

The Commentator

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Photo by J.J. Hornbliss

The Rishon L'Zion (Sephardic Chief Rabbi) Mordechai Eliyahu addresses students in Tannenbaum Beit Midrash. For story, see page 4.

YU Cracks Down on Shabbat TV Use

by Daniel Oshinsky

With a short, curt letter posted around campus, the Residence Halls office recently began a campaign to stop the use of televisions during Shabbat in the University's dormitory buildings.

The letter warns that students found using Shabbat clocks for their televisions or simply allowing them to play all Shabbat may be subject to the loss of dormitory privileges. While the administration and a good majority of the student body feel these regulations are both necessary and completely in line with the University's philosophy, others object to their enforcement.

According to Residence Halls Director Rabbi Cheifetz, the decision to post the letter came about after specific cases of TV watching during the Sabbath were brought to the administration's attention. Rabbi Cheifetz stresses that the letter is only a reiteration of longstanding YU policies. "The point of the letter is to show we take this seriously," he stated.

Appearing only days after a highly critical article on YU Shabbatot was printed in THE COMMENTATOR, the letter can also be seen as part of an administrative response to complaints about the uninspiring Shabbat atmosphere at YU. "There is an ongoing concern about the quality of Shabbat in Yeshiva," says Rabbi Blau, the Mashgiach Ruchani of Yeshiva. "THE COMMENTATOR was responding to issues others are also concerned about."

"We want a Shabbat atmosphere here at Yeshiva," adds Dean of Students Efreim Nulman, "and we feel these are regulations which most students would be comfortable with."

But some students feel enforcement of the regulations will only be counter-productive. For instance, a more restrictive atmosphere in the dormitories may discourage even greater numbers of students from staying in for Shabbat. Other students might simply decide to forego halacha and turn on their TVs when no one is looking.

"I'm not a navi [prophet],"

responds Dean Nulman, "so I can't be sure of what the effects will be. But there is a need in a yeshiva to maintain a certain structure and a certain decorum." Rabbi Cheifetz also does not feel the possibility of causing further halachic deviations can be taken into consideration by the administration. "We hope and assume we don't have to say, 'people should keep the Torah,'" he states. "Halachic observance is a given."

But according to JSS President David Goldberg, the administration is showing disregard for the makeup of the student body. "Let's face it," he says, "YU has guys who are shomer Shabbat but not shomer negiah, and YU has guys who are not religious at all. It's a farce to expect everyone to abide by these rules; everyone has his way of relating to Judaism."

Instead of what he considers the administration's overly negative approach to improving Shabbat at YU, Mr. Goldberg advocates kiruv-type programs. Referring to the irreligious student, Mr. Goldberg states, "He still wants to learn and have some type of structure. Maybe being shomer Shabbat is his eventual goal. What he needs now is kiruv. Discipline will only be detrimental."

However, members of the administration deny that they are relying on discipline to improve the quality of YU Shabbatot. "Regulations are obviously not enough," states Dean Nulman. "Rather, they have to be viewed as a piece in the puzzle."

Adds Rabbi Blau, "Other things have and are being done to promote the quality of Shabbat in Yeshiva." Rabbi Blau cites the creation of a separate JSS Minyan for Shabbatot as an acknowledgement of the diversity within YU and the need to help all students gain the most from Shabbat at Yeshiva.

But some students claim that, regardless of the administration's intentions, enforcement of the ban on TV-playing during Shabbat constitutes a violation of their rights to privacy. President Goldberg says, "I've seen

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YU Investment Policy:

Guided by Morals or 'Bottom Line' Considerations?

by Bruce Schanzer

In a recent COMMENTATOR poll, 40 randomly chosen YC students were asked whether they feel YU's investment policy should reflect the school's fiduciary responsibility to its donors or whether various "moral" issues, such as divestiture from companies that do business with South Africa or companies that refuse to do business with Israel (i.e. Mobil Oil, Pepsi, Frito Lay) should be prioritized. The results were balanced.

Of the 40 students polled, twenty-two favored an emphasis on the "morality" of the University's investments while eighteen felt that the "bottom-line" should come first. Daniel Yoshor, a senior philosophy major, waxed philosophical on his reason for choosing "morality." Every facet of YU's image must not deviate from the higher ethical standard that a Jewish institution must abide by.

"Selling stocks in companies such as IBM doesn't accomplish much," said semikha student Bernard Siegfried, who is on the other side of the argument. "We

still will buy their computers." This reasoning helped sway him towards an investment policy that emphasized the profitability of an investment over its moral ramifications.

The issue of YU investment policy was also discussed with Dr. Sheldon Socol, the University's Vice President for Business Affairs. Dr. Socol explained that YU's investments involve two entities: an endowment fund comprised of contributions from donors, and a pension fund that provides an income for retired University employees. The pension fund, Dr. Socol explained, is something which he knows little about since it is managed by an insurance company. The endowment fund, on the other hand, receives more direct management from the University administration; more specifically, the endowment fund is essentially controlled by an investment management committee that is part of the University's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Socol said that the endowment fund is "conservatively and prudently" managed.

The fund invests and reinvests the principle while using the profits to help fund various projects. These investments, he continued, are never speculative in nature. They usually involve the purchasing of U.S. Govt obligations such as bonds and Treasury notes as well as investing in the stock market. The specific breakdown of the fund varies, depending on the decisions of the investment committee.

He explained that, for instance, during the summer before the stock market crash, the investment committee opted to transfer a large portion of the endowment fund from the stock market. This decision helped the University to escape relatively unscathed from last October's financial disaster.

Dr. Socol also discussed the topic of divestiture from a company's stock for moral reasons such as involvement in the apartheid economy of South Africa. Dr. Socol became defensive when this issue was broached. He didn't understand

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Commentator Wins National Award

THE COMMENTATOR has been designated an "All American Newspaper," receiving five marks of distinction and the highest available appellation, by the Associated Collegiate Press.

ACP, based at the University of Minnesota, is one of a very few critical services that evaluate the nation's collegiate newspapers. It is affiliated with the National Scholastic Press Association.

The service critiques 27 different aspects of the newspaper, ranging from scope of sources to photo quality and cutlines (captions), providing a detailed appraisal of each, and groups

them all into five broad categories.

Through the use of point totals assigned by the judge, ACP then rates the paper in each of the five categories. Papers meeting the maximum requirements in all five areas are declared to be "All American Newspapers."

According to a spokesperson for ACP, the service judges several hundred newspapers every year, of which 15-20% earn the highest honors.

The five categories are Coverage and Content, Writing and Editing, Design, Opinion Content, and Photography, Art and Graphics.

THE COMMENTATOR merited particular mention for the outstanding quality of its editorial page and photography.

The service singled out three particular items as exemplary: the Dec. 6 center spread, dealing with anti-Semitism and how it affects the YU student; the Dec. 6 editorial "Too Little, Too Late," which discussed this year's star-crossed Guide to the Perplexed; and the Dec. 20 article by Larry Hartstein, which reported on the departure of Assistant to the Dean Robert Katz.

Of the center spread, the service said the stories do "a

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- Readers React to Shabbat Controversyp. 3
- YCSC Budget Updatep. 14

EDITORIALS

Standing Room Only

Assistant to the Dean Robert Katz departed YU two months ago. His departure, and more importantly, the administration's apparent inability to replace him, has caused time-consuming "sit-ins" of students waiting to consult with YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld. Delays result, and confusion mounts as students are unable to receive guidance.

The dean is burdened with extensive administrative duties in Yeshiva College, whether affecting the faculty, student body or staff.

The students require and deserve a new assistant responsible for student troubleshooting, guidance and academic assistance.

The partial assumption of some of these tasks by Mr. Martin Himber, a YC guidance counselor, cannot fill the void left in Mr. Katz's wake.

As the dean's office becomes an overcrowded waiting room, filled with students impatiently glancing at their watches as class time flies by, the interests of all parties involved would better be served by the speedy procurement of a replacement.

Election Improvements: Ball in Candidates' Court

It's that time of year again—student elections. Soon, the petitions will begin circulating and the fliers will start blanketing our walls.

This year's campaign looks promising: The Yeshiva College Canvassing Committee, with jurisdiction over YCSC and its subsidiary SSSB body, has reorganized the election process and implemented measures designed to eliminate the massive problems that have plagued the polls in the past.

Additionally, YCSC, in a recent board meeting, tightened and clarified its own regulations regarding internal organization and write-in candidates, making the petition requirement more meaningful and elections more honest.

Now it's up to the candidates themselves. THE COMMENTATOR hopes for an election season characterized by a bold and frank discussion of the myriad of issues facing our school.

The areas of legitimate disagreement are many.

What role should the student councils play at Yeshiva? Should they confine themselves to sponsoring events and managing budgets, or should they serve as spokespersons for the student body on a wide variety of topics?

Should the processes of government lie open to student inspection to ensure integrity and accountability, or is a degree of secrecy necessary to ensure discretion in a small school such as our own?

That just scratches the surface. Social events, Shabbat policy, admissions policy, the very nature of our school have been thrust to the fore in recent years.

In keeping with this hope of substance in this year's campaigns, THE COMMENTATOR is sponsoring a second annual forum for the YCSC presidential candidates and is devoting extensive coverage to our upcoming elections.

All of our student councils are important; these will be our elected leaders and potential voices for the entire 1989-90 school term.

The voters must choose wisely, and the aspiring officeholders must give them something from which to choose.

The Paper Chase

Students who subscribed to The New York Times through a student representative this year naturally expected to receive their newspapers in their mailboxes each day as in years past.

These expectations have proved unrealistic. In Morgenstern, for example, newspapers are now simply dropped near the lobby doors for all to pick up, rummage through and sometimes steal.

A short transition period between first and second semesters is one thing; this continuing and blatant disregard for the rightful property of certain dormitory residents is quite another.

Those responsible for the delivery must rectify the situation immediately or face a possible subscribers' revolt.

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YCSC ELECTION SCHEDULE

March 8: Election Info Packets Available

March 12-15: Question/Answer Period for Potential Candidates

March 22: First Day for Petitions

March 23: First Day of Campaign Based on Approval

March 30: Last Day for Petitions

April 3: Presidential Debate & Presentations

April 6: Elections

**Does your club or society
lack organization?**

**Do you need help in managing
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If you answered yes to any of the above,

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From the Editor's Desk

by Behnam Dayanim

What kind of school is YU? That question seems to lie at the core of the surprisingly intense controversy surrounding Shabbat observance in the dormitories.

Some contend that it is an embattled yeshiva in need of defense against an onslaught of "non-Orthodox" and "offensive" elements that should be harshly and vigorously disciplined. The more extreme advocates of this view have even attacked THE COMMENTATOR for raising the problem in print at all.

Other members of the YU community, among them several students and rabbis, seem profoundly disturbed by the prospect of the heavy hand of the administration bearing down upon its more troubled students.

Why the confusion? The root of the ambiguity arises in YU's admissions policy. The Admissions Office has apparently received instruction from above to accomplish one thing: recruit, recruit, recruit. If any criteria exist, they are purely academic. No one has been denied entrance as a result of failing to meet religious specifications. Indeed, such selectivity might violate YU's non-sectarian charter.

Yet, neither is the student simply informed of the type of school Yeshiva really is. Our extremely capable Admissions officers follow the overwhelming marketing imperative: emphasize your selling points and particularize your approach. Thus, to one type of student, they emphasize YU's high rate of law school acceptances; to another, its active and talented dramatics society; and to a third, its buzzing Beit Midrash.

The incoming student gains little insight into the totality of Yeshiva, with all of its disparate elements, and consequently suffers frequent disillusionment and frustration. This constant tension of differing expectations within the same institution leads to the unfortunate polarization and resentment that we all have experienced.

In particular, it introduces into the YU environment an unsuspecting newcomer, usually from a non-observant background, with little, if any, preparation for what he will encounter. He does not receive his dormitory handbook, with rules and regulations, until long after his decision to attend, and the import of the new world into which he has ventured does not make itself felt at first.

Perhaps the first inkling occurs when he realizes it isn't like NCSY. There are no uplifting Shabbatot, no real opportunities to socialize without great inconvenience, and few understanding companions.

Perhaps the rude awakening occurs with a pounding on the door and the frightening accusa-

tion, "So, you're mechalel Shabbos!"

Maybe it doesn't get that far. Maybe the student leaves his television on without a timer, choosing to sleep with the noise, but is frightened into turning it off (thereby definitely transgressing the Shabbat) by the sound of the dorm counselor's keyturning in the door. That has happened.

We have to decide once and for all what we care about most. We need to weigh the importance of the totality, the aggregate of community, versus that of the individual.

Of course, we can balance the two, helping the one while protecting the many. But we aren't. Mindless coercion accomplishes nothing but the creation of a sense of estrangement and mutual intolerance.

The student deserves to be treated as an adult and communicated with rationally and reasonably. Why does he persist in defying the norms that have been established? Is it defiance, or merely confusion and lack of conviction?

