

Lamm Discusses Future of Jewish Studies Programs

Comments on New Dean and Faculty Reduction

Next year's IBC and JSS students will return to find significant changes in their respective schools. Three 75-minute, parallel time slots will facilitate the taking of classes in either program. Making the case by case approvals for such combinations will be Rabbi Dr. Michael Shmidman, who will replace Dean Well.

Budgetary restrictions will force the relocation of a number of IBC's faculty to other YU schools and possibly out of the YU system. In addition, Dean Well has mentioned the probability of a comprehensive Beit Midrash program for both schools.

To clarify these issues, Commentator Editor Jay Bailey interviewed Yeshiva University President Norman Lamm, who is personally overseeing these adjustments.

Commentator: Rumors have been circulating about budget cuts in the Jewish Studies departments - IBC and JSS in particular - in addition to adjustments in faculty and programs. Can you please clarify some of these issues?

Lamm: Yes. Anyone who is aware of what is happening...today in America, especially in the northeast, knows that there is a financial crunch. We are in the middle of a recession...that's compounded by [monies going to] Operation Exodus... Now we have an anticipated deficit, and we have to make sure that it doesn't exist because you can't live that way. We're not a government that can borrow a trillion dollars. We have to live within our means and living within your means is a virtue, not a vice. And so we

have to take whatever actions we can. It is not Judaic Studies only; it's across the board. It is done also based on what we feel has to be done. In other words, those schools which have kept up their enrollment and have shown a need for a certain amount of funding will *not* be affected. Others, which ought to be doing better, or have a severe decrease in enrollment, we simply have to do whatever we can to make sure there is a rational relationship between faculty size and student body...in an orderly, sympathetic and intelligent way. And we are going to do it with the greatest concern for everyone involved. We are not doing anything in a heartless way, and I must emphasize to you that specifically with regard to JSS and IBC I am completely committed to these schools and I want them to succeed...

Commentator: Much of the discussion, when it comes to the Jewish Studies Schools, specifically YP and its disproportionate size compared to JSS and IBC, focuses on the fact that the latter two have exams and a strict attendance policy, whereas YP students have more "freedom." Many suggest that the simplest way to increase enrollment in the IBC and JSS is simply to tighten up YP. Has this been addressed as part of the problem and possibly its solution?

Lamm: Yes, there is a tightening up, and we are planning to tighten up. But that isn't going to be the answer to the question. It's a contributory cause, but it certainly is not the whole reason. IBC has lost, in the course of the past eight, no...five years, one third of its student

body [ed: enrollment five years ago was higher than it was eight years ago, and in the past two it has also risen. Official figures show that there has been an overall decline, rather than a steady decline]. Now it stands to reason that a faculty that can serve X students is too much for X divided by three. So what do you do? You try as painlessly as possible to redeploy, and to see to it that those who need more faculty will get them, and those who need less faculty will be able to give them and do the best we can.

Commentator: What about program changes in IBC and JSS?

Lamm: Nothing radical for this coming year. After that, everything is open because a school which doesn't change is like a species which doesn't change. Dinosaurs were very powerful animals, but they disappeared because they couldn't adapt. Every school has to adapt -- look at the changes that IBC has undergone all these years -- and all schools *will* change. Of course, if we stop changing we're out of touch with life. Life is flux. Movement. It's change. So if anyone wants to know, will there be new ideas, new programs? Of course! Because if we stop doing that we're in trouble.

Commentator: The changes and adjustments - whether they affect next year, or the year after - who will be contributing to the process? In the 70's there was a Supreme Court decision that prevented Yeshiva faculty members from unionizing because they are

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YU Reps Challenge Subway Changes

by Doron Storfer

In opposing plans proposing elimination of express subway service to Washington Heights, YU Director of Personnel Jeffrey Rosengarten and YCSC President Steven Felsenthal joined with community leaders at an April 23rd meeting held before Community Board 12 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Under the plan, which has now been publicly debated for months, the "A" express train would be replaced by the "Q" express during the hours of 6:00

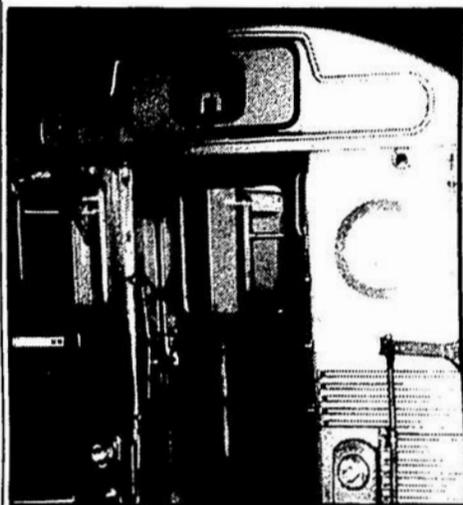


Photo: M. Grynberg

a.m. to 9:00 p.m. weekdays. Weeknights, after 9:00 p.m. and on weekends, the "A" train would use the local track to 207th Street.

