmuel Bulka

Yudi Teichman has established himself as perhaps the best free-throw shooter in Yeshiva history, so it was fitting that his 1,000th career point should come from the charity stripe. The shot was vintage Teichman, touching nothing but net. With it, Teichman has installed himself in a select

group of 16 players who have achieved this plateau at Yeshiva.

From his first day here, Teichman had to live up to high expectations, and he did so with a very productive first year. Many people believe that the conference "rookie of the year" award should have gone to him and not to Tony Murphy of Western Connecticut.

"I think he (Teichman) should

have been rookie of the year two years ago," said coach Jonathan Halpert. "I think Yudi suffered because he has played on the same team as Lior and Ayal and, therefore, has not gotten a lot of the league recognition."

But Teichman, who has always put team goals ahead of personal goals, was not bothered by this lack of acknowledgement. "It doesn't make any difference to me."

When it comes to play on the court, first and foremost on Teichman's list of priorities is to behave in a way befitting a Yeshiva student. Anybody who knows Teichman realizes that his off-court conduct is mirrored on the floor.

"He is a very coachable player. Kids aren't different on and off the court. If you're a difficult student, you're usually a difficult kid to coach," said Coach Jonathan Halpert.

Teichman's accomplishments at Yeshiva are many. Not only has he been in double-digits in scoring and rebounding every year but he has always been around 90% from the free-throw line. The 1,000 points, though, is not just another achievement for the senior forward. "It's an important milestone. It says that you put your time, your effort, into YU."

Despite all his personal achievements this season, Teichman was most excited after last year. "Last year was when I was really proud. The team was a real family, and we grew together and just did everything together and we made it to the ECAC (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Association Conference Tournament). We played hard. We played beyond our potential."

With all of his success on the court, Teichman still remains the same off of the court. He is, perhaps, best summed up by his teammate Ayal Hod. "He is not just a great player, he is a great guy, too."

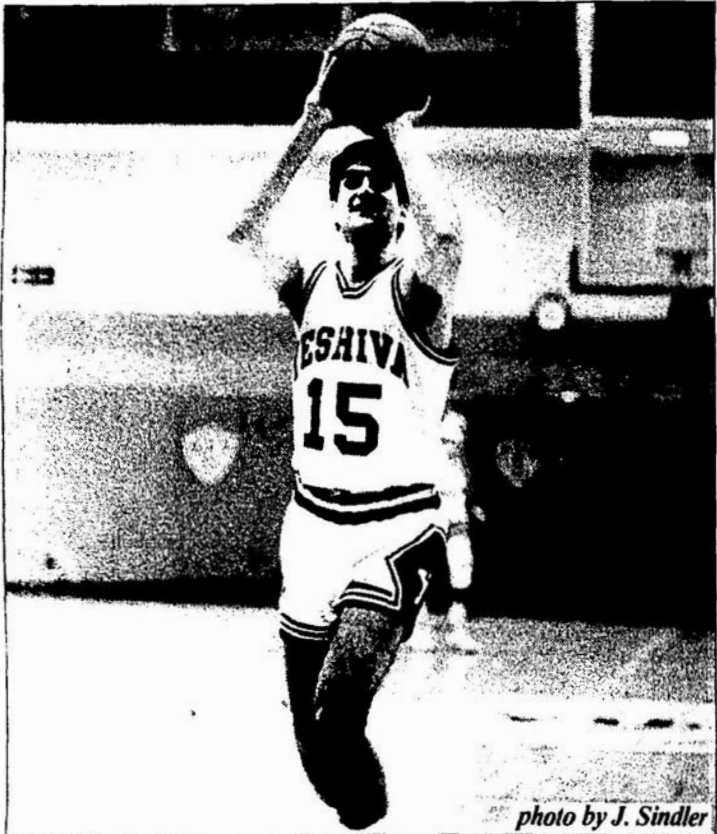


photo by J. Sindler

Yudi Teichman scores his 1000th career point.

## Ellmen Rebound After Hunter Loss

by David Maryles

After receiving much recognition at the St. John's Invitational, the Ellmen went up against a superior squad from Hunter. Despite a valiant effort, the Hunter wrestlers stopped them at every turn. Yeshiva managed only three wins and all were forfeits.

On February 8, however, while most people watched the Macs - NYU basketball contest,

the Ellmen journeyed to Jay College with the bitter taste of defeat lingering in their mouths.

