

The Commentator

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Rabbi Lamm addresses a packed Beit Medrash during SOY's forum on the gulf

photo by Josh Sandler

OPERATION TORAH SHIELD II SOY Forum Investigates Gulf Crisis

by Avi Lopin

Just as "Operation Torah Shield" hype had begun to dissipate, SOY put forth a sequel: "Operation Torah Shield II-Erev Iyun". The program, held Wednesday night, February 13th in the Main Beit Medrash, attempted to place the Gulf crisis in a Torah and Jewish perspective. Over 350 students and numerous Rebbeim attended the forum.

SOY President Lawrence Burian began the evening by declaring that, "Tonight, by

everyone gathering together for this program, we're going to make a statement as to what brings YU together, what brings us together in the Beit Medrash, and what creates a certain unity." The program's three featured speakers were Rabbi Norman Lamm, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, and Rabbi Meir Goldvicht. Each shed new light on the Gulf war and its meaning for the Jewish people, and students found the entire program inspiring. The program concluded with an appeal by Burian for students to give to the Jewish

Survival Fund, and a Ma'ariv Minyan attended by more than 400 people.

Burian explained that the overall objective for the program was to mitigate the general feelings of helplessness and uncertainty being experienced by students while the threat on Israel continues. A program was necessary to channel these uneasy feelings into a more positive outlook and frame of mind.

Assembling a large portion of the student body under one

please turn to page 10

WYUR Back On the Air

by Jon Taub

WYUR is back on the air after a conspicuous first-semester absence. Station Manager Yitz Treitel explains that YUR was forced to sit idle while major repairs were carried out. "The control board was never installed properly when we moved to Belfer Hall and the sound got progressively worse," says Treitel. The station's transmitters, which go through the college's telephone and electrical system, were also down during the first semester.

But the radio station is now broadcasting, and Programming Director Adam Cantor says WYUR will offer a greater diversity of shows and longer hours to win back Yeshiva listeners. The station says it will offer a greater variety of shows than ever before including: reggae, jazz, blues, rap, comedy and talk. Album and ticket giveaways are also planned.

Programming runs from six in the evening until 2:30 a.m., with an added difference of having both ninety and sixty minute slots.

"We have about 28-30 differ-

ent shows, and we'd like to keep it from just being classic rock," says Cantor.

Music Director Jennifer Wiessen says she's impressed with the new people on the WYUR staff. "They're doing things more professionally," she says. "We've really got a great group of D.J.'s." WYUR conducted interviews for radio show hosts in November, and despite the delay, has kept the same shows.

Treitel says the station still has its eyes on the future. "Our top priority is getting new hardware," he says. Treitel has arranged for a person experienced in sound engineering to help solve technical problems.

According to Cantor, the station needs better sound quality. He worries that people are turning their dial away from WYUR because of the buzzing noise in the background.

"People have told me that they've had to turn off all the lights in their room to get better reception. We may not be subject to all FCC regulations with this cheaper transmitter, but we lose potential listeners as well as people who would other-

wise get involved with the station."

Wiessen feels that WYUR lacks the attention given to other extracurricular activities, and the station suffers as a result. "People aren't motivated enough to change what's going on here," she says. Wiessen calls the acquisition of more records an imperative. One solution would be to get on the subscription list of the College Music Journal. Subscribers to CMJ are sent free records. However, according to Wiessen, the station's budget allotment is too low for a subscription.

Treitel agrees that YCSC budgetary constraints make funding for the station hard to come by. Changes in the WYUR governing board have also complicated matters.

Cantor feels that WYUR has the potential to become as "creative a force as the Commentator or YCDS." Wiessen is a bit more direct: "Make it a priority!" With the station on the air and operating at full power, Wiessen wants everybody at YU and Stern to "take advantage of WYUR and listen."

Survival Fund Struggles to Reach \$50,000 Goal

by Dov Chelst

The Jewish Survival Fund may have difficulty achieving the \$50,000 goal set by student organizers. Coordinators of the fund, known last year as the Student Freedom Fund, increased their goal by \$20,000 from last year, and doubled their suggested donation to \$36. Many students could not come up with this sum immediately. However, organizers are continuing their effort and are optimistic that the \$50,000 will be raised.

Volunteers set out on Monday, February 21st, traveling door to door on both campuses in a mammoth effort to raise the stated goal. However, many students, especially freshmen, said they simply did not have \$36 to spare. Others pledged to donate a sum on the following Monday. As a result, the drive extended throughout the week. Dedicated floor leaders continued to canvas their hallways in search of people they had failed to reach on the 21st and Fund coordinators were still urging students to bring in their pledges as this issue went to press.

The Jewish Survival Fund will benefit two causes: an Israeli Scud relief fund, and Yeshiva and University Students for the Spiritual Survival of Russia (YUSSR), a program which sends RIETS students to teach in the Soviet Union.

Despite the importance of both causes, Daniel Schwartz, a coordinator, feels this year lacked the sense of urgency prevalent in last year's campaign. Collectors in Rubin Dorm found it harder to raise money than in other dorms. This was due to the large population of freshmen who generally had less money on hand. According to Schwartz, organizational diffi-

culties and a lack of publicity also plagued Rubin.

Volunteers at Stern College encountered similar difficulties. According to Shoshana Levine, SCW students have been inundated with various tzedaka funds and could not afford the \$36 amount.

However, if the students alone do not succeed in reaching their \$50,000 goal, the Jewish Survival Fund can draw from other sources. Dr. Israel Miller issued a memo requesting donations from the faculty. Also, YCSC Vice President David Borowich hopes for a significant contribution from SOY upon the conclusion of the Seforim Sale.

At the campaign's end, 60% of the money will go to Israel and 40% to YUSSR. This arrangement was not easily arrived at as fund coordinators and YUSSR volunteers debated which cause should be the major beneficiary. Borowich, the fund's chief organizer, felt that YUSSR definitely deserved strong support. However, in light of Israel's current situation, it was decided the Jewish homeland had to be shown preference.

For YUSSR, 40% of the Jewish Survival Fund will constitute a significant portion of its \$95,000 budget for 1991. In contrast, even 60% of the fund will be a drop in the bucket for Israel, as it attempts to provide for a displaced population. Nevertheless, Borowich asserts that "many drops fill a bucket" and that even a token drop will equal an important Kiddush Hashem. He further emphasized that students "have to learn to give now," before they enter the job market and begin to earn substantial salaries.

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**Red Hot
Purim Pullout**

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Clarifying the Issue

The Commentator wishes to make clear that the intent of last issue's front page article on Steven Felsenthal was neither to malign our fellow student, nor to impugn his performance as president. Our purpose was simply to clarify an issue of concern to students.

The article focused on a specific problem with Mr. Felsenthal's administration, namely his seeming lack of visibility, and allowed the President himself to respond. We sincerely apologize to Mr. Felsenthal if the article was misconstrued as an attack.

However, this apology does not represent a retraction of the article. We firmly stand behind the author, and the fairness and accuracy of his reporting. The Commentator has never shirked from its responsibility to confront important issues directly affecting the student body. Certainly, the performance of the president of YCSC, the highest elected official in our student government, falls into this category.

The ultimate purpose of any Commentator article is to serve as a medium for positive change in our university. We are confident Steve Felsenthal and YCSC will seek to build on last semester, and bring to the student body the dedicated leadership we have come to expect.

Inconceivable Schedule

The administration still seems not to have understood the grievous error committed in designating Erev Pesach a travel day. It's really quite simple. B'dikat Chametz, the search for leavened bread must be performed this year on Thursday evening, the 28th of March. All cleaning must therefore be finished by that time. Neither students from out of town, nor those residing in the New York area, will be able to help their families carry out this task if they are to abide by the present calendar.

Of course, for a great number of students, and probably many instructors as well, this will not be a problem. They will give their families and the approaching festival priority, and ignore the calendar. If the administration wishes their academic schedule to become a farce, so be it. However, a more honorable solution would be to amend the calendar, and offer a proper travel day as in years past.

*The Commentator wishes
all our readers a
very Freilichen Purim*

Israel Office

Operation Torah Shield came to a close one month ago, but the bond established between Yeshiva University and Israel lives on. In the Commentator and the Observer, in hallways and lounges, students continue to express a renewed sense of connection with the Jewish state.

Avraham Abboudi- "...Torah Shield proved to ourselves and our families that any danger to Israel is a danger to us, and that we identify with their pain."

Shoshana Levine- "...I realized for the first time what a national homeland means, and what being deeply rooted to a land feels like."

Dr. Lamm, speaking at last week's "Operation Torah Shield II" forum on the Gulf War, told of a curious phone call he recently received from an Israeli general. The general explained to a puzzled Dr. Lamm that he was simply updating YU's president on the situation. "You are one of us," he told Dr. Lamm.

More puzzling than this phone call, however, is that Zionist sentiment at YU should even require a reawakening. Yeshiva represents a concentrated block of students with strong ties to the Jewish State. Ninety per cent have spent a year learning in Israel- many two or three. These students continue to staff summer tours and volunteer programs in Israel throughout their college years.

However, closer inspection shows the YU advantage can be a mixed blessing. At Columbia and Rutgers, when Arab

students rally for the PLO, Jewish students band together to form a counter protest. Yeshiva students never have to confront this kind of threat.

Zionist activity is also discouraged by the perception that students here have heard it all before; we've seen all the Aliya propaganda, attended numerous rallies. When the Israel Club hosted Rafael Gvir, Israel's ambassador to the UN, in December, only a small crowd came to Belfer Hall to greet him. The Club's president, Zvi Borenstein, expressed disappointment and said he would reconsider scheduling several planned events. We've heard little from the Israel Club since.