We've admitted these students under misleading pretense. We owe them more than unyielding condemnation. We owe them understanding and maturity. Some of those in question have already wandered past help; they have become alienated beyond recall. They weren't like that originally.

Most came for a variety of reasons, to a large degree to explore the religion to which they had so recently and wonderfully awakened. Of course, not all are here for such pure motives. Some come for social opportunities, others because of our New York location, and still others choose YU from some vague, undefined feeling that it represents a last chance to fill the persistent need inside of them. Undoubtedly, a few are here for more crass reasons. Many probably wouldn't be able to answer if you asked. They might cite many of the above factors.

Nevertheless, YU bears the blame for their present predicament. YU bears the shame.

How can someone fail to comprehend the indignity of harassment, of unannounced entry and hurled accusations? From what planet does one come that he vigorously advocates Sinat Hinam (unreasoning hatred) in the guise of halachic rectitude?

YU owes its students more. It owes us honesty, and, failing that, it owes us compassion.

Alumnus Nostalgia

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your February 7, 1989 issue on two counts. First, I received it, incredibly, on February 11, instead of the usual three weeks late. Second, there were more than the usual complement of thought-provoking pieces.

A few random reactions for your readers:

1. As a member of the first YC early admissions group sixteen years ago, I am disappointed that the program is now viewed as something of a failure, at least in the social sense, by other students. In my day, the early admissions students not only held their own in the academic sense but also successfully integrated themselves into the fabric of their classes. Moreover, the thirty or so of us had to do it after first joining the existing freshman class in January, as the program was hastily conceived to staunch the outflow of MTA seniors to the City Colleges.

2. Behnam Dayanim's ideas relative to IBC and JSS are excellent. It's about time to put to rest once and for all the schizophrenia that has plagued these programs for so long. Recognize, finally, that they serve valid purposes in their own right and are valid alternative

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Responso

Shabbat Controversy Editor's "Non-Orthodox" Views Belong Elsewhere Dormitory "Thought Police"

To the Editor:

"Tzama Nafshi L'elokim L'kol Chai" (My soul thirsts for the Lord, for the Living God: Psalms 42:3)

Such was the motif for the existence of "Dovid Hamelech" (King David). Such should be the motif of ours. We accomplish this through Torah and mitzvot (and perhaps musar). This is the bottom line. There can be no arguments. None whatsoever.

Anyone who is even remotely familiar with Dr. Lamm's thoughts on Torah U'Mada knows that he stresses the supremacy of Torah. He is also totally uncompromising with regard to the observance of mitzvot.

Bearing this in mind, one cannot help but feel deeply troubled by the editor's column in the February 21, 1989 COMMENTATOR. YU is an Orthodox Jewish institution. It therefore follows that halacha would govern. Granted, there are often differences of opinion among halachic authorities. However, they are irrelevant to the issues at hand. No "posek" in the world would permit the quasi-pornographic wall posters prohibited by the administration. Likewise, no posek would per-

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To the Editor:

Over the Shabbat of Ki Tissa, on Friday night, Feb. 24, an incident occurred which could be easily identifiable with fictional acts of the sort depicted in the George Orwell novel, "1984." It seemed as if the "Thought Police" were patrolling the hallways of Morgenstern Dorm, looking for non-conformists.

I walked into my hallway on the second floor and noticed a certain dorm counselor who did not live on the floor walking shrewdly and surreptitiously up and down the hallway. I ignored this and went back to my room.

A few minutes later, I again entered the hall and saw this same dorm counselor with his ears almost pressed up against a door across the hall, with keys in hand and ready to go into action.

Well, I obviously knew what he was doing. I was curious to see how far he would go, and about fifteen minutes later I found him on the third floor, inspecting.

This incident I found to be very evil and detrimental, in view of the way the Shabbat problem was approached by one in a position of some "authority."

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pages 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
Shabbat, Kahane, JSS
and more

CLARIFICATION
The picture appearing in last issue's centrespread represented a satiric comment on the spread's theme. It was not a candid, nor was it intended as such. The Commentator apologizes for any possible confusion.

CAMPUS NEWS

Campus Lounge Improvements Appear to be on Horizon

by Alex Wittenberg

Responding to vocal criticism from students and THE COMMENTATOR, Yeshiva University has begun formulating plans for improving conditions in the Uptown Campus lounges. Officials of the college, most notably Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol, Supporting Services Director Jeffrey Rosengarten, and Dean of Students Efram Nulman, will consider overall student needs in developing a comprehensive and effective series of actions. These moves will be based, to a large degree, on results of a survey taken by the YC Residence Council.

Prior to this year, students, if not satisfied, rarely complained about conditions in Morgenstern Lounge, the fourth and fifth floor lounges in Morg, Klein Hall, and Ruben Lounge. Dean Nulman comments that the addition of the lounge in the Max Stern Athletic Center in 1985 generally met student needs until recently. Today, a small movement has led Dean Nulman and the Residence Council to acknowledge that the time has come for rethinking.

This change was encouraged by a series of editorials and letters in THE COMMENTA-

TOR, most notably a letter of harsh complaint by student Jonathan Tropper. A slew of criticisms, ranging from the lack of a permanent public television to the presence of "noisy" engagement parties, arose rather quickly, leading to the current attempts at planning.

Dean Nulman explains that the college will respond to students' needs and criticisms. In regard to the engagement parties, he acknowledges that a more suitable home will be found. However, any changes will be planned out carefully.

Any possible impact on students will be taken into account, as well as cost and long-term effects. As an example, Dean Nulman points to placing a TV in Morg Lounge. Potentially it might quell some criticisms, but it could also be as noisy as engagement parties. The college hopes to avoid such problems even as it serves the greatest number of residents.

All lounges and public areas will be included in the plans, even the still-uncompleted Schottenstein Student Center.

That building, which will house two lounges of its own, might be a solution to the engagement party problem. No option will be ruled out for some time,

including the possibility of soundproofing Morg Lounge. Nulman added, however, that Weissberg Commons currently remains out of the picture as a sight for parties.

One further complication lies in the availability of Morg lounge as a complimentary site for the parties. Provided those responsible clean up afterward, YU does not charge them for use of the facility. In a location such as the Commons, utilized extensively for conferences and dinners, such would not be the case.

The survey taken by the Residence Council in February will serve as the University's primary guide. When completed, the survey will not be the final word, for the results might be impractical or impossible to implement. In addition, the effects on non-voting students will also be determined. Nonetheless, the voice of the student body will be heard through this poll and through the Residence Council. This group serves under the jurisdiction of the YCSC and acts as the official voice of the dormitory student. Currently, Doron Speiser serves as chairman of the council, which includes Ari Levitan and Ray Barishansky.



Morg Lounge in rare moment of tranquility

showers. The showers on the third, fourth, and fifth floors are in a state of disrepair; aside from the fact that they are aesthetically unattractive, Lawrence Burian (4th floor) complained, "It's not the communal showers that bother me; it's the shock I get when the water suddenly changes temperature."

Other structural problems with the showers include the many tiles that are missing from the walls and the paint that is peeling from the ceiling of the third floor shower room. Even the seventh floor shower room has been repaired twice this year.

Rabbi Cheifetz, Director of Residence Halls, and the Resi-

dence Council have asked Facilities Management to make the renovations of the showers top priority and to have it done as soon as possible.

The poor quality of the showers on the lower floors has caused major inconveniences for both the residents of the sixth and seventh floors and the residents of those floors with only communal showers. It is bothersome for people who want to take "private" showers to trek all the way up to the sixth floor. Students often complain about the seemingly special status accorded the residents of the top two floors.

Rabbi Cheifetz stated, "I am sympathetic to the fact that students in recent years have been more concerned about their privacy." However, sympathy is not what most students are looking for. They are looking for action.

Mr. Jeff Socol, Director of Facilities Management, maintains that "Facilities Management takes things very seriously.

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Addresses YU

by A. Jeff Ifrah

The Rishon L'Zion (Sephardic Chief Rabbi), Rav Mordechai Eliyahu, spoke here during a visit February 20, 1989, on behalf of the International Conclave of the Sephardic Rabbinate. The conclave, sponsored by Yeshiva University's Sephardic Activities Program under the guidance of the Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, and Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Serels, meets here every ten years. This year's program brought rabbis from three different continents together.

"The Sephardic Program at Yeshiva University," according to Rabbi Serels, "serves as a community network between all the Sephardic Rabbis. This conclave is a way of people renewing their contacts and of strong mutual concerns. They continue to keep in contact with each other even after the conclave."

The fact that the Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel attended greatly enhanced the already promising agenda. Rabbi Serels explains, "Because of the importance the Rishon plays for the community and the unity of Sephardim," his presence at the conclave "contributed greatly."

During the several symposiums held, the rabbis discussed problems facing their individual Sephardic communities, such as assimilation, as well as problems of the Sephardic community-at-large. The conclave revealed strong disapproval voiced toward certain proposals concerning the status of Reform Jews and converts. Resolutions were, however, adopted regarding official policy towards the West Bank.

The conclave came to Yeshiva University's Uptown campus after having been hosted at the

Spanish-Portuguese Shearith Israel Synagogue of Manhattan's Upper West Side and Beth Torah Or Avel in Brooklyn.

After introductions by Yeshiva President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm and the Haham Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Rishon spoke to gathered Sephardic students in Furst Hall. Thereafter, the Rishon spoke at length to an assembled group at the Beit Midrash in Tanenbaum Hall.

The Rishon L'Zion spoke about different persons in whom we place our trust and acceptance of their Edut (testimony), whereas normally we would not.

Examples included a wife over a Haham (rabbinical leader) in situations of questionable sexual behavior, as well as a non-Jewish nurse who attests to the time of a baby boy's birth and may therefore cause one to desecrate the Sabbath by determining a time which would call for a brit on Shabbat.

The Rishon also spoke briefly concerning Purim, as it was Shushan Purim Katan. He explained optimistically that where there is Sabbath, words of Torah in the mouths of children, and Divrei Torah exchanged between talmidim, there is no Haman. This, Rav Eliyahu asserts, was the triumph of Mordechai, and the decree of Haman is forever broken as Torah continues perpetuating itself. Thus, the Rishon concluded, the Jews are truly, "Ora VeSimcha VeSasson Vikar."

The Rishon L'Zion concluded by comparing the state of Israel, and what Israel stands for, as similar to the foundations of the world's yeshivot. We here at Yeshiva University, the Chief Rabbi attests, are therefore "KeYisrael."

BREAKDOWN: YU Vans Incapacitated

by Jonathan J. Wernick

On Sunday and Monday, February 11 and 12, the University's van service was disrupted.

"We hit a critical stage with vans during that point in time," cites Arthur Hoyt, YU Director of Safety and Security. Of the four vans in Safety and Security's motor pool, one was out of service and being repaired.

Subsequently, two more vans broke down, leaving only one van operational to service the University's needs. Normal service resumed on Tuesday; however, the fact that a contingency plan had not been implemented raises eyebrows over the department's efficiency. Mr. Hoyt, in response to the breakdowns, is working on a set of procedures

that could be instituted if a similar situation should arise again. "They would be in black and white for any supervisor to follow," vowed Mr. Hoyt. Part of the proposed contingency plan would include rental vehicles to augment service.

Mr. Hoyt's department just finished a use and needs survey on all of their vehicles. The study has served as a catalyst in setting up a computerized preventative maintenance program that will discover potential problems before they get too serious. "The incident should have never happened," claimed Mr. Hoyt, "but I feel confident that the new procedures will ensure uninterrupted van service in the future."

Shower Stalls Stalled

by Michael Eisenberg

Since the beginning of the school year, residents of the Ruben Hall Dormitory have seen drenched students in robes and towels walking up and down the stairs and riding the elevators.

No, they are not soaked from a midnight water fight; they are returning from the showers on the sixth and seventh floors. What make the sixth and seventh floors so special are their private shower stalls, much preferred to the communal showers found on all other floors. "I like privacy when I shower," said Michael Fried (5th floor). He and many others in his predicament make the daily ascent to the sixth and seventh floors.

The "shower problem" does not only revolve around the lack of privacy in the communal

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Eddie Izzo

Under supervision of Vaad HaRabim of Riverdale

Joan Bodner

Cont. on page 5.

Rubin Shower Improvements Delayed

Continued from page 4

We respond to students' concerns." However, to this date, nothing has been done to remedy the situation.

The excessive use of the "private" showers also has inconvenienced the members of the sixth and seventh floors. Early in the morning, students can be spotted waiting on lines for these showers. "Our guys are forced to take showers at odd hours to avoid the preminyan rush in the morning," said sixth floor dorm counselor Dani Cohen.

The heavy use of the showers also results in the accumulation of debris in the drains, which results in flooding. Eric Davis (6th floor) claimed that this was his major concern with the present situation. "As long as they leave the showers with as much hair as they came in with, it's all right with me," said Davis. Rabbi Cheifetz has requested that Housekeeping clean those showers more often but, unfortunately, this remains a problem.

