

The Commentator

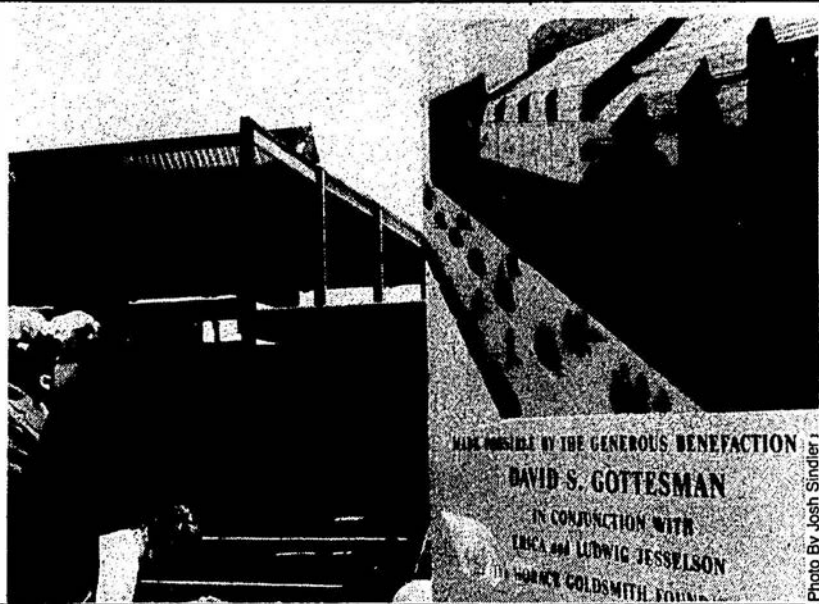
Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

September 18, 1990

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

Volume LV, No.2

*Final
Cost:
\$3
Million*



Ludwig Jesselson views sketch of the new pool

Pool Dedicated Construction Advances

By Dov Chelst

Following a summer of construction, members of the administration of Yeshiva University are pleased with the progress of the Benjamin Gottesman Pool. The steel structure has been completed and most of the underground plumbing and electrical work is finished.

According to Jefferey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services at Yeshiva College, the construction workers are scheduled to finish the outer masonry and roofing by Thanksgiving and the pool itself by July. Upon completion of the pool, workers will re-sod half of the original grass area on the Danziger Quadrangle. The final cost is estimated between \$2.5 and \$3 million.

A brief dedication ceremony was held Tuesday of Orientation week to mark the progress so far and give praise to the pool's sponsors. The fences surrounding the construction area were rolled back in order to allow a podium of guests and YU officials into the area. Following the dedication ceremony, the student body was hosted at a barbecue held in Tenzer Gardens.

The four speakers at the ceremony, President Norman Lamm, Dr. Israel Miller, Mr. David Gottesman and YCSC President Steven Felsenthal, praised the pool's sponsors, the Gottesman and Jesselson families, with remembrances of past associations.

Although Benjamin Gottesman preferred swimming in the ocean, Dr. Lamm was nonetheless sure that he would have been pleased to know that he provided Yeshiva College students with a place of "respite" from the "rigors of a dual curriculum." Also, as his son David Gottesman pointed out, the proximity of the Benjamin Gottesman Pool to the Mendel

Gottesman Library, epitomized the words of the talmud (Kiddushin 29a) aptly quoted by Dr. Miller at the outset of the dedication ceremony. According to one opinion in the passage, which discusses a father's didactic obligations to his son, he must teach him to swim "not only in the waters of torah", but also in the physical ocean.

Dr. Miller, through his talmudic quotation, asserted an important point. Although the twenty-five meter, five lane pool, equipped with a sauna, steam room and even a whirlpool/mikveh, will provide a necessary source of recreation on campus, it has a major instructional component. It is not a diving pool, but rather a lap pool. The building also includes a multi-purpose classroom.

Until the pool's completion, YU students must still go elsewhere for facilities. Students taking swimming courses travel by van to George Washington High School. While complaints of limited use of the facilities and required security escort exist, new students will have the full advantage of an on-campus pool.

Along with all of the current courses which will continue in the Benjamin Gottesman pool, such as Advanced Life Saving (ALS) and Water Safety Instruction (WSI), Dr. Julius Shevlin, Director of the Athletics Department, hopes to teach less advanced courses as well. These include classes for non-swimmers and intermediate level courses. He even expresses a willingness to offer a scuba course if students show enough interest. As of now, no one is forming a YU swim team despite the fact that the pool's design incorporates raised diving platforms for each swimming lane

Please turn to page 10

Caf Dissatisfaction Continues

By Donny Besser

Optimism has turned to opposition as Yeshiva University's first mandatory meal plan brings complaints of inadequate service, high prices, and ridiculously long lines. The plan has caused disappointment among its student customers who are angered by the broken promises of food service officials.

Last spring, following a year of protest (including a day-long boycott) against raised prices in the cafeteria, student leaders agreed to allow the imposition of a mandatory mealplan for new students. The ultimate goal of the meal plan was to provide the cafeteria with a secure source of income. In return, YU promised to improve service and quality, and to address the problem of high prices.

New students, however, have found difficulty seeing the plan in a positive light. "If not



Students wait for burgers in the Caf.

for the mandatory meal plan, I would probably never set foot in the Caf," complains freshman Howie Beigelman.

"The administration has created a dictatorship, and has given their students no choice but to eat their food," contends freshman Adam Orlow.

Sophomore Adam Splasser laments, "I don't mind paying reasonable prices for a decent meal, but when a bowl of spaghetti costs over \$4.00, and a carton of orange juice costs twice as much as it does in the vending

machines, something must be done".

Another student says, "The food is poor, the prices are outrageous, and the portions are meager at best."

An informal survey of students found that over 85% were dissatisfied with the mealplan and the cafeteria.

A commonly voiced complaint of cafeteria customers is the length of the lines for both receiving and paying for food. In order to get their meals, students

Please turn to page 10

Habodega Closing Questioned Former Owner Bitter

By Shlomo Zwickler

In the aftermath of last year's meal plan controversy, Habodega, a popular kosher deli on Amsterdam Avenue, quietly closed its doors.

Jake Ganchrow, proprietor of Habodega, contends that his business closed due to a combination of factors, namely that "business had fallen off, and many were using dining cards." Many students joined last year's voluntary meal plan before hearing of raised prices in the cafeteria.

However, Ganchrow believes that Habodega was marked for failure from its creation. In obtaining his lease

from A. Richard Parkoff, landlord of the building and member of the Yeshiva College Board of Directors, Ganchrow was informed that it was subject to the approval of Sheldon Socol, the University's Vice President for business affairs. Ganchrow claims that as a precondition to approval of the lease, he was required to invest \$20,000 in a new storefront for the purpose of "beautifying the campus." According to Ganchrow, his small food establishment did not make enough profit to cover this mandatory investment.

Socol denies having the lease submitted to him for

approval. According to Socol, Parkoff's beneficiary connection to the institution first led him to invest in the YU area - at Socol's suggestion. Socol contends that due to the closeness Parkoff feels to the university, he himself required the \$20,000 investment.

In regard to Parkoff's dealings with YU, Mr. Jefferey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, stated that many landlords in the area who are friendly to the institution are sensitive to the University's situation. "Most speak to us before doing anything major in

Please turn to page 10

In This Issue:

- The Iraqi Menace.....P. 8
- Making It In YU.....P. 6-7
- From the Editor's Desk : When Israel Goes to War.....P. 5

**Joel
Jablonski**

CAMPUS NEWS

**Main
Campus**

YU Launches \$400 Million Campaign

By Andrew Goldsmith

The largest fund raising effort undertaken by Yeshiva University has been approved unanimously by YU's Board of trustees and was recently announced by University President, Dr. Norman Lamm. At the same time, Lamm made known that the university has received a major gift from 90-year old holocaust survivor Joel Jablonski. In recognition of the gift, the University has named its Main Campus the "Joel Jablonski Campus."

Lamm, in lauding the Board of Trustees for its "vision and leadership," declared that the capital campaign "will assure that the university will have the resources to grant qualified

students access to an education regardless of their ability to pay; build on an already outstanding faculty, develop new and innovative educational programs, and provide a physical environment that is appropriate for the enterprise of learning and teaching."

He explained that the goal of the campaign is to double the amount the university would ordinarily generate by on-going fund-raising activities, which produced \$40 million in gifts during the past year.

More than \$127 million of the \$400 million goal is to be used for faculty enhancement, which will include the endowment of 73 academic chairs. Nearly \$79



FLASHBACK - Former JSS President Daniel Deutch presents Sefer Torah Cover to Dean Well in Ruben Shull last May

million is earmarked for the enrichment and enhancement of academic programming, and more than \$80 million for student aid and services.

More than \$6 million will be used to develop additional residence facilities for some 200

students at the Midtown campus of the Stern College for Women while almost five million will be used to expand the facilities of the Mendel Gottesman Library.

Mr. Jablonski, who survived the Holocaust in the Vilna ghetto, went to Germany after the war

and became a specialist in buying and selling art. He had previously made a major gift to RIETS to establish a Chair in talmud and codes in memory of his parents and brother.

Teacher Turnover

by Moshe Friedman

Twenty one teachers who taught at the Uptown campus last semester did not return this year. At the same time, eighteen new faculty members were hired.

Dr. Norman Rosenfeld, Dean of Yeshiva College, said that many of those who left were "transients" who were "filling in the gaps," teaching one or two classes, until they earned their degrees or found a full-time position elsewhere.

One noticeable exception is Dr. Bernard Firestone, who after more than a decade of teaching at YU, has left the political science department to become Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Hofstra University. "I left Yeshiva University because I got a very good offer at Hofstra University that I really couldn't pass up," explained Firestone.

Firestone said that his leaving Yeshiva was not an issue of money. "I never presented anyone at Yeshiva with this job opportunity and said, 'Well, I have this job opportunity. What are you going to do to match it?' The job was very good and I decided to take it for my own professional development."

"I can honestly say," added Firestone, "that the biggest regret in taking this job is that I had to relinquish my position at Yeshiva, because I really loved teaching at Yeshiva."