Mr. Borenstein's frustration is understandable. But clearly, the poor showing at the Gvir lecture resulted more from an abundance of school work than a lack of support for Israel. Torah shield has granted Israel activists a golden opportunity to reassert themselves. Certainly, obstacles stand in the way of pro-Israel activity. But now, more than ever, we need to grasp the advantages presented by a student body committed to Israel, and push Aliya.

The question is: how?

The First Annual Zionist Shabbaton, held last week in Lawrence, was a step in the right direction. Fifty YU students joined some twenty other collegiate in spirited singing, dancing and discussion all centering on the shabbaton's

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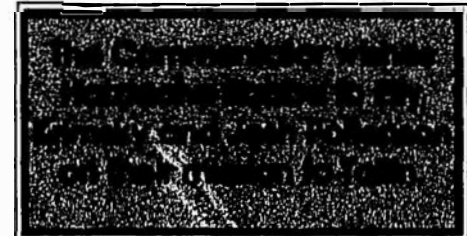
From The Editor's Desk

raelis, and first time experiences in Israel for American teenagers. They also give their volunteers lasting ties to Israel and her people, and new incentives for Aliya.

Israel Office would be an information center for the myriad number of programs in Israel students can par-take of. The office's professional staff would also help concerned students organize new programs and recruit volunteers.

Even the most committed Zionist requires guidance for a successful Aliya. Israel Office's resident shaliach could make the difference. Familiar with the University, as well as the obstacles which await students in Israel, this shaliach could direct students towards the right course work, job experience and extra-curricular activity for their Aliya needs. Simply having a shaliach on campus would encourage more students to undertake a plan for Aliya, rather than wait until family and financial obligations make Aliya too difficult.

Israel Office would be much like an Israeli consulate to Yeshiva University. It would create a hub for Zionist activity on campus, a place to which students concerned about Israel can gravitate, and a visible symbol of YU's commitment to Midnat Yisrael. As the University moves forward from Torah Shield, I hope its members will consider the need for Israel Office.



theme: Think Aliya! The shabbaton also laid the ground work for "Israel Week", to be held at various colleges including YC and Stern.

Still, YU needs to go further. Torah Shield reaffirmed the University's commitment to Israel. Now this commitment needs to be institutionalized. We need a visible sign of our obligations overseas, a center on campus dedicated to promoting Aliya.

The solution is: "Israel Office".

Yeshiva does not need to look far for a model. Occupying a good part of the fourth floor in Furst Hall, the Max Stern Division of Communal Services is YU's outreach center for Jewish communities in the U.S., Canada and Australia. The center's professional staff works with countless student volunteers to insure the success of programs like Yeshiva High School Seminars, JPSY, Kiruv, Torah Tours, the Tillem program and Counterpoint. The center's library of Torah tapes and source material is utilized by NCSY and other organizations as well.

This massive commitment to diaspora Jewry can certainly be matched by efforts for our brethren in Israel. Scores of YU students already work on programs in Israel every summer, albeit without funding and professional support from YU. These programs do not just provide critical assistance to new immigrants and under privileged Is-

V.P. Unimpressed

To the Editor,

As the Vice President of YCSC, I must rectify a wrong that was perpetrated, against a person dedicated to the well being and growth of YU. As a colleague of his, I feel the need to vocalize my strong objections to a recent article, whose sole purpose was to abusively criticize his positive efforts. More important, as a friend, I am compelled to write this letter so that all who will read it will know the truth. Steve Felsenthal is a man who has worked for the school in many different capacities since the time he arrived on campus. He has arranged for countless programs and services for the students. Most students and all club leaders who have had the pleasure, as I have had, of working with Steve can attest to his good intentions and his determinism. When he is not in the Beis Midrash, Steve can be found in his room working on some new program, helping a club or committee leader, or simply making himself available to the students who occasionally stop by his room. Steve is always there for people when they need his help.

Any person in a visible or public position receives a reasonable amount of negative publicity or criticism. However, the recent article in the Commentator oversteps those bounds. I was disappointed to read, in such a reputable paper such as inappropriate implications and blatantly false accusations. The writer may have intended the article to be an expose' on Steve's lack of visibility and effectiveness, but he neglected to interview me (although I certainly was mentioned enough times), other members of student council, club and committee leaders, and fellow students. If the writer wanted to criticize Steve, shouldn't he have researched his thesis and corroborated his suspicions with other students?

The writer states in the first paragraph, "As the second semester begins, many students find themselves asking: who is Steve Felsenthal..." Why doesn't the writer then quote at least one of these students to support his theory? In addition, there is a contention that "Felsenthal and Borowich have had a role reversal." Why was I not asked to support or deny this statement? The writer neglects these and other points of fact for the sake of some eye-catching and sensationalist article.

However, all blame should not be placed on the writer. Articles are supposedly cleared by the editorial board, so obviously many "editors" had seen the nature of the poorly researched article and should've voiced their objections. There

should really be no place in our Yeshiva for such negative and vituperative journalism.

If the article represents the view of the Commentator, then print it as a constructive editorial. Furthermore, the decision to place this article on the front page, a place generally reserved for important, well-researched and legitimate articles, is reminiscent of slanderous and dishonorable tabloids. If that is how the Commentator wishes to be viewed by its readers, this issue is successful. I can only suggest to my friends on the Commentator that a retraction or an apology be printed and that they continue in the high standard that they had been following before this past issue.

Respectfully,
David Borowich
Vice President, YCSC

Too Quick to Judge

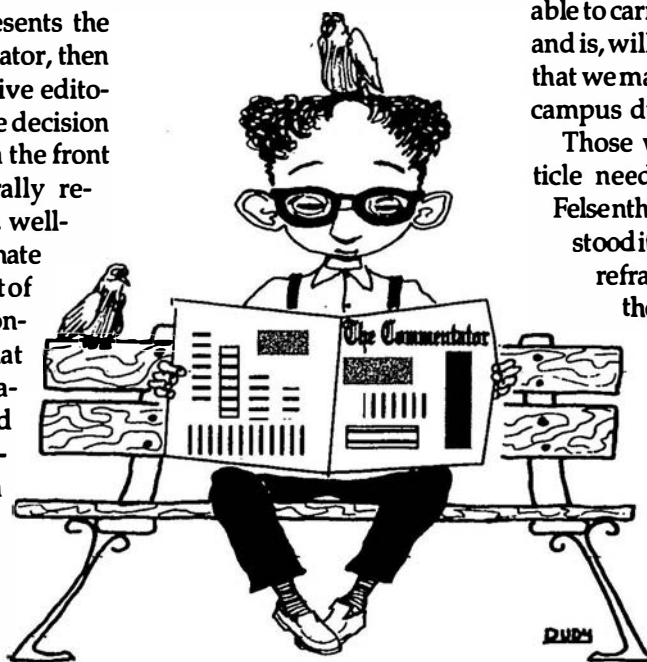
To the Editor,

In the February 13th issue of The Commentator, you ran a front page article concerning the current Student Council President, Steven Felsenthal, questioning his stance on issues, his apparent lack of following through on campaign promises, and above all, his seeming invisibility.

It is questionable whether an article of this tone really belongs on the front page of our college newspaper, and what exact purpose it serves. Even if Mr. Felsenthal is "not up to snuff," right now, he, and not another, is in charge. Come next election time, someone else will undoubtedly be elected. As a matter of fact, since Mr. Felsenthal is graduating, there is no way that he can be President after this semester!

I have always thought that the true measure of success in a public official is the response from his or her constituents. The same applies no less to a student president. Frankly, I have not heard any griping about Mr. Felsenthal's actions, nor about his supposed lack of action. Yes, students do wish for more intraschool events and mixers, and that is certainly something Mr. Felsenthal should attend to. However, aside from this, I have heard nothing of the sort. If the reason for this silence on the part of students is due to their apathy, then it should be realized that even the best president cannot force his fellow students

RESPONSA



to have fun.

As for the claim of invisibility, there is a world of difference between being invisible because one is extremely busy, and because one has nothing to accomplish. It is evident that Vice-President David Borowich is quite good at "fieldwork," which naturally lends visibility to a person. Could it not also be that Mr. Felsenthal's forte is in keeping busy with the management aspect of his office, as he suggests? No student seems to worry about not seeing Rabbi Lamm very often, and I'm sure that no student would surmise that the Rabbi is doing nothing, and is not being visible enough.

"To judge is easy," is one rule in life. Another is to give your fellow man the benefit of the doubt.

Joseph J. Hoenig
YC '91

Bailey Not Biased

To the Editor,

When Jay Bailey compared Mr. Felsenthal to Trudeau's George Bush [Felsenthal: Behind the Scenes or Out of the Picture, Feb. 13], it was not to degrade Mr. Felsenthal as a person, but rather to evaluate his actions in terms of the promises he made to the students of Yeshiva University.

Like any good reporter, Jay Bailey merely described the opinions of the majority of the students, the facts as they appear, devoid of any conclusions he personally feels towards Mr. Felsenthal. Furthermore, Mr. Felsenthal (a good friend of mine) even admitted that he was somewhat unaware of the minute details of the position, which, added to the already great many responsibilities of YCSC President, has caused us

students to see less of him. Indeed, let us hope that he will be

able to carry the burden he was, and is, willing to undertake and that we may see more of him on campus during this semester.

Those who feel that the article needlessly attacked Mr. Felsenthal not only misunderstood its contents, but should refrain from interjecting their personal emotions.