Students have voiced their complaints and the Residence Council has conveyed the importance of this issue to Facilities Management. If all involved believe this is a top

priority, then why has nothing been done?

Mr. Socol contends that money is not the problem; it is a lack of time and manpower. He stated, "It would have been done last summer but the increased enrollment made the repair of the bathrooms in Muss Hall more urgent." When asked about the timetable for the repairs, Mr. Socol indicated that he did not know of one. However, he contacted THE COMMENTATOR the next day and said that the fifth floor renovations would begin in two or three weeks and that, barring any complications, the rest of the showers would be renovated before the start of next semester.

Steven Usdan (5th floor) summed it up best. "We all understand that projects like this take time. However, it has been almost two years since the sixth floor showers were redone. If it was necessary on the sixth and seventh floors, isn't it equally necessary on other floors?"

More Responsa

SSSJ Thanks Students

To the Editor:

During the last six to eight months, the Soviet government has relaxed restrictions on the entry of Jewish books through the mail. Michael Elbert, a former refusenik now residing in Israel, has begun a project of translating twenty different Jewish books into Russian. These books range from Chumash with Rashi and the Shulchan Arukh to "O Jerusalem" and an Anthology of Rav Kook's writings. The purpose of the wide variety is to not only invigorate the Russians' traditional Judaic studies but to also instill some spark of interest in their people and religion. For some, the road may be through a purely nationalistic tie to Israel. Hopefully, when they emigrate, these Russian Jews will have some attraction to

learn more about Judaism and perhaps will choose Israel as their destination.

During the SOY Sefarim sale, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) representatives were present requesting donations for this project. Most of the people were very attentive to the idea and gave generously. We raised over \$4,000.

As campus representatives of SSSJ, we would like to thank all those who donated as well as those who volunteered their time and energy for this endeavor. Also, we extend our gratitude to the SOY staff for permitting us the use of the Sefarim sale as an arena for this undertaking.

Yasher Ko'ach,
Victor Fishman
Barry Diner
YC '89

Reminiscences

Continued from page 3

choices to MYP, not just weak palliatives for those who "can't cut it."

3. Professor Lee's article on the Senate warmed my heart. His sentiments almost exactly mirror those I felt as a student senator in 1974-1976 and still feel today.

Robert I. Kantowitz
YC '76
BGSS '76

Philanthropy Soc. Dedication

To the Editor,

The Philanthropy Society thanks David Firestone and THE COMMENTATOR for the article about the society (in the Feb. 21 issue of the newspaper). At this time we would like to publicize the fact that our work this year is being dedicated to the memory of Mr. Joseph K. Miller z"l. We believe that our volunteer charity organization in a small way reflects what Mr. Miller accomplished for the Jewish people in his lifetime. With our dedication, we wish to both pay tribute to the life of Mr. Miller and remind ourselves of the good name one must earn through devotion to the Jewish community.
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Columbia Law Prof. Analyzes Goetz Case At SCW Lecture

by Bruce Schanzer

On Tuesday, February 21, George Fletcher, a professor at Columbia Law School, was the guest lecturer at the Annual Morris Epstein Forum of the Arts, held at Stern College's Koch Auditorium.

Professor Fletcher, the Beekman professor of Law at Columbia, discussed the topic of "Reflections on the Bernard Goetz Case: Secular and Jewish." Mr. Fletcher admitted to a fascination with the Goetz case, being that it raises some basic jurisprudential issues of the rights of the public to self defense. Mr. Fletcher followed the Goetz case very closely and wrote a book on it entitled "A Crime of Self-Defense: Bernard Goetz and the Law of Trial."

Mr. Fletcher began his talk by briefly reviewing the Goetz case. On December 22, 1984 Bernard Goetz was riding on the Subway when he was confronted by a number of black youths asking for five dollars. Goetz proceeded to pull out a .38 revolver and fire. He hit four people. He then walked over to one of the four people, Daryl Colby and said "you seem to be all right", at which point he fired a fifth shot. This fifth shot became very controversial in Goetz's claim of self-defense.

After he was arrested, Mr. Goetz was charged with aggravated assault, attempted murder, reckless endangerment, and illegal possession of a gun. He was acquitted of all charges except the latter gun possession charge for which he was sentenced to one year in prison and parole eligibility after two months.

Mr. Fletcher explained that this case raised the issue of what self-defense response is morally or legally justified and what is an overreaction. He then proceeded to the crux of his lecture, a comparative analysis of the problems of self-defense from a secular and Talmudic point of view. He used three different theories of self-defense in his analysis: self-defense as punishment, self defense as an excuse, and self defense as a justification.

The self-defense as punishment theory, Mr. Fletcher said, was captured by one defense witness who exclaimed, "Those punks got what they deserve." Mr. Fletcher added that this emotion was felt by an overwhelming consensus of New York City cab drivers. Obviously nobody feels that asking someone for five dollars deserves a wounding of some sort. Clearly, there was a connection between who the kids were, poor black "punks" from the South Bronx, and the irrational theory of justice.

Mr. Fletcher then noted that the Gemara is replete with just this issue. He noted the case in tractate Sanhedrin, of the thief who breaks in at night. Being that the Gemara gets involved with whether or not you can kill the intruder on the Sabbath (as executions are not done on the Sabbath,) and whether or not there is a problem of acting in self-defense, since ordinarily a criminal is given a warning, clearly indicates that the Gemara views this act of self-defense, as a form of punishment for the thief. This, Fletcher indicated, is directly opposed to

Western thought which from the time of Aquinas has attempted to separate justice from punishment.

Mr. Fletcher then moved on to his second theory of self-defense, self defense as an excuse. He explained this as an involuntary reaction out of fear that one's life is at risk. In this instance, Fletcher said, one must excuse the defender. He cited the story of Pinehas' passionate assault of Zimri for having relations in public with a Midianite woman. The Talmud stresses the passionate nature of his action. He acted out of zealotness towards God and therefore his reaction was excused, though not commended.

Fletcher's third, and final, theory was that of self-defense as justification. He explained this as "the right thing to do under the circumstances." In secular law this is the concept of "each person is an island unto himself," that each person has individual rights and when a person is encroached upon he has the right to vindicate this autonomy. This last theory Mr. Fletcher found to be the most intriguing in establishing it into the Talmudic puzzle. He noted that it was a major step from attacking an intruder into one's house to attacking an intruder into one's space. He concluded that the closest Talmudic connection would be the case of Rodef. The Rodef is a person who is chasing someone to kill him. In such an instance the intended victim may preempt his assailant's strike with one of his own. Through a series of deductions he concluded that from this case we see that a person may act in self-defense in a public place.

Professor Fletcher concluded that it seems from Judaism that it's a natural right to defend yourself.

YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht, the pre-law advisor at Yeshiva University and rabbi at MTA, commented on Prof. Fletcher's lecture, that for a layman he showed a solid grasp of the Talmudic issues.

First Annual IBC Shabbaton Held at Oheb Zedek

by A. Jeff Ifrah

Twenty-five people attended IBC's first annual shabbaton - Shabbat Ki Tissa - at Rabbi Alan Schwartz's synagogue, Oheb Zedek. The group first met in Rabbi Schwartz's high-styled synagogue on Erev Shabbat.

Rabbi Schwartz, an IBC alumnus and current professor, gave many divrei Torah throughout the weekend including a stimulating Oneg on "The Ever-Changing World and Halacha."

Saturday lunch was again hosted at the rabbi's house. It was followed by a special opportunity to "Ask the Rabbi."

Dave Berg, IBC student council president and shabbaton organizer, explained his aspirations for the shabbaton: "Throughout the year, I've been trying to promote Ahdut (oneness), it's events like this which have enabled me to accomplish this goal." Simultaneously, Mr. Berg notes, "Rabbi Schwartz fulfilled his ambition to take the class out of the classroom."

While IBC has long prided itself on the special rebbe/talmid relationship, some have complained of recent weak spots. However, Mr. Berg feels that "events like these will fill that much needed gap for students."

YU Investment Policy

Continued from page 1

why people fight for divestiture from the aforementioned companies and not companies that do business with Saudi Arabia or that boycott Israel. He raised a number of other arguments against divestiture. He pointed out that, although students might advocate a sale of IBM stocks, for instance, they will still use the IBM computers. He also noted that the endowments are given in trust to be dealt with prudently, not to be wielded as a political tool.

As for Yeshiva University's own policy concerning investing in companies that do business with South Africa, Dr. Socol stated that the University adheres to the Sullivan principle

of divestiture. This is a guiding set of principles for companies in South Africa. It asks companies to give blacks fair opportunities. The University will only invest in companies that are signatories to this principle. Dr. Socol pointed out that this only involves ten or twelve of YU's investments. He also pointed out that the types of companies that YU would consider investing in (stable, "blue chip") are generally signatories, anyway.

Dr. Socol did emphasize that YU considers the moral aspects in their investment policy, but that ultimately the University has a responsibility to manage the donors gifts "conservatively and prudently."

Commentator Acclaimed

Continued from page 1

good job of separating a topic into different aspects...exploring different avenues."

The service commended the editorial for showing "sound thinking" and for being "well thought out. The point is well supported and very well grounded."

Regarding the news piece on Mr. Katz, the critique stated that the "compact lead gives reader base of story...as it blossoms in support of [its] message."

However, the service did say that the paucity of graphics and

artwork hurt the overall appearance of the paper.

Editor-in-Chief Behnam Dayanim said that "the original reason for subscribing to the service was to gain insight into how to improve our paper. ACP did that, pointing out weak spots and commending us for our strengths. The award is a nice bonus."

"It just proves that with an excellent board and staff, we can put out a great paper."

THE COMMENTATOR submitted five of last semester's issues for evaluation.

More Responsa

JSS Gets No Respect

To the Editor:

As a concerned student in JSS, I feel I can no longer remain silent. The treatment of the JSS program by this University is rapidly approaching crisis proportions. The lack of esteem with which JSS students are regarded by students of the other Jewish Studies programs is a reflection of the view seemingly held by this University. Take for example the "office" provided for JSS faculty and administration. That the director is given only part of a room divided by a makeshift partition is both disrespectful of his position and highly insulting. A private conversation between Rabbi Yudin and a troubled student is an impossible occurrence in his office, as other students waiting to see this busy man must stand around the secretary's desk or

play musical chairs with the two chairs that are only rarely provided near the office.

A highly feasible solution to this office dilemma would be to make use of the two connecting offices around the corner which contain a grand total of two empty desks and a collection of cardboard barrels overflowing with trash. Requests for use of this empty space have been made on three separate occasions by Rabbi Yudin, requests that have been virtually ignored. Two days' worth of general cleaning and preparation and one day to actually move in would be, to a large extent, all that would be required to solve the problem, but it seems that University administration politics dictate that these rooms stay empty "just in case". A conversation with certain administration

officials produces this statement, "It's too late to do anything this year, but we are looking at a plan for next year." "What is this plan?" one might ask. "To move all three secretaries into the central room." It is obvious how much time was spent looking for a proper solution.

Maybe the first step in building the esteem of the JSS program should be giving it a proper home. Students in IBC and MYP have already determined the course that their Yiddishkeit will follow. For many, JSS is a "make or break" type of program. As Jews, we already feel like outsiders in a secular world. Must we (JSS students) be made to feel like outsiders in our own Yeshiva as well?

Harry Shapiro
JSS '92

Shabbat TV Use

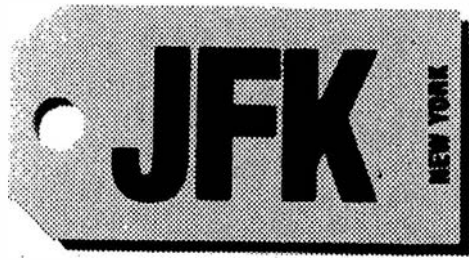
Continued from page 1

dorm counselors snooping around, sticking their ears against the door with a key ready in hand," he claims.

Hillel Horowitz, the Head Dorm Counselor in Morgenstern Hall, states that he believes strongly in safeguarding the rights to privacy of all dormitory residents. "But when a student's actions bring down the atmosphere for others," he continues,

"it's no longer a question of privacy." Horowitz adds that enough people have approached him to complain about TVs left on during Shabbat for him to consider their use impermissible.

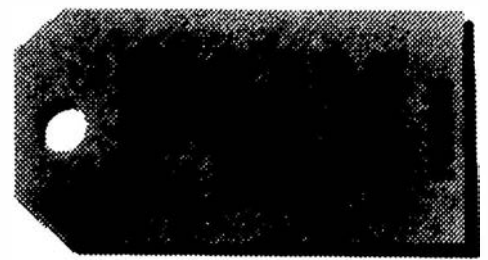
The administration, too, feels confident about the need to enforce a ban on TV use. Explains Rabbi Blau, "The atmosphere of this institution has to be one that is conducive to the majority of its students."