The charge was led by Jeremy Poupko who remained undefeated (11-0) with a pin in the first period. Poupko has been very impressive throughout the season and seems to get stronger with each match. David Edelcreek (177 lbs.) and Andy Garfinkel (167 lbs.), the dynamic

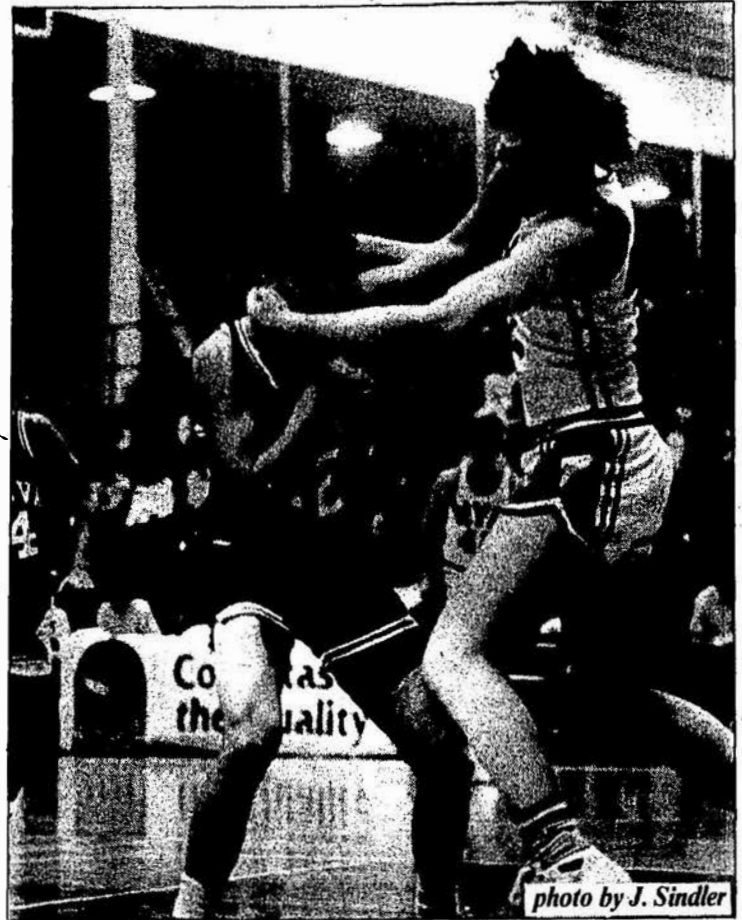


photo by J. Sindler

Ayal Hod lands clean left in NYU game.

## Macs Sweep League Rivals

by Jeff Lumerman

Yeshiva 73-NY Maritime 59

After playing to a 1-point halftime lead, the Macs pulled away to defeat NY Maritime for the second time this season to raise their IAC record to 4-3. For the first time this year Ayal Hod was held below 10 as he scored only 9 but still came up with 16 boards. Yudi Teichman led the Macs with 24 and David Gottlieb added a career high 15. Greg Rhine, still recovering from an ankle injury, came off the bench to add 8.

Yeshiva 65-NYU 86

In a game marred by a bench-clearing brawl, Yeshiva lost to the Violets in the closest game in four years. In a close first half the Macs played tough and pulled to within 5 with a half-court shot by David Ehrman. But the stronger NYU team, playing before a boisterous crowd, slowly pulled away. With a heroic effort led largely by Eric Davis (16 pts) and Ayal Hod (19 pts) the Macs pulled back to within 5 with 8:46 remaining, only to see it build to 19 within 2 minutes. Then, with 5 minutes remaining, a bench clearing brawl initiated by an NYU player resulted in an extended stoppage of play and the ejection of all but 5 players from each team. Ayal Hod, who was the first player who was hit, was quoted as saying, "I'll never throw the first punch, but if they do, they better be ready for what's coming." David Gottlieb, with a strained back, was unable to participate in the fight and chose to observe from the stands. High for NYU was Martin with 23.

Yeshiva 60-Baruch 74

Jon Ehrman surprised many with 9 of Yeshiva's first 11 points to lead the Macs to a 4 point halftime lead. Ehrman wound up with 11 for a career high. Ayal Hod led the way with 23 and Yudi Teichman added 18 in a losing effort. The Macs lead by 4 with 10 minutes to go but fell apart late and let the game get away. Yudi Teichman scored his 1000th point but the ceremony was set aside so more fans could attend a weeknight game to give him his much-deserved moment in the spotlight.

Yeshiva 90-Stevens 48

Five players scored in double figures as Yeshiva deflected a weak Stevens team. The "Ducks" floundered consistently turning over the ball and looked more like a bad intramural team than the power they used to be. Yudi Teichman scored his 1014th point, prompting a celebration by the fans who attended to do him honor.

Yeshiva 79-Polytech University 63

The Macs improved their record to 10-10 and 6-3 in the conference to assure themselves of their first winning conference record and undisputed third place. Ayal Hod ran all over Poly with 27 points and 23 boards. Eric Davis pumped in 21 along with 7 steals while Yudi Teichman added 18. David Gottlieb, Jon Ehrman and Danny Cheifitz were all out but the team came together to pull out the victory. Greg Rhine was ejected for fighting along with his counterpart on Poly, putting on quite an exhibition for his gallery of supporters including his grandfather who flew in to see the game.

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