Avigdor J. Butler
YC '91

Cruel to my School

To the Editor:

After reading the article in The Commentator on the subject of MTA, I was almost embarrassed for the authors and for some of the people interviewed for the article. The way in which the article was written, one could get the idea that the students of MTA are completely undesirable and should be placed "somewhere else."

What I think the skeptics failed to realize, is that they were once in high school too, and probably were not as mature as they obviously are now. They must realize that freshmen, sophomores, etc. in college generally do not act the same as those in high school. With time comes maturity, not criticism and disdain. From the article, it seems to me that the only research the authors did for this article was blind and unforgiving.

However, most surprising to me were the comments made by one specific administrator. To say the YC does so much for the High School and receives nothing in return was obviously made in haste. In my years at MTA the only real interaction with Yeshiva College I had was at the end of my Junior year when we were encouraged to attend the early admissions program: after being looked down on by most of the YC administration for three years. Is it coincidence that now, when YC is obviously overpopulated and under facilitated there are those who are calling for the removal of a high school which has been a mainstay in a community for over a century?

At the recent High School Model United Nations which I attended as a committee leader, the contingent of MTA that has raised its standards over the past years which has led to its resurgence. In past years, there would not be five students who

would have participated.

What many must realize is the MTA is not the problem. The problem is the over crowding that has been growing, with no viable solutions coming from the administration. Instead of writing a negative perspective on the MTA students, thus driving a deeper wedge in some people's minds between the high school and YC, why not be positive and work within the problem which is not caused by the students themselves. If this occurs, MTA will continue to flourish and become more of an honor to the Yeshiva University name.

Michael Packer
YC '91

Disgusted

To the Editor:

"Outrageous; Disgusting; I can't believe they actually printed something like this..." - such are the reaction to the Commentator's article "Too Close for Comfort" printed in the February 13 edition. While one might expect that these responses emanate from the high school, the sources range all areas of the institution - college, semicha, faculty and administration. I personally had no idea that reporting could be so inaccurate.

It may come as a surprise to many that one of the administrators of the high school was interviewed; any and all comments from the meeting are omitted from the article. Furthermore, two individuals quoted in the article were never informed that their comments, which, they claim, were taken out of context, were for publication. This may explain why the day the newspaper came out these same individuals were in the high school office apologizing.

The question which bothers me is simply how this article was printed at all. If a commentary appeared espousing negative opinions of every school in YU, I am sure that many people would have a lot to say. The facts are that we simply do not and should not operate this way. It's both immoral and unprofessional. The Commentator should not be a vehicle for such slander, especially when journalistic integrity is not being implemented - namely misquotes and lack of facts. I offer no defense for the points made in the column because it would lend undeserved credence to the accusations and points which are false. I hope that in the future such tabloid type journalism will be rejected by the editors of the paper prior to publication.

Ira Kosowsky
YC '91

Drop off Responsa at Mo222.

CAMPUS NEWS

NEWS SHORTS

450 Enjoy YCPS Purim Party

This Sunday, the Yeshiva College Philanthropy Society hosted yet another successful event for the Soviet Jewish community. 350 adults and 100 children attended the Purim Celebration held in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons, and were joined by students from Stern and YC. The program included an art exhibition featuring works by artists from the Soviet Union, the vocal talents of Belz cantorial students Aaron Deutch and Daniel Schwartz, and festive music by SHPIEL K.S. Children had their faces painted and made costumes, and every guest received Mishloach Manot. In addition, boys painted leather kipot and girls decorated barretts. Director of Russian Programs David Rozenson spoke in Russian to the crowd.

Zionist Gathering

The First Annual Zionist Shabbaton, actually the second for YU students, was held February 15th in Lawrence, NY. Joining some fifty YC and SCW participants were twenty other collegiate from NYU, Rutgers, Tufts, Columbia, and Brooklyn University. The weekend was arranged by YCSC, in conjunction with Columbia graduate student Zev Magen and former YCSC President Barry Kay, who organized last year's YCSC Zionist Retreat. The purpose of this Shabbaton was to instill participants with zionistic fervor, and help them carry this spirit to their respective campuses.

Shabbaton organizers also set specific goals, such as planning for an Israel theme week between Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut, and the distribution of the latest in zionist literature and active wear. Sessions were geared to accomplishing these specific goals, as well as sharing attitudes and insights on the state of Zionism. Regular follow up meetings are planned to insure these exchanges continue. Students found they had as much to learn from their fellow collegiate as they had to give. Many asked that they be informed when Columbia and Rutgers students rally against

Super Selection at Seforim Sale

Featuring over 2,000 different titles, the 1991 SOY Seforim Sale continues to attract throngs into the basement of Furst Hall. Relying mostly on word of mouth for publicity, the Seforim Sale offers a wide selection of books, ranging from English publishers such as Art Scroll, Feldheim, and Ktav/YUPress to Mipharshei Tanach, Mipharshei Shas, Machshava. This year's Seforim Sale added a section solely for publications from Mosad Harav Kook, a table devoted to children's books, and a corner display of cookbooks.

The 1991 Sale is averaging a higher gross and profit margin than in past years. But says SOY Vice-President Mordy Book, "The sale is for the students. It provides an opportunity for the talmidim to add to their seforim collection and increase Limud Torah." To this end, SOY offered a special sale on Kahati Mishnayot. In addition, many hard to find items could be found on the seforim sale shelves. For example, the newly completed Machon Yerushalym Minchat Chinuch and the Yad Moshe, a guide to Igrot Moshe, were quickly snapped up. Other items, such as Dr. Lamm's new book, Halachot VeHalichot, published by Mosad Harav Kook immediately sold out. Another section of the Seforim Sale highlights seforim on Baba Metzia, the tractate Yeshiva will study next year. Of special interest is the Kovetz Harayvaad, written by Rav Nissim Alpert Z"L, a former Rosh Yeshiva at YU.



The Senate convenes twice a month in Furst 535

Photo by J.J. Hornbliss

Senate Tackles Attendance Issue

by Naftali Levin

The YC-SSSB Senate convened last Thursday, February 21st, to discuss the "justification of individual instructors or departments to require 100% attendance in their classes."

The topic of discussion focused on a proposal of a Senate subcommittee report dealing with Yeshiva College's attendance policy. Based on the subcommittee's findings, comprising a comprehensive listing of various attendance policies from eleven New York universities, the report recommended that "class participation be included in the grading scheme." This, the proposal stated, "would encourage student presence in class, and would assure a substantial commitment to attend classes on a regu-

lar basis."

Five administrators, five faculty members, and five students participated in this session of the Senate.

The presenters of the subcommittee report claimed that by encouraging participation, attendance in classes would rise, rendering the need for instructors to require class attendance superfluous.

Official policy mandates that the power to set attendance requirements lies with the instructor. This means, when taken to its extreme, that a professor may require 100% attendance in his or her class, and that any absence from the class can mean a reduction in the students' grade. This extreme case, a reality at YC, was the impetus behind the Senate subcommittee's report.

The debate during Thursday's meeting focused on who should set

the rule for attendance in non performance classes (excluding laboratory, public speaking, music, language, etc.). Mrs. Stearns (Speech Dept.) asserted that the right of the instructor to establish attendance policy for his or her course is paramount. Dr. Lee (English Dept.) echoed these sentiments, referring to the instructor's right as "sacrosanct."

SSSB's Dean Jaskoll, referring to the case of teachers requiring 100% attendance under penalty of grade reduction (however slight), recommended that such a case be brought to the attention of the respective dean or discussed candidly with the instructor.

Secretary Josh Pollack argued that maturity should be the criterion for class attendance. He claimed that students are able to decide for themselves whether or not they should miss classes. Tests and papers designed to gauge student comprehension of subject matter should be sufficient for determining a student's grade.

Another proposal, advanced by Dr. Lee, was that students be allowed one week's worth of absences without penalty from the instructor. This would make a 100% attendance requirement an impossibility. Dr. Lee claimed this would also give students with conflicting responsibilities enough leeway to miss classes without penalty. As of yet, no concrete solution has been decided upon, and the issue remains unresolved until further discussions by the Senate.

Societal Norms Condemned at Dorm Talks

by Moshe Friedman

If one phrase had to be used to describe the opinion of each of the panelists at Dorm Talks last Monday night in Morg Lounge, Rabbi Moshe Gorelick's phrase would be "Internalize your values," Rabbi Hershel Schachter's would be "I don't see what there is to discuss."

Over sixty students came down to hear the February 18th presentation of Dorm Talks, the first in a series. The wise cracking Rabbi Gorelick, a lecturer in JSS, and the more reserved Rabbi Schachter, an MYPRosh Yeshiva, differed in style, but not in outlook. Both insisted Halacha takes precedence over the norms preached by modern society. Six topics of discussion (prepared by dorm counselor Benji Samuels) were presented to the Rabbis. Below is a brief synopsis of the topics (not in chronological order) and the responses they elicited.

First topic: Brenda is the sweetest girls you've ever known. You are best friends, but you have no intention of marrying her. Are you

allowed to remain friends? What if one day, you might actually marry Brenda, but you are currently a freshman in college with no plans to marry in the near future?

"If you know in advance that you don't plan to marry the girl, then I don't think it's proper at all that you should have a platonic relationship with her," answered Rabbi Schachter.

"If the fellow is a freshman in college and he doesn't plan to get married until another three years, I don't think it's permissible at all." When a man is ready to get married, Rabbi Schachter suggested he should "go out with a couple of girls on a couple of dates; he'll meet someone and he'll get married."

Second topic: You like all sorts of music—classical, rock, pop, rap, and soul. However, because of kol isha (female voice), vulgar and explicit lyrics, and anti-Torah ideals, Halacha might find some of this music objectionable. Should you listen to this music?