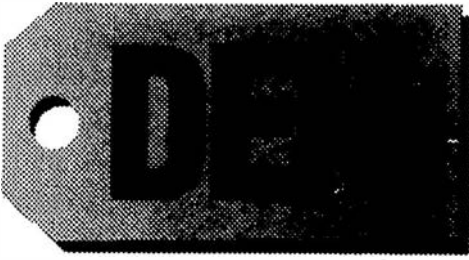
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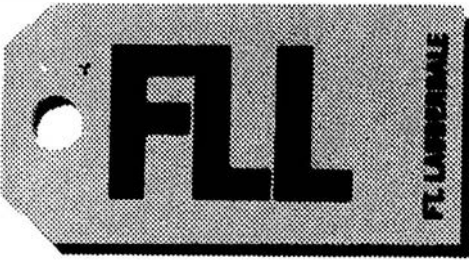
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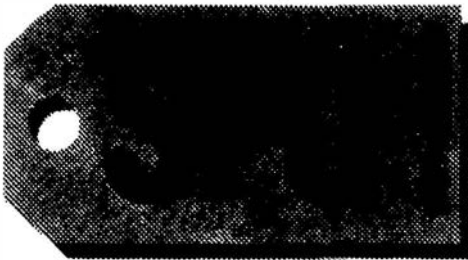
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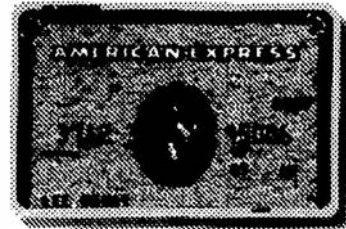
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Our Academic Departments: A Mixed Bag

Students Bitter Over Moribund Psych Department

by Ethan Benovitz

The Psychology Department at Yeshiva College, while offering a wide range of courses in both clinical and experimental psychology, is viewed with overwhelming dissatisfaction by the students enrolled in it.

Specifically, complaints have been leveled at the quality of the courses, the teaching methodology of the professors, the lack of guidance for the large percentage of majors that are interested in post-graduate study, and the absence of opportunities for those who'd like to get some on-hands involvement in the field, be it in the form of research or practical experience.

The department's two full-time professors, Dr. Helmut Adler (experimental psychology) and Dr. Manny Sternlicht (developmental psychology) are both well-known and highly regarded in their respective fields. However, says one student, "It doesn't necessarily follow that their pedagogical skills are equally impressive or noteworthy."

A YC senior, requesting anonymity, commented on several of the courses, saying, "They're just not invigorating. The field of psychology is ever-evolving and the excitement that exists in the field should trickle down to the classroom on some level as well."

It is important to distinguish between psychology majors who intend to pursue psychology

beyond the undergraduate level and those who do not. Amongst the latter division, response to the department is considerably more positive than that of the former. Shmuel Mozenkis, a law-school bound senior, describes his experiences within YU's psychology department as being very favorable whereas Asher Epstein, a YU graduate currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Ferkauf, recounts bitterly his graduate school application process, and partially blames the department for his being poorly prepared for the psychology GREs and several graduate school interviews.

Fred Schwartz, a YC graduate currently enrolled in the "Chaver program" and applying to medical schools, concurs with this opinion, and boasts of his fourteenth percentile GRE score. "It was one of the best in YU," Mr. Schwartz added that his test results didn't surprise him in light of the fact that he had studied the same material in almost every clinical course he took.

Another recent YU graduate, currently studying in Ferkauf, says of his initial experience in graduate school, "It was a complete shock, I felt I was at a serious disadvantage." He attributes being ill-prepared to the lack of research required of him while studying psychology at YU.

Dr. Sternlicht asserts, how-

ever, that several of his advanced courses, Problems in Psychology, for example, do entail extensive "semi-independent" research, which incorporates the same research methodology used on the post-graduate level.

While all students appreciate the dedication and commitment of the professors to the University, many express disapproval and frown upon what they term "subjective grading." A student describing several tests taken with Dr. Sternlicht explains, "The three questions are very abstract, you write what you can

dimensional project, the student takes something abstract and portrays it on a concrete medium. Dr. Sternlicht contends that a project will be remembered by the student for a far greater length of time, than will be the facts that go into a research paper. Mr. Epstein learned this the hard way.

One of the virtues of the department which shouldn't go unmentioned is the opportunity given to students to take some courses in the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. It enables the serious student to get a taste



and pray hard." Another student complains that, upon receiving a grade for the first time, one is branded with and locked into that grade, making it extremely difficult to improve academically.

Dr. Sternlicht offers students the option of writing a research paper or presenting a project in many of his courses. Mr. Epstein recalls that he worked tirelessly on a paper that was given a "B" while several of his classmates performed a two-minute experiment on an idea discussed in class and received an "A". Dr. Sternlicht accounts for this phenomenon by explaining that his grading system is based on creativity. With a three-

of what he is to expect in graduate school while at the same time fulfilling his undergraduate requirements.

Yet, when asked how he found out about this program, Jonathan Weber, a YC senior presently enrolled in a course at Ferkauf responded, "By word of mouth, someone from YU who studied there [at Ferkauf] last year enlightened me as to the program's existence."

This illustrates another problem prevalent within the department—the lack of guidance. The predominant sentiment amongst psychology students is that they don't have any formal body to advise them concretely. Doctors Sternlicht and Adler both assert that they are, and always have been, more than willing to speak with students. Yet this message is either unclear to the students or else the

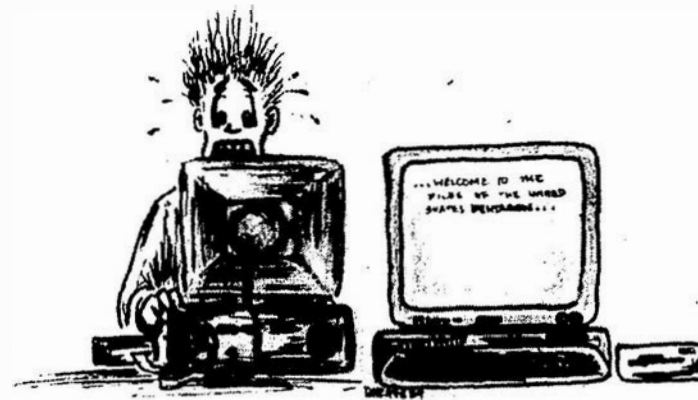
students want to speak to people who are more familiar with current trends and intricacies involved in the graduate school application procedure.

Finally, almost all of the students interviewed described the prevalent attitude toward and within the department as being apathetic or downright negative. One student recalls being told by the Office of Admissions as an incoming sophomore not to take Experimental Psychology in YC because it was taught better at Queens College. The student contends that this encounter set the tone for his experiences within the department and contributed largely to his unfavorable impression of it.

Another student was particularly unhappy and felt downright gypped when Dr. Schneider, a fine sociologist professor, was hired to teach a course in Social Psychology. This student felt it was clearly beyond her field of expertise.

"The department is in desperate need of change," says Fred Schwartz. "It would seem appropriate for an institution like Yeshiva University, which encourages its students to involve themselves in communally oriented professions such as rabbis and teachers, to provide its students with an attractive department. The reality is, however, that many students who could use some training in this area avoid it at all costs."

Many of the students interviewed implore the dean to assist the department in enhancing both its external and internal image. However, the amount of change that a department can undergo is questionable when the two primary professors are, as one student put it, "virtual fixtures"; Dr. Sternlicht has been on the faculty of Yeshiva College since 1957, prior to which he studied in YU under Dr. Adler's tutelage.



Computers Alive And Growing

by Gad Dishy

The Computers Department's full-time faculty consists of four professors, each of whom has anywhere between ten and 25 years of teaching experience.

The four full-time teachers are: Professor Breban, Professor Leibovitch, Professor Dallasman, and Professor Lebow. Professor Leibovitch has been the head of the department for some time but has agreed to use a circular chairmanship system in which one full-time professor chairs the department every year allowing for a shared burden of the extra work. Professor Lebow is the chairman of the department this year.

The course offerings are listed in the YU catalog yet not limited to only those listed. Enough demand or changing standards established by the A.C.M. (Association of Computing Machinery) could effect a change in what is offered. In comparison to other universities in the tri-state metropolitan area, Professor Leibovitch feels that YU has a good program for computing majors. (No pun intended.)

The computers themselves

and their accessories are up-to-date and readily accessible by all students. Professor Leibovitch expressed satisfaction with the administration's supplying of equipment and is hoping for approval of recent requests for further modernization.

The new SSSB office is the prime locator and placer of jobs for students in the business school. In the past, Professor Leibovitch tended to these matters primarily and still does from time to time. However, he feels that the placement office is doing a good job and has helped to continue the rapport he began to establish for YU students in the job market.

In the future one may see a new structure implemented in the computer department. The new structure, which is still in its conceptual stage, would consist of replacing three credits courses with four credit courses and redistributing the material to be covered into new groupings. On the whole, Professor Leibovitch feels that "we have a good program here and we compare favorably with others in the tri-state metropolitan area."

Political Science Pleases Most, Yet Courses Few And Chancy

by Shukie Grossman

Aristotle describes politics as "the master science in the highest sense." Since his day, the scientific study of politics has evolved into a rather popular area of educational concentration, particularly on the collegiate level. At Yeshiva College, this trend is manifest in the substantial number of students who enroll in various political science courses each semester.

The full-time staff consists of Professor Komar, Taub, and Posen, all of whom have extensive teaching experience as well as outside application of their knowledge. Professor Posen, YU for three years and Columbia for one, or attain a Master's by attending YU for four years and Columbia for two. Although exact numbers could not be given, most of the YU students come out the better from the program. Professor Posen asserts that those who are determined to do well apply themselves accordingly in undergraduate school.

The course offerings are flexible and basically are a function of demand. For example, the

who is going to enjoy the study of law is going to enjoy political science classes more so than he or she will enjoy other types of classes," because "these courses come closest to law courses." Thus, the aspiring attorney receives a reasonably solid preparatory background when delving into this field of study.

Nevertheless, Associate Dean Michael Hecht, Associate Professor of Political Science and YC Pre-Law Advisor, maintains that "although government or political science was traditionally the major for law school, other majors have become increasingly popular." According to Dean Hecht, however, government or political science remains nationally the largest single major for prospective law students, even though this is not the case at YC, where those with pre-law ambition major in subjects ranging from business to physics.

Though students commonly perceive political science as a pre-law initiative, Dean Hecht also points out that "political science is a solid liberal arts major, especially at YC, where

Chemical Imbalance

Beneath The Surface Lies Discontent

by Avrum Aaron

With just a passive glance through the Yeshiva College schedule of courses, one would think the Chemistry Department to be strong and well-stocked with majors. There are seven different courses offered, including two sections of organic chemistry and six accompanying lab courses available to the chemistry student.

The truth, however, belittles the schedule; there are only three chemistry majors who are graduating this spring. Furthermore, the pre-health science majors, also carried by the Chemistry Department, are not pleased with the services being rendered.

It would be unfair to express grievances about the Chemistry Department without first extolling its virtues. The Chemistry Department is blessed with a very dedicated staff, led by Dr. Irving Borowitz, who has taught on and off at Yeshiva University for nineteen years. Dr. Zitter, Mrs. Dobkin, and Mr. Jake Hurman are praised by students. "Jake is excellent. He's the most efficient technician I've had in any lab," maintained one student.

Adjunct biochemistry professor Dr. Oratz was called "one of the finest teachers in the school" by one pre-health science major. Perhaps the Chemistry Department's greatest accomplishment is its fine record in preparing students for MCATs and DATs. Dr. Berry Potvin, pre-health advisor, praised the Chemistry Department, as well as the other science departments, for its part in Yeshiva's excellent MCAT and DAT scores.

Students concur with this assessment. "The Chemistry Department prepared me for the MCATs. I had to go to Kaplan's anyway, but that wasn't because the Chemistry Department didn't prepare me," explained one student.

there is a stress on political theory rather than political behavior." Therefore, "for people who are interested in public administration, political science is the logical major."

Professor Blank believes that the student who studies political science obtains "the skills needed for any high level position." She stresses that there are literally hundreds of research organizations, large investment companies with government sections, and large corporations with government relations bureaus, all of which desire employees with some sort of background in political study.

Amid the flourishing of political science as an educational discipline, a specter haunts the Political Science Department at YC.

Although as Dean Hecht

While the Chemistry Department produces excellent results on the various standardized tests, its performance in the classroom is often criticized by students. The opinions of students range from "The department is lacking" to the unyield-



ing "The Chemistry Department is the worst in Yeshiva College."

The faculty has experienced numerous changes over the past two years and the only full professor on staff is Dr. Borowitz. Although this lack of permanence would seem to be a dark cloud over the Chemistry Department, the opportunity of hiring new blood presents a possibility for immediate improvement.

