

The Commentator

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Farewell for Dean Well

by Daniel Schloss

Rabbi Dr. Don Well, the Dean of both IBC and JSS, will be leaving YU at the end of this semester to take a position as Executive Vice President of the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York. No successor has yet been named.

In a recent interview, Dean Well characterized his time at YU as extremely positive and fulfilling, calling the atmosphere here "personally hospitable and philosophically congruent with my views," and noting that "the students are a joy." He explained that he accepted the BJE's offer because it will provide an opportunity to "have an impact on the education of 150,000 Jewish children." Dean Well intends to "maintain and strengthen [his] ties with YU" in his new job.

One of Dean Well's notable contributions to YU was the institution of a "machshava track" in IBC, taught by Rav Meir Goldwicht. The goal of the program is to expose students to

classical Jewish philosophy with a religious Zionist, or "kipah srugah" orientation. Dean Well would like to see this program expanded. He also sees a need for an increased emphasis on "informal programming" (i.e. shabbatonim and special minyanim) in JSS, explaining that "newcomers to Torah need that." Additionally, Dean Well feels that both IBC and JSS students would benefit from a Beit Midrash experience as part of their program.

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman stated that Dean Well had "made good contributions to the school," and pointed out that the BJE position is "obviously in the orbit of Jewish education, and will enable Dr. Well to stay in contact with YU in a positive way."



Commentator File Photo
Rabbi Dr. Dean Don Well

Aliya Club Moves into Morg

by Tommy Weinberger

An outgrowth of late night discussions and casual dorm room conversations, the grassroots Aliya Club has attracted well over fifty members since its inception prior to Pesach. Simmy Chavel, President of the Aliya Club, describes the Club as an umbrella organization seeking to facilitate those interested in Aliya and establishing garinim.

To that end, the club has enlisted support from a wide base of aliya minded students. According to Chavel, the club is open to all - "We are not political." In fact, this openness and nonalignment attracted many of the members. This, however, does not mean that the Aliya Club does not work with more formal organizations and movements. Bnei Akiva cosponsors events with the club, and Tehilla provides many promotional and practical materials.

Currently, the Aliya Club is engaged in a letter writing campaign. The club wishes to establish a library of informative and inspiring accounts of Yeshiva University graduates who have made aliya and is requesting information from these olim. In the first wave of this campaign over 150 letters are being sent, and by

the end, nearly six hundred letters will reach Israel.

Tehilla and Bnei Akiva have provided brochures and other materials containing career, educational, and other communal matters.

While the Aliya Club has quickly and efficiently amassed a large amount of information, where to place the material has become an issue of contention. Realizing the need for easy access to its data, the Aliya Club met with housekeeping and dorm personnel and completed the various requisition forms. Following this, the Aliya Club was assigned Morgenstern room 401 and furniture was placed there. According to Chavel, the room was not a student lounge, but rather an empty room.

However, Daniel Schwartz, the fourth floor dorm counselor, complained to Rabbi Cheifetz that the room was used by students all year and should not be simply assigned to a club. Schwartz is concerned that the room will become known as the Aliya Club room and will be off limits to the rest of the student body.

Chavel counters that no students will be barred from use of the room. Currently, all the Aliya Club information is on view in

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Photo by J.J. Hornblase

Washington Heights' Russian immigrants joined students at this year's Yom Hazikaron Tekes

From Commemoration to Celebration

by Daniel Oshinsky

Yeshiva University students memorialized Israel's fallen soldiers, then celebrated the Jewish state's 43rd year of independence at the annual Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut spectacular sponsored by the Israel Club and held in Beller Hall's Weissberg Commons. Although the University refused to cancel evening classes for the April 17th event, the commemoration and festivities still attracted an overflowing crowd. Some 600 students from YU, Stern, and other area colleges were in attendance, only a few Yeshiva administrators were present.

To these ranks were added 100

Russian immigrants, who were invited by the Philanthropy Society's Russian Outreach Program. David Rozenson organized this part of the program and spoke to the immigrants in their native language on the importance of remembering.

The Yom Hazikaron Tekes, narrated by Israel Club directors Zvi Borenstein and Orna Berkowitz in a mixture of Hebrew and English, sought to convey the gravity felt in Israel on memorial day as the nation mourns its 17,500 dead. Jodi Goldman marshalled a troop of flag bearers with shouts of "Amod Dom!" (Stand at Attention), an arie air raid siren, pre-recorded, rang out as students

honored the Israeli custom and stood in silence.

But this moment of silence proved short lived as students continued to file in to the back of the Commons and a rising undertone of talking ensued. The continuous "shmoozing" in the rear seriously detracted from the somber mood organizers had sought to create. Even during the Ma'ariv service, which marked the break from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut, the background noise remained uninterrupted.

Borenstein admits that organizers underestimated the number of participants and only requested 500 chairs. Lo-

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Senior Class Spat Leads to New Elections

by Michael Z. Kellman

In the wake of continued complaints over this year's Senior awards balloting, YCSC's Executive Council has resolved to create a new set of Senior awards to be presented in addition to those traditionally given out by the Senior class. These awards, sponsored by the Student Council, are scheduled to be presented at the annual YCSC awards dinner. Balloting for the YCSC awards takes place today during club hour.

The new awards are being offered in response to numerous allegations that improprieties occurred during elections for the Gladstein Award and the Lipsky Award, bestowed annually by the Senior class in recognition of outstanding service to the Jewish community and the student body.

The problems with the award balloting included lack of participation by a large percentage of the Senior class and lack of adequate notification of the elections. There have also been

charges of ballot stuffing during the unsupervised election.

"The entire election was a farce," said YCSC President Steven Felsenthal, explaining the Executive Council's decision to offer new awards. "People told me they voted more than once." According to Felsenthal, YCSC was particularly angry over the fact that notification letters were placed in mailboxes Thursday morning for an election which

was to be completed by Thursday afternoon.

The new awards were instituted in order to "give recognition to those who deserve it," contends Felsenthal. While the winners of the original elections may be deserving of accolades, Felsenthal feels that the manner in which the elections were conducted called for a new set of awards for "people who truly

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EDITORIALS

Remembering Yom HaShoa

Two weeks ago, Yom HaShoah came and went with hardly a ripple in the YU community to mark its passage. Certainly, there was a well-run program in the evening and an intriguing guest speaker. But the event was still marked by a lack of student and administrative support. Three Hundred students came to the Yom Hashoa program, which as impressive as that may sound, simply means that less than a fifth of the student body could be persuaded to take off a couple of hours of their time to remember the single most tragic episode in Jewish history.

However, the problem goes far beyond the standard complaints of student apathy. More troubling is the fact that the administration seemed to place so little importance on holding a proper commemoration for Yom Hashoa. The average Jewish high school devotes an entire day to intensive programs and somber memorials designed to help students comprehend the enormity of the Shoa. How can YU do any less? YU's leadership role in the Jewish community is clearly suspect when the enormity of the Holocaust is relegated to a two hour program. A special t'filah should have been held in the Beit Midrash; a commemoration involving all members of the University, including presidents, vice presidents and rebbeim, should have been organized. Hopefully next year, both students and administrators will make Yom HaShoa a priority, and give to this day of remembrance the time and effort it demands.

Reflections on Elections

Although elections remain a full two weeks away, the campaign hype has already begun. Today's 5:00 P.M. deadline for submission of nominations marks the end of the "who's running for what" stage, and makes the upcoming onslaught of election posters and paraphernalia inevitable.

As candidates prepare their mass-media messages, it is imperative that all keep the following message close to heart: Stick to substance. It is extremely tempting for candidates to employ their energies in arriving at clever gimmicks, catchy slogans, and snappy signs, and lose perspective on their prospective positions. Potential leaders are up late plastering placards, campaigning, and participating in those activities which provide maximum visibility. We as voters must remember that all the hype is only packaging; our focus must be on the contents. Both candidates and constituents must insist that this be an election of issues, not images.

The night after the election marks the metamorphosis of these previously hyperactive elected officials. Suddenly, attentions shift focus and sleep schedules regulate. Unfortunately, this post-election attitude, rather than the spirited and motivated campaign behavior, all too often carries into next year. Promises become possibilities and thrilling plans become nice ideas. However, even if this results in a lackluster schedule of events and projects, these officials remain satisfactory representatives. Anchored by lack of motivation, they represent the third of the student body who is too apathetic to bother voting.

Following this sub-par year, students must drill their candidates and extract firm commitments from them to execute their responsibilities. Elections should not be merely a fun game where the winner receives an extra line on his resume. If we take elections seriously, the elected candidates will hopefully take their new positions seriously as well.

The Commentator congratulates YC students David Borowich and Andrew Goldsmith, and SCW student Shoshana Levine who will be receiving Ateret Cohanim's Chovevei Yerushalayim Award for their participation in Operation Torah Shield.

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From The Editor's Desk

Daniel Oshinsky

Unshackle The Commentator

We at The Commentator have always taken pride in our role as the University's free-press, the voice of the students, an unbiased forum for airing ideas and opinions, etc. Yes, it all sounds nice. But in actuality, your student press is not as free as you might think. Technically, The Commentator is just another YCSC club, and as such, must deal with the whims and fancies of our duly elected public officials.

Among the many powers allotted to Student Council, the YCSC Constitution grants Student Council the right to:

*Exercise legislative, executive, and judicial authority over all student extracurricular organizations and activities.

*Grant or revoke the charter of any Yeshiva College student organization.

*Impose Sanctions upon any student organization for infraction of this Constitution, its By-Laws, or any regulations passed by Student Council.

These and other stipulations belie The Commentator's status as a genuine undergraduate newspaper. One can imagine the outcry that would ensue were a respected journal, such as The New York Times, suddenly bought out by the federal government. Likewise, the true allegiance of a student newspaper subsumed under student government, funded by this government's allocating body, and subject to its legislative decisions can always be brought into question.