"Vulgar and explicit lyrics are of course against the Torah, said Rabbi Schachter. "Music with anti-Torah

ideals is of course not permissible. I don't know exactly what the question is over here." Rabbi Schachter stressed that although no specific prohibition may be violated, listening to such music violates the commandment of keeping ourselves holy, kedoshim tihiyu.

Rabbi Schachter said that this prohibition applies to all music with non-Jewish themes, including some music without lyrics and songs with Jewish lyrics but non-Jewish music. To determine what types of music fall into this category, Rabbi Schachter suggested that interested students give questionable music to their "local Orthodox rabbi" for approval.

Rabbi Gorelick agreed with Rabbi Schachter, but admitted that certain Jewish music was borrowed from the various countries in which the Jews lived over time. "Try singing Ein K'Elokenu with a beer mug in your hand," he said, and then convincingly sang the prayer to a familiar melody, swinging an imaginary beer mug back and forth.

please turn to page 10

The Oh Come - ontator

PURIM

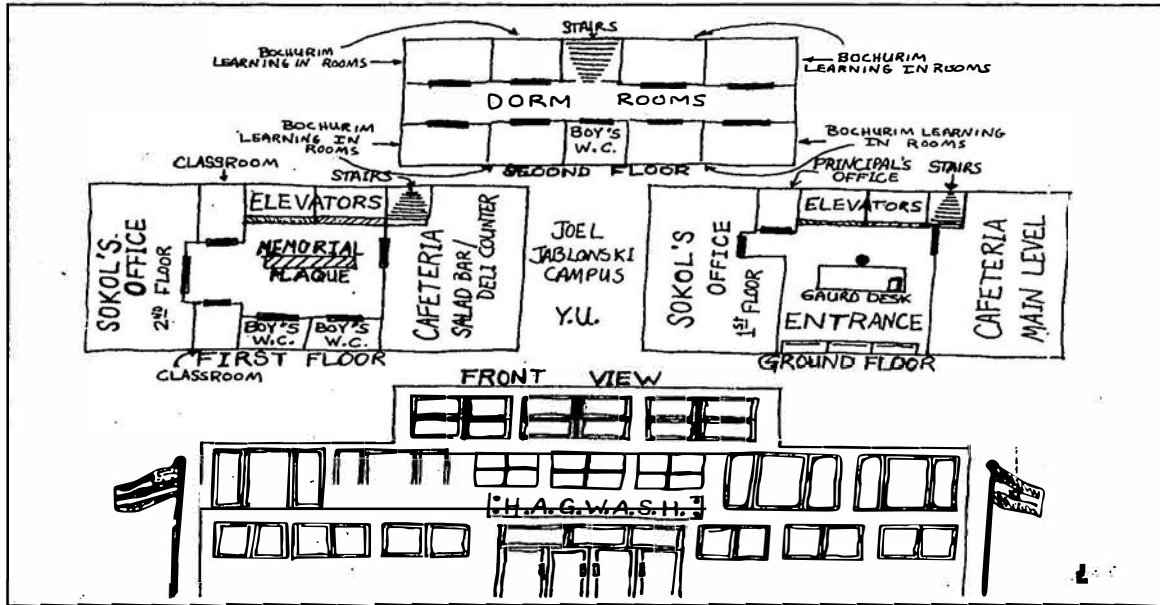
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PULLOUT

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Volume LIVEITLOVEIT, No.9



YU Expands through Elementary School

by Fred Rogers

Yeshiva University unveiled exciting new plans today to broaden the scope of its academic influence by adding an elementary school to the YU system. Tentatively called the Hebrew Academy for Greater Washington Heights (Hagwash), the school will be built on the grounds of the George Washington Elementary School, which Mr. Joel Jablonski plans to donate to the University. The school is expected to take in 300 little boys next fall. Hagwash will have a sister school, to be built, at the suggestion of the Observer, in place of a new dormitory on the empty lot next to Stern. The school will have an enrollment of three hundred girls (oops, we mean women):

Hagwash is expecting to have an eight year elementary school program for its boys, with an optional early admissions to high school after sixth grade. For those students wishing to remain in Hagwash, a limited number of AP courses will be offered. They are expected to be Constitutional Law, Advanced Accounting, first semester Organic Chemistry, and Finger Painting.

The plan has been met with mixed feelings by the members of the YU community. Rabbi, Doctor, President, World Renowned Author, Norman Lamm, Shlita, for one, has been a strong backer of the program. He hopes that "the indoctrination of children into the Torah U'Madda system at a young

age will increase their understanding of it. By college, they may even understand it."

Another strong supporter of the new program is Facilities Management Director, Chief of Security, and Professor of Plumbing Jefferey Socol. Mr. Socol, who had just returned from an emergency on the 13th floor of the Stern dormitory (reportedly a mouse), said that "This is a wonderful opportunity to enlarge the Yeshiva University family, and a open up a job for my brother Ernie." Socol admitted that he had some doubts, especially if his key chain could hold any more keys, but he added that, "the chance to push around more students outweighs all the possible drawbacks."

The third major supporter of the elementary school is Jacob Lieberman, the director of the Yeshiva University cafeteria as well as the Restaurant at the End of the Universe. Lieberman stated that "The opening of a new school would represent a chance to access untapped financial resources. The implementation of a ten thousand dollar mandatory meal plan to an additional eight grades would finally make us a financially solvent institution." "Perhaps sometime in the future we may even be able to hire a second cashier at dinner time," mused the director.

On the other side of the argument stand Assistant Dean "get a haircut" Rosenberg, Jefferey "get a haircut" Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, and Dean "I don't need a haircut" Rosenfeld. Affectionately known as the Rosen Trinity, these three oppose the addition of Hagwash to the YU system.

Dean Rosenfeld, who had difficulty finding time in his schedule to conduct this interview, vehemently opposed the addition of the elementary school. When asked why he was opposed, he said, "Because you asked me and you are a student. I have learned in my many years as a dean that whenever a student asks a question, the answer is no. Come back some other time or go bother Ceil."

Assistant Dean Rosenberg also felt that the addition of an elementary school was a bad idea. "I already am too busy dealing with critical issues like Junior and Senior checks to take any time to deal with matters like education."

Jefferey Rosengarten stated his opposition to the plan. He explained that, "To add an elementary school would mean hiring more security guards and printing more ID cards. My department would probably have to spend its entire budget; I couldn't continue my treatment at the Hair Club For Men." (He's not just a Director, he's also a member.)

Curiously enough, one of the most vocal members of the administration is not taking a stand on the issue. Dean Michael Hecht has remained surprisingly quiet, prompting some questions of his health. He explained that "Ultimately it makes no difference to me. They will all have to come T.L. me before they go to law school, so what difference does it make to me when they start?"

YU Attacked by Tiny Gulf Country

by Wolf Blitzkrieg

In support of Saddam Hussein, Qatar, a member of the Arab Emirates invaded the Joel Jablonski Campus of Yeshiva University on Sunday, February 24, ten minutes before the Bush deadline.

In what has turned out to be a tremendous error, Qatar attacked the Joel Jablonski Campus, thinking they could overcome the YU Security Department. Remarked "I am the Chief" Sommers at a hastily arranged press briefing, "Hey our Security Department is top notch. We're five by five pal. If you got a problem yo I'll solve it. Check out the hook while my D.J. revolves it."

According to YU's Public Relations office, the Qatari troops arrived via the "A" Train, and called for a van to take them to YU. After waiting several hours for a pickup, the troops grew disgusted and began to trudge up 184th street. By the time they had walked up the hill to YU, they were completely out of breath, as well as a bit high.

The Qatari troops attempted to enter Morgenstern Dormitory, but were stopped by Burns security guard, Juan B. Acop. "I.D. Guys!" demanded Acop. The Qatari troops were flustered by this resistance, but quickly rebounded with "Can we get visitors passes?" The Security Guard was reported as saying, "I can't see why not. We let Mormons in the building last week, why can't we let Qataris in. I mean, this is just for Purimshtick, the Mormon thing was for real."

On their way up the stairs, the troops purchased grape juice

from sports legend Tom Landry so as not to appear suspicious.

Arriving on the eighth floor the troops occupied a room on the Amsterdam Avenue side and opened fire on the Library, with a BA gun. The Qatari then issued their demand: Self determination for Stern College for Women women and higher oil prices in the caf. University President Dr. Norman Lamm, in a prepared statement read by a spokesman, declared, "Torah U'Madda!"

Security Director Jefferey SoCoolechoed these sentiments, stating, "Uh, this ain't gonna stand. Like, a line is drawn you know wut I mean." SoCool and security responded immediately. An elite force of eight supervisors, nine captains, twelve lieutenants, six sergeants, David Silverblatt and twenty four guards, fully armed with semi-automatic flashlights and rapid transport Daihatsu's stormed the eighth floor.

Having practiced this operation many times before, the security force overcame the Qatari in minutes, then sent them down to Rabbi Cheifetz's office for questioning.

Student leader David Borowich responded to Qatar's attack with, "The Qatari Troops unilaterally and conformity construed the spurious configuration of public media hungry hype." Steven Felsenthal could not be reached for comment.

In their own statement, Qatar declared the mother of all battles had been won, and demanded reparations from the Financial Aid Office.

University President Dr. Norman Lamm, in a prepared statement read by a spokesman, declared, "Torah U'Madda!"



This spot of prime New York real estate caught the eye of the committee searching to alleviate SCW dormitory congestion. Unable to specify the building's advantages, the committee responded that it "just feels right".