Dr. Borowitz is hopeful: "If things work out, with proper recruiting we'll be able to rectify the situation." One student offered his advice to the recruiting committee: "They should worry less about where the instructors degrees are from and worry about their teaching skills."

Another grievance commonly expressed by chemistry majors is the age of the equipment. Dr. Borowitz admits that "some of the equipment is old, that is, the major equipment; the minor equipment is adequate."

Although insufficient equipment and shifting faculty vex the chemistry major, pre-meds have something else on their minds: presumes, "the department has some very high quality faculty members," many students express despondency over what one senior calls, "a lack of diversification in class selection." Another student complains that instead of increasing or at least maintaining the status quo, there has been a "cutdown in political science classes over the past two years."

Compounding the problem, laments on disgruntled junior, is that "in subject matter like political science, it's the teacher that makes or breaks the class; that is why I switched out." However, another student comments that since discussion is a crucial element in any political science course, the quality of the class "depends on the students in it."

One example of the above

his material, or his fairness or goodnaturedness, many students complain about his ability to inculcate the necessary material to the class. One student summed it up: "Dr. Borowitz is really interested in the students, but he doesn't present himself well in class."

One might conclude that the responsibility of the chemistry majors' and pre-health majors' displeasure at YC should fall on Dr. Borowitz's shoulders. This, however, is unfair. Firstly, the problem is not unique to YC: nationwide, the amount of "hard- science majors has dropped. But this does not explain why the majority of pre-med students who choose to major in a science major in biology.

This can be explained in two ways.

Firstly, biology is more suited to medical school, which is the immediate goal of the majority of the science majors.

Secondly, as Mark Millstein, a chemistry major said, "Why take chemistry when you could take something easier?"

Continued on page 13

complaint was a class taught last year by visiting professor Dr. Paul Eidelberg. "He had very strong views that pervaded his entire Israeli Politics class. If you agreed with him, you had a great time; if not, it was uncomfortable," commented one political science major.

Other instructors in the department include Dr. Bernard Firestone, who, in the words of one student, is "the best and most professional professor in YC-period," and Ruth Bevan, Department Chair.

Dr. Blank assesses the quality of the Political Science Department as follows: "we are small in number, but I think the department manages to put together people who have different areas of specialization and probably different viewpoints, which helps the students immensely."

Biology Maintains Strong Reputation

by Avrum Aaron

Traditionally one of the strongest departments in Yeshiva College, the Biology Department maintains its outstanding reputation among students. Though there are some faults in the department, they are outweighed by the qualities in, what one student termed, "the best department in the school."

Dr. Moses Tendler, chairman of the Biology Department, is forthright and frank when he describes the inadequacies of the Biology Department. He cites the "lack of a masters program on campus" as a prime example. Dr. Tendler explains that YC biology majors are "students who elect to major in biology" on their way to medical school. They differ from true biology majors at other universities who major in biology as preparation for careers in the biological fields.

This problem doesn't seem to bother students, the vast majority who will go on to medical school. They are more likely to complain about the laboratory

facilities. "The facilities are definitely a weakness", said Moshe Weber, a biology major. "It's night and day between us and other schools."

This inadequacy is potentially harmful to first year medical students who will not have as high a level of proficiency in the lab as their counterparts. One pre-med explained, "From what I've heard, the YU guys aren't as proficient in the lab, but eventually they catch up."

The professors of the department would like to see a move toward more research-oriented possibilities. Dr. Carl Feit, an expert in immunology, would like to see "strengthening of the presence of research environment on campus so more students who are involved can drop into a lab and see what's going on."

Dr. Potvin, pre-health advisor and genetics professor, also expressed interest in a movement of this type. In addition to his research methods course, where students do learn about research, he would like to organize a program whereby

students could receive "credit for working with faculty in research projects."

Dr. Tendler concurred with these opinions and remarked that the professors being hired are experts involved in research in their fields.

Other assets in the department include the favorable student-teacher ratio, the accessibility of the teachers and continued excellence in MCAT scores.

One problem which seems common to many YC departments is that of the GRE's. Jeffrey Lumerman, a senior majoring in biology said, "YU students are not prepared to take a GRE since much plant biology is needed and none is offered at Yeshiva." Dr. Tendler added botany to the list of missing courses needed for success on the GRE's.

A proven way to tell if a business is doing well is to ask its customers. In this case, the customers of the YC Biology Department appear to be quite content with the products that are being delivered.

Special Response

Shabbat Uproar Polarizes YU

Orwellian Dorm

Cont. from page 3.

The reason for this counselor's inspections was a result of the outbreak of non-Shabbat observers in the dorms. Granted, I am not condoning that guys have TVs or other electronic machines running on Shabbat, but the point I dispute is the handling of the situation.

If one has his TV or radio blaring out of his room into the hallway and thus disturbs others, then that student should be talked to in a positive manner without any ridiculous threats, explaining what he is doing is not within YU's dorm policy. That would be fine.

But this simple and understanding approach is not taken. Instead, you have the "Thought Police" inspecting every door — pressing their ears to doors with keys ready to unlock the unsuspecting violator's door. This approach I find to be adolescent, callow, ignorant and humiliating. Should we install monitors in every room to check up and see who is a good Jewish boy and who is not?

It is a sad and disgraceful representation of how those in "authority" positions, such as the rabbis and YU administration, handle the problem by sending agents to sneak around dorm floors eavesdropping to catch someone in the act!

Is this how we are to teach of a positive Jewish and Torah way? I say "no," and I am disgusted by this approach.

I feel ashamed that this is how the administration handles a serious problem, not by a positive dialogue but by unfounded and ignorant force.

David Goldberg
President, JSSC

Defend Shabbat Sanctity

Cont. from page 3.

mit, on Shabbat, the turning on of a television set, switching channels, or use of a timer. I will be more than happy to be disproved by the editor.

I, for one, would not protest an enforcement of the ban on shorts. A Jew has to dress with a certain degree of modesty. This is not to mention the halachic problems with davening and learning in shorts.

The editor's approach to life is quite disturbing and, unfortunately, non-Orthodox. Mr. Dayanim believes in loosely following the maxim, "That which does not harm another's quality of life should remain within the realm of individual choice." This would be quite appropriate coming from the editor of the student newspaper at Columbia, N.Y.U., or the University of Virginia. However, it is quite astounding coming from the editor of the student newspaper at Yeshiva.

YU is an Orthodox Jewish institution. Every single student is morally responsible to follow

halacha. Otherwise, what is he doing here?

Mr. Dayanim related to me in a private conversation that perhaps such students come here to meet Jewish girls or to be in a Jewish atmosphere. That is not the *raison d'être* of YU. Let such students join a Jewish dating service or move to the Upper West Side.

I am strongly in favor of freedom of the press. However, under the guise of this principle, the editor wants to shape the vision of YU in his image. From Mr. Dayanim's writings, one does not get the feeling that he personally places any particular importance on halachic observance. Why does he never publicly decry the lack of effect that JSS has on not-yet observant students? Why does he never decry the lack of Torah atmosphere on campus? Why does he only seem to decry the administration trying to enforce halacha?

Mr. Dayanim also related to me that YU could use some in-house kiruv. He is wrong. YU could use some in-house chizuk.

Observance is to be expected.

It has been whispered that Dr. Lamm privately supports Mr. Dayanim's positions. I shudder at the thought.

Shmuel Landesman
YC '89

[ED. For an elaboration of the editor's thoughts on JSS, see "From the Editor's Desk" in the Feb. 7 issue of THE COMMENTATOR.]

More Defense of Dorm Policy

To the Editor:

In the Feb. 21 issue of THE COMMENTATOR, the editorial raised a few important points about dorm life.

The editor makes two assumptions about a self-formulated maxim that are a bit specious. First, it is a little pretentious to attempt to sum up Western political and social thought in a four line statement. More importantly, it is simply irresponsible to apply a "no harm no foul" theory to dorm life at YU.

There is no doubt that YU is a Western institution, but there is also no denying the a basic Jewish standard must be held here. Halachic guidelines are needed to maintain an atmosphere worthy of an institution that considers itself a type of Yeshiva. If this were a classic Western institution your point would be well taken; however, YU does not claim to be your average university and incorporates certain regulations in accordance with halacha into daily campus life.

With regard to who determines these guidelines I would assume it is the University administration, including some halachic authorities on the faculty. I agree with you wholeheartedly that students should have a say in creating the laws

that regulate their "home away from home." Even so, we must remember that when there is a doubt or a conflict, halachic norms are the bottom line—they are simply part and parcel of the YU package.

Deviation from halachic norms should not be considered as a "logical extension of what YU has become," even if YU has become a place where there are halachic questions concerning the dorm life, the solution is not a change of the rules to fit the "crimes."

In fact, as THE COMMENTATOR recently "exposed," cheating is prevalent at YU. I hope you're not suggesting that cheating becomes permissible by virtue of its frequency?

I am sure that every incoming student knows that they may be asked to abide by regulations they would not necessarily impose on themselves. If they don't, I refer them to the dorm rules and regulations sent out to all students applying for residence. I do not believe the rules are there "to fit the student to a preconceived mold of behavior." That would be a sad comment on the University. The regulations are set down to maintain a basic (though not classic) yeshiva setting; if someone's religious observance is enhanced, fine — but that is not the intent of guidelines as I perceive them. If we abide by the editor's proposal, the Y will be removed from the YU— and nobody wants that.

As an aside, I would like to clean up the misunderstanding about the appraisal forms and put them in perspective. The meaning of hashkafa on the appraisal forms is not the classic definition. Who cares if someone is a political Zionist, a hasid, or a devotee of Rav Kook—certainly not I. Hashkafa simply means level of religious observance; all true dorm counselors are aware of that.

In response to the editor's question, "Whose business is it anyway?" I answer that "the darned things", as he refers to them, do not make or break one's reputation at YU. I agree that if they are, the dorm counselors as unqualified professionals would be acting irresponsibly.

The function of the appraisal form is to provide added information about students that only someone living daily on the same floor can provide. In fact, Rabbi Cheifetz told me recently that they are used "heshuach" of a person and not to hurt his reputation. I also urge anyone interested to examine their appraisal form—it is their best right.

Richard Scharlat
Dorm Counselor, Rubin 4th floor
YC-BRGS '90

Paper Shortcomings

To the Editor:

As the editor in chief of THE COMMENTATOR in my senior year at Yeshiva College, I

still anticipate the appearance of the paper and enjoy its contents. However, the last issue was a source of consternation, dismay, and departure from the paper's usual high standards.

Publication of a posed picture is poor journalism. It is even cheaper because the students, despite the blacking out of part of the face, were identified easily.

There is a major difference between much of the dormitory restrictions and those dealing with the Sabbath. The latter are basic and expected and are known to the resident when he applies for residence.

It is, therefore, the violator who offends his peers and the institution by his actions. Yeshivot were never devoid of students grappling with religious problems of faith and commitment. It is quite probable that some of the issues raised are but the tip of an iceberg and there are probably students who are reaching out with their doubts and inquiries. It is the responsibility of students, faculty and administration to reach out to them. The first line of offense in such situations rests with the peer body. What I searched in vain in THE COMMENTATOR's columns is for a consistent pattern or program of constructive criticism.

The editor ranges far afield in seeking who determines "proper conduct" for a YU student, even mentioning the Rabbinical Council of America. He is certainly correct that there would be no disagreement on fundamentals which is the pri-

Continued on page 11

Summer Positions In Business

- Johnson & Johnson
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- Simon & Schuster
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Letters Cont. from page 10.

mary concern of those who share the belief about the centrality of YU in Jewish life.

There are roshei yeshiva and rabbis who faced identical trials and tribulations during their student days at Yeshiva and in the dormitory. Some are even of very recent vintage and can more easily identify with the current student body than those of us with children residing in the dorm. Their collective experience of many years may be at least as valid as that of the editor's four years who tends to think it is unrealistic before he even hears it.

And last but not least, the editorial "Where Are Our Leaders." To those of you who have blessedly forgotten, the editorial deplored the fact that faculty, administration, and rabbinical representatives did not attend Meir Kahane's "Torah" lecture and asks for a response from the presidential suite.

The editorial fails to comprehend that the answer is inherent in the question. The faculty, administration, and rabbinical representatives demonstrated offensively and emphatically their opinion of Kahane by staying away as do all men of reason.

The news story covering the lecture provides ample reason for this attitude. His verbal abuse of that courageous but unnamed student who dared challenge him and his assertion that he, too, is an ordained rabbi and may therefore differ with the entire world of rabbinical scholarship renders any real intellec-

tual belief impossible. The elite of Jerusalem are careful about whom they sit down with.

Meir Kahane is not new at Yeshiva or in the American Jewish community. YU's tradition of academic freedom explains why it is the only yeshiva where he can lecture regularly. It is to the credit of the Israel Affairs Society and the Political Science Society that they did not sponsor the event.