There was speculation that Dr. Firestone might return to YU to teach a course in the spring, but Firestone said that his job at Hofstra "takes a tremendous amount of time" - much more than he anticipated - and that the chances of him teaching in the

spring "are not very good."

Replacing Firestone is Dr. Eun Sung Chung. Chung comes from South Korea and specializes in international and Asian politics. Dean Rosenfeld said that Chung "came very highly recommended" and has "outstanding credentials."

"With his background from Korea, from Asia, and his knowledge of the American scene, I think he will add a tremendous insight for our students into world politics," said Dr. Ruth Bevan, who heads the department of political science. "I think the students are going to enjoy Dr. Chung. He brings a lot with him."

The English department lost four of its members over the summer. Dr. William Lee, Chairman of the department, said that the changes were largely an effort to improve the quality of the English Composition classes at YC. "We've had serious problems and weak links in teaching Composition 1101," said Lee. "There are no such weak links now that I know of. If there are, I'd like to hear from the students about them."

Joining the English Department are Dr. Joanne Jacobson and Patricia Volk.

Jacobson specializes in American Literature and, according to Lee, is an "experienced and talented teacher-scholar" and "a great addition to the department." Lee said that he feels the students are going to get a lot out of her classes.

Jacobson says that although she hasn't been here long enough to form a really strong opinion of Yeshiva, so far she thinks the school is "unusual and interesting."

"The main thing as I see it is that I like the students," she said. "They're really engaging, they're challenging...and I like it."

Volk is teaching creative writing. She is an award-winning author of novels and short fiction. She also writes frequently for the New York Times as well as for other major publications. One of her articles will be appearing in New York Newsday some time this week.

Volk said that the Pollack Library gave her a very good first impression of the campus. "There was a book I wanted to quote from [in class] tonight," she explains, "and I couldn't find it at the New York Historical Library, the New York Society Library or the 96th street library - and here it is at Yeshiva."

"So far I like it," said Volk of the college. "I usually can find something to complain about, but so far I can't."

Refurbishing YU

by Jon Taub

Over the course of the summer, numerous improvements were made on YU's uptown campus. Most notably, the Furst Hall Deans' offices have been newly renovated, the outer structure of the Gottesman Pool building has been erected, and construction of the Schottenstein Student Center nears completion.

Originally built in the 1920's, the Schottenstein Center, housed both a shul and the Rav Soloveitchik Elementary School. In time, however, the school closed down, and shortly thereafter, the building itself fell into disrepair. When the building went up for sale, YU purchased it with help from the Schottenstein families of Columbus, Ohio.

Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten says the building needed a "total head-

to-toe rehab, including much of the structural steel work and facades."

The Schottenstein Center already houses a student theater and the Florence and Sol Shenk Synagogue. The Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music will occupy the building's second floor and will include a mini-auditorium for recitals, a number of soundproof rooms, classrooms with pianos, and the school's administration. The bulk of the student activity rooms will be on the third floor and will include offices for YCSC, the COMMENTATOR, and WYUR. The Art Department will occupy the penthouse area.

All in all, "it's a marvelous addition to the campus," says Dean Nulman. "Students desperately seem to need the space." According to Rosengarten, "the building is in the final stage of completion." However, final completion has been stalled by what Rosengarten called a "bureaucratic snafu". The University must receive a certificate of occupancy from both the New York City Fire Department and Buildings Department, but there has been no response from the Fire Department.

"Walls, ceilings, lighting fixtures and floor plans cannot be installed until the command system is approved," he says. Still, he claims the building's facilities can be completed six to eight weeks from the day the University gets approval from the Fire Department.

Please turn to page 3

ARRIVALS

Ira Altman (PHI)
Eun Sung Chung (HIS)
Mary Clark (CHE)
Steven Corey (HIS)
Johnny Helfand (JHI)
Joel A. Hochman (ACC)
Gale Horowitz (CHE)
Joanne Jacobson (ENG)
Naomi Klapper (PSY)
Daniel Lasker (JHI)
Joseph Miller (PSY)
Howard Phillip (PHY)
Marilyn Primoff (ACC)
Nancy Rosenblum (WC)
Andrew Schein (ECO)
Leonard Schwartz (CHE)
Lev Slutskin (STA)
Patricia Volk (ENG)

DEPARTURES

H. Biggs (MUS)
M. Bodian (JHI)
S. Branham (ENG)
I. Brosh (STA)
K. Carson (FRE)
I. Dobkin (CHE)
Z. Farkas (PHY)
B. Firestone (POL)
J. Golding (PHY)
S. Hershberger (PSY)
G. Krakower (CHE)
B. Lifson (ENG)
J. Lowin (FRE)
E. Meer (ENG)
A. Rabinowitz (PSY)
D. Sangster (ECO)
M. Serkin (ENG)
J. Silver (PHY)
R. Steiner (HEB)
T. Wojcikiewicz (CHE)
S. Yahalom (ECO)

Daf Yomi Shiurim Begin

By Martin Goldberg

After many years of success throughout the world, Daf Yomi has reached the YU campus. Sponsored by Student Organization of Yeshiva, and organized by Mitchel Benuck, Daf Yomi offers both the novice and well advanced Talmudists the opportunity to learn a great deal of Talmudic knowledge in a relatively short period of time.

The sessions are offered twice daily and are held across from the main Beit Midrash in Tannenbaum Hall. The first session begins with its own morning minyan at 7:30 AM, followed by the class. The second Daf Yomi session is offered at 10:20 PM, immediately following Tefilat Maariv. Consistent with the Daf Yomi system, the same page of Talmud is taught both morning and evening.

A rotation of RIETS Smicha students

alternate in explaining the Talmud to classes in excess of twenty people. Jonathan Glazer, a freshman at YC who attends Daf Yomi, explains that the classes are taught in a very clear, enjoyable manner, that allows him to gain tremendously. "In Daf Yomi you are exposed to all the various topics which are discussed in the Talmud," he said.

Kevin Taragin, a Daf Yomi lecturer, maintains that the program is an "excellent opportunity for every and any student at YU to have a continuous positive learning experience that far exceeds the small expenditure involved."

SOY president Lawrence Burian said that "this is only one of the many programs that SOY hopes to launch at Yeshiva this year." Meanwhile, SOY is busy planning its annual Lulav and Etrog sale and the Yeshiva's Simchat Beit Hashoeva to be held over Chol Hamoed Succot.

Far East Brought West

By Jeremy Lebowitz

Over the summer Yeshiva University added Professor Eun Sung Chung to its Political Science Department. Dr. Chung is currently teaching two courses: International Relations and Eastern - Asian Politics, dealing with international political theories and a survey of the policies of China, Japan, and Korea, respectively.

Dr. Chung was born in Seoul, South Korea, and moved to the United States seven years ago. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Columbia University's School for International Public

Affairs, as well as his certificate for East - Asian instruction. He then attained a PHD at City College of New York.

Dr. Chung most recently taught at Jersey State City College and, earlier, at several different Korean Universities. His specialization is in comparative political policies, specifically the transition of Authoritarianism to Democracy.

Although he has only been teaching for approximately two weeks, Dr. Chung has found his experience at Yeshiva "totally different". Unlike in his previous position where he encountered dissatisfaction with the motivation level of the students, Dr. Chung finds Yeshiva students "very energetic and willing to learn and to discuss."

However, he finds no difference teaching in a Jewish school as compared to his other institutions. Dr. Chung commented that, although he has only been teaching a short time, he can tell that the academic caliber of the students is higher than in most schools. He is of the opinion that Yeshiva students are knowledgeable and open-minded, enabling them to lead intelligent discussions.

Recently Dr. Chung moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, after residing seven years in New York City. Although he enjoys his new home, he exclaims "I don't know why, but I miss New York! Many people feel disgusted by the City, and I also experienced this... but I became a New Yorker!"

In his opinion, Dr. Chung believes that Yeshiva students have a good grasp of international politics and have shown to be quite knowledgeable in the policies of Cuba, Israel, and the Middle East. "I was quite impressed!" exclaimed Dr. Chung.

The COMMENTATOR and the student body welcome Dr. Chung to the Yeshiva University staff.

Continued from page 2

"The plumbing, toilet, bathroom and tile fixtures all went in over the summer, so this is all that's left."

In a surprise move, the University also completely renovated the Deans' offices on the first floor of Furst Hall. The work, performed by in house contractors, was paid for out of the University's operating capital.

Walls which previously divided the YC office from those of IBC, JSS, and the graduate school were knocked down, and the secretaries pooled together in clusters across the open area.

Rosengarten claims the office is now much more efficient from a managerial point of view. "All the secretaries can work more in concert; they can also be better supervised."

Associate Dean Michael Hecht, who will now occupy an office next to Dean Rosenfeld, echoed some of these sentiments. "It's much easier if we don't have to shuffle students back and forth." Students themselves, however, had mixed reviews for the office renovations. Yitz Fixler, a YC senior, said, "it has its good points and its bad points. It's not as personalized as it used to be."

Ironically, most critical of the office's refurbishment are the various Deans' secretaries. They complain that they feel as if they were working in a fishbowl. "There's a total lack of privacy," complained one secretary. "The noise level is much to high for anything to be done. I can't even hear the phone ring."

"We weren't consulted on our needs regarding furniture," blasted another. "I'm living out of boxes."

"They should have raised our salaries and the salaries of the faculty and that would have made everyone happier."

This semester, take some electives in communications.

Introducing AT&T Student Saver Plus.

This year it'll be easier to get long distance. Because AT&T has put together a program of special rates & services that will save you money. Whether you live on or off campus.



Usual. Consider Student College. Class of 1991.

60 minutes of long distance. For free. Movies. Videos. And more. For less.

Just by choosing any Student Saver Plus program, you'll get up to 60 minutes of free long distance calls. You'll also get a special low rate for savings on all service items.



Call from anywhere to anywhere.