ON THE NEXT PAGE

About Androgynus

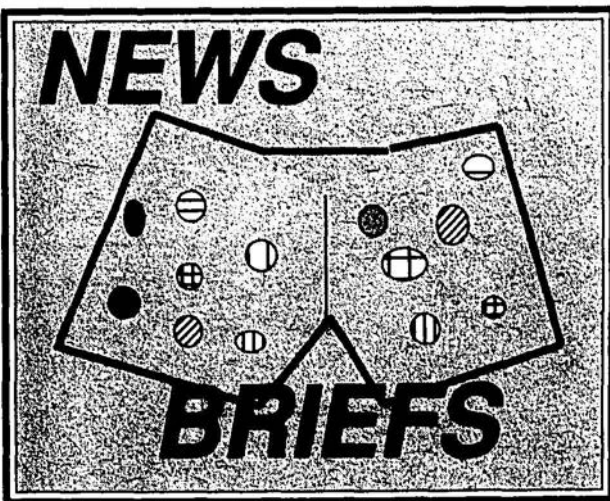
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From the Editor's Head: "!*%&?"

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Absurder wins Award for Excellence in Female Journalism

.....NEXT PAGE



Have You Got Any ID for That Thang

Students entering Furst Hall on Monday at 10:00 witnessed a rather amusing sight. Rabbi Dr. President Norman Lamm was forcibly evicted from Furst Hall for failure to produce a valid ID card. Outraged at this offense, Rabbi Dr. President Lamm has chartered a private helicopter to fly him to the roof of Furst Hall, thereby evading the ever vigilant Burns Security forces. He then scales the side of the building, briefcase in hand, to his office window.



Students expressed concern over the cost of such a program. One student noted that Rabbi Dr. Lamm need only walk through the fire entrance and wait for a member of the housekeeping staff to open the door.

Commie Quells Coup

In a failed coup attempt to oust YCSC President Steve Felsenthal, YCSC Vice-President David Borowich was slightly wounded by an elite corp of Commentator reporters who have vowed to serve and protect their president.

La Cockroaches

Enhancing the multinational cuisine at the Furman Dining Hall will be three new international nights. The next three months promise such innovative spectacles as: Bohemian Anti-Nationalist Zoologist Night, featuring B.A.N.Z. favorites hot dogs, chicken, and soup; Nervous Asthmatic Eskimo Night, highlighted by hamburgers, chicken and soup; and will culminate with the anxiously awaited Floridian Skydiving Grandmothers Night, with deli, chicken, and soup.

Aziz it But I Don't Believe it

After the dust settles in Iraq, many former Iraqi officials will be in need of new positions. A movement is brewing to replace Dean Rosenfeld with Tariq Aziz. After all, Tariq Aziz was quoted as saying, "Yes, most definitely yes."



Over Tetrising has transformed this student's world into a maelstrom of interlocking geometric patterns

Club Hour Cleaved from Congested Calendar

by Hillele Hazaken

The feeling of euphoria that has swept the Joel Jablonski Campus since the December announcement that Yeshiva College would not start until after Sukkot has been replaced by feelings of anxiety and acts of mourning. Instead of adding a week to the 91/92 academic year, the Deans council has decided to eliminate club hour, and to allocate an extra twenty minutes to all Thursday classes.

Dean "You got a light buddy?" Rosenfeld, during a two hour, three martini lunch/supper interview with The Commentator, stressed that this radical change is necessary due to the fact that the school would be losing three Tuesday/Thursday sessions by not opening until October. Associate Dean Michael Heck added that he anticipated that Harvard and Yale would follow Yeshiva's lead.

As expected, the reactions of the various clubs were extremely critical of the administration's decision. Their feelings were perhaps best summed up by a communique released by the officers of Yeshiva's only pro-communist club, the union of Students Of Various Intellect Encouraging Totalitarianism (SOVIET). "This action is just another manifestation of the bourgeois administration's conspiracy to eliminate all contact between students. The proletariat revolution, though, is inevitable, and in its process we will behead, dismember and eat for breakfast all those who have aimed to stop it."

Naturally, the B'nei Akiva club has endorsed everything SOVIET has to say.

The club that probably stands to lose the most due to the administration's decision is the Hatzolah club. Over the last year, members of this club have taken turns at mowing down elderly Jewish ladies on Bennet Avenue in an effort to test the club's response time and medical expertise in one shot. Privately, one lifesaver lamented that "In the coming year we were planning to double the auto accidents during club hour and make them more challenging by adding knife and gunshot wounds... now all our planning is for naught."

As compensation, the administration is pressing the Rebbeim to allow the Hatzolah club to indiscriminately violate the Sabbath. "It's not just gonna be those ear-phones and walkie talkies. From now on everything

goes," said one high ranking college official.

Equally upset were the members of the Love Thy Neighbor society (formerly known as Femininity Acknowledged Group). Speaking from their seventh floor Rubin Hall headquarters, many members expressed their belief that club hour lent itself to "quality time with another... there was real male bonding."

In an effort to find out whether the clubs were planning to take any action to counter the administration's decision, The Commentator contacted the president, vice-president, and secretary of the David "Do you need a quote?" Borowich Fan Club. Mr. Borowich replied that at this time "no action is being planned, but you can be sure that if in the future a protest develops we shall call ourselves the leaders of it." Mr. Borowich added that he and his parents would be available for photos and interviews at a moments notice.

In further attempts to clarify the opinion of the student leader, the Commentator contacted the office of YCSC President Steven Felsenthal. Mr. Borowich reiterated that at this time no plans are on the table.

Not surprisingly, members of the recently formed Students 'Mobilized Against Club Hour (SMACH) were happy. At a recent rally in which none of them refused to wear yamulkas, they stood in front of the admissions office and chanted "We want student power/ End the evil club hour!" Dean Rosenfeld insists that this group had nothing to do with the administration's decision. The Dean punctuated his comments with spirited shouts of "Hell no. No. I said no."

Using some of the most sophisticated eavesdropping equipment available, The Commentator discovered that some professors are uncomfortable with the idea of teaching for nearly two hours. They unanimously passed a resolution stating "We hate it." Assistant Dean David Rosenberg, however, assured this reporter that the professors enjoy the challenge, "just as sure as I'm [Assistant] Dean David Rosenberg."

Not since the Torah U'Maddah riots of '83, when Dr. Lamm proclaimed "Ich bin ein centrist," has a controversy caused such an outpouring of emotion. Whatever the outcome, though, it is certain that the hotly debated club hour issue will continue to play a pivotal role in student resumes.

Students Nabbed in Investment Scandal

by Michael Milken

MYP students were outraged last Monday when a small platoon of Burns Securities guards stormed into their shiur and arrested two students for violation of the 1934 Securities Act. "These guards clearly never heard of Gezel Sheina," complained one student.

Hoping to win a free sweatshirt in the AT&T Investment Challenge, the two students had become embroiled in an international insider trading scandal. If found guilty, the students could face a maximum sentence of 4 years plus 10 years of community service in the YU cafeteria. As they were dragged from the room, one student shouted, "I was trying to make it more like the real thing!"

The two students, Ivan B. Aboskey and Izzy Leegul are both seniors at Yeshiva University studying in the SySyms School of Business. Aboskey, a Finance major, has a flawless school record, a 4.0 G.P.A., and a good friend in the Registrar's office. He has received several job offers but has yet to accept one. When asked about the probability of the offers being revoked, Aboskey replied, "I can always work for the placement office or admis-

sions; after all, I am twenty years old."

Leegul, however, has had a history of problems at YU. Just last week he was detained by the Burns security guards for flashing a Barnard College ID card. Security officer Ernestly McMammarey, authorized to carry a flashlight, will be leading an in-depth investigation into the matter.

The scandal comes as a shock to SySyms Assistant Dean Ira Jackal. Dean Jackal cited the new ethics policy at SySyms as the reason for his surprise. The purpose of the ethics series was to teach the students not to get caught. "Obviously, the ethics policy is a failure," said Jackal. Professor Marc "Juan" Epstein commented that "sure, I've done stuff like that a lot in my business career, I mean a lot. So much, that... but I digress. The point is, I was never stupid enough to get caught." Jackal stated that if the students are sentenced to prison they may be able to CLEP their remaining seven courses in order to get an SSSB degree. Hal Tannenbaum, Career Placement Office director, said it may be possible to have firms visit the prison in order

to conduct interviews. University cleaners said they would be happy to deliver freshly pressed. Dean Stiff, SSSB Dean seemed to be firm on this matter. When he was asked about this situation he commented, "uhhhh."

The case will be tried sometime next month. Rumor has it that the defense attorney will be none other than our own Associate Dean Michael Heck. Heck seems to be the logical choice because of his vast knowledge and experience in constitutional law and civil liberties. The associate dean says he feels somewhat responsible for the insider trading incident. Had he not persuaded the students to choose another career other than law, they probably would never have learned how to manipulate the market to their advantage. Heck is already mapping out a strategy, and he is confident that the defendants will be acquitted of all charges. Although he was unable to divulge the entire defense, he did hint that he would cite to the court previous cases of cheating at YU. Heck said, "I'm hoping for a total acquittal, but we'll settle for a 'B' in one course and no mention of the incident on their transcripts."



MACS Dominate NBA Draft

by Jimmy the Greek

Eight Yeshiva University Macs, including three who went early entry, were selected in the first round of last week's annual NBA draft. This sets a record for the most players chosen in the first round from one college team. Here's a recap of the draft. 1. Shocking nobody, the Denver Nuggets selected Macs speedster Eric Davis. Nuggets general manager Bernie Bickerstaff expressed pleasure and stated, "Davis will fit in perfectly with our run and gun offense." "And he's such a mensch," added Mrs. Bickerstaff.