Kahane's tortured path is strewn with the incarceration and, yes, suicides, of young people who succumbed to his demagoguery and then found themselves abandoned. In this age of preachers and theologians who mislead and bilk millions, Kahane is Orthodox Judaism's major contribution.

Professor Louis Bernstein YC Bible Department [ED. THE COMMENTATOR is gratified that its editorial elicited response from at least one faculty member and rabbi regarding Kahane. Regarding the picture to which he refers, it is a legitimate journalistic practice to use a staged photo to illustrate a point if the photo is clearly artificial. The prohibition on playing cards depicted in the picture applies seven days a week, not only on Shabbat.]

More Opinion On Pollard

To the Editor:

THE COMMENTATOR of Dec. 20, 1988 printed a letter from David Rosenberg (YC '91) about Jonathan Pollard. The letter criticized the Josh Fruchter article of the Dec. 6 issue. Mr.

Rosenberg's letter made me angry and very sad. Any college student should have learned to study an issue carefully before rushing into print, and at YC the ramifications of a highly sensitive situation relative to the Jewish community should be very carefully considered before coming to a conclusion.

Jonathan Pollard was confined to the Federal Prison where I served as the Jewish chaplain. During the period of more than a year in which I got to know him and his family, I realized how Herzl must have felt at the Dreyfus case in France.

Jonathan Pollard is a confessed spy. There is no question about it. But his actions were the result of the vicious anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment that surrounded him in his position at the Naval Dept. The material that Pollard took was supposed to be given to Israel according to the agreement between the U.S. and Israel. Anti-Israel prejudice prevented that material from going to Israel, thereby threatening the security of Israel and the lives of many Israelis.

Subsequent actions by Weinberger and Meese revealed how vicious that hatred was. In no way was Pollard's action a threat to the U.S. Pollard was kept in solitary confinement for more than a year while the Weinberger-Meese duet tried to force Pollard to confess to a Jewish "conspiracy" and to name the Jewish leaders who were involved with him. There was never such a conspiracy but the Jew haters were determined

to get the Jewish community to share the "guilt".

Leaders of the American Jewish community were informed of the pressure and atrocities against Pollard and their cowardice and action made me ashamed. No one was interested in finding out why the vital information that the United States was required to give to Israel was being withheld; no one asked what danger the United States would suffer by the material Pollard gave to Israel when it was the obligation of the United States to give Israel that information; no one asked why a Jewish spy who did not harm to the United States was being subjected to far worse punishment than a non-Jew like Walker who was given a far less punishment for his many years of supplying Russia with material dangerous to the United States.

The leaders even raised the ridiculous fear of dual loyalty that Mr. Rosenberg uses in his comments when any educated Jew realizes how vicious and anti-Jewish that issue is.

It's too bad that Mr. Rosenberg writes about Pollard's college years and his "psychiatric" treatment, just like the "refuseniks" were placed in mental institutions in Russia when they wanted to go to Israel, showing how the Russian anti-Semites were so much like the American Jew-haters.

Mr. Rosenberg should realize that Jonathan Pollard was not in prison because of what took place in his youth or of all the

other issues that sidetrack the matter and to which Rosenberg has fallen prey. The mass media continues to confuse the matter and the Rosenberg letter shows how he's fallen for the bait!

In closing, let me state what I told Jonathan Pollard many times; If I was in his place and knew that I could save Israel and the lives of thousands of Jews there, I would have done the same things he did. It seems clear as to what a David Rosenberg would do. What a shame!

Rabbi Dr. Oscar Fleishaker YC '39

[ED. CLARIFICATION: Our policy is to refuse letters that respond to responses to letters that originally appeared in these pages.]

YU Apathy

To the Editor:

It has been claimed that most YU students are apathetic to important Jewish causes. This is a claim that we have never accepted as valid. Unfortunately, it appears that we have erred.

It is true that YU students have a double curriculum, and many students learn during the evenings, although there are those students who participate in various Hesed and Kiruv programs. We came to YU as naive freshmen expecting to attend a college in the forefront of Jewish activism.

We have heard the stories of twenty years ago. Back then, Student Struggle for Soviet

Cont. on page 13.

1 9 8 9 C A R E E R D A Y

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Lee Defends Senate's

"Indefensible" Recommendations

To the Editor:

It is your prerogative, of course, to splice a headline onto any article regardless of whether the two are true to one another. My own title was not "Defense of the Senate" or "Senate Works" but rather "Anatomy and Physiology of the...Senate." Within the article, I believe I implied that the Senate can work and has at times worked a good deal better than it did this past fall.

Mr. Ungar's article calls for mandatory statistical teaching evaluations. In its February 16 meeting, the Senate finally got around to recommending that the faculty consider two statistical forms, one shorter, one longer, both cross-checked, and both backed up by a database. Last term, the Senate had already submitted an open-ended form. By adding special questions, any faculty member can adapt each of the three forms to a specific course in a specific discipline.

If the faculty wishes to make one or more forms mandatory, it may do so. It's worth pointing out, however, that a faculty member is likely to improve a course because he or she feels motivated to do so rather than because students or the Senate tries to ram required courses down his or her throat.

What looks like protectionism may prove both politically and psychologically sound. That is all the more true in an institution where most faculty members teach a four-course load both competently and responsibly, and where administrators are in the middle of a struggle to raise salaries into respectable ranges.

It is also worth pointing out that faculty members up for reappointment, promotion, or tenure must submit evidence of teaching effectiveness. In those cases, which punctuate almost every faculty member's career, both student and peer evaluations might as well be mandatory. The Senate does hope the faculty will recommend that everyone use the same open-ended form and the same statistical form to foster comparability. It also hopes the faculty will ask the Dean to publicize the availability of the forms to make it easier for faculty members to improve their courses.

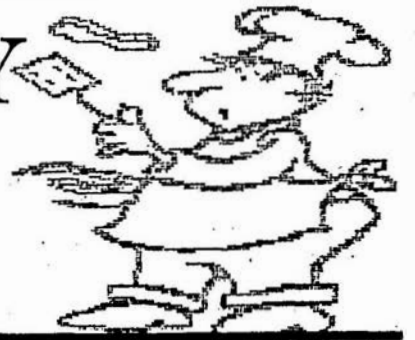
My title for the previous paragraph is "Mini-Defense of the Senate's Indefensible Recommendations on Student Evaluations."

Dr. Will Lee
Professor, YC
Department

English



YESHIVA UNIVERSITY FOOD SERVICE



FURMAN DINING HALL




P U R I M



SCHEDULE

The Rubin Hall Dining Room will be closed on Monday, March 20th, in honor of the Fast of Esther. We will reopen Monday Evening after the Megillah, at 7:45 P.M. We will serve a dairy meal after the fast. Of course, the vending machines throughout the campus will be fully and freshly stocked throughout the day. There are also microwave ovens available at all vending locations.



MENU

MELON IN SEASON

CONSUMME KREPLACH

VEAL CHOP OR ROAST CHICKEN

SALAD BAR

HAMANTASCHEN

BEVERAGE

Breakfast & Lunch
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SEUDAH
3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

THE PRICE FOR THE SEUDAH IS:

STUDENT	_____	\$12.00
FACULTY	_____	16.00
GUEST	_____	20.00
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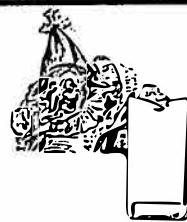


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The Lighter Look



by Jonathan Miskin

A Special Message to Our Special Customers:

Dear customer,

Welcome to The 1989 Dormitory Improvement Catalog. We at Improvement Catalog Inc. are proud to present this edition as part of our campaign to renovate the world. Since 1925, we have published 3500 catalogs in seventeen languages and have helped to beautify 46 countries on five continents! Here are some comments from satisfied customers. "...yes, your 1975 Navy Improvement Catalog certainly saved me from a mutiny. My men were getting fed up with staring at endless sea day in and day out. But your Statue of Liberty Set changed all that. Now the sailors anticipate the tiny islands scattered around the Atlantic, on which Lady Liberty appears in different poses. Our favorites include: Lady Jousting, Lady Miming a Hurricane, and Lady Break-dancing. Thanks again, Admiral Louis L. Porpoise."

And this letter from baseball commissioner E.C. Pillow: "I was in big trouble. America's national sport was losing popularity to Canada's national sport, lacrosse. I was down to my last out - so to speak - and then I came across your 1982 Baseball Stadium Improvement Catalog. Boy, was I pleased! No more simple baseball diamonds for my ball parks! I shipped a baseball triangle to Cleveland, a baseball oval to Pittsburgh, and a baseball hexagon to Texas. The fans love it, ate it up! I can't thank you enough."

We hope you find this catalog both helpful and enjoyable, and as you read it, remember our motto: "The only thing we can't improve - is this motto."

ROOMS

Let's face it, living in a dorm

room can be a traumatic experience. Everybody tries to make his college life more pleasant by carefully choosing furniture and amenities to complement his character. Here are some helpful suggestions.

-Remember mood rings? Those wild pieces of jewelry that revealed to the whole world what you were feeling inside? Nobody had to ask how you were doing, all they had to do was look at your finger to detect the color of your soul. Well, advanced technology has combined with modern architecture to produce the Mood Room. Wake up in a foul mood, and you can bet there'll be a thunderstorm raging and slush puddles forming at the foot of your bed to accompany your disgust. Get a good grade on a paper and too much change in the caf, bluebirds of happiness will twitter in the sunshine as cute woodland animals frolic in a lush meadow by a babbling brook. Best of all, you'll never have to leave your room to get some fresh air!

You get these six moods: Sunshine, Rainstorm, Blizzard, Hurricane, Heat Wave, and Nuclear Fallout. Mood Room: \$450,680.24

-College students often feel that they have the world at their feet. They've got all the options, Know all the answers. These feelings of power really are quite thrilling. So why not add to the atmosphere with the appropriate surroundings? The Oval Office. Exact duplicates of the nation's most famous office are now available, complete with total access to the country's nuclear arsenal, a little red phone to Moscow, and a graduate from the National Academy of Game Show Hosts. Own one today and make America proud again! Oval Office: \$26,450 Special for student leaders:

\$3.95

-Isn't it annoying that your kitchen, bedroom, living room, and study are all in one room? Well, not anymore. From the makers of the famous puzzle comes the new Rubik's Room! Turn it one way and a fridge and oven pop up. Twist the top and middle layers and you'll have a dresser and a full length mirror. Of course, there are actually millions of possible combinations. You can have a sink where your pillow is supposed to be, and an upright piano in the shower. It's not only a complete dorm room, but hours of puzzling fun!

Rubik's Room: \$5,649 Solution Booklet: \$1.50

-Front Lawn - real grass planted in the hall outside your door. \$10 sq.ft. AstroTurf - \$15 sq.ft. Comes with birdbath.

-White picket fence - \$5 a picket. Gate - \$25.

-Pets. This season we have Panda bears - \$3000, Llamas - \$3000, Ant farms - \$3.00

LOUNGES
Please see our separate publication: The 1989 Lounge Improvement Catalog, volumes 1-27.

FLOOR PLANS

Nothing defines a college campus more than the fraternizing that takes place on the dormitory floors. When you visit your friends down the hall, do it in style! We regret that we can no longer offer the 50's Diner Floor Plan, due to lack of parking spaces for the T-birds.

-Here's a floor plan that's all the rage at Ivy League schools. Formerly a Disneyworld attraction, our engineers have converted Seaworld into a comfortable and enjoyable decorating idea. Your entire floor becomes a museum of one of nature's most beautiful creations as you begin to explore the fascinating

life on the ocean floor. We knock out all the walls between the rooms and fill your living quarters with seawater. Along with that you get 200 varieties of fish, corals, sponges, three octopi, a scaled model of the Titanic, and a great white shark. You'll spend so much time diving and collecting seashells, college will seem like a day at the beach. Just don't open any windows.

Oceanfloor: \$12,652,494.06
Makes a perfect gift for marine biology majors!

-You were probably just a child when the astronauts landed on the moon. Ever wonder what life on Earth's natural satellite is like? Well, it's probably very similar to life on our Lunar Floor. With Lunar Floor, your entire dorm floor

becomes a rocky wasteland, pockmarked with craters miles deep. Every resident of your floor receives a spacesuit to wear at all times - because we'll be sucking out all the oxygen. Also, experience everyday actions with no gravity - makes hall parties a blast! Watch for Solar Floor coming in 1992.

Lunar Floor: \$76,491
This product is endorsed by Neil Armstrong.

Don't forget: With every order you'll receive, absolutely free, an electric fireplace - not to be used with Oceanfloor.

Also in this series: The 1989 Cafeteria Improvement Catalog, The 1989 Administration Improvement Catalog, and the 1989 Roommate Improvement Catalog. Send for yours today!

**Watch For Our Special
March 21 Purim
Edition - Available on
Newsstands Fri., March 17**

APATHY Continued from page 11

Jewry (SSSJ) was formed and run by YU guys. Students from the New York area would attend YU-sponsored trips to Washington. YU was the center of Jewish collegiate activity.