The nature of our own student government adds to the dangers facing a free-press at Yeshiva University. Currently, YCSC functions as an elected oligarchy. Outside the planning of social events, virtually all decisions are made by the four-member Executive Council. Issues YCSC deems less important are routinely settled by the president and vice-president. The power wielded by these chosen few should be of concern to all students. For the student newspaper, the threat is that much greater.

Two safeguards have prevented The Commentator from becoming merely a public relations device for Student Council. The first is Article VIII, Section 1 of the YCSC constitution which states that "The Governing Board of Commentator alone shall determine the editorial policies of the newspaper and shall be responsible for its content." The second is the independent mindness of this and past year's Commentator board members and their determination to maintain freedom of the press at Yeshiva College. Because of the ability of YCSC to tack on new clauses

and regulations to the Constitution, it is this second factor which has proved most decisive.

But despite our independent spirit, I still find the present relationship between YCSC and The Commentator irksome. Regardless of constitutional safeguards, the principle of freedom of the press is violated when government, even student government, has ultimate budgetary and legislative power over that press.

Recent dealings with Student Council have only served to highlight this belief. Although this year's YCSC allotment to The Commentator was \$1,000 less than requested, we were consistently assured that any budgetary problems which arose would be worked out. With last issue, our funds ran out and we were told that we were going to be cut off. Although, we had consistently been assured that Alumni allocations would be granted on top of our allotted budget, although we knew that this in fact had been the policy last year, we were now informed that alumni allocations had been counted within our YCSC budget, which we had exhausted.

The Commentator was not the only party to be misinformed; the Alumni Association wrote out separate checks for each YCSC club, including The Commentator. The YCSC Executive Council then simply formed a judiciary committee, consisting of the president and the vice-president, who determined that The Commentator was in the wrong, YCSC in the right, the money granted to the paper by the Alumni Association should be returned, and then the council would decide what would be with the next two issues.

In the end, a satisfactory agreement was worked out between the two parties. However, the fact remains that YCSC's control on all monetary allotments, and its ability to judge all clubs nearly shut the student paper down. Such decisions should not rely on the good will of student government. The time has come to sever the ties which bind The Commentator to YCSC.

Specifically, the job of allotting funds to The Commentator, and to any other journal, should be turned over to an apolitical publications board. The Commentator should then cease to function as a YCSC club or be bound by its decisions.

I believe that a clean break between the newspaper and YCSC would actually improve our working relationship. Under the current set up, it's easy for Student Council members to expect the paper to work for

The Commentator

Adam J. Schorr

In My Opinion...
Op-Ed pieces from the student body

Totally Hidden Video

I recently became aware of yet another repressive and depressing fact of YU life. I understand and can accept the claim that YU is first and foremost a Yeshiva, but I always made the assumption that unless something directly conflicted with halacha it could be tolerated at YU. How naive I was! I am referring to the ban on VCR's in the dorms. Although I think it unethical for YU to claim non-sectarian status and accept government funding while mandating religious law to its students, I have no difficulty accepting the rules of Shabbos observance and "proper" dress which are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of halachic standards on campus. This VCR rule, however, cannot claim such necessity.

When I asked a dorm counselor why VCR's are prohibited in the dorms, he explained that the purpose of the rule is to prevent the viewing of undesirable films. This rule and the attitude that lies behind it, simultaneously impose a value on an issue that is not as clear as the use of electrical appliances on Shabbos and insult the student body by assuming it to be at best unable to make responsible choices and at worst debauched. Let us forget for a moment the students who major in Speech and Drama and for whom VCR's can be academic tools as they watch the films that they study in class. More importantly, I ask: Is there any academic freedom at YU? English Literature and Art are already, according to some, forbidden. VCR's are forbidden because students may watch "undesirable" films.

What is next? Will magazines be prohibited because students may look at pornography? Will books be outlawed because there are books that dare to espouse views that are alien to Centrist Judaism? Will cassette tape decks and all recorded music be banned because 2 Live Crew is lurking in the shadows? Who will be the modern Maimonides as those who are afraid to confront modernity attempt to excise from our lives all potentially "subversive" material?

Professors of liberal arts at YU - how will you succeed in opening the minds of your students when their environment tries to keep it closed? Students at YU - where are your voices when a real issue is at stake? How is it that a ten-cent increase in the cost of an egg-salad sandwich inspires rebellion but encroachment on your academic and intellectual freedom is passively endured? We must all speak up, professors and students alike, if we are to have an atmosphere at YU that is conducive to education.

The author, a YC Senior, is also President of the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society.

RESPONSA

Past President's Pulpit

To the Editor,

The Commentator not only has the right to criticize student government, it has the obligation to do so.

Although in my opinion, the article examining Mr. Felsenthal and YCSC was neither well researched nor well written, it was significant in that it raised important issues.

Now that some time has elapsed since the article was published, I feel a few comments are in order regarding the nature of Student Council, and the role The Commentator plays in YU student politics. Having served first as a Commentator governing board member and later as YCSC President, I believe I have a unique vantage point with regards to this issue.

Of all the YU student organization, YCSC has the potential

their interests, which as elected officials, they feel are really the interests of the student body. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. By clearly defining our separate roles, this source of tension would be removed.

More importantly, unshackling The Commentator would assure Yeshiva College of a student newspaper which both in principle and reality, stands for the highest ideals of journalism and strictest allegiance to freedom of the press.

to have the greatest impact upon the average student's extracurricular life. Yet generally, after election day, few students are involved in the YCSC's decision processes which to a large extent, shape campus life. Shocking as it may seem, it is quite common for members of Student Council to be similarly in the dark as to the direction their council is headed.

This situation arises because of two factors: the structure of YCSC and a desire on the part of the administration to have substantive decisions made solely by the President.

Although the YCSC constitution clearly outlines each officer's role, the President is endowed with an inordinate share of authority. Unlike the U.S. system of "checks and balances" which forces discussions of decisions, YCSC operates in a vacuum. The only official "check" is the Dean of Students, whose job it is to insure that YCSC is not stealing any funds and that the events it runs are in accordance with the University.

In addition, the Dean of Students wants a president to act quickly and decisively, primarily because of the vast number of minor decisions which would make a committee system too cumbersome. Further, the Dean wants to exert as much influence as possible on student council and he realizes that he can influence one student more effectively than a committee.

Equally troublesome is student disinterest in the government they have elected. Student Council meetings are rarely attended by non-council members, although most are open to the public.

Thus, the only public forum for discussion that student leaders must take note of emanates from The Commentator. In essence, it is entrusted with the job of acting as the sole student forum for discussion within the present rubric of YU student government.

Barring sweeping reforms, the present structure of student government will be around for some time to come. Although all students may not agree with The Commentator's tactics or positions, they should realize that The Commentator's role is of utmost importance. Only a free press, one that is not encumbered by fears of retaliation (from student government or otherwise), is able to fulfill its responsibility. Being Editor of any newspaper is a difficult job. Yet at YU, this job is often complicated by the realization that the public you mention are not merely nameless faces, but are instead often friends who live next door. Still, as Editor, you must not forget your vast responsibility to voice the interests and concerns of the entire student body.

Sincerely,
Barry Kaye
YC '90
YCSC President, 1989-90

RESPONSA

CAMPUS NEWS

SSSB Blues Continue

by Joshua Pollack

As YU seniors prepare to face the harsh, cold world of business, they have found that jobs are not as easy to come by as they were in the past. The state of the economy is especially scary for non-accounting majors. Reuven Harow, a SSSB senior and active member of the Joint Business Society, noted that Sy Syms divides its placement activities into two groups: accounting and non-accounting. Those who are not accounting majors (i.e. finance, MIS, marketing) have had a very difficult time getting jobs. Accounting majors, on the other hand, "will all get jobs, but not necessarily at the 'Big 6'," predicts

Harow. Says Adrienne Wolff, assistant director of recruiting for SSSB, "It is definitely the economy." With the recession still in place, students have found that the number of jobs available have decreased.

Ami Aharon, President of the JBS, noted that accounting majors have had the advantage of the Accounting Society for years. This society, over time, has been able to get all the major accounting firms to conduct interviews with Sy Syms. Non-accounting majors, on the other hand, have only had the Joint Business Society looking after their interests for a comparatively short time. JBS is still working on developing the contacts that the Accounting Society takes for granted.

In response to the job crisis, the SSSB placement office has made contacts with several new companies for on-campus recruiting. Two weeks ago, The Limited, a retail management company, was invited to interview on campus. Last week, Computer Systems Research, a company involved in sales, came to recruit. Ms. Wolff feels that student prospects are very high in these companies. Ami Aharon shares these sentiments, noting that company recruiters all commend SSSB and YC students for the dual curriculum they must shoulder. They seem to be attracted to YU's disciplined students who are able to manage their time well.

In addition to these efforts to attract firms, Sy Syms held its annual dinner on Monday, April 15, honoring accounting and business graduates. The dinner, which is completely student run,

also allows students to make contacts with dozens of firms. This year, A T & T, American Express, Con Edison, and 27 other non-accounting firms had representatives at the dinner. Some of these companies were represented this year for the first time. Thirty accounting firms were also represented.

Because accounting firms tend to hire earlier than business firms, it is still too early to determine exact figures of how many business students will get jobs, but YU has traditionally been extremely competitive in the job market. Students are aware of the situation. As Reuven Harow put it, "the placement people have their hands tied. I give them credit."