Eric Davis said, "I hope to offset Michael Adams' and Chris Jackson's sub 40% field-goal percentage." Nuggets coach Paul Westhead retorted, "I hope that Adams and Jackson will offset Davis' sub-40% free-throw percentage." Nugget forward Jerome Lane has offered to take a pay cut in order to fit Davis into the team's salary cap.

4. Following the selection of LSU center Shaquille O'Neil and UNLV forward Larry Johnson, the Sacramento Kings selected guard David Ehrman. Ehrman was extremely unhappy and stated on the podium, "I will never play for the Kings." He then shaved the sides of his head in protest. Suddenly, a representative from the Il Messingiro basketball team of the Italian league stood up in the crowd holding a contract and exclaimed, "Largo al factotum de la cita!" Ehrman immediately signed and boarded the next Al Italia flight to Rome. Kings coach Dick Motta, however, is expected to follow Ehrman to Italy.

6. After the Miami Heat selected UNLV forward Stacey Augmon, the New Jersey Nets responded by picking hometown favorite Jon Rosner. Rosner received a giant bear-hug on the podium from Nets general manager Willis Reed. Rosner then returned the favor, as the Felt Forum crowd gasped in horror. Reed, still recovering, had a hospital spokesman issue the following statement: "Between Rosner and Derrick Coleman, no team will ever out-rebound us." He then benched Rosner and fined him \$6,000.

13. Amidst the chanting of "Tzvi" and "Tree" from the crowd, the New York Knickerbockers selected center Tzvi Himber. Knick fans throughout the city are celebrating as Himber has promised to shatter all of Patrick Ewing's scoring, rebounding, and shot-blocking records, as well as Ewing's combined SAT score. Games against Houston and San Antonio are already sold out as many await Himber vs. David Robinson and Himber vs. Akeem

Olajuwon. "Hey, you gotta love that Knee brace," said Olajuwon.

16. Elisha Rothman's dream to live and play in L.A. came to an abrupt halt when the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers selected him with the sixteenth pick. Sixers forward Charles Barkley remarked, "If Rothman can play, I'll wear a skullcap on my head (with a bobby-pin) when I play." Rothman will not be on time to training camp since he is currently involved in his baseball card business.

17. The Atlanta Hawks selected Seth Cohen at seventeen. Hawks coach Bob Weiss stated, "We picked Cohen because management and the fans were sick and tired of Dominique Wilkins' stuff. Cohen is more exciting with his double-pump jumpers, double-pump lay-ups, double-pump free-throws, and double-pump buzzer beaters."

22. Greg Rhine has become a member of the San Antonio Spurs after being selected at number twenty-two. Spurs coach Larry Brown stated, "Rhine thinks he knows how to play tough defense, but after he practices with me, he'll learn Larry Brown ain't no Vanna White." Macs trainer Steve Podias has filed a complaint with the league for this slight. Brown also announced that Rhine's father will become the Spurs' new assistant coach. "Hey, I love his style," said Brown.

26. Reverting to their pride and tradition, the Boston Celtics selected forward Baruki Cohen. Legendary Celtic president Red Auerbach commented, "Celtic tradition is to select a slow white guy. Baruki Cohen fits the bill perfectly." Baruki Cohen vowed to run Tzvi Himber and the New York Knicks into the ground.

In other news: Miko Danan will quit basketball and co-host with Bill Mazer on "Mazer and Danan's Sports Machine".... Matt Klein has produced a new video entitled "Come Fly With Me".... The Macs traded Josh Dobin to Barry University for future considerations.... Chaim Berlin picked up Dovid Cohen's option and signed him to a two year contract. The NCAA is investigating Chaim Berlin's basketball program because of allegations that Chaim Berlin gave Cohen free Seforim.... Assistant Coach Steve Podias has enlisted in the U.S. army and must run three suicides per day. Good luck Steve!.... Sports information director Michael Cohen has introduced a sports page in The National Enquirer.... Coach Jonathan Halpert has left YU to become the head coach at Syracuse. Syracuse athletic director stated, "We need Halpert to teach our boys how to shoot free-throws."

by Jack Daniels

In the interest of enabling YU students to sound ridiculously knowledgeable about the story of Purim, even after they have ingested a healthy quantity of alcohol, The Commentator is happy to provide the following guide.

A long time ago, in a land far, far away, there lived a king who liked to get good and loaded every few minutes. The king's name was Achashverosh. One day, in the midst of a drunken stupor, Achashverosh called for his queen, Vashti, to perform a nude revue at a party he was throwing, to which she replied, "get stuffed", to which he replied, "off with her head!", to which she replied, "you can't do that! Who do you think aarrgh-!..."

Achashverosh woke up the next morning with a serious hangover, discovered that he had beheaded his wife, and, in his grief, drank himself silly. When he came out of that one he decided to find himself a new wife. You see, everyone in the kingdom was either married or engaged, and he didn't like to feel left out. He eventually found a nice Jewish girl named Esther, who, truth be told, was kind of in a hurry to get married anyway, since she was already nineteen years old, and did not want to be considered an old maid.

Now Achashverosh's head of security was a short, pudgy fellow by the name of Hamman, who often strode through the castle lobby, muttering into his Walkie-Talkie and checking the I.D.'s of everyone who stopped in the lobby to get a lift uptown after a night out. Coincidentally, Esther had an uncle, Mordecai, who often hung out in the lobby as well, not, as one would surmise, to woo women, but because it was an exceptionally good place to hear all the local gossip. For instance, one day he heard a security officer planning to hurt the King by performing a physical atrocity to him with a large flashlight. Mordecai told Esther, who told the King, and the officer was told not to do it again. Justice was very swift in this land.

One day Hamman stopped Mordecai to check his I.D. card. "Here you go," said Mordecai, showing his card.

"But this is no good," said Hamman.

"Why not?" Mordecai asked.

"Because it doesn't have a red sticker."

"Ah. Yes, well I've been meaning to get one of those."

"I'm afraid you'll have to leave the building," Hamman told him.

"But it's pouring outside!"

"Sorry, but you cannot stay without a red sticker."

"Well I'm not leaving!" Mordecai insisted.

Hamman did not know what to do. He consulted with his Walkie-Talkie, but it had no ideas. Nobody had ever challenged his authority before, and it infuriated him. He went to see the King, who still had a nice buzz

going from his wedding celebration.

"I'm angry at Mordechai" Hamman told him.

"Have a drink," the King said.

"I'd like to kill him," Hamman confessed.

"Go ahead, kill him," said Achashverosh, who was truly feeling no pain. "Kill all the Jews if you want. Have a nice time." Thus are the fates of nations decided.

The next day Mordecai was having a friendly chat with one of the guards.

"This job is just awful," the guard was saying, "It's bad enough that I have to sit in this orange booth all day listening to the radio and answering a phone, now Hamman is going to have us all working overtime to kill all the Jews."

"Uh excuse me," Mordecai interjected politely, "kill all the who?"

"The Jews man. He's having a lottery to see which day we should kill them on. Say, where's your I.D.?" Mordecai flashed his newly validated I.D. and hurried away to find Esther. Esther agreed to see the King and try to talk him out of it. The next day she took the King, and Hamman to the castle CAF.

"You can have up to half of

my kingdom," said Achashverosh.

"I've got news for you buddy," Esther said, "I had to spend half of your kingdom just to pay for lunch here."

"I don't think the Caf is so expensive," said Achashverosh, who was very, very drunk.

"Hamman is going to kill my people," Esther told him.

"Have a drink," he said.

"Look, I'm a little upset about that," Esther confessed.

"Hamman, is this true?" the King asked.

"Well er..." said Hamman, hiding behind his Walkie-Talkie.

"Hang him!" roared the King.

"What?!" screamed Hamman.

"Hang his whole family, especially his father," added Esther.

"No!" yelled Hamman.

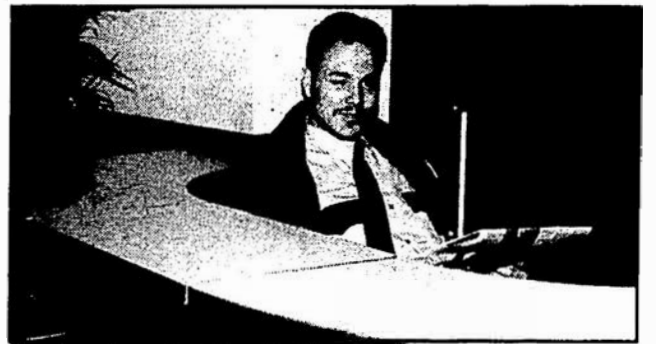
"Yes!" said Achashverosh.

"Excellent!" said Esther.

You can't do that!" yelled Hamman. "I'm the head of AARRRGH!..."

Basically, The Purim story is all about hanging. Hamman was hung, Achashverosh was hung-over, Mordecai hung out, Esther hung in there, and the fate of the Jews hung in the balance.

Thus are the fates of nations decided.



Morg. Guard, Checking out more than IDs?

Sephardim Sale

by Chacham Gaon

Following criticisms about his performance in office, YCSC president Steve Felsenthal has decided to initiate YU's first annual Sephardim Sale. "I figured the Sephardim Sale is doing so well, why not try it with humans?" he asked eagerly.

Using the basement of Furst hall and the same computer system already in place, Felsenthal plans to run the one-week sale using the Seforim sale's proven method: "Each Sephard will have a little piece of paper tucked into his shirt with his price on it. Of course, boxed sets will be available at a significant discount.