This year, SSSJ at YU is virtually non-existent, the American Israel Policy Action Committee (AIPAC) Leadership Seminar was held at Princeton and last Sunday, Columbia was the site for a seminar on Israel that dealt with the politics of modern Israel.

YU is the university that should be setting the standard for Jewish campus activism. Not only are we not at the forefront, we are not anywhere. Of the 300

students who attended the Columbia event, only fifteen were YU students. The turnout at Princeton was similarly disgraceful.

We would not complain if YU students chose different events or political organizations to work on behalf of Israel and Jewish causes. Unfortunately, these political causes are altogether ignored. The reputation YU students have at the other universities - that they are apathetic - is deserved in this case.

Listen, we can not place the blame for this one at the feet of the faculty. The leadership role of Jewish campus activism is there for the taking. Just do it.

Moshe Schwartz YC '90
Becky Fishman SCW '89
Mitch Waxman '91

Chemistry Dept.
Cont. from page 9.

By hard statistical analysis the Chemistry Department appears to be achieving its objectives - students do well on the MCATs and DATs. But these results are only the eye in a hurricane of student dissatisfaction.

The Chemistry Department is at a threshold. With the changes in faculty much of the past grievances can be smoothed over by competent, communicative teachers. One can only hope that in two years, students' opinion will not echo that of today.

CFS* Corner

*CFS Denotes Commentator Film Society

Here's a look at the upcoming Morg Lounge presentations. A rating of five Torah U'Mada symbols is the highest mark a film can receive. Joseph Wolf, Joey Loskove, Michael Raskas, and Larry Hartstein comprise the movie review panel.

The Karate Kid

Ralph Macchio plays a teenager with an average build who is picked on constantly at his new California high school until he learns Karate from his landlord, Noriyuki Morita. In this heartwarming film, Macchio gets the girl (Elizabeth Shue) and ultimately wins the respect of his former tormentors. "I'm usually not one to fall for sentimentality, but to be perfectly honest, my eyes were moist at the end of this one," admitted panelist Hartstein.



Live and Let Die

James Bond chases a master criminal who is subverting the

United States economy via drug sales. This is Roger Moore's first appearance as 007, and it shows. "Typical Bond overkill - the song outlived the movie," said Panelist Wolf. Panelist Raskas went further, calling it "the worst in a long line of bad Bond films." Panelist Loskove, on the other hand, enjoyed the movie to a certain extent. "It's a good James Bond film with a little too much Narishkeit in it."



The Longest Yard

A wildly entertaining movie about prison inmates who, behind a former NFL quarterback played by Burt Reynolds, take on the warden's hand-picked team. In a thrilling finish, Reynolds must choose between freedom or victory. One memorable highlight of the film comes when Reynolds throws a pass whose painful force can be felt even in the audience.



The Lost Boys

A family moves to California where the local gang turns out to be a pack of vampires. According to Loskove, this is "not your typical horror flick; it's an excellent combination of comedy and horror." And even Wolf liked it. "It's an enjoyable film that treats horror aspects with appropriate irreverence," he said. "It's aimed at juvenile audiences. It should do well with certain elements in YU," added Hartstein.



The Omen

Gregory Peck and Lee Remick head an all-star cast in this sensationalist horror experience. There's plenty of gore, including a beheading, in this film about the coming of the "antiChrist." "This movie featured my favorite decapitation scene in cinema history," said Raskas. Wolf, though, was not impressed. "I'd rank it right up there with Escape From New York."



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Big Finish

Macs Go Over .500 for Second Straight Year

by Shmuel Bulka

The Maccabees capped an otherwise disappointing season with a stretch run that saw the team finish over .500 for the second consecutive year. Ending 12-11 overall, the Macs also managed to finish with a winning conference record at 6-4, a feat never before accomplished in Yeshiva history.

West Conn 113 Yeshiva 73

In what was perhaps their worst performance of the year, the Macs were never in contention against the NCAA tournament-bound Colonials. The Macs trailed by 22 at the half and it just got worse. Ayal Hod led the overmatched Macs with 27 points. "They were by far the best team we've played all year," said sophomore forward Avrum Aaron.

Yeshiva 101 Vassar 84

This was the pivotal game if the Macs were to finish over .500 and they didn't disappoint their

fans, posting an inspirational victory in front of the biggest crowd since opening game. The Macs broke open a close game with a relentless spurt five minutes into the second half. David Gottlieb led the charge with his best game ever, scoring 22. Ayal Hod was unstoppable, scoring 35 while grabbing a Yeshiva record 34 rebounds. Jan Levine repeatedly sunk the Lions with clutch shooting, netting 3-pointers.

Yeshiva 87 Pratt 69

The Macs started their five seniors, Ayal Hod, Yudi Teichman, Sammy Reichel, Jan Levine and Jon Ehrman, and the outcome was never in doubt. The lead was in the 20's for a good portion of the game and the substitutes received plenty of playing time. Ayal rocked the crowd with a thunderous dunk late in the second half, a fitting end to a superb year for the graduating center.



Two able fencers engage in noble combat.

The Art of Fencing

by Zalman Levine

Shrouded in mysterious white, inscrutable features obscured by unreadable masks, brains whirling at wild speeds, muscles quivering with tense anticipation—two fencers face each other on the strip.

Restricted to finite one-dimensional motion not in the realm of the physical, but in that of the intellectual. They have synthesized mental agility and physical finesse; in a form of body-chess, they have been practicing the instantaneous translation of cerebral signals into muscular motion. Now, they test each other's reflexes, tentatively advancing, lunging, parrying. The thoughts racing through each's grey matter would dizzy a trapeze artist; each thinks he's out-thinking the other by planning complex combinations of feints and fakes and hoping that his opponent will not anticipate and counterattack.

Sudden action. In a furious flurry, Robby Zimmerman, YC team captain, attempts an attack, misses, parries the counterattack, and lands a remise on target. A lusty cheer erupts from the Yeshiva bench as a lone light glows green—and as the director awards the touch. "Fencers ready?" comes the prim directorial query. "Yes, SIR!" boom twinsonic throats. "Fence!" steel on steel—the resonance resumes. Back and forth, deadly determination. Robby's tentative attack punishes him with a foil-lash in the flank—and reminds him of the ancient adage, "Commitment paves the path of success." The light blinks red, dully acknowledging a lost touch. Coach Messing requests

a time out, stalks onto the strip, glares at Robby, accuses him of not thinking, informs him of the pivotal nature of this bout within the match, advises him on a strategy, thanks the director, steps off the mat, and folds his arms to watch.

As each team supplies supreme spirit to its fencer, the situated drama builds. Fencers fleche, equipment malfunctions, and warnings abound, until the score reaches 4-4, or la belle. The crazed Yeshiva squad, voices hoarse with enthusiasm, drowns the opposition's bestial grunts with the spiritual cry of "Haka Taka"—and a sudden hush falls over the crowd as all eyes turn to the stage, where Robby is playing out the final moments of the match's deciding bout. With the overall score tied at 13-13 and inter-team tension at a screaming pitch, the deathly silence deafens.

Robby's toes tap—the sound slices through the gym—and the director permits him a time-out. His eyelids droop; he closes his eyes in a meditative attempt to block out the pressure, opens them, assures position, salutes respectfully, enmasks, crouches en garde. "Fencers ready?" "Sir", comes the deliberate, guttural reply. "Alle!" calls the director, and the opposition shoots out with a lightning attack. Robby parries, but misses the riposte. Wary, intense, they advance and retreat, gliding forward and back, coiled to spring. Back and forth moves the action: a beat attack from the right, a countering coup'e from the left, a kamikaze fleche from the right.

Groans and sighs emanate from warring mouths, rival

gazes rivet on team favorites, sweat pours from ferocious features—and no valid touches land. A raucous buzz rattles the room; a one-minute warning takes effect. Panting and parch lipped, each dueler stares at the other's hand, begging for revelational data on its intent. Everyone inhales. Everyone stares. Eyes pop, tongues loll, heart failure impends.

The Yeshiva team begins to breathe, slowly, deeply, loudly, as one, and Robby understands. Robby heeds. Robby squats lower, squares his shoulders, straightens his back, inhales deeply through his nose. Exhales through his mouth. Inhales. Exhales. Draws air into his lungs, expands his chest, looks more and more formidable. Focuses, tenses, his muscles, and, on an additional adrenaline high, moves. Catlike, he pounces forward four times in quick succession and accompanies each with a powerful, controlling blade-beat. Executed with lightning rapidity, unorthodox enough to paralyze, the attack transfixes defenseless prey—and Robby, arrogant, merciless, moves in for the kill. "Touche", yells the director; the flashing green light confirms victory, and the celebration begins.

Robby glows with the light of a forty-year old tradition as he leads the team in its victory song, his opponents gurgle as they sink in a sea of aged vodka, the director curls up at home with a good bestseller—and later that night, Coach calls Robby to remind him of the imminent post-season championship and of the consequent probability of a future rematch.

Second Semester Hoops Underway

by Eric Melzer

The second intramural season is underway, and it has already featured some very close matches. Teams are already jockeying for playoff positions, and it appears that there will be dog fights for playoff berths.

Week 2 featured many close games; the closest was a 40-39 victory by the 2-0 Terps over the 1-1 Taragins. Izzy Marcus led an outstanding offensive performance and led all scorers with 24. The Terps started the game with a 12-0 run and it appeared like another Lakers-Heat game. But the Taragins went on an 8-0 run as Ranon Mann exited with a twisted ankle. At the half, the Terps led 20-14.

The second half featured lots of physical play as the lead changed hands frequently. With about sixty seconds to go, the Taragins led 39-36, but Terps point guard Harris Pearlman took it to the hoop and made it 39-38. After a missed shot with fifteen seconds left, Pearlman was fouled and canned both ends of the one-and-one. The Taragins missed from deep at the buzzer and the Terps clinched the victory. Jeff Mor led the Taragins with 16.

In a game ridden with fouls, the 2-0 Goobers pulled off a 51-35 victory over the 0-2 Hersheys. It was a very low-scoring first half as the Goobers led 15-11 at the break. But newly acquired center Rich Scharlat (19 points) and first semester veteran Ellis Malovany (18 points) pumped up the volume and sealed the victory. It looks like a promising semester for the rejuvenated Goobers.

The Running Rebels, minus Dov Goldman, chalked up their record victory in a 49-47 nailbiter over the 0-2 Lubetskis. Brett Revan led with 15 and Newly acquired center Hillel Goldscheider made his presence felt as he elevated the Lubetskis time and time again. He finished with 14. The Lubetskis were led by newly acquired guard Yehuda Blinder (14 points).

Finally, the Gardners pulled off their first victory with a 57-55 win over Team Hartstein. Seth Cohen, acquired in a trade with the Hersheys, finished with 21 including three from downtown. Yitz Stein had a spectacular 20 point performance, but it wasn't enough to put last semester's champs over the top.

Engagements

Yossi Fine & Bonnie Alpert

Daniel Rotenberg & Susie Schoenfeld

Aaron Kornbluth & Ora Ruttner

Mazel Tov

YCSC BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO DATE

The Clarion	\$1,500	Joint Business Society	\$1,500
The Commentator	16,891.66	Pre-Med Honor Society	150
CompuSci Speaks	430	WYUR	6,004.32
Guide to the Perplexed	5,585	Yeshiva College	
		Dramatics Society	10,724

Total Expenditures as of Feb. 14, 1989: \$58,154.14

The remainder of YCSC clubs, societies and classes are subject to flexible budgeting according to particular event or need and therefore are not included. THE COMMENTATOR thanks YCSC President Mordy Leifer and Asst. to the Dean of Students Jeff Chaitoff for their cooperation in providing these figures.

“I wasn't rubbing it in—I just wanted Eddie to know the score of last night's game.”



Alex Sum · University of Washington · Class of 1990

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Hockey Star Sidelined

by Saul Kaszovitz

Last semester's champions, the Fighting Irish, were dealt a tremendous blow when it was learned that they would have to do without the services of one of their captains, Geoffrey Miller.

Miller, last semester's scoring champion and MVP, wrenched his back in the championship game and will be sidelined for the remainder of the season and maybe the playoffs. "It is a disastrous turn of events for us", said Ari Keehn, "but our team is very deep and I'm sure the Irish will be right on top again."