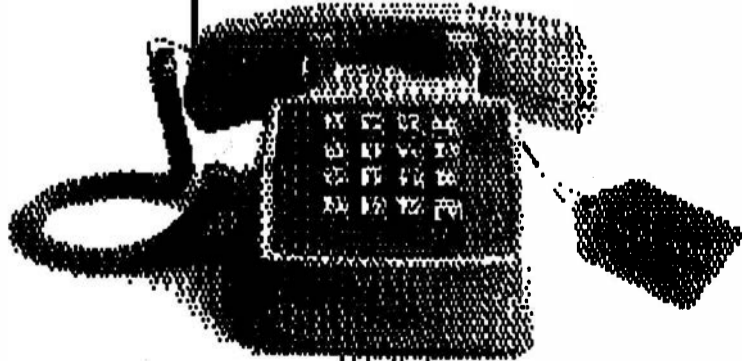
We'll give you a free AT&T Calling Card even if you don't have a phone so you'll be able to make a call from almost any phone and have it billed to you.

You don't need to wait till spring to get a break.

With the AT&T Branch Card Answer Line, you'll get savings 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The only way you can already lower evening prices.

To enroll in the AT&T Student Saver Plus programs that are right for you, or to get the best value in long distance service, call us. They just might be the most profitable electives you'll ever take.

1 800 654-0471 Ext. 1231
AT&T Helping make college life a little easier.



AT&T services may not be available in all areas. See local AT&T office for details. © 1990 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved.

How Long Till a Just Meal Plan

Eventually they will learn. After enough articles have been written, after enough protests have been raised, and enough boycotts have been levied they will have no choice. This should be the New Year's hope of Freshmen who have become cruelly "married" to the YU cafeteria for a year.

Last year, the students of YU struck a bargain in good faith with the cafeteria administration. YU could extract 1,000 dollars from each incoming Freshman, and the students would leave the cafeteria alone to improve its food, prices, and service.

Sadly enough, YU has made all of the cynics worst nightmares come true. Prices are exorbitant, the food portions are downright stingy, and the management is seemingly inept (witness the inaccessible salad bar, temperamental dining club cards, haphazard placement of condiment and cutlery dispensers, and endless lines). It is ironic that it would be more economical for college students to commute to one of Yeshiva's graduate schools for their lunch and supper:dinner at Einstein can purportedly be had for three dollars.

Incoming Freshman should realize that the issues of deception and administrative callousness are at stake. The student body must not lay down quietly. Alumni, parents, and students should band together, led by an unflinching student council, to send a painfully loud message to the administration. We demand a just meal plan!

Student In-Activities

For the comparatively small student body that Yeshiva's undergraduate schools have, the number of clubs and organizations are impressive. Unfortunately, not every organization is. Certain clubs exist only in name and are heard from only once a year - election time. Luckily, this year's student government is discriminating between purpose and purposelessness and carefully reviewing all budget requests. But while this rids YU students of the injury these organizations cause in funds available for real student activities, the insult to the student body still remains.

Fortunately, these wounds quickly heal with hard work and determination. If you believe your organization is worthy of student council funds, prove it to the student body.

We look forward to seeing exciting programs and events! from some of the lesser known clubs.

Smooth Check-In

Returning students found dorm check-in to be a very pleasant surprise this year. The lines to obtain clearance, keys, and IDs moved quickly and were well located. Dolly rentals were placed in an odd corner causing "gridlock" during busy times; however, overall everything ran smoothly.

Intelligent planning was translated into action by the Security and Maintenance staff. As students pulled up to the 186th street entrance to Morgenstern Hall, maintenance men helped to unload luggage while security guards directed traffic flow.

How encouraging to see that a potential headache was averted by careful planning and hard work. Rabbi Cheifetz, Mrs. Judas, and their staff should be commended!

**THE COMMENTATOR
WISHES ALL ITS
READERS A HAPPY
AND HEALTHY NEW
YEAR**

Public Service Announcement

Can you spare just a few hours a week to make a difference in a child's life? Become a tutor in the New York City School Volunteer Program (SVP) and work one-to-one with a public school youngster to help improve his or her reading, writing or math skills. SVP will train volunteers and provide on-site support. For more information or to sign up, call School Volunteers at (212) 213-3370 or (718) 858-0010. Assignments are available in all five boroughs at a school near your home or office.

The Commentator

500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033, 928-4573. Published bi-weekly during the academic year by the Yeshiva College Student Council. The views expressed in these columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the opinions of THE COMMENTATOR, the student body, the faculty, or the administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages.

GOVERNING BOARD

Daniel Oshinsky
Editor-in-Chief

ANDREW GOLDSMITH
Executive Editor

JAY BAILEY
Layout Editor

NEIL TORCZYNER
News Editor

**JON ADLER
EZRA KAHN**
Features Editors

DAVID GELLMAN
Co-ordinating Editor

DAVID J. KAY
Copy Editor

TOMMY WEINBERGER
Technical Editor

DANIEL LOSKOVE
Business Editor

**ERIC MELZER
RONNIE ARONOFF**
Sports Editors

J.J. HORNBLASS
Photography Editor

ASSOCIATE BOARD:

Charles Rube, **Layout**
Richie Broth, Josh Sindler, **Photography**
Gilaad Deutch, Moshe Friedman, David
Silverblatt, Shlomo Zwickler, **News**
Avrum Aaron, Hayyim Angel, Jonathan
Tropper, **Features**
Paul Rolnick, Jeremy Schwalbe,
Business



2543 AMSTERDAM AVE. (AT 186 ST.) 568-4855

**The COMMENTATOR would like to
wish a Mazal Tov to two of our
board members and their
fiances:**

**Andy Goldsmith & Yaffa Goldberg
Tommy Weinberger & Pnina
Schoenholz**

From the Editor's Desk... Life During Wartime

By Daniel Oshinsky

My greatest fear this summer was that Israel would go to war the day after I flew back to America. Although I was sequestered in a remote development town in Northern Israel, the news of Hussein's invasion of Kuwait shook me like a thunder clap. For months, Iraq's megalomaniac had alternatively made Israel, then Kuwait, the target of his doomsday threats. Now, with Kuwait laid to waste, I could not help but ask, would Israel be next?

I prayed that G-d should protect Israel. But I also asked that if war did come, He would grant me the courage to stand by the Russian and Ethiopian children I had worked with all summer, my friends and relatives, my brothers and sisters. Would I join the army and head to the front line, or simply take the place of a Kibbutznik called up for service? I don't know and I'm not sure if it matters. The point is that after two years of study in Israel, three summer vacations and two winter breaks, I felt my life to be bound up with those people. In my mind, I imagined myself climbing slowly up a long flight of stairs to a waiting El Al plane, as the people of Israel went to war, and I was horrified. I knew I wouldn't leave.

Back in America, I comb the papers for signs of war. Virtually the entire world has joined forces to halt Hussein. But Israel's predicament remains tenuous. Mid-east experts say Hussein lacks the long range missiles necessary to hit Israel with chemical weapons. But the psychoanalysts say he's crazy enough to try anyway. I continue to pray.

If war were to break out tomorrow, would I climb back up those stairs and get on to that El Al plane? This question seems so much more difficult now, posed as it is from the safety of America, with parents frightened at the very thought, and only one more year of college till I graduate. Still, I remember vividly how in 1982, during the war in Lebanon, Volunteers for Israel flew

hundreds of Americans to Israel to replace Israeli farmers called up for service, and how I wished I had been old enough to join them.

It's easy for American Jews to be confounded by their poignant situation. However, it would be truly tragic if in our confusion, we failed to recognize the danger facing Israel, and not do everything in our power to insure her safety and security. We must now reaffirm our commitment to Israel's future as never before. For the moment, this is our best response to the Iraqi menace.

Every summer, throngs of YU students flock to Israel, to work with immigrants and underprivileged Israelis on outreach and teaching programs. More would go if sufficient funding existed (last spring, twice as many students applied for the ACHY program as there were spots). As the influx from the Soviet Bloc continues, further programs will be needed. Many existing programs are already in desperate need of funds. The Max Stern Division of Communal Services, a primary beneficiary of YU fund raising, currently sponsors outreach programs in Australia and Canada, and throughout the United States. YU could demonstrate its commitment to Israel by expanding MSDCS's focus to include programs in Israel.

YU students, in turn, should use the mid-east crisis as a springboard towards greater Zionist activity. Last year, many students pointed to the YCSC sponsored Zionist retreat, the founding of Israel Club and an Aliyah poster campaign as signs of a renewed interest in Zionism on campus. We certainly can't permit that first spark to die out, just as Israel faces its greatest threat.

Israel needs our tfilot too. The High Holidays are often depicted as a time of introspection, when we do individual battle with our evil deeds. This Rosh Hashana, we need to direct our prayers outward, and pray for the safety of the State of Israel. Life during wartime demands at least this much.

of frustration and disappointment?

His social predicament belies a fundamental problem with his overall methodology. He finds himself in the proper place without the proper preparation. In contrast, a successful individual creates a hierarchy of priorities and focuses his efforts upon a sequential plan. First you ask the girl - then you buy the tickets.

Now imagine a similar person paying Yeshiva University tuition, registering for an unfamiliar shiur, and then waiting two weeks into the semester before first searching for a chavruta. Can he justifiably brood the failure of

Presidential Pulpit

Steven Felsenthal,
YCSC President

Recently, our esteemed Secretary of State, James Baker III, summed up the feelings of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Voicing his frustration with the failure of his diplomatic efforts between the Israelis and Palestinians, Baker gave a message to the Israelis. Loosely paraphrased, the message was: Here's the phone number of the White House. When you're serious about peace, call us.

During last year's winter semester break, I was sitting in my grandparents condominium in Florida. While eating breakfast one day, I picked up Forbes magazine and read an article that depicted the many ways in which American companies had changed over the previous decade. The changes were momentous. Everything imaginable had been added to their operations in order to maximize the companies efficiency and profit.

Now it's the beginning of the 1990-91 academic year at Yeshiva University. As I sit in my room overlooking the Joel Jablonski Campus, taking in the sounds and sights of our neighbourhood, I take pride in the changes that have occurred on our campus over the last decade.