"The thought came to me," Confided Steve, "when treasurer Stuie Nussbaum realized that the Sephardic Club is not all that great anyway. Sure, they have Shabbatonim, but financially? A disaster." Through the Sephardim Sale, YCSC will finally be able to raise money for important events like racquetball parties. "I hope they

realize the importance of this project," said Felsenthal. "It's their chance to give something back. Pote'ach Et Yadecha."

SOY VP Mordechai "buy a" Book has assured Felsenthal there will be no shortage of workers at the sale. "If guys are willing to work for free Seforim, imagine what they'll do for a nice Syrian girl," he



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Objectivity Must Remain Paramount

by Jonathan Tropper

Where does The Commentator fit within the Torah U'Madda scheme of things? The problem with this question, of course, is the wide scope of opinions on the subject of Torah U'Madda itself. Opinions range from the idea that our university's *raison d'être* is the single most effective way of living as an observant Jew in the twentieth century, to the notion that it is the greatest fraud ever perpetrated by and on, the American Jewish Community. With such a vast spectrum of interpretations, it is impossible to pin down any concrete terms that may establish parameters for a "Torah U'Madda newspaper."

More easily defined are the two forces that make up the University, namely the Yeshiva, and the College. The Yeshiva is dedicated to Torah study and the active performance of Mitzvot. The College side of this equation is devoted to the pursuit of secular knowledge, as well as necessary career training. Some students are here only for the Yeshiva, some only for the College, but most seek a combination of the two. There is, however, a line that can be drawn dividing the student body into two groups. Some students feel that the College should mix with the Yeshiva, and vice versa, while some are of the opinion that 'never the twain shall meet.' As a result, some students would welcome *divrei Torah* in The Commentator, and some would be adamantly opposed to it.

In my own opinion, YU journalism should have a double agenda to match its dual nature. However, I see no reason for both sides to appear in the same newspaper. It is on this basis that *Hamevaser* and *Enayim L'Torah* exist alongside The Commentator. The former two are the voices of the Yeshiva whereas the later represents the College. It was for this reason that I edited three paragraphs relating a Rashi commentary out of a feature article in the last issue of The Commentator. In doing so, I also recommended that the edited piece be enhanced and submitted to *Hamevaser* or *Enayim L'Torah*. The circulation of separate newspapers is just as harmonious a manifestation of Torah U'Madda as one combined paper would be, and it's not as messy.

The second issue is the question of halacha; here comes the inevitable ques-

tion of Lashon Hara. The more Yeshiva oriented among us would have no names mentioned at all in The Commentator, or as few as possible, and would regard any controversial article involving negative sentiment or conflict as unfit for a Yeshiva University paper. In contrast to this, the more liberal college students would like to see all issues reported, scandals and controversies notwithstanding, and all names revealed.

As one opposed to censorship, I believe that there is no issue unsuitable for coverage, nor any idea too harsh for representation. If there is legitimacy to the premise, it is worthy of being printed. I saw nothing wrong with the article in the last issue discussing the negative attitude college students have towards the MTA students. If I was bothered by the slant of the article, I might consider it irresponsible journalism, but not

unsuitable subject matter. The same could be said for a letter to the editor discussing sexually active students in the University which was also printed in the last issue.

Publication of concrete facts in a professional manner, though, precludes proper use of language. While I'm aware that many university papers will print obscenities, I see no reason for them in The Commentator. If an obscenity appears in a quote, it should be printed. However, editors should abbreviate the quote, rather than print it outright. This not only adheres to religious standards, but to secular moral standards as well.

When it comes to the issue of name revelation, I'm a bit wishy-washy. I am vehemently opposed to any quote being printed without a name associated to it. An opinion issued by someone who does not feel enough conviction to stand by it, is not worth printing. It is nothing more than glorified graffiti. I am immediately turned off by phrases like "one sophomore had this to say..."

The one practice in which I feel our publication must deviate from the average college paper is in the mentioning of names in a way that is designed to damage the reputation of a student, or any member of the Jewish community. If names are used in the course of reporting a story, it's journalism. If a story is written simply in order to condemn an individual on a personal level, it is slander. At that point, I would defer to the

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But Aren't We A Yeshiva?

by Hayyim Angel

We at The Commentator take pride in our ability to remain a secular publication which reports on the realities of Yeshiva University. The Jewish date never appears on our issues, and *Divrei Torah* are left out of our articles. We are not afraid to expose internal scandals, to criticize individuals or groups of people, or to print anything else which we feel will better inform our readership about events and people at Yeshiva College. It is quite an accomplishment, that amidst a religious Jewish setting, we are able to keep honest, objective journalism as our policy.

The question we must ask, however, is whether we really should be so proud of ourselves. Are we going too far in our effort to be the secular voice of Yeshiva College? This question is deeply rooted in the broader

issue of how religious Jews should deal with the secular world around them. Should Orthodoxy quietly follow the norms of society, or should the observant community proudly announce that they are simply different? Let us now con-

sider The Commentator, as the voice which represents the undergraduate population, in light of these issues.

What do we accomplish with our noticeable lack of *Divrei Torah*? No matter what individual Yeshiva students feel about their personal religious backgrounds, I am certain that nearly all of them have major religious questions on their agendas. What did YU rabbis think about Operation Torah Shield? Why devote so much time to the study of Gemara? What authority should the Yeshiva have over the entire student body? When thoughtful students go to a religious institution, they are likely to raise these and many other questions.

You may argue that Yeshiva University publishes *Hamevaser* and *Enayim L'Torah*, along with other Torah publications. Let them handle the Yeshiva, and The Commentator will cover the College. However, I would make the following distinction: Our job is to cover the daily life of Yeshiva students, with all of the stories and issues which arise on our campus. Other publications deal with more abstract topics in Judaism without focusing on the actual people who attend YU. I would then assert that

The Commentator has a unique type of Torah knowledge which it could convey to the student body—the Torah relevant to the "here and now" of Yeshiva College. By distancing ourselves from *Divrei Torah*, we are shunning our responsibility to provide useful information about the religious aspects of the daily life of Yeshiva students.

On a more serious level, we appear to be comfortable running articles without much religious sensitivity. One friend has remarked to me that "journalism means Lashon Hara."

While I would not go to that extreme, I cannot plead innocent to our admission of certain very questionable articles criticizing individuals on our campus. In this respect, we have fallen into the trap of trying to be "journalistic," instead of "Halachic." To the best of my knowledge, Rav Yosef Karo never allowed any newspaper the right to put jour-

nalistic "morality" ahead of the Halacha. Since we are a newspaper representing many religious Jewish students, it is certainly our responsibility to follow our higher guidelines of morality, i.e. the Halacha. Additionally, Lashon Hara greatly detracts from the dignity and the quality of The Commentator.

A realistic solution to a Lashon Hara problem would include the addition of less news and more opinion pieces and other thought provoking articles to the paper. In this way, we will focus less on people, cover a far broader range of material, and raise our already high standards of covering student life. We will also better represent student thought and opinion on campus, which will greatly enhance our newspaper.

In addition to the actual prohibitions of Lashon Hara, we succeed in offending larger groups of people with unnecessary harshness. For example, our February 13th issue gave our large readership the idea that Yeshiva College students greatly resent the presence of MTA students. For individuals to feel that most or all of MTA's 492 students are "stupid," "immature," and "jerks" is not something which Yeshiva College can do much about; students can think whatever they want.

But does The Commentator, the representative paper of the student body at YC, need to announce the sentiments of a few students to the world? What will MTA students think about their "stu-

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&

Counterpoint

Torah Shield Part Two

Continued from P. 1

roof to pray and hear words of Torah together, was also a major objective. Organizers felt one large minyan at such a critical time would make it clear that we are one Jewish people. Many described the sight and sound of over 400 people praying together at YU as an experience they will not quickly forget.

A further goal for this program was an attempt to replace the secular perspective on the crisis with Torah and Jewish views. "So much of our thinking and outlook on the Gulf stem from figures such as Brokaw, Jennings, or Rather," complained Burian. "Tonight we wanted to offer the students two hours of Jewish thought and views of the war."

Rav Charlop, Director of MYP, was the evening's first speaker. He related a frightful story regarding his Italian barber. The barber, a friend of Rav Charlop for over twenty years suddenly snapped that, "It's because of your people (the Jews in Israel) that our young men are going to have to die."

"This is when I wondered where America was heading", lamented Rav Charlop. Rav

Charlop then proceeded to recite numerous battles found in the Bible and the various Jewish reactions and approaches to them. Rav Charlop emphasized that one of the lessons we can learn from these battles is that the Jews acknowledged God's major role in the outcome of battles. This shouldn't change now, he said.

"Now our learning has a double token," concluded Rav Charlop. "Firstly for this country, but more importantly for Am Yisroel and Eretz Yisroel. This is what learning is all about."

Rav Goldwicht, a visiting rebbi from Israel, concentrated on the importance of prayer and faith. "Our connection to our Forefathers is the three prayers they compiled and ordained for us," said Rav Goldwicht, speaking in Hebrew. "Only through prayer can we enter the world to come. Now more than ever do we need to concentrate to our fullest potential while praying." Rav Goldwicht also stressed the importance of faith as demonstrated through the bible and proven throughout history. He warned the crowd

not to follow in the path of the doubtful spies, but rather to remain in the right path, and have faith in God during this unfortunate crisis. Obviously very sensitive to Israel's situation, Rav Goldwicht spoke with fervor and emotion, pleading with students to take these current events seriously. "God is turning the world up-side-down, so we too must turn ourselves up-side-down," he shouted. "God forbid we should go about business as usual!"