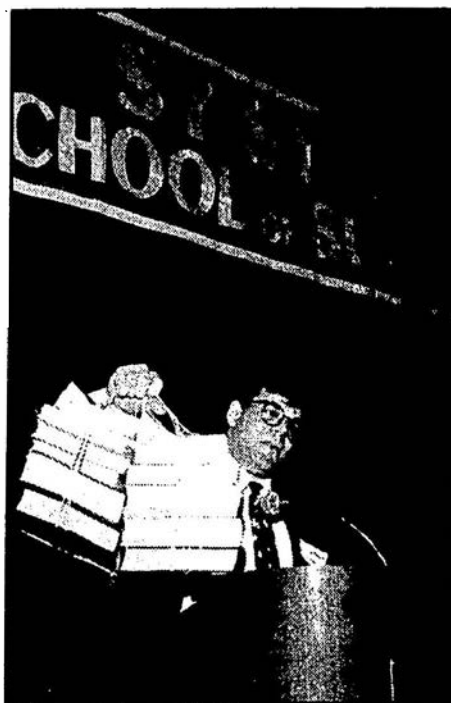


photo courtesy of YU PR
SSSB valedictorian David Maryles proves he will not be leaving his SSSB education behind.



photo by J.J. Hornbliss
Moment of silence for Israel's fallen heroes at the Yom Hazikaron Tekes.

Yom Hazikaron continued from p. 1

gistical problems were also created by the inclement weather which forced the cancelation of an outdoor ceremony in Tenzer Gardens. Borenstein also points to the fact that students were forced to come down late because of class and linger in the back as another cause for talking in the rear.

Borenstein labeled the decision not to cancel classes a "Bizayon". "A Yeshiva which just recently sent 400 students to Eretz Yisrael to show solidarity and support, and when it comes to a Tekes Yom HaZikaron... nothing. I can't see why they wouldn't dismiss classes earlier."

The centerpiece of the Yom Hazikaron Tekes was the lighting of 10 candles in memory of YU alumni who sacrificed their lives for the State of Israel. Borenstein movingly referred to each soldier as "an everlasting flame burning in our hearts."

The Yom Hazikaron program was interspersed with special memorial t'filot, recited by Belz students Daniel Schwartz and Seth Lutnick. Other students recited Israeli poems in both Hebrew and English. Many of the Russian immigrants were seen to be crying during the ceremony.

The program's first featured speaker, Rav Meir Goldvicht, an Israeli Rosh Yeshiva and an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces, spoke of how Belief and Trust eventually lead to Truth. Rav Goldvicht recalled how at the outset of the war in Lebanon, the irreligious soldiers serving in his tank turned to the Rav and asked him to sing a Nigun. At such times, said Rav Goldvicht, no one person is more religious than the other.

Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President at Yeshiva University,

picked up on the theme of Trust and praised YU students for the moral support they brought to Israel through Operation Torah Shield. He called Torah Shield, "A moral boost which enabled Israelis to look to the future."

YU students also had the honor of hearing from a Brigadier General, Amira Dotan. General Dotan, the former head of the women's army and presently part of Israel's WZO delegation to the U.S., described the tragedy of Israel's youth falling in the defense of the Jewish State. Her boyfriend from age 16 was killed seven years later, while in the process of rescuing the members of his tank. A young female friend, serving in military intelli-

gence, was killed in the terrorist attack on Bus 300. The rescuer of the bus later lost his own son in the Gaza Strip. "Every Jew has a home in Israel because of those wonderful children who gave their lives," said General Dotan.

Major David Ben-Naeh, Director of Dor Hahemshech and a major backer of the Israel Club event also spoke.

Ma'ariv, rendered uninspiring by the continuous talking as well as the band's insistence on tuning up their instruments during Shmoneh Esreh, was followed by a lively chagigah which lasted almost until midnight. While dancing thronged swarmed across the middle of the Commons, Aliya t-shirts, HaBayta pins, falafel and other Zionist paraphernalia were on sale along the periphery.

Child Survivor Lectures at Holocaust Program

by Shmuel Hook

Over 200 students gathered in Belfer Commons on Wednesday night, April 10, to observe Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The evening's program, organized by YC Sophomore Jeremy Bandler and SCW Senior Shulamit Motechin with the support of YCSC and its midtown counterpart, included an audio-visual presentation, reflections of YU students on their visits to Poland, and a lecture given by Holocaust survivor Dr. Livia Bitton-Jackson.

Dr. Bitton-Jackson, professor of History at Lehman College of the City University, spoke of her experiences in the Auschwitz Death Camp. The speaker reflected on particulars of her treatment, mentioning the special preference she received due to her Aryan appearance. She also stressed the need to constantly remember, even tying it to the mitzvah of mechiat Amalek. The lecture was followed by a yizkor service and candle-lighting ceremony.

Regardless of the importance surrounding the commemoration, and the countless fliers posted for publicity, uptown student turnout was conspicuously low. Privately, some students questioned the decision to hold the yizkor service in Belfer as opposed to the Beit Midrash, which would automatically ascribe an added degree of seriousness.

Meanwhile, Bandler is preparing an evaluation of this year's event, with particular stress on the lack of student attendance. In his report, Bandler will propose class cancellations and participation of faculty and administration for future memorial events.

YU's Fallen Heroes

1929: William Berman and Benjamin Harwitz, Teachers Institute for Men (now IBC): killed during the Hebron riots by Arab marauders. Surviving classmates still contribute annually to the Yeshiva Hebron as a tribute to them and others from TI who worked and studied in Israel during those difficult years.

1948: Moshe Pearlstein, the first American to die in the War of Independence. The annual Moshe Pearlstein Memorial Lecture at Hebrew University is a tribute to him.

1973: Dr. Uri Frand, former chief resident of AEGOM's Chest service, was killed when his helicopter was downed by gunfire. He is not listed as an alumnus.

1974: Esther Ben-David was the first American to die in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War of 1973. She was taking her children to a clinic at their settlement in Ramat Magshimim, in the Golan Heights, when she was killed by Syrian gunfire.

1980: Tzvi Glatt and Shmuel Marmelstein were killed by Arab terrorists on Friday night while returning from Ma'ariv services at Mearat HaMakhpelah in Hebron. They are remembered through the Tzvi Glatt and Shmuel Marmelstein Torah Scholarship Fund, awarded to a graduating senior who excels in Torah scholarship.

1983: Aharon Gross was killed near the Hebron marketplace. His family has been associated with YU for more than 50 years as students, alumni and communal leaders.

1991: Joseph Holstein, YU alumnus and a Holocaust survivor. During a SCUD attack, his family asked him to put on a gas mask, but he refused because it brought back too many bad memories. He went to lie down and died of a heart attack. He was fifty-two years old.

Judging the Jewish Studies Councils

by Moshe Friedman

All over the campus, posters are taped to bulletin boards, walls, any available flat surface. They announce: "Come hear Rabbi Cohen speak;" "Come to our Shabbaton;" "Come to our Seforim sale." Somewhere on these posters, probably on the bottom, off in one of the corners, are those infamous words, "SPONSORED BY:" The odds are pretty good that those words will be followed by the initials IBCSC, JSSSC, or SOY.

These student councils might be said to serve the Torah needs of the students. One such need, agree the presidents of these councils, is to bring the rebbeim and the students closer together. "I feel that it is the responsibility of any student leader in the Judaica to unite the students and the faculty, to just see that there is a bond created," says Hirsch Serman, President of the James Striar School Student Council. "This is much more important [with rebbeim] than with secular teachers."

Eli Cohen, President of the Isaac Breuer College Student Council, agrees with Serman. "My biggest goal was basically

to establish an accord between the students and the rebbeim," says Cohen. "I've been in IBC for three and a half years, and I've never once been invited to a rabbi's house for Shabbos, except for Rabbi [Louis] Bernstein."

Cohen feels that IBC students did get closer to their rebbeim as a result of events such as the IBC Chanukkah Chagigah. "When you're in a college, you don't look at rebbeim as your friends," he says, "but when you dance with them in a circle in a Chanukkah concert, it's different."

As for Lawrence Burian, President of the Student Organization of Yeshiva which serves MYP and RIETS students, his goals in this category were much more broad. Rather than bring the rebbeim closer to the students, he wanted to bring the whole Yeshiva closer to them. "When I was campaigning for SOY president...people would ask me, 'What's SOY?'" says Burian. "That shouldn't happen."

To help rectify this situation, Burian says he planned events such as speakers in the Beit Midrash that would appeal to the whole University, not just SOY students. "Obviously you have people feeling more a part of the Yeshiva if someone comes

into the Beit Midrash for an evening about the Torah perspectives of the Persian Gulf War with Rabbi Lamm," says Burian. "That person walks into the Beit Midrash and sees a crowd of people that he's not accustomed to when he's been to other events, and that might bring someone closer."

Along the same lines, Serman says that another one of his goals this semester was to schedule activities that allowed students to learn even after JSS classes were over. "I think it is important to have events that further education," he said. "The rebbeim can only do so much." To this effect, Serman says that JSSSC scheduled several lectures, such as the Aish Ha'Torah Discovery program that took place last week.

In general, Serman sees Torah learning as distinct from secular learning. "There's a great deal of feeling that goes into people learning Torah, learning Gemara, whatever section of Judaica they might be learning in," Serman says. "It's not like with a textbook thing, where 90% of what students learn they're never going to look at or think of again."

Burian, however, also had several other goals as SOY President. For one thing, he believes

that it is very important that the organization be run professionally. "When you run a chagigah, you shouldn't run out of cups, or run out of food," he says. "When you run a Shabbos in Yeshiva, and you have a guest, that guest should feel that things are ready for him...When somebody works for SOY, they should get a thank you note."

Burian says that as he gained experience as SOY President, he felt more and more responsibility to spend funds efficiently. "I could send something into YU productions to get a publication printed up, and I don't have to do any work - but pay double. Or I can make an effort and work it out that someone is going to bring it to a [less expensive] printer in Brooklyn."