Over the past decade, many changes have taken place in "YU". For those of you who don't remember what it was like on our campus ten years ago (I know I don't), try crossing a four lane, busy street every day when you have twenty seconds left before attendance is called in class.

Many of the alumni of ten years ago, were they to visit today, would not recognize the campus of Yeshiva. Draw a picture of "YU". Now, turn your pencil around and erase the Max Stern Athletic Center. Erase the mall. Erase Schottenstein Center, the newly refurbished bathrooms in

Rubin, and the new furniture in Muss. Erase the construction that will soon be the Gottesman Pool, night parking, Morg lounge, and the bookstore.

Take another look. Now look at Student services. What didn't we have ten years ago? There was no intercampus van shuttle, or shuttle to the subway. There was no career or personal counselling, and less faculty. Today we have the Sy Symms School of Business and their placement services, an accessible Dean of Students office, increased student activity, a full Beit Midrash (even in the middle of the night), and a new JSS guidance office. Did you know that YU "Macs" games used to cost \$2 admission? There are now over ten times as many clubs and societies on campus. From academics to Morg Mart this campus has undergone a true evolution.

How did all these changes occur? They occurred because some people took their complaints and suggestions to the right places. There are people at YU who are paid to listen to you. There are guidance offices on the fourth floor of Furst Hall and a Dean of Students office right next door to them. Go up there and make an appointment. That's what they're there for. There's the food services committee (headed by Steven Arnold and Jay Lehman). Go to them and give them specific complaints. Don't just complain about the cafeteria. Go ahead and tell the food services committee exactly what you're upset about. You have student councils elected to represent you. If you have something specific that you would like to see changed, don't keep it to yourself. Listen to James Baker. If you're serious about improvement, give us a call and tell us exactly what you want.

his "learning-life"?

Our learning predicament might betray the identical problem. Torah study revolves upon an ordered schedule and procedure. Its foundation rests upon the seder. Finding a suitable chavruta proves critical to the entire Torah learning process. We must aggressively search for the ideal partner who not only compliments our ability and personality but also challenges us in both learning and commitment. Then, together with our chavruta, we must responsibly select the Rosh HaYeshiva most appropriate for our ability. Granted, as in any bureaucracy, "the system" hinders a certain degree of flexibility. Yet, we must not sit-back and wait for the Yeshiva to fall into place. To ensure a successful year we must take the initiative!

This past shabbat, two-

hundred Y.U. students "took the initiative." We joined Rav Schacter, Rav Goldvicht, and Rav Blau in a "Shabbat at Yeshiva" that for many rivaled their experiences in Israel. The energy that we felt, transformed Amsterdam avenue into a pocket of zemiroei torah, and close friendships

Similarly, every day, another group of individuals takes the initiative. They diligently attend the newly created, SOY sponsored, Daf-Yomi. The Daf-Yomi Shiurim are given by fellow students on a rotation basis, and the classes are taught in a quick style so as to maximize, and not exceed, one hour.

In addition, you need not find a chavruta to benefit from Daf-Yomi. Rather, Daf-Yomi provides a structured time for independent learning which does not depend on the test schedule

Responsa

To the Editor,

I am writing to bring to light an injustice enacted by YU Maintenance upon the Yeshiva College Philanthropy Society. Created in 1988, the YCPS has enjoyed two years of tremendous growth and expansion, helping neighborhood needy while attracting much attention to YU. Nevertheless, in 1990, the students of Yeshiva seem to think that the YCPS is a thing of the past. Why? Because the symbols and main source of funds of the Society, the receptacles that collect thousands of aluminum cans for weekly recycling, are noticeably absent from campus.

As many students have pointed out, hundreds of dollars of potential tzedaka are being wasted. The reason for this is that YU Maintenance either has the receptacles or isn't telling us where they've gone. To add to the frustration, Maintenance has lied several times to board members about the whereabouts of OUR garbage cans. Finally, collection cans that have been set up at the Beit Midrash, and in Morg lounge and the cafeteria have been mysteriously removed within 24 hours.

Until now, YU Maintenance has been very helpful in bringing the Philanthropy Society to its feet). As a result the YCPS has planned further expansion for the coming year. However, if we, the ones responsible for organizing these new and important programs, have to concern ourselves with starting from scratch, growth will be impossible and many dreams will be shattered. I hope that everyone involved - the students who contribute to our cause and the people who benefit from it - understand that the can collection program will return, and we hope this letter helps make that happen sooner.

Sincerely,
Mordy Rothberg
President, YCPS

of your partner. Furthermore, the Daf-Yomi shiurim are conveniently offered twice a day so that your schedule may remain structured, yet flexible. It's never too late to join the many Jews across the world in following Daf-Yomi. Don't procrastinate - Just Do It!

This year, the Student Organization of Yeshiva presents a fresh new excitement to Yeshiva life. Mordy, Jeff, Neil and I are continuously searching for innovative ways to enhance the experience of all semicha and Yeshiva students. Take advantage of the SOY sponsored programs and activities that stamp Yeshiva University unique from all other Universities and Yeshivot. Take the initiative in our effort to inspire Our Yeshiva. Don't wait - the new year begins!

Just Do It

By Lawrence J. Burian
SOY President

People often jest that finding a good chavruta compares to finding an appropriate shiddach. Yet, imagine a person spending one-hundred dollars for two tickets to an unfamiliar Broadway drama. Imagine him then dressing, going down-town, waiting for the play to start, and only then beginning his search for a partner. He invests time and money yet for some reason the evening fails and his social-life just wont seem to jell. Can he honestly justify his feelings

FACULTY FACULTY FACULTY FACULTY

by Hayyim Angel

Guys entering their first year in Yeshivot in Israel often

are told to talk to the "Shanah Betters," who have experience, but who still retain their status as people. Rabbanim and teachers, on the other hand, often find themselves relegated to many students' viewing them as "those beings on the other side of the desk." They have already lost all touch with humanity, and deal with most trivial concerns, such as the pursuit of religious values, knowledge and other such ridiculous ways to pass the time. We at Yeshiva University are more sophisticated, so we know these statements to be factually based and true.

However, one learning in the Yeshiva in Israel usually does come to the realization that the creatures "on the other side" are really sane, friendly, and, on rare occasions, even people-like! Based on their years of experience and knowledge of people, they have great advice to give, and share it with those who want to know. With this in mind, the COMMENTATOR has interviewed professors and Rabbanim in different disciplines to find out what they had to say to new students.

Rabbi Yosef Blau, the Mashgiach Rukhani of the Yeshiva, recommends that a student should "have very clear what his priorities are. He must understand the new level of responsibility which comes in an environment where he must make the fundamental choices."

The student who can keep his priorities straight, and actually balance his learning Torah, academics, extra-curricular activities, and social life will "be able to work wonders," says Rabbi Israel Wohlgelemer of IBC.

Fine, says the student. Now what am I supposed to do? Sure, I must balance my time and be productive while still having a great time, but what is really important? In order to achieve this balance, a proper framework must be created.

It has been taught: Mrs. Becker of the Art department believes that in addition to the heavy academic load which the Yeshiva student faces, he must try to break the boundaries of time, and to have an outside life. "It's certainly salutary to be as full and rounded as possible. It's very important to have a social life, and extra-curricular activity is terribly important for helping the students move into life," she says. Rabbi Israel Wohlgelemer strongly



"...extra-curricular activity is terribly important..."

- Mrs. Becker



"...extra-curricular activities got that name for a good reason." - Rabbi Israel Wohlgelemer

demurred this, stating that "extra-curricular activities got that name for a good reason." Rabbi Wohlgelemer's statement is in consonance with Rabbi Abba Bronspiegel of MYP, who says that "many students waste a lot of time on extra-curricular activities, especially the Dramatics Society, which takes away far too much time. Since we are basically a Yeshiva, a student must be able to decide that learning Torah is his real major."

A superficial analysis of this dispute might leave the student wondering whether to devote his life to the study of Torah or to the Dramatics Society. But our analysis cannot be complete without first considering all other relevant sources on our issue.

Come and hear: Academic pursuits are obviously treated seriously by all faculty members, but they feel that Yeshiva College students often have a very limited perspective on how to treat their college years. Dr. Joan Haahr of the English department finds a difficulty with the fact that too many students "take their grades way too seriously," and that "too many Freshman come into Yeshiva College with the idea of trying to get out early."

Mrs. Becker has similarly also pointed out that the 'get the easy A instead of learning anything' mentality is represented at Yeshiva College more than anywhere else that she has ever seen. Rabbi Wohlgelemer addresses these students by saying that they should enjoy their studies. "They shouldn't be worried about grades; that's no way to enjoy life. If they enjoy themselves, they'll get the good grades, anyway."

He suggests a good test of one's academic interest: "If you're ever satisfied with what you've learned, then you clearly don't have such a great drive to learn."

Dr. Marilyn Schneider of the Sociology department gives students a totally different perspective on how to deal with their college lives. First of all, "it is time to stop complaining about the prestige of the school as opposed to other Universities, and to start looking at all that YU has to offer. There are excellent teachers, and the caliber of the students is far greater than most colleges. Students who are so concerned with the excellence of this school should contribute towards this excellence, not only by grades, but

also through involvement in extra activities."

Additionally, "some guys here ignore means of just releasing tension. They should go to the gym. If they are less tense, they will be more receptive to learning." It must be noted that Dr. Schneider's comments can be reconciled with the other positions without any excruciating Pimpulim.

"That's a great idea!" thinks the student, still totally stunned that faculty members speak in human terms. "So I'll have fun academically, learn what I am interested in, try to finish four years of requirements in more than two, work out in the gym, and still get good grades."

But what should I do about the Torah-extra-curricular activity struggle? After all, I am not going to spend all night in my books!?"

Aha! The experienced student knows that while most major sources have been presented and analyzed, there is still one major aspect of student life which will tie together the entire Sugya of college: friends. What about those Shanah Betters or even contemporaries? We have evidence from the text that friendships are important from Rabbi Blau's remark that "choosing a social group determines where one is going to be going." We should use this statement as a reason to delve into the issue of friendship with particular depth.