President and Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Lamm delivered a warm, personable speech to his students. Rabbi Lamm began with a philosophical question on the crisis as to, "What part is played by physical power and what part is played by spiritual exertion." He then went on to answer the question from several verses proving that fear of God must always be integrated with the physical power. "It is not true that saying Psalms alone will save us. It is not true that we can be saved without saying Psalms. It is true that there has to be both sides of the equation."

Rabbi Lamm recounted that in 1948, during Israel's war of independence, YU students responded with concrete acts. "We are following the same tradition as forty three years ago, but now we are not called upon the physical side of the equation but rather to exercise our spiritual strength. That was the purpose of our trip (Operation Torah Shield), and that is the purpose for tonight."

Dorm Talks

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Third topic: You wine and dine Izzy in order to get him to buy a batch of your tongue depressors for \$3 million dollars. At dinner, you shake hands on the deal. In the morning, another party offers you \$4 million for the batch. Can you renege on Izzy?

"Is it only because the second offer is a million dollars more that we look for a heter (an allowance)?" asked Rabbi Gorelick in his response to the question. "If he offered you \$100 more you wouldn't consider it. You'd say 'What's \$100? I made a deal with somebody; I made a promise already.' If it's prohibited with \$100 then it's prohibited with \$1 million."

Rabbi Gorelick explained that the question is not one of amount therefore, but simply a technical question of whether the handshake makes the deal halachically binding. "If that's the minhag ha'medina (the custom of the country) then it is."

Fourth topic: Society currently accepts certain sexual norms to which you have been exposed. Thus, certain things, such as visible nakedness, does not offend you. Are Judaism's sexual mores absolute or relative to these societal sexual norms?

"Our perspective is not an absolute one," answered Rabbi Schachter. "It certainly is relative to societal norms, but it's relative with uncertain bounds."

According to the Shulchan Aruch, there are two categories of prohibited nakedness.

The first category is the reproductive organ, which is always prohibited. The second category constitutes other parts of the body which tend to arouse the men of a certain community. The law is flexible as to what parts of the body women must cover, Rabbi Schachter said, depending on the customs of the society she finds herself in. But this is only within limits, said Rabbi Schachter. "If the women walk around in bikinis, you don't say that it doesn't arouse the peoples' desires...."

Fifth topic: Your office is having its annual December party, which all employees are expected to attend. Can you go?

"If possible, we should ignore those parties," Rabbi Gorelick said. If it is not possible to avoid the party, you should, in consultation with your local Orthodox rabbi, try to minimize the possible violations of halacha while attending such a party, said Rabbi Gorelick.

Sixth topic: You're called upon to vote in an election on an issue in which you believe that voting one way would be best for America, but voting the other way would be best for Israel. How do you vote?

Rabbi Gorelick answered that Israel should take priority, but added that he believes that in reality anything that is good for Israel is good for America, too.

Rabbi Schachter concurred, saying that he considers a Jew's obligation to the Jewish State to be primary, and that any other obligation he might have to America would be considered void if it conflicted with his obligation to Israel.

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New York City
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Debate

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Liberal Journalism

famous slogan of Hebrew National: "We answer to a higher authority."

The Commentator does a good job of covering campus news, but there is much room for improvement. I'd like to see the paper become more liberal in its editorial policies, and more willing to go out on a limb when it comes to controversy. For this to happen, the governing board must become less concerned with pleasing everyone all of the time.

It would also be nice to see a shift in the attitude that only issues pertaining to Yeshiva University be printed. The Commentator should also be a reflection of the intellectual and cultural ideas of the students. From theatrical reviews to topical essays, The Commentator must broaden its range of material to truly become the voice of the student body.

Divrei Torah

dent advisors and leaders" uptown? Instead of being religious role models, we find ourselves caught in a grave Chillul Hashem situation. If we wanted to write that we feel high school students detract from our atmosphere, I would understand (although disagree with) such an article. However, once we print such harsh names for the students, it becomes clear that we have a policy insensitive to our own Jewish values.

But of course, the reason why we are able to exercise these policies is because we are a secular newspaper, practicing secular objectivity. Yeshiva, although not totally ignored, must simply hide behind a mechitza and watch passively while we produce a quality secular publication at Yeshiva College. Admittedly, I find it rather ironic that we are able to censor Divrei Torah, but maintain the right to print matters which are Halachically problematic or against Jewish values.

And so we must ask: What should The Commentator have as its priority? Objective journalism, or Jewish values? Is it possible for religious Jews to ever isolate themselves from their Judaism? I must confess: the answer is no. Religious Jews can't pretend that they are really like the rest of the world, because they are really not like the rest of the world. They have commitments and values which are unique among all other people.

Additionally, religious Jews can never abandon the Halacha, except in cases of extreme emergency. A forum providing informative news for Yeshiva students and alumni usually does not fall under the category of an extreme emergency; therefore, articles conflicting with the Halacha must be edited, even at the expense of objectivity. And, I might add, The Commentator's avoidance of Yeshiva greatly detracts from its credibility as the true representative voice of Yeshiva College.



YESHIVA SPORTS

MACS Squeak into ECAC Tournament

by Eric Melzer

For only the second time ever, the Yeshiva University Macs basketball team has qualified for postseason play in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Ten Division III teams qualified for ECAC postseason play. Six of the teams will play in the Metro division and four, including Yeshiva, will play in the Southern division. In the first round of the tournament, the Macs will play on the road against Lebanon Valley College. Game time is Saturday March 2 at 8 P.M. The other ECAC Southern Division match up is Mt. St. Vincent vs. Allentown.

According to Coach Jonathan Halpert, the Macs had a borderline chance to qualify for postseason play and a number of factors occurred in order to push the Macs into the ECAC. Specifically, certain teams had to qualify for the Division III NCAA tournament, opening spots for other teams such as YU to make the ECAC. These teams included Western Connecticut, NJIT, and Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

Mt. St. Vincent and Yeshiva occupy the final two seeds in

the ECAC postseason tournament. It is believed that the tournament committee had to choose between Mt. St. Vincent, Yeshiva, and Manhattanville College for these positions. Although Manhattanville defeated Stony Brook College, an NCAA qualifier, Mt. St. Vincent and Yeshiva received the bids by virtue of their better records.

The Macs will enter postseason play on a high note. After losing 5 of 6, the Macs won their last five in a row before losing to Western Connecticut 80-65 in the semifinals of the Independent Athletic Conference

playoffs.

Here is a recap of the three games prior to this loss.

Yeshiva 100, Stevens Tech 70. The Macs did not disappoint the MSAC crowd as they destroyed the Stevens Tech Ducks for the third time this year. This time, the victory helped the Macs advance to the IAC semifinals. Three Macs scored over 20 points in this blowout. David Ehrman led the way with 28 points, Jon Rosner had 22, and Miko Danan scored 21 in a mere 22 minutes. Danan also hit 3 three-point field goals. Elisha Rothman scored 12 points and was also responsible for helping the Macs reach the century mark by hitting a three-pointer with only five seconds remaining in the game. Mike D'Allegro led Stevens Tech with 28 points.

Yeshiva 87 Pratt Institute 39. This game was dubbed a "no contest" as YU exploded with an 18-2 run at the beginning of the game. There were some impressive personal statistics in this game. Dovid Cohen had 18 assists- 12 of them in the first half. Jon Rosner had 18 points and 14 rebounds on 9 for 10 shooting. Miko Danan scored 13 points in only 10 minutes, Baruki Cohen had 14 points and 9 rebounds, David Ehrman had 16 points and 7 rebounds, and Tzvi Himber had 4 blocks coupled with 8 rebounds. The most impressive statistic of all,



Dovid Cohen in action against the Ducks. photo by Josh Sindler



Readying the campus for another MAC Attack photo by J.J. Hornblase

however, was that the Macs held an opponent to 39 points!

Yeshiva 78 Centenary 74. For once, good free-throw shooting particularly from David Ehrman (10 for 11 from the line) helped the Macs beat an up and coming Division III force. Ehrman finished with 19 points and hit some key buckets down

the stretch. It was Miko Danan, however, who was the leading scorer at YU's Salute to the Troops Night. With CNN and CBS on hand, Danan scored 25 points, grabbed 16 boards, dished for 7 assists, and had 6 steals.

Wrestlers Conclude Season with Tough Match

by Eric Melzer

The Yeshiva University wrestling team concluded its season on February 7th, 1991 with a match against Fordham University. Once again, the wrestlers faced much tougher, more experienced, and more conditioned opponents. The wrestling Macs were defeated 34-24.

Despite being outclassed, YU won four matches. In the 134 pound weight class, Dov Bessler dominated his opponent and finally pinned him with about 40 seconds remaining in the match. The pin was Bessler's fourth this year, capping a fine season. In similar fashion, captain Brian Ostrow bested his 142 pound opponent and pinned him with less than 30 seconds remaining in the second round. The victory was Ostrow's third of the season. The future looks bright as Ostrow will return next year to anchor what could be a very strong squad.

The most exciting match of the night, however, was the unlimited heavyweight match which featured Yeshiva's Mark Bitton. Throughout the first round, Bitton and his opponent continuously reversed each other and Bitton scored five turnovers. The beginning of the second round started in similar fashion. Team manager Joey Eisenfeld exclaimed, "The two looked like a couple of tumbleweeds in the wind." At the 20 second mark of the second period, Bitton surprised his opponent and, following a reversal, pinned him. The fourth Yeshiva victory resulted from a Fordham forfeit of one of the weight classes.

The wrestling Macs thank all of the fans for their support and look forward to a successful 1991-92 season.



The NY Giants proved they know Basketball when they triumphed over the 34th Precinct in a charity game played in the MSAC on February 17th. photo by Josh Sindler

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