Moreover, Burian says, SOY revised the method by which it allocated its charities. "We get tons of mail asking for tzedakah from every organization in America and abroad," he says. In the past, SOY would donate small amounts to a great number of different charities. But Burian feels that students can donate to various charities on their own, and don't need a student organization to do it for them. "What we decided is that we wanted to concentrate the tzedakah money into things that involve students and the YU community," Burian said. Some of the organizations to which SOY contributed substantial funds included the Philanthropy Society and YUSSR.

If it seems that SOY does more

than the other two Jewish divisions student councils, perhaps it is partly because they represent about 600 of the almost 900 students at YC. Since SOY represents more students, it gets much more money to spend than do the other two student councils. JSSSC, which represents about 200 students, and IBCSC, which represents 100 students, are also allotted funds by the Dean of Students on the basis of the number of students represented.

But Burian is quick to point out that in order to accomplish all that SOY does, the organization has to raise additional funds. The two major sources of income for SOY, aside from the Dean of Students' office, are the Seforim Sale, funds from the Alumni Association, and funds from the President's Council.

Besides dealing with very limited funds, IBCSC had problems with events early on. For example, Cohen had made arrangements to take all of IBC on a trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. "It was cleared with Dean Well," Cohen says, "but before we started putting up posters, I got a letter from Egon Brenner saying that an academic institution doesn't make these kinds of trips."

Despite problems the Jewish studies division student councils managed to schedule a number of successful events this year. These events, as recalled by the presidents of the respective student councils, are listed below.

IBC

- + **Rosh Chodesh Breakfasts** - Davening, followed by bagels, cream cheese, various pastries, and drinks. Four such breakfasts to date, with a possible fifth being planned. Each breakfast features a different speaker. One speaker talked about The Gulf War. During the Ten Days of Repentance, a speaker spoke on Teshuvah. Also, a member of the Druse militia spoke.
- + **Table at Orientation** - Set up a desk at Student Orientation to answer students' questions about IBC.
- + **Gemara Sale** - Sold needed Gemaras to IBC students at the beginning of the year.
- + **Representatives at Open House** - Spoke at open house to prospective students and their parents, answered their various questions.

- + **Menorah and Candle Sale** - sold menorahs and candles to students for Chanukkah.
- + **Shaloch Manos** - Sold and delivered Shaloch Manos to YU students.
- + **Dorm Talks** - Helped organize one of the Dorm Talks.
- + **Chanukkah Chagigah** - Music, food, "outstanding Ruach."
- + **IBC Book Fair** - Upcoming sale of inexpensive Judaica, like the "Tradition" series.
- + **Gifts to Students** - planning on giving Mincha / Ma'ariv booklets with tzenching to IBC students at the end of the year.
- + **Shabbaton** - in planning stages. Not definite as of now (to be co-sponsored with JSS).

JSS

- + **Aish HaTorah Discovery** - a one evening sampling of codes found in the Torah.
- + **Chanukkah Chagigah** - "Some rebbeim were talking about it the week afterwards. Extremely successful." Music, dancing, food.
- + **Rosh Chodesh Breakfast** - bagels, cream cheese, tuna fish, egg salad, pastries and juices. About 110 in attendance.
- + **Meet the Rosh Yeshiva** - Seven events to date. Students (including those from IBC, MYP) meet with and ask questions of various Roshei Yeshiva from YU, including Rav Goldvicht, Rav Schachter, and Rav Soloveitchik.
- + **Various Speakers** - Including Rabbi Well, Rabbi Schwartz.
- + **Murder Mystery Event** - A hearse/limousine drove students around to the sights of famous murders in New York City (co-sponsored with YCSC).
- + **Shabbaton at Camp Monroe** - for incoming JSS students. Met rebbeim. Saturday night activity was a film on the Palestinian view on the Intifada, discussion on the fallacies of their view.
- + **Mandatory Minyan** - vast majority of the students were opposed, and it was eventually abolished. Attendance did drop after that, but not as much as might be expected.

- + **Sha'atnez Check** - Garments checked by a student and then sent to a lab in Brooklyn for conformation.
- + **Series of Talks at Night** - on Tanya, other various issues, by final year Smicha students.
- + **Chavrusa Program** - Matched a number of JSS students up with MYP students for night seder.
- + **Tefillin Check** - upcoming check for students to determine if their Tefillin are kosher (to be sponsored with SOY).
- + **Tzsis Sale** - upcoming
- + **Gifts to Students** - Giving books to JSS students at the end of the year.
- + **JSS Honors Luncheon** - awards given to JSS students.
- + **D'var Torah Committee** - writes JSS's weekly D'var Torah.
- + **Booth at Parent's Day** - Spoke to prospective students and their parents, answered their questions.
- + **Hatzoloh Fund Drive** - Raised \$1,500 for Hatzoloh (in conjunction with the other student councils).

SOY

- + **Orientation Desk** - a desk set up at Freshman orientation to advise students which alumni to go to.
- + **Gemara Sale** - Sold needed Gemaras to students at the beginning of the year.
- + **Shaloch and Ring Sale**
- + **Chanukkah Chagigah** - Jewish comedian Chaschik Heller spoke (co-sponsored with IBC).
- + **Shabbos** - Shabbos in the Beit Midrash. "It wasn't as well attended as we hoped."
- + **Chanukkah Chagigah** - Took place during Chol

- + **HaMoed Sukkos** - About 300 people attended.
- + **Purim Chagigah** - Dancing, snacks, purim shpeil. Over 1,600 people paid to attend (several got in for free).
- + **Pesach Chagigah** - low-key chagigah during Chol HaMoed Pesach. About 100 people attended.
- + **Enayim L'Torah** - Weekly panthe publication; currently expanding in circulation.
- + **Hamevaser** - YU's newspaper of Torah thought. Printed five issues this year, including the purim issue.

please turn to page 11

Torah U'Madda and Other Platonic Friendships

by Hayyim Angel

Legend has it that in the olden days, platonic friendships almost never existed. In a male/female relationship, if one of the two people involved decided that marriage was inappropriate, then the two would separate and continue to search for their respective "right ones." Today, however, things are not so simple. Many men have more than one female friend, and vice versa. By definition, this situation should allow the possibility of platonic friendships, since any individual can marry only one of his or her friends. However, many assert that a man and a woman can get only so close before at least one of the two wants to "go out." According to these people, the platonic friendship can exist only in a utopian world.

Interestingly, we can understand religious life at Yeshiva College in this light. There are students who assign primary importance to their individual religious growth. They try their hardest to spend long hours in the Beit Midrash, despite tremendous academic pressures. Strangely enough, many of these students still manage to do well in the College. However, most students acquire different priorities here. They arrive at Yeshiva College and decide that their future careers are what really count. The commitment to religious development often lags behind the commitment to achieve good grades and participate in resume-building activities.

Stated differently, it appears that much of the Yeshiva University community has a strong platonic element in it with regard to the religious side. Students are deeply committed to their careers. And to the Torah? "Let's be just friends," they say. It

sounds fair enough; we can "like" Judaism, even if we have higher priorities. Perhaps in a dream world, Yeshiva University students would consider a different approach, one in which they would broaden their religious horizons first and look at their transcripts later.

Although I believe that platonic friendships can exist between the male and female genders, I would argue that there is no place for platonic friendships between ourselves and Judaism. Shir Hashirim tells us that God wants more than just a friendship with the Jewish people. By giving Judaism anything other than the primary, all-encompassing role in our lives, we are distancing ourselves from the most important relationship we could ever be involved in.

In addition to a change in the priorities of students, the faculty needs to be expanded to accommodate the religious and academic needs of the students. Most unfortunately, many MYP shiurim currently have over forty students (my shiur has eighty!), making it very difficult for more than a few students in each shiur to get close to their Rebbeim. Therefore, it is unlikely that more than a few students in each shiur will feel close to a religious role model. I am not familiar enough with the other Judaic studies departments to comment on them, and so I leave it to the students of IBC and JSS to consider if their faculty members teach more than merely the material on the syllabi.

There actually are a few professors in YC who have Torah U'Madda orientations and teach with them in mind. Many are outstanding instructors who push students toward excellence. Of course, there are those whose brittle, yellowing notes make us

wish we could get "mesora notes" from our parents' dreary times with those same professors. To a large extent, the current system also allows the platonic friendship to remain that way.

In my ideal Yeshiva University, there would be a plethora of great religious role models with whom students could discuss important issues. To complement the Judaic studies departments, the entire College faculty would teach students to study with the goal of finding new insights and knowledge, not A's.

Any Yeshiva is supposed to encourage and foster "more than just a friendship" with Judaism. The ideal Yeshiva University community would understand this principle and live by it. Students who think critically would consider their priorities seriously, and weigh religious values and intellectual curiosity against good grades. The faculty would be improved and expanded to accommodate such students.

Even in my dream world, students would still take the same courses, still go into the same professions as they had before. But they would have a different outlook, one which would immeasurably improve the religious and intellectual level of our community.

It's funny. In Judaism, it is a "more than just friends" relationship which appears to be the ideal. But at Yeshiva University, our relationship to Judaism remains hopelessly platonic.

Living and Learning in Paradise

by Jonathan Tropper

What is my vision of Yeshiva University in an ideal world? Well, for starters, it's not in Washington Heights. As a matter of fact, it's not in New York City at all. It's somewhere peaceful and green, maybe somewhere out in Connecticut. Too far away from Stern, right? Wrong. There's no such entity as Stern College for Women. YC and SCW are a college in a rural paradise of sprawling lawns and wooded areas, with ample parking for all.