First of all, there seem to be some serious social problems in Yeshiva that really must be eliminated. Dr. Schneider observes that "some upper classmen have expressed resentment against students in other Jewish Studies divisions." She advises new students to see if these complaints are fact-based, and if they are, they should be solved, not complained about. Another problem which Dr. Schneider expressed concern about is that "often, students remain close with their high school friends. They should instead reach out and bridge the gap between different cultures. This group bond is certainly achievable, if students would care to do something about it."

In order to expand one's horizons, as any good student knows he should, would it not make sense to talk to people of other backgrounds, and even to befriend them? Resentment and tension between people of different religious and cultural

backgrounds would be greatly reduced, and everybody's college experience would be greatly enhanced.

Secondly, the fact is that those whose best friends learn all day are likely to also pick up a Sefer on occasion. One who has a Seder in pool will soon have Havrutot to play with. Rabbi Blau suggests an "early commitment to learning at night," so that the student will be able to advance his Torah learning in an organized manner, rather than juggling it with everything else. One whose social scene includes people who already have Sedarim at night can easily join these friends in the Beit Midrash.

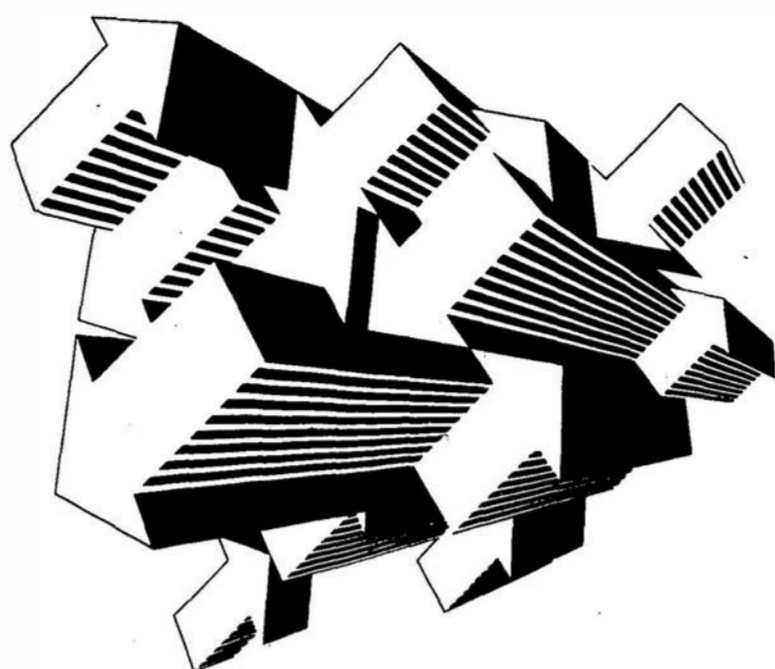
But it is Rabbi Shalom Carmy of the Bible and Philosophy departments who challenges the student's normal impressions by the following message to the students: "You should realize that your main purpose here is to make friends. You may realize that some of your best friends might turn out to be books. Possibly even faculty."

So whatever the student decides, it should be known that even teachers (others say: of course, teachers) are willing to abandon their posts against the blackboard in order to help the student make the most of Yeshiva University. The COMMENTATOR joins the faculty in wishing all new students, as well as those returning, much success for the coming year.



"Choosing a social group determines where one is going to be going." - Rabbi Y. Blau

MAKING IT AT YU: ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS



by Jonathan Tropper

Although Yeshiva University is not a very large place, what it lacks in size it makes up for in red tape. Entering freshmen are often dismayed by the seemingly endless list of requirements, and the scheduling acrobatics performed by the upper-classmen in order to meet those requirements often leave new students standing in awe, mouths agape.

In addition to requirement and schedule difficulties, there is the larger question of where to seek out guidance for the many problems a YU student must confront during the course of his college career. Supposedly, there is a guidance office somewhere on campus, but nobody seems to know where it is, or who is in charge.

Deans may sometimes be helpful, but be prepared to expend a good deal of effort tracking them down. The teaching faculty is often more accessible, and they are usually eager to help, but as scholars they are not always well versed in the technicalities of the university.

If not the deans, and not the professors, than whom? Simple. The students. More specifically, the upper-classmen. The average junior or senior



"Know upperclassmen. They'll steer you the right way."

- David Maryles

STUDENTS STUDENTS STUDENTS

has his finger on the pulse of the university in a way that faculty members cannot even hope to imitate. Furthermore, the accessibility of the faculty cannot compare to that of the students, most of whom live on campus. Whether they know it or not, the students are the primary source of guidance at Yeshiva University.

In order to open up the lines of communication between upper and lower classmen, the COMMENTATOR interviewed sixteen seniors and asked them what advice they could offer incoming students that would enable them to swim, rather than sink in the metaphorical sea of Yeshiva University.

"Know upper-classmen," says David Maryles. "They'll steer you the right way." This sentiment was echoed, in one way or another, by everyone that was interviewed.

Another popular idea was the notion of bending the requirements to fit one's needs, rather than allowing the opposite to occur. Too often, students feel pressured to meet their requirements, and they pass up courses that truly interest them in favor of the courses they need to graduate. They feel trapped.

"Don't be afraid of the system," confides Avi Mitzner. "You can easily manipulate it to your own advantage."

Another challenge that students face is the selection of professors. Here, in asking upper-classmen for advice, one must be slightly critical. If someone speaks highly of a teacher, make that person clarify his praise. Is he praising the professor as a spellbinding educator, or simply as one who will be a friend to your grade point average?

When it comes to selecting professors, Steven Stadtmuer advises, "Don't go for the teachers that are easy A's, because they're the lousy ones."

Benjamin Kaminetzky agrees, adding that one should "try to get an education along with the A's."

Of the sixteen seniors interviewed, eight were students of the Sy Syms School of Business (a fact which may be a statistic in itself), and they geared their comments to business majors.

David Maryles feels that Sy Syms is a full time occupation and one should not be diverted when it comes to choosing classes. "Make up your mind," he declares.



Get involved with the school. School doesn't end at the end of class."

- Larry Rosenblatt

"You're either in Sy Syms, or you're not." Stueie Nussbaum disagrees. "I would have taken more liberal arts classes," he confesses.

In truth, YU is often thought of as a business college, and this mentality leaves students with the assumption that liberal arts classes have no place in their curriculum. Hopefully, this unfortunate fallacy is heading towards extinction. While the liberal arts departments still leave much to be desired in terms of the variety of courses they offer, they nevertheless have a wide range of interesting courses that are well worth taking. It would be a shame to exhaust one's college experience without sampling some of these courses. Even Sy Syms students can fit some of these classes into their schedules.

Shmuel Schreiber advocates the slow and steady approach. "Don't try to rush through Sy Syms. Take your time."

This approach should enable you to branch out in other directions, even if they're more interesting than practical.

Another popular theme running through many of the interviews is that of student activism. In the past, YU has suffered because of an apathetic student body. Whatever the cause was then, it is absolutely inexcusable now to be uninvolved. As the school has grown, the number of student organizations has increased dramatically, and there really is something for everyone. The recruiting

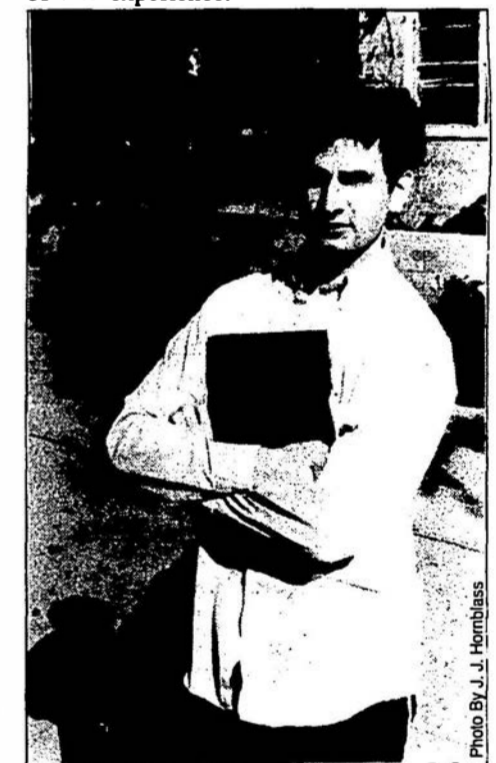
leaflets that plaster the walls of the dormitory halls, despite their haphazard appearance, should be taken seriously.

When asked what he would do differently if he could start college over again, Naphtali Levin answers, "I would be more active in student organizations and clubs." That's coming from the record-breaking star of last year's track team.

Larry Rosenblatt sums up what he feels is the key to a satisfying student life at YU with the following tip: "Get involved with the school. School doesn't end at the end of class."

Whatever you're interests are, you should be able to find some worthwhile endeavor into which you can channel your energies. Physical, mental, spiritual, or social, there are many organizations that welcome participation. Ask about the field that interests you, and if no club or organization exists, start one. It's your college, after all.

So if you're looking for answers about courses, professors, requirements, clubs, rules, or if you just want to get your bearings straight and figure out who's who and what's what, you may not have to look very far. No generation gap, no office hours, just shooting the breeze with a peer. The upper-classmen have been through the system, and they know where it works and where it's ragged around the edges. It's up to the lower-classmen to inherit the rewards of this experience.



"Try to get an education along with the A's."

- Benjamin Kaminetzky

BS'D OHAVEI SHALOM TSEDEKA FUND

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF RABBI SOLOMON P. WOHLGELEMER זצ"ל

FOUNDED IN 1977 FOR THE FIRST VAHREIT INTRODUCED AT Y.U. IN SPRING, 1979

YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS MEET NEEDS IN ISRAEL

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE GIVEN TO: RABBI ISRAEL WOHLGELEMER POLARIS LIBRARY, Y.U. CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MAILED TO: RABBI SOLOMON P. WOHLGELEMER CHAIRMAN 611 BENOI DAN STREET P.O. BOX 1000, N.Y. 11691

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

ALL EXPENSES OF FUND ARE PAID BY FAMILY SPONSORS

IBC Heads in a New Direction

By Charles Rube

Following student requests and a suggestion from Dr. Lamm, the Isaac Breur College has instituted a newly designed course of study for its students.