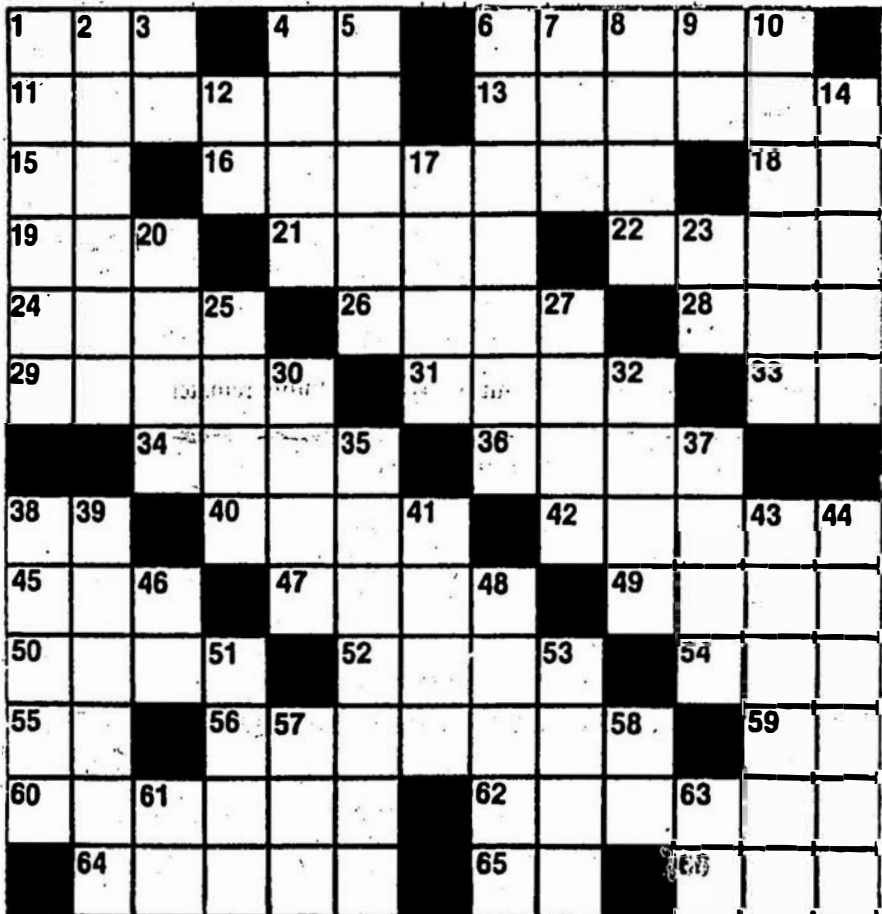
BRUISERS 3 WILDCATS 3

This game will go down in the annals as the most exciting in intramural history. The heavily favored Wildcats fell behind 1-0 on a rifle shot from the slot by Shlomo Drazin via a beautiful pass from Moshe Adler. The second period saw far more scoring as David Gellman and Bruce Taragin gave the Wildcats a short-lived 2-1 lead, with time running down, newly acquired veteran Kenny Rozenberg knotted the game on a blistering shot from the outside face-off circle. The Bruisers defied the odds late in the third period as Drazin gave them the 3-2 lead. The Wildcats the received a penalty with only three minutes remaining. It seemed a tremendous upset was in the making in only the first week of the season. With only a minute remaining, the 'Cats pulled their goalie and the penalty expired. But, even with the extra shooter, the Wildcats couldn't seem to get on track. The Bruisers kept the pack deep in Wildcat territory. But, with time for one last rush, David Gellman took the puck from behind his own net and proceeded to baffle the entire Bruiser squad as he skated unmolested to score the game tying goal with only five seconds remaining.

SAINTS 7 KINGS 4

Michael Bramson scored five goals to lead the Saints to an easy 7-4 victory. Brian Jedwab had two goals to increase his league-leading total to eight.

Crossword Companion



ACROSS

1. Cooking vessel
4. State of being
6. Contest area
11. Salad plant
13. Type of window
15. Football position (abbr.)
16. Send
18. Southern New England state (abbr.)
19. Top of container
21. Ride (p.t.)
22. Gilde
24. Make written changes
26. Roman emperor
28. No (Scot.)
29. Domesticates
31. Snakes
33. The place of the seal (L., abbr.)
34. Catch sight of
36. Per
38. Take action
40. Frog
42. Owner of a landed estate (Scot.)
45. High card
47. Snare
49. Oak
50. In the time of (L., abbr.)
52. Leak
54. Abstract concept
55. Raised railroad
56. Lacking professional skill
59. Twice; double (pref.)
60. Sharp bend in fairway
62. Deep hole
64. Test food
65. Chem. symbol for erbium
66. Metal

DOWN

1. Bullet; small shot
2. Iroquois (tribe.....)
3. Football score (abbr.)
4. Affirm
5. Fruit
6. Negative
7. Female deer
8. Makes mistakes
9. S.W. state (abbr.)
10. Lofty
12. N.W. state (abbr.)
14. Angers
17. Thought
20. Small coin
23. Article
25. Exam
27. Gem
30. Stain; blot
32. Scram
35. Length measured in yards
37. Employ
38. Old
39. Forest-dwelling cat
41. Slender, pointed missile
43. Present for consideration
44. Need
46. The letter "m"
48. Portion
51. Friends
53. Meow
57. Encountered
58. Sun God
61. Southern state (abbr.)
63. At

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER



The first person to hand in the correct response to Larry Hartstein (M611) will have his name printed in the next issue.

Yacov Balsam was the first to submit the above puzzle.

Yeshiva Sports

Yeshiva Warrior: Edelcreek Grabs Tournament MVP

by David Maryles

On Sunday, February 19, the Maccabee wrestling tournament took place, attracting students from eight different schools. It consisted of seven hours of action-packed matches, stirring comebacks, stunning upsets, and lightning-quick pins. Spectators came and went as the action built up towards the championship round of each weight class.

David Edelcreek, the 177-pound terminator from Yeshiva, dominated his weight class en route to the gold medal round. Victories included an absolutely outstanding pin at :10 seconds of the first round over a CCNY opponent who was taken immediately by one of "Creek's" patented standing cradles. Thus Edelcreek shattered the previous

rematch of the St. John's tournament 177 lb. title match [also won by Edelcreek], as "Creek" met a very worthy opponent, Richard Keil of St. John's. The wrestlers competed to a stalemate through the first and second rounds. Late in round three with the score tied at five, Edelcreek was penalized for stalling. As a result, Edelcreek lost one vital point.

The match ended with the St. John's wrestler, the apparent victor, on top, 5-4. But after a tense moment, it was revealed that Edelcreek had been awarded a bonus point for having a one minute advantage in "riding time." [This means that he had control of his opponent for a full minute more than his opponent had controlled him in the course of the

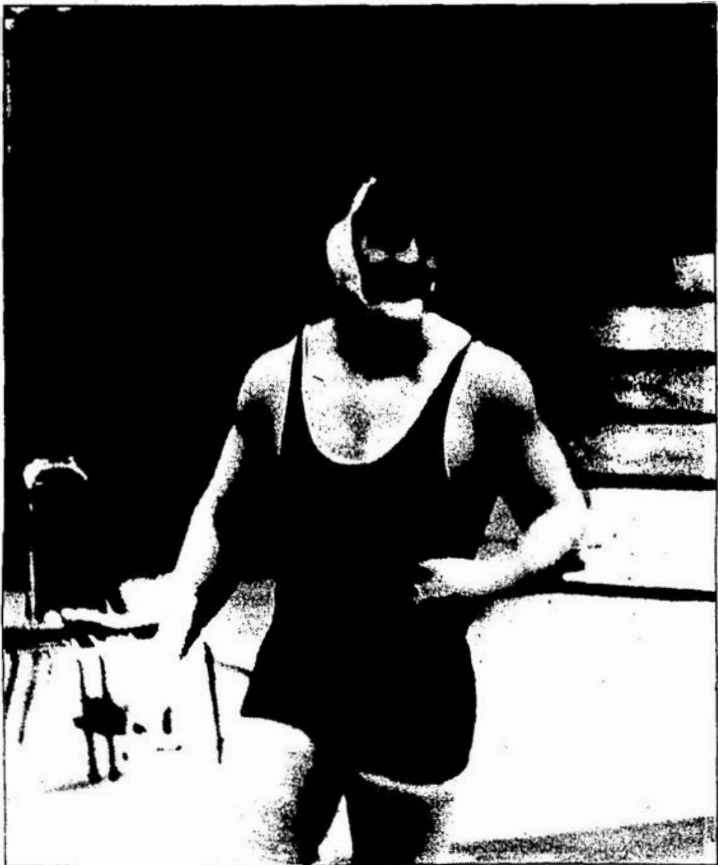
only wrestler to reap gold. Sharing his company was the mystery man of the wrestling team. "Who is that guy?" they ask. His name is Doug Wolf, and they will not forget his name again. On February 19, at the MSAC, he established himself as king of the 190-pound class.

A technically sound wrestler, Doug uses his superior foot speed and exceptional flexibility to defeat his opponents. While having a naturally lighter physique [he used to wrestle in the 142-158 range], Wolf has accepted the challenge of Coaches Ellman and Schweitzer, for the benefit of the team, to wrestle at 190 pounds.

In the tournament, Doug opened with a dominating victory in which he dictated the pace of his match with a Stevens Tech wrestler. The final score was 8-5. Due to the fact that he had received a bye in the actual first round, Doug now was competing for the championship against the 190-pound class's number one seeded wrestler, representing the Westside Y, and returning champion. It was no contest, as Wolf set the pace from the outset and pinned his highly-touted opponent at 2:32 of the second round.

Wolf's accomplishment was not lost on an appreciative home crowd nor on his teammates. Coach Schweitzer said: "Doug is a real team man. He sacrifices his personal glory to wrestle at a heavier weight class than he is supposed to. His victory is very sweet and it couldn't have happened to a harder working or more dedicated guy."

Although they didn't win their weight classes, the third place finish that they each earned is deserving of recognition as well. David "Squirt" Schlüssel was able to bounce back from a second round loss to St. John's and capture third place in the 118-pound division. Heavyweight Todd Zilker also gained a bronze medal.



David Edelcreek, Gold Medal & MVP Winner

YU team record of :12 seconds that he had set earlier this season.

Said Edelcreek, "This tournament really means a lot to me. I've won it before (three years ago) and I seem to really get psyched up for it. Also, the fact that my sparring partner and close friend Andy Garfinkel could not wrestle today gave me additional incentive to do well because without his help, I wouldn't have gotten this far."

In his next battle, Edelcreek was faced by a Fordham wrestler whom he had defeated in a match earlier this season. On this day, as well, "Creek" was the better fighter and won handily in an 11-8 decision. But the best was yet to come.

The gold medal match at 177 was a true thriller. It was a

match.]

Therefore, in an effort to break the resulting deadlock, an overtime consisting of three one-minute periods was declared. The tone was serious and the atmosphere intense, for every maneuver and point was crucial. Edelcreek nailed another standing cradle to gain four points and proceeded to counter every move that the St. John's wrestler attempted, thus earning the 4-3 overtime victory, and the gold as well.

Later, in a fitting summation to his heroic day of battle, David Edelcreek was named MVP [outstanding wrestler of the tournament] in a vote conducted among the referees and team coaches present at the tournament.

But Edelcreek was not the

Final IAC Standings

- 1) West Conn: 10-0, 24-2
- 2) NJIT: 8-2, 22-5
- 3) Yeshiva: 6-4, 12-11
- 4) Maritime: 4-6, 12-14
- 5) Poly Tech: 2-8, 3-22
- 6) Stevens: 0-10, 1-20

See Page 14 for Macs Article

Schick Winners Grounded

by Shmuel Bulka

It sounded very much like Joe Montana's "I'm going to Disney World" line following the Super Bowl victory. "We're going to Seton Hall, we're going to Seton Hall," was the reverberating cry emanating from the MSAC as the Timberwolves celebrated their thrilling 48-46 victory over Team Schwartz in the finals of the Schick Superhoops 3-on-3 tournament.

Unlike most NFL championship games, this final had all the drama befitting a game so hyped. The favored Timberwolves had to overcome a first half double-digit deficit as well as the loss of blue-collar worker Alex Fooksman who was forced to leave at halftime due to a concussion. Ironically, with talented shooters on both sides, it was super-sub Eric Melzer, Fooksman's replacement, who scored the eventual winning basket on an uncontested layup. Unfortunately for the Timberwolves, amidst the euphoria of victory was the saddening news that, in fact, they would not be going to Seton Hall. While regionals are usually played on a

Sunday, Schick decided to change to format and play all matches on Saturdays. This decision, obviously, disqualifies the Yeshiva champs from any further play.

The news was met with much disappointment from the victorious Timberwolves. "I was a little annoyed that the University did not inform us of this at the start of the tournament. They informed us three days after we had won. Alex came back from Baltimore after his injury all excited, only to learn that we weren't going. It was very frustrating for all of us," said Melzer.

But tournament organizer Stanley Watson pointed out that the school had no reason to believe that the date would be changed, and he only received official confirmation of the date three days after the YU tournament ended. "I'm just as disappointed as they are, believe me," said Watson, who informed THE COMMENTATOR that an official letter of complaint would be sent to Schick in the hope that the problem would be taken into account next year.

Farewell And Congratulations To The Maccabee Seniors:

Ayal Hod, Yudi Teichman,
Jan Levine, Jon Ehrman,
& Sammy Reichel

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