There is no Caramba music being belted out of car stereos under your window at three in the morning, nor is there a continuous wailing of sirens punctuated by the occasional gunshot. The only sounds that accompany you on your walk back to the dorm are the quiet chirping of the crickets. Speaking of dorms, what are they like? They are not coed; however, members of different genders are allowed upstairs. There are lounges strategically placed at various points on each floor, some with fire places, some with pianos, some with pool tables. Many lively discussions take place in these rooms as students kick back and

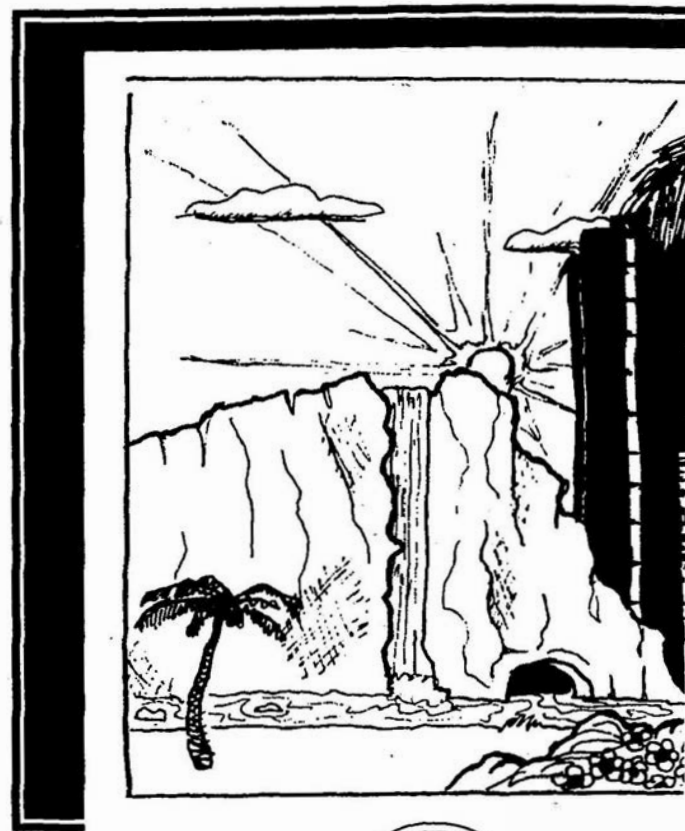
relax, enjoying each other's company.

The classrooms and lecture halls are in beautiful buildings, some modern and some classical, and attendance is no problem, despite the lack of any mandatory attendance policies. The athletic center is vast, with a few gymnasiums, and as many swimming pools. These facilities come complete with racquetball and squash courts, as well as tennis courts, and a fully equipped weight room. Students may participate in various classes, ranging from aerobics, to gymnastics, to martial arts. Behind this complex are a number of sports fields, for baseball, football, soccer, and lacrosse.

There are two theaters on campus. One is a playhouse for the dramatics society, and one is for all types of musical events. There is also a students' museum, and a center for the arts, just a short walk from the Beit Midrash complex.

These are physical characteristics of the University, but there is something more. There is a spirit of pride and activism attached to being a student at Yeshiva University. There are more clubs than can be counted, and everyone is involved in some-

Dreaming in a Perf



thing.

Let's walk around the campus. It's a beautiful spring day, and the students are out in full force, enjoying the weather. Clusters of students can be seen all over the campus lawns, some tossing frisbees, some reading or learning under trees, some walking to and from class, and some just talking, or taking an outdoor snooze.

There is music in the air as one of the many student bands is giving an outdoor jam session. We stop for a moment, and join the crowd that has gathered to listen, and we are immediately approached by a girl collecting donations for the Yeshiva University Save The Earth Society. We each give a dollar, and are rewarded with a bio-degradable YUSTES pin. No sooner have we affixed the pins to our collars, than we are forced to take cover as a "gunfight" breaks out between two members of the Assassination Club. The crowd turns to watch, applauding enthusiastically when one student emerges victorious.

We continue on our way, stopping briefly to peruse a wall plastered with announcements. "Join The Scuba Club". "Macs Game Tonight At Eight". "Rabbi Dr. M.D. Tendler will lecture Tuesday evening on the subject of Jews and Abortion; Seven-thirty in the Milken Auditorium". Archery Tournament Sunday At Noon; All are Welcome". "Poetry reading tonight at midnight in the Arts Forum. Bring a poem and a friend." These are the leaflets that catch the eye, but there are hundreds of them. One could spend close to an hour reading this wall.

BS"D

Don't Miss these Upcoming S.O.Y. Events

Shabbos at Yeshiva: May 3-4,
Parshat Emor
Special Guests: Rabbi Norman Lamm,
Rabbi Charley

Shabbos at Yeshiva: May 17-20
Special Guest: Ray Schachter

T'fillen Check: To Be Announced
There are So many things going on at Our
Yeshiva!

ing of YU fect World



Hungry for a bite, we stop at one of the many restaurants that can be found on the campus. All restaurants are privately owned, which leads to variety, as well as competitive prices that appeal to our student budgets.

After we've eaten, we stop at the shul to sign up for Shabbos meals. As we are out of the city, few, if any, people go home for Shabbos. Besides, Shabbos is so nice here, so full of Ruach and

peace, that nobody wants to leave anyway. As a matter of fact, our friends from other universities travel to be here for Shabbos.

As the day ends at Yeshiva University, there is a sense of peace and tranquility, of higher purpose, of community. This is a community dedicated to the highest religious ideals and the highest educational ideals. No wonder it's so hard to get in to this place.

UnAmericanizing Torah U'Madda

by Avi Lopin

The Torah U'Madda ideal continues to fail year after year at YU. The argument is a simple one: As an educational outline, it fails to cater its ideals to the majority of its students. However, the flaw may not be in Torah U'Madda itself, but rather in the surrounding elements.

Before continuing with this train of thought, we must ask ourselves if we know and understand the ideals of Torah U'Madda. Rather than review the myriad of philosophical and intellectual explanations that have been put forward on the subject of Torah U'Madda, it might be more helpful to scrape up the few standard definitions of Torah U'Madda's ideals with which most of YU's leading figures concur, and then expose the wide gap that exists between ideal Torah U'Madda and reality

Torah U'Madda.

Torah U'Madda's standard definition: The harmony of Torah and secular knowledge, with Torah always existing as the leading element.

Its standard goal: To elevate the Torah in a broader scheme through knowledge of worldly manners.

Its ultimate purpose: To develop better Torah Jews with a wider scope of understanding.

We must now ask ourselves the following: Why is it that a significant majority of YU students are far from achieving the goals of these ideals, and even moreso of incorporating and utilizing them in post-college life? The reasons are, obviously numerous, but there are two underlying factors which make the Torah U'Madda dream almost impossible to obtain. The first is time: the twentieth century. The second is place: America. We'll call this the Modern American Syndrome (MAS).

What exactly is MAS?

From cradle to grave, certain distinct values are engraved within each American Jew, far stronger than in previous times or in other parts of the globe. Foremost among these values are success and career. "My son the Doctor" and "My son the lawyer" are not merely humorous cliches which portray the Jewish American Mother, but rather an example of forceful pressures exerted on children from a young age. An obvious prerequisite to a distinguished career is college, and what other place than YU prepares the young Jewish entrepreneur with the best of both worlds for his bright future? However, when young teenagers bring their Jewish mother's values to YU, Torah U'Madda's ideals are destined to fail. This is the MAS which so strongly dominates YU.

When analyzing this subject further, one realizes the double compromise which transpires in YU due to the MAS. How is this so?

Picture young Zalman. Upon his grand entrance to YU, Zalman, the young idealist, will probably encounter an overwhelming sight of helpless students trying to formulate their class schedule. Normal procedure, right? So far, so good. Enter the wise upperclassmen with their words of wisdom. "Don't take Dr. Jones for Jewish History; Dr. Smith has given the same test for the past twenty years. Trust me." The freshman is startled. "Look, you'll definitely learn how to write, but you won't get the A. With Dr. Green, it's a guaranteed A." Normal for any other college? Hardly! But now the ideal Zalman is faced with a dilemma. "College is supposed to be the time and place to 'explore', to broaden the horizons," he attempts to convince himself. "I must choose the best professors regardless of the grade." But alas, the pressures of success, ever so powerful in our society, echo in the poor freshman's head and take over. "After all, everyone else seems to be doing it," he once again convinces himself. "I'll worry about a good education next year. And besides, the yeshiva will still be the central focus of the day." How sadly naive.

As Zalman continues his journey through YU, the MAS escalates to new heights. In various degrees, Zalman now realizes and understands the 'practical' way to study for the exams, the ins and outs, the "do's and don't's" at YU, and of course, the "practical" Jewish program he should attend. The student will then be swept by the mob of recruiters from various firms, or just have his heart set on a medical or law school. Of course Torah is still around, just not all the time. The student will then finally take the MCAT, LSAT, or CPA. Yeshiva? Must be put on hold temporarily.

On terminating the mad three year rush through YU, Zalman reflects back on his YU career as he sadly realizes the immense compromises which took place

in college and yeshiva. He realizes that his "exploring" consisted merely of finding the most original and inventive way to cram the night before a midterm, and that learning about the various graduate schools was the lone element which broadened his horizons. On the yeshiva side, Zalman dismally realizes the laxity towards the learning which transpired. Thus, compromises on both sides of the coin. But wait! That's not the point! Zalman is now on the road to success. The 3.8 is there, and the extra curricular activities are definitely there. Hello Arthur Anderson! Hello Columbia! Mission accomplished at YU! So much for idealism.

Given the realities of the MAS, how can Torah U'Madda turn its ideals into reality? Just as time can't be moved, neither can YU. But we can dream.