The new curriculum emphasizes Israel, Jewish Philosophy, and Gemara, with all classes and Shiurim taught in Hebrew. The program was developed by IBC Dean Dr. Don Well, in conjunction with student leaders.

Rav Meir Goldvicht, formerly a Rebbe at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, and Rabbi Moshe Taragin, who taught at Yeshivat Har Etzion for two years, were chosen to teach the Shiurim because of their strong ties to Eretz Yisrael. A native Israeli, Rav Goldvicht adds a natural Israeli atmosphere to his classes. Dr. Well feels that Rav Goldvicht "symbolizes what is special about this new program".

Rav Goldvicht also includes Jewish Thought (Machshava) in his Thursday Shiur. Dr. Well says that this "individualizes the class," differentiating it from Rav Goldvicht's Shiur in the Mazer Yeshiva Program. Two new Machshava classes were included in the program in addition to those already taught in IBC. Rabbi Carmy is teaching a class on the thought of Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik, while an introduction to Kabbalah

course is given by Dr. Brill. Additionally, Dr. Tawil, in his Biblical Hebrew class, will examine selections from Tanach which deal with Geula (redemption). Geula-related themes in the five Megillot will be explored by Rabbi Schwartz.

In addition to the Israeli setting and required Machshava courses, Gemara has become a point of focus. Preparatory Sedarim are included in the morning schedule, and students are strongly encouraged to set up at least three additional Sedarim on their own time. The program is intended to be extremely thorough. As Dr. Well's letter introducing the program states, the program will require a student to "put in a bit more time than is presently required".

Only ten students were allowed to enter the program, and Dr. Well adds that unfortunately "many students were turned away". The program has drawn students who desire to study in Hebrew. These students are interested in the broad tradition of Chachmat Yisrael but nevertheless "want to learn up a storm", as Dr. Well puts it. The program is for those students who are Zionists following in the direction of the Dati Leumi (Religious Zionist) community.

"The program is designed

to appeal to the Jew that is sensitive to the stirring of Geula in our time," he says.

While Machshava and Ivrit speaking classes have always been offered in IBC, this program is custom packaged for those students who intend on making Aliyah and would learn in Hesder Yeshivas or live on yishuvim in all parts of Eretz Yisrael. This group is an important part of orthodox society today, and includes "some of the finest students in YU," according to Dr. Well. Precisely because of IBC's hebraic orientation, Dr. Well feels that "IBC is uniquely capable of serving" this somewhat neglected group.

Assuming that this program will attract students returning from Israeli Yeshivot, Dr. Well predicts that it will grow in number. Indeed, certain YP Rabbeim have privately expressed fears that the new IBC program will pull away certain students from the Yeshiva Program.

Additional Shiurim modeled in the patterns of Rabbi Taragin and Goldvicht are planned. As the program develops, Dr. Well sees IBC students in these shiurim emerging as a leadership element, breathing new life into the entire University.

Crime Watch

By David Silverblatt

An eighty one year old woman was robbed last week a couple of blocks from the YU campus. The victim was shopping in a local store on West 187 street when the thief, an Hispanic woman, bumped into her. The victim later realized that the thief had slit open her pocketbook, stolen her papers, her money and her wallet. The scary part of the story is that the incident occurred at 1:00 pm, in broad daylight.

Calling New York a dangerous place may not be considered a revelation. In fact, it is probably an understatement of the actual condition in this neighborhood. Last year, this area was victim to just under a hundred homicides. This year, there have already been over eighty. To quote the actual figure would be somewhat chancy due to its almost daily increases.

Crime is alive and well in Washington Heights. However, the Police have some valuable suggestions which could help protect you from becoming a victim. Always remember that most criminals are opportunists. They take advantage of promising situations which are presented to them. The key to crime prevention, therefore, is to remove the opportunities for crime from our everyday activities.

Be Alert - Don't be afraid, but look around you occasionally to see who is standing near you or

walking towards you.

Be Determined - If you are on an unfamiliar or secluded street, quicken your pace and act as if you are going to meet someone who is waiting for you.

Walk Carefully - Walk where it is well-lighted. Stay away from darkened building entrances, doorways, alleyways and high shrubbery. Travel and shop in groups whenever possible, especially at night. There is greater safety in numbers.

Plan Ahead - Know where you are walking, know the general day and evening conditions of the streets you use, and know which stores are open late at night. If you must travel in this area, try to utilize the van service. If you must walk, use West 181 street or West 185 street, and try to avoid using Audubon Avenue.

Call Police - Notify police of suspicious persons who are loitering, or sitting in parked or slowly cruising cars. Description of person, color and make of car, time and location are all important to the police. If you are in any doubt about a person, call the police and let them settle the uncertainty.

Important Numbers - Some important numbers you should post by your phone are: the local precinct number 927-9711; Yeshiva Security 960-5200; Hatzolah 230-1000; and of course 911 for all in-progress emergencies.

Musaf or Ne'ilah in the Middle East

By Ezra Kahn

Some say that just as we Jews are approaching Yom Hadin, so too the Middle East may be on the verge of a Yom Haadin. Just as we individually can never be certain of the final verdict that G-d will bestow upon us, only fools would venture to predict what Neilah will bring when it happens in the Mideast. Then again, perhaps it is an ongoing Musaf that will never end, or at least not in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, we all wait, wonder and question.

The possibility of gas masks being distributed to Israeli citizens is extremely frightening. Many of us are connected to Israel through relatives and friends who live there. Most of us have cherished memories of a visit or a year of study in Israel and hope of one day going back. We at Yeshiva come from a wide range of places: the US, Canada, and England to name a few. We have different tastes, likes and dislikes, yet the one thing that we have in common, aside from being Jewish, is Israel.

How lucky we are to live in a generation in which we have the state of Israel. To our ancestors in Europe and throughout the rest of the world Israel was only a dream. Now it is a reality, and all it takes is a reservation and money to get there.

The situation in the Mideast is frightening. People are cancelling trips to Israel and frightened parents are not sending their children to study in Yeshivot or universities. We all wonder, if he has the capability, would Saddam Hussein use chemical weapons against Israel? During the past week, this reporter walked around campus asking students their feelings about what is going on in the Middle East.

Of the one hundred students asked if they would spend this year in Israel, seventy-eight said that they would go, sixteen said they would definitely not go, and six were not sure. The six who were not sure had not spent a year in Israel, while the other ninety-four had gone to a Yeshiva or university in Israel.

Another concern is the issue of US troops in Saudi Arabia. Students were asked whether they approved of the US helping out an a country which has refused to make peace with Israel. Ninety students approved of the military action, and among them fourteen stressed the point that while America is giving aid to one of Israel's enemies, Saudi Arabia does not present a serious threat, and right now it is trying to protect itself from a stronger enemy. There was no real concern about Saudi Arabia receiving weapons from the US, for Israel will receive more

weapons as well.

One student responded by saying "While we may be Jews and Zionists, those of us who live in America must respect the President for acting in America's best interest. If a person feels that it is not good for Israel, well let them live in Israel and complain. As long as we live here, we must support America." That student requested to remain anonymous.

Students were also asked if they think the situation will lead to war. Sixty-three students felt that war is a definite outcome while thirty felt that their will be a diplomatic solution.

Nobody can know will be the final outcome, but what we can do is hope that American troops return safely, that gas masks need never be distributed to Israelis, and that this Mussaf will soon lead to a Neilah that will bring a peaceful outcome for all.

Guide to the PERPLEXED forms must be in or you will not be in the GUIDE!

TIME OUT
Kosher Pizza
and
Israeli Food

omelettes hot bagels humos tehina bahaganush	calzone sicilian pizza falafel lasagna eggplant parmegan
--	---

And Much More...

After 7PM drinks on us,
with minimum purchase of \$2.50

ask us about our meal plan

2 Slices with 12 ounce Drink - \$3.25

Falafel with 12 ounce Drink - \$2.75

RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BEIS MIDRASH!

The S.O.Y.
SIMCHAT BEIT
HaShoeva
Monday October 8th at 8:00 PM Free Parking

Cruel, Crazy Beautiful World

An Occasional Feature by Jonathan Tropper

Superman's Last Stand

Superman was always my favorite hero. Fearless and indestructible, strong and sensitive, he was a pillar of goodness and justice, whether he was battling the malignant evil of Lex Luthor, or simply rescuing a little girl's kitten trapped in a tree.

We had a pretty good assortment of fictional heroes from which to choose from when we were growing up. In the comics, aside from the Man of Steel, we also had Batman, and that arrogant arachnid, Spiderman.

Then there were our television heroes. We watched CHIP's and dreamed of being our own versions of Officers Ponch and John, cruising down the highways of the world, saving lives. Hawaii Five-O left us admiring the cunning mind of Steve McGarret, which was second only to the sharp wits of Captain James T. Kirk, of the USS Enterprise. And how many of us can honestly say that there wasn't at least one moment in our lives when we wished we could be bionic, like the Six Million Dollar Man?

These men, and numerous others, were our heroes. They inspired our imaginations, and were the objects of our fantasies. These heroes all had something in common. They were all real men (to us) and they were all undeniably good men. Great men. Honorable and strong. They stood for all that was good in the world, and they made evil their enemy.

As children, our values were somewhat shaped by these men. Although we couldn't

understand it then, they were teaching us to strive for goodness, honor, and nobility.

Have you seen today's super-heroes? Robots and Transformers and (heaven help us) Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Today's youth worships machines and mutated animals. Shows and movies that do actually involve human beings are so filled with violence that it seems the only way to be a good-guy these days is to take the formula Stallone/Schwarzenegger approach: Look and talk tough, carry a large gun, and kill virtually everybody in sight. Our noble, passionate heroes have been replaced by dispassionate creatures and large implements of destruction. The pop culture has become the strongest influence in the western world, and it preaches abnormality, selfishness, sex, and violence.