Lets "unAmericanize" the Torah U'Madda system and restructure it with Jewish ideals and priorities practical in everyday life at YU.

To give this dream some substance, it is important for the entire YU family to recognize, painful as it may be, that to have the best of both worlds is impossible in this age and place. As was demonstrated above, the University, with its infinite pressures of success, career, grades, papers, and tests, for the most part supercedes the Yeshiva. The ideal Yeshiva and the ideal University do not, and cannot, intertwine harmoniously. Changing the status quo is therefore imperative.

YU must drop its pre-professional, quasi-Ivy league aspirations. The mountain of requirements which YU presently deems absolutely necessary for a college education needs to be shaved down to manageable size. Give us the freedom to choose those courses which will truly uplift our Torah. Remove the ever-growing burden of requirements which prevent us from even opening up a sefer.

YU must then find a way to expand the yeshiva atmosphere to the entire student body. In-

stead of the dozens of minyanim, there should be two big minyanim in the main Beit Midrash. Furthermore, mandatory Jewish lectures should take place at least once a week. Ultimately, the students will feel part of the yeshiva instead of feeling lost in YU's towering campus. To implement this plan, unfortunately, attendance must be made mandatory. What about college freedom? Not when it intervenes with yeshiva standards. Most importantly, the Rebbeim must be made more available at the students disposal. Although far from sufficient, the yeshiva's initial ascent would be one small step for Torah, but a giant leap for YU.

Student reaction would vary. Those with a weaker Jewish background, before enrolling at YU, must be informed and warned of Yeshiva's rules and standards. These students will therefore realize that they are not going to a University with a Jewish program but rather a Yeshiva with a college education. Those with a stronger Jewish background, like it or not, will more easily understand the importance of Yeshiva regulations. For those returning from Israel, the seeds for change have been planted; many would welcome the chance to reap the full harvest of their seeds.

Sadly, sweet dreams must always come to an end as reality rudely intervenes. Students entering YU, under the MAS, will undoubtedly concentrate more on the college education. Those returning from Israel, although trying to avoid it, will also eventually succumb to the pressures of success and career. After all, a top ten law school, a prominent medical school, and a big six accounting firm is worth striving for at the expense of almost anything.

Wake-up YU! Instead of praising and applauding the beautiful embodiment of Torah U'Madda, please instruct the students on how to execute this synthesis; please restructure your institution so that Torah remains superior on a daily basis.

Yeshiva University

Tri - Annual Blood Drive

Tuesday May 7th & Wednesday May 8th

9am - 5pm

Please Give Blood!!

Free Surprise Gift!!!

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Students Gear Up for Summer of Giving

by Torin Rutner

The month of June for many students at both YC and Stern will not include family vacations, rest and relaxation and fun in the sun. These students will be part of two summer programs that have become quite popular over the past year, Achy/Techiya and YUSSR. YUSSR, in its second year, begins June 17 and lasts until the middle of August. Over 100 applications for have been received for 40 slots.

This unprecedented program will be spread out among five cities in Russia: Talin, Riga, Leningrad, Odessa, Moscow, and Vpest. The camp's programs are quite different than those of American Jewish camps. The program intends to draw Russian Jewish kids closer to Judaism by making them more familiar with Jewish themes and concepts. One example is a color war, with the winter and summer chagim as the theme.

The students going as advisors and counselors are mostly from YC and Stern, with some students also from Barnard and Harvard. These students are going with no knowledge of what the camps look like. Kevin Taragin, the director of the program, commented, "It is just like running Camp Morasha without any of the facilities, but once you jump in, the water splits and everything turns out

for the best." The program also presently has a budget of \$75,000, of which only \$25,000 has been raised.

Thesecond program, Achy/Techiya, begins June 25 and also ends around the middle of August. This will be the first year that both programs will be combined. 50 or 60 students from YC, Stern, Columbia, and Barnard, like will be running programs in five or six cities in Israel. This enormous task of helping to blend in new Olim into the land of Israel from places like Russia and Ethiopia will be quite a challenge.

In each town, eight to ten advisors will be teaching Hebrew and basic themes on Yahadut and the Tanach. For many of the advisors, it may be hard to communicate with these olim. They will try to get both children and their parents involved in the program. The advisors will be helping these olim who will be entering Israel and who have no idea what to expect from their new homeland.

Chaim Hagler, one of this year's organizers, feels that: "This will be a tremendous experience for these students who are volunteering their summer to help their fellow Jews." David Becker, a junior at YC who went on Techiya last summer, remarked, "In addition to kiruv and education, you also have an opportunity to see what life is really like in Israel."

The Commentator



photo by J.J. Hornbliss
Lanex Group IBM clones, the newest additions to the computer center.

CompuSci Expands

by Jon Taub

The Yeshiva University Computer Science Department has begun to install new equipment on the YU undergraduate campuses. Some new equipment has already been installed; more will be going in over the summer. The new additions include more powerful network servers, Lanex Group IBM clones, and a data-base containing the entire Tanach.

YU also plans to replace VAX terminals hooked up to the main-frame computer at Einstein with a new system from IBM. YC senior and outgoing director of Network Services Mark Roth said much of this work will take place over the summer. "We will be installing the IBM RS 6000, or a RISC-reduced instruction set computer, on this campus," said Roth. "The VAX's have already been turned off at Einstein."

Director of Laboratories and Pre-Engineering Advisor Dr. Leonard Brandwein explained that the reason the VAX's at Einstein were unplugged was that they were no longer cost effective. "The power of risk processors exceed super minicomps 27 times," he said. "It's a toy whose cost equals that of maintaining the VAX for two years. It's also much faster and has much more graphics capability."

Yitz Hollander, who will be taking over Roth's position as director of the Network, told The Commentator that the network servers will soon be upgraded from 286's to 486's on both campuses. Dr. Brandwein explained that the 286's run at 12 Megahertz with a 60 Megabyte capacity while the 486's run at 25 Megahertz, with double the 286 capacity, thereby more than quadrupling the overall speed and efficiency of the network.

The network has been improved further by the installation of Lanex Group IBM clones. Six new workstations have been created at Stern College, seven at YC. Eventually, 19 to 20 new units will grace the college computer rooms. "More departments are using computers," said Dr. Brandwein, explaining the decision to upgrade and

expand the network. "Actually, there are very few now that aren't."

Along with the new hardware, the Computer Science Department has also managed to procure a very special piece of software; a data-base containing the entire Tanach has been installed. According to Dr. Brandwein, the data-base is used mostly by Revel students, along with one or two faculty members. "Actually, we were supposed to get a program with all of Tanach, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, Rashi on Chumash, Rambam, and Shita Mekubetzes on Kesuvos," said Dr. Brandwein. These purchases would have been made possible by what was originally a \$15,000 gift. However, an injunction has been filed against the company that sold these programs to Bar-Ilan University. "Only the Tanach program is legal at the moment," said Brandwein, "But we may get a license from Bar Ilan to use the rest of the program." The Gottesman Library would like all of the program as a resource for general use. However, Dr. Brandwein feels the program is better suited for a network, such as in the computer room, and not for the general machines used in the library.

New Elections continued from page 1

represent their class and the values that the class stands for."

Avi Lopin, president of the Senior class, responded to complaints over the original election by claiming that by placing the ballots in mailboxes the morning of the election, the election received a much greater response than would have otherwise been the case. "If we stuffed the mailboxes a week before, people would take them [the ballots] to their rooms and forget about them," he asserted. "95 percent of the students open their mailboxes in the morning."

Reacting to the charge of ballot stuffing, Lopin admitted that the lack of supervision was a mistake. "I'm very sorry that that is what happened," he said. "There was no way I could know that this would happen." However, Lopin contended that the "those above me, namely Deans Nulman and Chaitoff" told him that this was how elections had been run in the past.

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman stated that the elections were given to the students to manage and added, "I trust that they handled it well and with competence."

He also differentiated between the two sets of awards by pointing out that the Senior awards are officially sanctioned by the University and are provided by officially recognized gifts. This, according to Nulman, makes them "totally different" from the awards to be given out by Student Council.

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RESPONSA continued

Where Credit is Due

To the Editor,

As Editor of "The Guide to the Perplexed II", I wish to clarify that the production aspect was done by Jay Bailey. His name originally appeared on the page but was subsequently removed after it was given to Student Council.

Mike Grynberg
YC '92

They Don't Make IBC Like They Used To

To the Editor,

When asked on interviews why I chose to attend YU over other colleges, my answer had always been that the teachers and administrators related to the students better as a result of their shared culture and beliefs. This was also one of the main reasons why I chose to attend IBC. I felt that in a shiur of 10-15 students one could establish a better relationship with the rebbe than in a shiur of 50-60 students. In addition, IBC also sponsored a monthly "Rosh Chodesh" breakfast to promote student unity as well as interaction between students and faculty in an informal setting. I was so impressed with the IBC outlook that I was motivated to serve in the IBC student government for the past two years (junior class secretary/treasurer, senior class president). However, recently I have become disheartened and I am no longer sure what IBC stands for.

When Dean Rabinowitz/Kelda was in charge, the door was always open and the first priority was always the student. However, Dean Rabinowitz stepped down, IBC and JSS combined forces, and that no longer seems to be true.

I know that Dean Well is equally concerned about the students, but I believe that he is overburdened by his dual role (IBC and JSS) and he has lost sight of that objective. He is forced to spend too much time on his administrative duties and unintentionally no longer has time for the students. The impenetrable divider in the office only compounds those difficulties. Even though the Berlin Wall came down, the dividers in the IBC office are still standing, and with the secretaries standing guard it is impossible to see the dean. The key to a healthy student/faculty relationship must be more than just monthly breakfasts, it must be an "open door" policy. "Open door" does not mean that you must make an appointment to see the dean, it means that the door is open, so the students feel free to consult the dean whenever they believe it necessary.

Bring back the old IBC, not the administrative bureaucracy we have now, and tear down those dividers.

Avery Tuchman
SSSB '91



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Stating the Facts

To the Editor,

Your reporter, Shlomo Zwickler, in his article "Unauthorized Lecture Sparks Controversy" (Commentator, March 13, 1991, Page 1) refers to Rabbi Irving Greenberg as a YC and RIETS alumnus. As a contemporary of Rabbi Greenberg, and as an alumnus of both YC and RIETS, I can assure you that Rabbi Greenberg is not an alumnus of either school.

Very truly yours,
Hyman Arbesfeld
YC '53 RIETS '56

The Commentator regrets the error.

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Class Council Roundup

by Dov Chelst

With multiple class governments running social events throughout the year, students tend to get muddled. Class governments intend for their events to attract non-constituents which further complicates matters. This confusion leads one to speculate. Who did what? Which of them did a "good" job? What are their goals?

According to Sophomore Class President Daniel Faizakoff, a class government's job is to provide social events at which students can take a break from their school work. However, Michael Arnold defines his role as Freshman Class President with a slightly wider scope. Arnold says he tries to tailor his efforts towards his constituents; attempting to ease them into college life, drawing them into school events, mitigating their frustration with the meal plan, and addressing issues specifically related to freshmen-occupied Rubin Hall. Senior Class President Avi Lopin points to the Senior Dinner as the major event for his government.

While both Lopin and Arnold express an attempt to tailor some of their activities to their constituents, by and large, all of the class governments run events designed to appeal to the entire student body. Upperclassmen even attend the shabbatonim arranged specifically for sophomores and freshmen. Faizakoff claims that there are too few

students per class to allow for highly focused events. Others assert that due to the generalized nature of class government events, each government feels the need to only furnish students with one event per semester, since this will result in a total of four events per semester.

The major factors contributing to the richness of a year's menu of events are their number, diversity and quality. Unfortunately, many students feel that all three factors were lacking this year. To date, the class council scorecard for the number of events held by student governments, from freshman to senior, reads 3,3,2,2. Since multiple classes coordinated two of these events, the scorecard yields a grand total of 8 events. Two were shabbatonim at Stern and two were comedy events. Numerous other comic events such as a night at Chicago City Limits and a talent show were aborted due to lack of student interest.

Since class presidents emphasize the social nature of their jobs, one student voices a cogent complaint. He asserts that, at many of these events, an imposed tension prevents Stern and Yeshiva College students from interacting in a relaxed setting, which he feels to be one of the events' primary aims. Furthermore, he posits that many of the events don't appeal to the average student.

In contrast, student presidents tend to blame the failure of many of their cancelled activities, not on their inability to interest students, but on a perva-

sive student apathy. Students just don't exhibit any school spirit, they say. They won't sign up for a talent show. They're too busy for a night at Chicago City Limits. Each president emphasizes that he actively campaigned for his events, advertising door to door. Joel Tennenberg, Junior Class President, pointed out that he offered a completely free comedy night in order to motivate students to attend, and they still complained about transportation. Faizakoff, however, the most successful of this year's presidents, did not raise student apathy as an objection.

Class governments furnished the following events this year:

Freshman: YCSC fundraiser selling refreshments while watching Monday Night Football between the 49ers and Giants; day of ice skating; a Stern Shabbaton coordinated with the Sophomore class.

Sophomore: The Stern shabbaton; cruise around Manhattan; the Jackie Mason show.

Junior: A shabbaton at Stern with Sigma Delta Rho; free Comedy night.

Senior: The aforementioned shabbaton; billiards night at Pockets.

The governments plan a number of future events. However, only the Sophomore class has concretized these plans into a Yankee game and Blind Date Night to celebrate Lag B'Omer.

Each student government collects its money for events from two sources, participants and YCSC. Furthermore, each student government holds positions on YCSC. However, in view of the generalized appeal of class governments' social events, one student wonders why they are even necessary. "None of these presidents are important, only Felsenthal and Student Council."

Aliya Club continued from p. 1

401. Avrummy Saks, a founder of the club, explains that the Aliya Club was founded so that people can make the decision to move to Israel effectively and intelligently. Many people have a strong connection to Israel, he says, but need the facts and information to make their dream a reality.

The Aliya Club continues to garner information. In conjunction with the Joint Business Society, the Aliya Club attended a meeting in City Hall sponsored by City Council President Andrew Stein. The conference, entitled "Capitalizing on Israeli R&D Capabilities", focused on the economic benefits arising from the mass aliya of Soviet scientists and engineers. In attendance were Lieutenant Governor Stan Lundine, Dr. Evgeny Levich, Director of Turbulence Research Center, and Dr. Chaim Elata, past president of Ben Gurion University. These speakers highlighted the economic link between New York and Israel and stressed the great economic potential of Israeli industry. Two speakers, Gerald Katz, Chairman of Witco, and Mark Frantz, Chairman of Frantz Medical Development presented case studies on their experiences with operating in Israel. Again, both speakers emphasized that businesses can and do succeed in Israel and invited more American firms to explore the country's economic potential. Mr. Irwin S. Meltzer, President of the American Israel Chamber of Commerce presented the closing remarks.

After the formal close of the meeting, members of the Aliya Club inquired about the career paths available in Israel. Mr. Meltzer stated that his office could provide lists of American firms that operate in Israel. Other participants explained that Israel produces the most sophisticated equipment in the world but lacks knowledge of how to successfully market these products.

In addition to being an information center, the Aliya Club also emphasizes religious and philosophical ideas concerning Zionism. The club sponsors a weekly shiur by Rabbi Maish Taragin on Orot HaTshuva by Rav Kook.

The club wants to serve as a social center as well. Saks calls social problems and cultural dissonance the greatest barriers to successful absorption. However, olim who come from a strong support network - a group that strives for the same goal - adjust more quickly.



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OPINION

Insecure About Security

by Neil Torczyner

Historically, times of trouble have always called for an increase in security at YU. In the mid 1980's, a shotgun was fired into the pizza store across the street from the high school building. YU responded by increasing the presence of security and the NY Police Department added more manned police booths to the neighborhood.

When war broke out in January, YU again decided to increase campus security. For the first month of the semester, there were two guards stationed at every post twenty-four hours a day. This time, however, the increase in quantity did not necessarily mean an increase in quality. The added Burns security men and their rousing shouts of "ID!" did not substantially improve the security at YU. What they did do was prove to be a major inconvenience before eventually becoming just window dressing.

During the first few months of the second semester, YU students showed just how inefficient the security system was at Yeshiva. Students routinely borrowed YU IDs from their friends when they themselves did not have ID. Other innovative students took to replacing their pictures on the identification cards with pictures of contemporary heroes such as Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat. Still other students replaced the IDs in their plastic card holders with Toronto Blue Jay baseball cards. Quite remarkably, very few of these students were caught.

The deficiencies in the YU Department of Safety and Security are not recent developments. Over the past few years, glaring errors have been revealed within the system, but have been swept under the carpet by "higher ups." For example, during the first semester, a crown with semi-precious stones valued

in the three thousand dollar range disappeared from an exhibit in the library. In the weeks following the discovery of the theft, signs appeared in the Morgenstern dormitory asking if anyone had found a lost crown. Lost? Did the Keystone Cops' fine sleuthing ability lead them to believe that a student could find the lost crown while walking to class? Ironically, the guards managed to effectively stop any student from smuggling food into the library during the finals/reading week period.

Another example is the parking area/chop shop on 190th Street. In 1987, YU made lots of noise about the restructuring of the parking regulations in the 188-190th Street area to facilitate angle in parking. The school set up a guard booth and arranged for a shuttle to run back and forth from the area to the dormitories. Now, a scant five years later, very few students park there even during the day. There are countless stories of students whose cars were broken into in front of guard booths.

The real problem does not lie with security personnel, but at the management level. The guards seem to lack direction. It does not appear that there is a standard procedure even for dealing with every day occurrences. This is not the fault of the individual guards because many are not given training before they go on assignment at Yeshiva. There have been reports of guards as young as 17-18 years old serving in our dormitories and buildings.

The recent incident of armed robbers barging into a student dormitory is one more reminder of how dangerous our position is in Washington Heights. In order for YU Security to competently protect the students, an effective policy must be created at the management level and executed by the guards. Otherwise, they remain just guys standing at desks.

Jewish Studies Councils
continued from p. 5

+ **Beis Yitzchak** - Publication of insights into Torah by students. Will come out at the end of the year.

+ **YUSSR** - Donated money to YUSSR for seforim to be sent to Soviet Jews.

+ **Beit Midrash** - Responsible for keeping books in Beis Midrash in good shape, ordering books that are needed, keeping the shelves in order, assigning out the lockers.

+ **Gives Out Money to Various Charities**

+ **Rabbi Druckman Speech** - Rabbi Druckman, Rosh Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Ohr Etzion, spoke to the Kollel (co-sponsored with Chug Bnei Akiva).

+ **Tefilin Checks** - will have upcoming Tefilin checks so students can determine if their tefilin are kosher (to be co-sponsored with JSS).

+ **New Benschers** - Will be donating new benschers to the cafeteria in the near future.

+ **Co-sponsoring various events, clubs** - For example, the Discovery program at Stern on April 25, Aliya Club events, the Bikor Cholim Society, the Philanthropy Society, food for Shabbos for Jews in Washington Heights, shipping supplies to Jews in the Soviet Union.

+ **Seforim Sale** - sale of seforim at discount prices. Brings people from all over the city. "It grossed six figures."