It's a pretty dismal picture, but it gets even worse. Let's go back to our generation again. Remember the boys who grew up wanting to emulate traffic cops? The day we got our driver's licenses saw the last nail banged into that coffin. What do we think of traffic cops now? We hate them, pure and simple.

And being a noble cop like McGarret is out because we're not really willing to consider the low income of a law enforcement officer. Firemen? The same.

Not only have the values of society changed, but our own personal values have undergone a serious overhaul. With our maturation, we abandoned make-

believe, and along with that we seem to have given up a good deal of honor and our will to make a positive difference in the world. Our noble television heroes of yesteryear have been replaced by the self-serving yuppies of L.A. Law and Thirtysomething. Our heroes were captured by a master criminal known as the eighties and banished to the phantom zone.

I still remember Superman. I like to imagine that somewhere, deep within our Psyches, he is leading a valiant army of banished heroes to defeat the non-feeling, hi-tech invaders that conquered them (and us) in the past decade. Batman and Spidey are with him. So are Captain Kirk and Steve McGarret. Steve Austin is there, right alongside Ponch and John. I have no doubt that their army is a large one, and one that is equal to the task ahead.

Somewhere in all of us, there is a Superman fighting to emerge. He hasn't made it out yet, but we can all occasionally catch a glimpse of his blue suit, or his red cape, be it in the newspapers, or right here at Yeshiva University.

Things are bad, but I have faith in the Last Son of Krypton. Every day we're being warned about the evils of our world through public service messages. Feed The World. Save Our Planet. Say No To Drugs. Don't Drink And Drive.

The list goes on, but it all comes down to one idea. We have to watch out for Kryptonite. We can't let the Superman within us die out.

POOL

Continued from page 1

which one usually associates with swimming competition.

The pool building has other athletic uses as well. The whirlpool which was added to the original design will be available for use by YU's athletic teams following practice. The whirlpool was added following student requests and a meeting between students and Rosengarten. Realizing that the whirlpool could also be used as a mikveh and that sufficient funds remained, the administration quickly agreed. "I think the whole decision took a day," said Rosengarten.

Rabbi Charlop took charge of collating the halakhic material necessary to construct the whirlpool/mikveh. Then, the administration worked out the practical applications with the construction firm. "It really fit in very nicely together", says Rosengarten. He also assures that steps have already been taken to preserve the privacy of those using the mikveh.

Upon completion, the Benjamin Gottesman Pool will

become part of the Max Stern Athletic Center (MSAC), following the same rules, regulations and schedules. This means that the pool will be restricted to Yeshiva College students and consequently no women, including students of Stern College for Women, will be allowed to use the pool or the mikveh. Whether the High School or alumnae will be allowed within the pool facility has yet to be bags and will bury them once again along with new shamos when the pool nears completion.

Benjamin Gottesman, to whom his son, David, dedicated the pool, was a member of the Yeshiva University Board of Trustees from 1927 until 1982. His main contributions revolved around the library. He endowed the Mendel Gottesman Library as well as the University's first chair in library sciences.

The pool's major individual contributors, David and Ruth Gottesman and Ludwig and Erica Jesselson are also prominent figures in the community. Ludwig Jesselson currently chairs the Yeshiva University Board of Trustees. His wife, Erica, is chairman of the Board of Governors of the Yeshiva University Museum. David Gottesman, has sat on the Board of Trustees since 1979 and serves on committees throughout the New York area too numerous to mention. Dr. Ruth Gottesman is a member of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's staff and the director of psycho-educational services.

Yeshiva University
Dining Services
Joel Jablonski and Midtown
Campuses

MONTHLY SPECIALS

September Oriental Night, Sept. 11
All you can eat Oriental Night, Dining Club Members only \$5.95
12oz. Beverage \$2.25 with 2 sides plann
October Spanish Night, Oct. 23
Buy a Soup and Sandwich for \$3.99 (lunch only)
November Thanksgiving Night, Nov. 20
12 oz Beverage \$2.25 with Falafel Plate
December Italian Night, Dec. 5
Large Fries \$4.50 with any Deli Sandwich
January Parade Night, Jan. 29
Double Beef Burger \$3.49 w/ Fries
February Purim Night, Feb. 26
Every meal, soup only \$1.00 a bowl
March Mardi Gras-March, 13
Beauty of the Sea, Fillet of Fish on a soft roll \$2.69
April Mid-Eastern Night, Apr. 24
Fillet of Chicken Sandwich only \$3.25

May

Finally, Finally, Finally

Entire Month, Slice of Watermelon Free with any Entree or Sandwich

FOR DINING CLUB MEMBERS THE SPECIALS ARE AVAILABLE MONDAY-THURSDAY DURING THE MONTH. Non-Members can obtain the specials on TUESDAYS.

Theme Dinners are as listed and available to all customers.

HABODEGA

Continued from page 1

the area," said Rosengarten. According to him, "Parkoff did not come and ask 'can Habodega open?'. Mr. Ganchrow is speculating."

Rosengarten met with Ganchrow prior to the meal plan announcement, because of the impact Habodega was having on cafeteria sales. The two discussed possibilities for an arrangement to the benefit of both parties. According to Rosengarten, one option included having the cafeteria and Habodega open at alternate times. A second plan would have given meal plan cards access to Habodega as well. Ganchrow stated at one point that in light of the financial situation, he could not guarantee that Habodega would remain in business. Rosengarten then offered him the possibility of joining the Food Services department of the University.

Upon informing University officials that he was looking into the possibility of a Din Torah, Ganchrow was allegedly told, "You get your

Rabbi's, I'll get mine." As he approached some YU Rabbeim on the subject of Din Torah, Ganchrow claims that they "acted like employees and not like Rabbeim," in that they refused to deal with the issue. "I was severely disappointed in an institution that teaches Torah and behaves in a less than ethical manner. YU is a business, not a yeshiva. Profit and losses--ethics doesn't enter."

In regard to the future of the former Habodega site, Rosengarten says that it should be of importance to the student body as well the administration. Although a sign in front of the store calls for a "card store/cleaners/pharmacy", Rosengarten insists that YU had nothing to do with that decision. In fact, he claims that from YU's perspective, a food store would be preferable. According to Rosengarten, Parkoff approached a well known kosher restaurant about opening at YU, and was unsuccessful.

CAF

Continued from page 1

often spend excessive amounts of time on line, imposing on them serious time constraints. "The lines make it difficult, if not impossible, to eat a normal meal and still get to shiur on time." says freshman Sampson Fine.

YCSC President Steven Felsenthal feels students may still be able to work out their differences with the cafeteria through the offices of the Food Services committee. "When the meal plan was made, both sides made compromises," says Felsenthal. "If the administration does not live up to their end of the bargain, then there are more effective ways of dealing with it than a boycott." In defense of the meal plan, manager Jake Lieberman points out that the majority of colleges across the country have mandatory meal plans. He explained that food prices were not raised from last year's on most items, and that the few price raises that did occur were unavoidable. "The Shabbos prices haven't changed in three years" he says. "Try and show me another place where you can buy three meals for Shabbos for only fifteen dollars."

Responds Felsenthal, "I don't think that it is fair to make anyone do anything that they don't want to do. The meal plan is a good idea, but only if the Caf is a place where the students want to eat."

YU Golf Team Pars Opening Match

By Eric Melzer

The Yeshiva University golf team teed-off the season with a tri-match against Monmouth College and Wagner College on Tuesday September 11. The team, which has had much success in past years, continued to play formidably as they defeated Wagner by over 40 strokes. However, Monmouth won the match by four strokes.

This match marked the first time that four players shot below 90. Three of these players make up the so-called "Florida connection" which consists of Josh

Light, Jon Lasko, and Craig Kornbluth. Light, the captain, completed the course with an outstanding score of 79, while Lasko and Kornbluth finished with scores of 87 and 88 respectively. The big boost came from rookie Gregory Rhine who shot an 84. Also shooting solidly were Daniel Lewis (93), Kenny Helfer (94), and Gilad Ottensosser (96).

The next match is scheduled for Monday October 22nd, and will be the final match of the fall semester. Six more are scheduled for the spring. All matches are played at Van Cortland State Park.

All those interested in joining the COMMENTATOR photography staff please contact J.J. Hornblass :

Morg. 801

928-3980

The COMMENTATOR Bids Farewell to Mr. Curtis Antrum and Wishes Him All the Best

Basketball Intramurals Top-10 Draft Picks

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Huskies | Hillel Goldscheider |
| 2. | Wildcats | Ranon Mann |
| 3. | Green Wave | Saul Stepner |
| 4. | Eagles | Brett Peven |
| 5. | Orangemen | Ami Drazin |
| 6. | Redmen | Gilad Ottensosser |
| 7. | Pirates | Baruchi Cohen |
| 8. | Panthers | Daniel Loskove |
| 9. | Friars | Yehuda Blinder |
| 10. | Hoyas | Jason Horowitz |

Sophomores Set Sail

By David Borowich

Over two hundred and fifty students filled the "Metro Manhattan" cruise ship this past thursday, in what one student labeled, "a very original and creative event." After a punctual departure from pier 11, the "three hour tour" made a complete circle of Manhattan, offering a different perspective on New York's famous sights.

While sipping drinks and enjoying the live entertainment, students were able to view the majestic Statue of Liberty, the valiant Intrepid, the spectacular Manhattan skyline and other memorable sights. This ideal setting, mixed with popular music, played by YU alumni Mo Shapiro, Mark Wildes, and Moshe Wechsler, helped contribute to the exuberance of an already upbeat crowd.

Many students stood on the upper deck outside either singing along with the band, or absorbing the fresh night air as the ship gracefully cruised along the Hudson river; While other students socialized with old friends, met new friends, played games or simply watched the Simpsons, in the air conditioned cabin of the two story cruise ship. "I wish all events could be as creative," said YC Junior Solomon Sandberg. Lisa Horowitz, President of SCW, agreed saying, "It was an excellent idea for an event. I'm glad it was very successful."