+ **Pesach Products Committee** - Sold shmurah matzah before Pesach. Originally was supposed to sell wine, too, but had problems with a liquor license.

+ **Shabbos in Yeshiva** - rather than have SOY sponsor a regular Shabbos every week, this year SOY set out to sponsor a Shabbos in Yeshiva less frequently, but make every Shabbos sponsored by SOY a great shabbos. "This was 100 percent successful!"

+ **Shavuot in Yeshiva** - in the planning process.

Taubermen
ctd. from p.12

to defeat both schools, but not before the Yeshiva fencers managed to win a substantial number of bouts. Against Bard, Yeshiva utterly trounced their opponents in a 25-2 rout. The foil squad deserves special mention for their exceptional fencing that day.

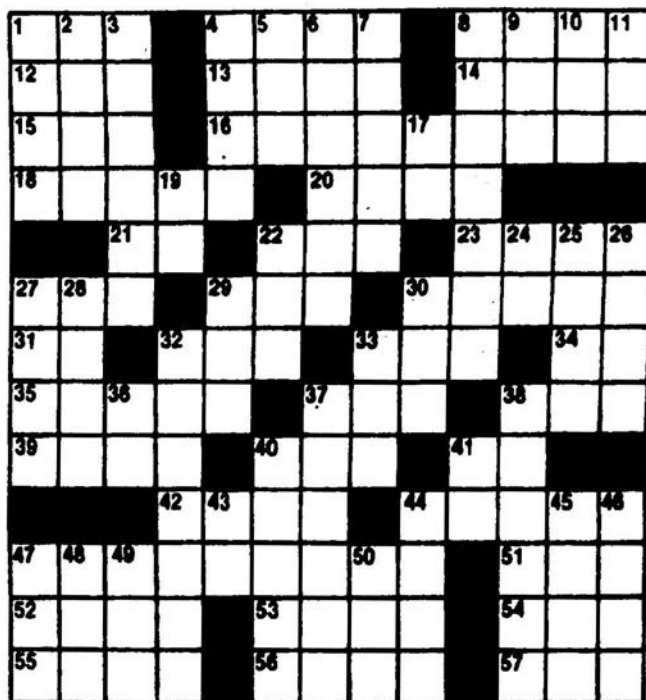
Stevens Tech was the next school to cross swords with Yeshiva, and Stevens Tech escaped

with a very narrow margin of victory. In the final tri-match of the season which followed, Yeshiva met Baruch and City College. Yeshiva started slowly by losing to Baruch. Instead of losing hope, the fencers became determined to beat their classical rivals, CCNY. In another nail-biter of a match that usually characterized the team's losses, Yeshiva beat CCNY by a score of 15-12.

The final bout of the year against SUNY Purchase was not as successful. Although Yeshiva fought

just as intensely as they did against CCNY, lightning did not strike twice for the fencers as they were defeated.

The fencing team ended the season with a record of 3-9, a record that belies the closeness of the individual bouts and the closeness of the matches themselves. This year's team, while not overly victorious, has set a standard of camaraderie, determination, and enthusiasm for the team and for fencing that should be met by all the teams in the future.

Commentator
Classroom Companion

ACROSS

1. Combine
4. Agreement
8. In bed
12. Enemy
13. Winglike
14. Liver liquid
15. Amount (abbr.)
16. Schedule
18. Stretch
28. Profit
21. Midwest state (abbr.)
22. Food bit
23. Beloved
27. Night bird
29. Mineral spring
30. Find solution
31. Jumbled type
32. Piece
33. Feast of lanterns (Japan)
34. Position preposition
35. Come in
37. Age
38. Time Zone (abbr.)
39. Colorless gas
40. Sob
41. Sharp tool
43. Cheese (Dutch)
44. Enough
47. Travel by sea
51. Atom
52. Against

53. English Queen (16th century)
54. Unit of energy
55. Encounter
56. Prepared golf ball
57. Newspaper executive (abbr.)

DOWN

1. Long way off
2. Hemispherical roof
3. A particular
4. Foot trail
5. Cassius Clay
6. Picture taking gadget
7. Regard in a certain way
8. Leave
9. Baby's food catcher
10. Building wing
11. River in Scotland
17. Trampoline (abbr.)
19. Western state (abbr.)
22. Make a choice
24. Elevated railroad
25. Eager
26. Lease
27. Unclosed
28. Fermented beverage
29. Male title
30. Male offspring
32. Help
33. Young man
36. Preposition
37. Weasel
38. Die
40. Diamond weight
41. Morning time (abbr.)
43. Prosecutor's helpmate (abbr.)
44. Older
45. Place in
46. Means
47. Soend
48. Direction (abbr.)
49. Dined
50. Direction (abbr.)



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YESHIVA SPORTS

One on Ones off to Hot Start

by Eric Melzer

On April 14th, Yeshiva University began its first annual one on one tournament. Many enthusiastic fans attended last week's first round matches. Each of the tournament's four divisions were filled with numerous action-packed games.

One of the feature games was in the 6'3" and over category between Saul Stepner and Yoav Citron. The game featured lots of physical, inside play as Stepner managed to open up a three point margin at the half. Citron kept the gap close by hitting lots of 15 footers. In the second half, Stepner widened the lead through consistent baseline drives, good defense, and even a three-pointer. Stepner ultimately won by 12 points.

Another exciting game was a 5'5"-5'9" contest between Marc Rothenberg and Josh Light. Light opened up an eight point margin through a bunch of short jumpers, and seemed ready to cushion his lead even further. However, Rothenberg stormed back and cut the lead to two at the break, after nailing a 25 foot three-pointer. The second half was a dog fight with numerous lead changes. With one minute remaining, the score was tied. At this point, Light managed to connect on two "up-the-middle" drives and won by four.

A third exciting match pitted Ofer Naor against Ilan Kranz in the 5'10"-6'2" division. In the first half, Naor managed to obtain a ten point lead through solid rebounding and precise shooting. Naor led by five at the half. In the second half, the tables were turned as Kranz became the king of the boards. When the final buzzers sounded,

Kranz had a ten-point victory.

The most exciting match of the first round was Baruki Cohen vs. Jon Rosner in the tournament's varsity division. The game was extremely close throughout, as Cohen and Rosner exchanged baskets in both halves. The MSAC crowd roared when Rosner hit the first three pointer of his career late in the second half. With two seconds remaining and Rosner leading by two, Cohen hit a bank shot to even the score and force an overtime. In the overtime, Rosner played extremely tough inside and prevailed by the score of 39-33. Cohen finished the game with 9 three-point field goals.

The top three performances of the first round were by Erez Ben Ami, Yitz Stern, and David Ehrman. Ben Ami displayed more stamina than any other of the tournament's participants and through explosive drives and excellent defense, he was able to win 55-13. Stern also played a superb game; he had the first round's highest margin of victory and top defensive output, winning his match 57-7. Ehrman hit an unprecedented 14 three-pointers as he coasted to a 70-29 victory.

Thus far, the one-on-one tournament has been extremely successful. The most common complaint by the players was that they were exhausted and out of shape for the grueling five-minute running time halves. Many of the players begged for oxygen, pleaded for a time-out, and even feigned injury in order to temporarily stop the game.

The tournament will be held each week on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday until the winners of each of the four categories are crowned.

The Commentator

Taubermen Looking Sharp

by Sheldon Jonas

Under the burden of last season's dismal record, this year's fencing team trained hard and prevailed. Although hindered by injuries to the starting squad, the team won the season opener by defeating Vassar in a nail-biter of a match. The next competition against Drew University was also a close one and was not determined until the final match. Unfortunately, even with the team's unbounded enthusiasm and determination, they lost.

The next match was a tri-match, the first in Yeshiva University history, featuring St. John's (a Division One school), Lafayette, and Yeshiva. The YU fencers first faced Lafayette, a school that has consistently defeated Yeshiva in years past. This time, however, YU fought a very close match and two of the fencers were even able to go undefeated against Lafayette. Against St. John's, the match was not as close, but Yeshiva was able to earn the respect of their St. John's counterparts in that each bout was fought with warlike intensity.

In the beginning of the second semester, Yeshiva met Hunter College, an old adversary whose coach is a former Olympic champion. Once again, Yeshiva fenced well against a characteristically superior opponent. Like St. John's, Hunter was extremely impressed with the determination and skill of YU's fencers.

The next match entailed a long road trip to Rutgers University, one of the toughest opponents of the season. The outcome came down to the final round of fencing and every bout was extremely close. Rutgers, however, barely managed to win.

Next came another tri-match versus New Jersey Tech and Bard University. NJIT was able

Please turn to page 11

SPORTS....SHORTS

Fencers Tangle in Collegiate Tournament

As a result of their excellent personal records, two members of the Yeshiva University fencing team were extended invitations to the 1991 Northeast Regional Collegiate championships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The two fencers are Sheldon Jonas from the epee squad and Jason Bernath from the foil squad.

In the Division One competition, both fencers fared quite well. Although Jonas and Bernath were not able to defeat their challengers, both demonstrated themselves in their respective bouts. Jonas won his bout against C. Okamura of Harvard. Bernath successfully scored four touches against Okamura's foil team.

Jonas and Bernath will represent Yeshiva at the 1991 Northeast Regional Collegiate championships in the foil and epee divisions. The tournament will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 1-3.

The Yeshiva University fencing team will be competing in the 1991 Northeast Regional Collegiate championships. The team will be competing in the foil and epee divisions. The tournament will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 1-3.

Back to Back on Rock

After a long season, the Yeshiva University Tennis team has returned to the court. The team will be competing in the 1991 Northeast Regional Collegiate championships. The tournament will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 1-3.

The Yeshiva University tennis team will be competing in the 1991 Northeast Regional Collegiate championships. The tournament will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 1-3.

The Commentator
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