Danny Faizakoff, YC Sophomore Class President, and Sheva Berezin, SCW Sophomore Class President, encountered certain difficulties in organizing the event; however, the problems were quickly managed and the tour was able to proceed. "I think we had a spectacular turnout," said Faizakoff, "and I'm glad that people enjoyed the cruise."

Steven Felsenthal, President of YCSC, commenting on the uniqueness of the event, said, "I think the Sophomore class did a great job in running an original event. I hope other organizations on campus will follow suit and will begin to think of new ideas and will plan more exciting events."

Call 1800 654-0471 and you won't have to wait till spring to get a break.



There's nothing like a call to keep in touch with people you really care about. But there's nothing like a lot of long distance calls to cut into a student's budget. Which is why AT&T has a whole program of products and services called *AT&T Student Saver Plus*.

It includes the *AT&T Reach Out[®] America Plan*, which gives you savings 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For example, you'll get 25% off our already low evening prices.* You'll even save when you call during the daytime.

To enroll in *AT&T Reach Out[®] America* or to learn about the *Student Saver Plus* programs that are right for you, call us at **1 800 654-0471 Ext. 1232**. And get a break any time of the year.

AT&T. Helping make college life a little easier.



*Discount applies to out-of-state calls direct-dialed 5-10 pm, Sunday-Friday. This service may not be available in residence halls on your campus.

© 1990 AT&T

YESHIVA SPORTS

Four Starters Return to Lead Macs

By Eric Melzer

The Macs appear to be headed towards a strong season. Four starters, Eric Davis, Gregory Schue, Jon Rosner, and Avrum Anon are returning. Tzvi Himber, the Macs' 6'10" center, was cleared to play by his doctors last week, and his presence will definitely be an asset. David Ehrman and Seth Cohen will once again provide offensive and defensive punch. Sophomore Josh Dobin has joined the team and is a premier outside shooter, especially from three-point range. In addition, Coach Jonathan Halpert has recruited an extremely talented Israeli basketball player named Miko Danan, and expects that he will soon adjust to college ball in America.

There are certain questions which relate to the Macs' success. A consistent outside shooter to replace David Gottlieb is a vital necessity. Sharpshooting 6'4" sophomore Baruki Cohen could have been the answer, but surgery

will delay his entry into the league. In addition, the Macs will certainly miss Elisha Rothman, and the coaches are unsure when he will return to uniform.

Furthermore, the team needs to show unity this season and cannot be divided by any further controversies. Fans remember the frustration that resulted from last year's "disagreements" between Coach Halpert and several of his players.

According to Assistant Coach Steve Podias, the roster will probably consist of twelve players. Seven players are returning and Dobin and Danan have already made the team. It is believed that Dr. Halpert will select three players: one guard and two forwards.

This team looks like a good one, but is it a playoff contender? Opening night on November 20th at Polytech could very well foreshadow this team's future.

Intramurals Underway

By Matthew Klein

Intramural at Yeshiva University began with a roar, as captain Duvie Maryles won the lottery and obtained the rights to the first pick in the draft. Maryles selected Hillel Goldscheider and Ronnie Aranoff quickly snatched Ranon Mann.

Although captains who had received late picks thought any hopes of obtaining a solid squad had been foiled, surprisingly these captains drafted quite well. This adeptness was specifically displayed in the fourth round when Jon Lasko obtained Jeremy Garber and Jefferey Morris selected sleeper Yosef Kilimnick. Similarly, Eric Melzer acquired the majority of his nucleus in the third round and later.

The season opened last Tuesday night with Daniel Lewis's Panthers taming Michael Packer's Hoyas 51-35. The fierce attack of the Panthers was led by Daniel Loskove (19 points) who showed that he could be a contender for the league's Most Valuable Player. Alex Fooksman took total control of the boards and finished with 12 points. Hoyas rookie and first round pick Jason Horowitz also displayed a strong effort with 11

points.

In the late-night cap of the Tuesday night double-header, the Pirates looted and pillaged the Eagles, 44-33. Early in the game, Jeff Mor made an attempt to shatter the single game record of most three-pointers made (nine). Mor finished with 20 points on the night (5 three-pointers). Other contributions were made by Baruchi Cohen (10 points) who is by light-years the league's tallest point-guard at 6'4". Avi Lopin shot nicely for the Eagles and led them with 15 points.

Wednesday night's after school special was a real thriller as Eric Melzer's Friars bleached Ely Cohen's Green Wave in a 44-39 win. Rookie point-guard and former Flatbush Falcon Dov Deutsch showed that he hasn't lost his sweet touch as he led the Friars with 12 points (6-7 from the line). The Friars deadly trio of Yehuda Blinder, Jeremy Schwabe, and Seth Sokol were able to clear the paint in the last two minutes of the game. Green Wave rookies Erez Ben-Ami and Ofer Naor combined for 25 points and displayed their ability to convert the two-point field goal.

Stan Watson Named Assistant Athletic Director

By Ronnie Aronoff

Anybody who is associated with athletics at Yeshiva College and has been inside the Max Stern Athletic Center has surely come across Stanley Watson, the new Assistant Athletic Director at Yeshiva University.

Stan, as he is called by almost everyone at the College, succeeds Mr. Curtis Antrum, who has accepted a position as Director of Athletics at a university in Connecticut.

Stan is age 39, and hails from Woodruff, South Carolina. He attended Brandeis High School, located at 84th Street and Columbus Avenue in Manhattan, and continued his education at City College of New York with a degree in physical education. He spent 1974-1976 as an Army medic in what he called the "hell on wheels" unit.

Stan was referred to YU by Professor Barbara Klein of City College and arrived here on October 25, 1986. He was hired by outgoing Assistant Athletic Director Curtis Antrum and former Athletic Director John Costello. Prior to Stan's joining Yeshiva University, he was the supervisor for the intramural department at City College and wrote for CCNY's intramural paper known as "Beaver Tales."

Stan continues to supervise both intramural and the gym at CCNY, but says he finds much more enjoyment in his job at Yeshiva.

"What I found in my years at YU was a closeness and rapport with the students every semester," he says. "I miss the students when they graduate and hope they will come back all the time to visit."

Stan claims he is pleased that in all aspects of his involvement, Yeshiva University's students are much more cooperative, respectful, and willing to listen than students at CCNY.

Stan's concern for the students is not limited to the hours that he works at YU. His bond

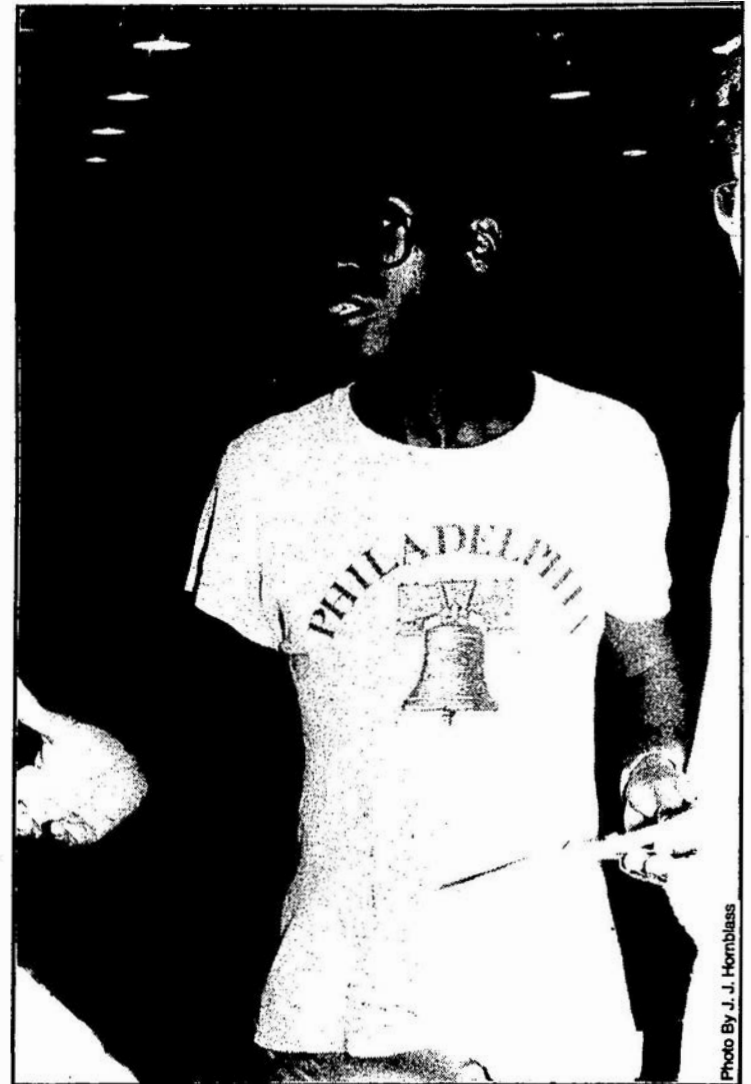


Photo By J. J. Hombliss

goes much further, and he is willing to give of his own free time to lend a helping hand to any student. For instance, in the middle of this interview, Macs guard David Ehrman sustained an ankle injury. Stan rushed to Ehrman's side and refused to leave until he was convinced that Ehrman was feeling better and had been properly assisted.

In addition to being Assistant Athletic Director, Stan remains the coach of the track team. He replaced John Mulligan in 1987 and since then, has made "great strides" in improving the team's competitiveness. When asked about the preseason forecast for the team, Stan responded, "This is a transition year for the track team, but with a combination of our returnees and some incoming students, we should be competitive."

Focusing on his plans for his new position, Stan feels that he will have a more active role in the scheme of events that involve Yeshiva athletics.

"I will be able to display my skills as an organizer, run things even more smoothly and efficiently than before, and create more fun for the student body."

Regarding his predecessor, Stan remarked, "I wish Mr. Antrum all the best. I got to know him like a brother."

Stan's love for the students at Yeshiva is certainly not one-sided. At last year's athletic dinner, he received a standing ovation for his services as Recreational Supervisor. "I was touched," he commented. "This is something I'll never forget. This athletic dinner showed me the warmth and the love that the students have here."

The Commentator

Yeshiva College
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033