In addition to the reduction of express train hours to the Washington Heights/Inwood neighborhoods, the other significant difference would take place south of 59th Street/Columbus Circle. Rather than follow the "A" train's Eighth Avenue route, once at 59th Street the "Q" express train would shift over to the Sixth Avenue line, continuing on to Brighton Beach. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (M.T.A.) claims that the changes are part of a larger plan to establish one local service line instead of the current two which serve the underused Central Park West stations.

According to Jeffrey Rosengarten, the proposed change would serve as a great inconvenience to the faculty, staff, and students of Yeshiva University who use the "A" express train as a direct link to Yeshiva's other Manhattan campuses. YCSC President Steven Felsenthal points out that many students use the "A" express train when returning to Yeshiva after the weekend.

Much has been done to convince the M.T.A. to reconsider. Assemblyman John Murtaugh and Councilman Stanley Michaels, both of whom represent the Northern Manhattan community, held two meetings in early March which were attended by more than 900 people. In front of representatives of the M.T.A., members of the community loudly expressed their discontent over the proposed plan. On March 19, Assemblyman Murtaugh testified before the M.T.A. board at Cooper Union and as

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Photo: D. Benheim

Students attest: Gentlemen prefer Hanes

Security Axes Popular Guard

by Commentator Staff

Amidst circumstances shrouded in secrecy, Victor Allen Hanes, the most popular and respected guard at YU's uptown campus has been removed from his position at the Morgenstern Hall dormitory.

"Vic," as he is affectionately called by the students, had been working in the Morgenstern Dormitory for several

months. According to Director of Security, Don Sommers, Hanes had been previously reassigned to another YU post, but returned to Morg due to student pressure.

Sommers explains that Hanes was not fired, but "reassigned" to a new position at another Burns Security site. According to Sommers, on Tuesday night, April 30th, Hanes "violated rules by allowing a guard who used to work here into the building unrecorded. All he had to do was call the person he was visiting, and sign him in." According to Sommers, this incident did not go on Hanes' record.

According to third floor Morg resident Richie Broth, at approximately 11:00 P.M. Tuesday, several students crowded into the hallway after hearing a commotion. Broth said he saw five guards and a supervisor enter a locked third floor room with a master key, and escort the visitor out. The student whose room was entered said "I've been told that I can't say anything about it. No comment."

Dov Lando (YC '91) has been circulating a petition to have Hanes rein-

stated to his position in Morg. Lando spoke with Hanes, who confirmed that he was fired from his position at YU because he admitted to allowing a former guard into the dormitory, despite his knowing that the guard no longer worked at YU. Lando could be seen in the pedestrian mall last week circulating the petition. "It's interesting that Victor was the only one who consis-

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English Excitement

Kudos to the English Department! Last Tuesday, the full-time professors held an informal dinner/dialogue in the Caf (all right, so the choice of location may have been misguided!). English majors and minors were invited to offer comments of criticism or praise of the English program. All present expressed the desire to see this quasi-social event become more frequent. The following day, Dr. Jacobson took her American Literature Class to see the play "Substance of Fire," with tickets and cab fare heavily subsidized by YC. It is refreshing to see a department concerned with more than simply processing its graduates. We look forward to more of the same as well as emulation by other departments.

Final Problem

The recent adjustment in the calendar to allow for a travel day before Pesach was much appreciated. However in one major area - the finals schedule - the obvious needs of the students have not been taken into consideration. Rebbeim warn students against studying secular studies over Shabbat, but the finals schedule does not offer much of a choice. By scheduling finals to begin the day after a three day yom tov, students are given no choice but to forsake limud torah on Shavuot to study accounting, constitutional law, and physics. It is clearly time to incorporate a student committee into the planning of the academic calendar. Such a simple request is apparently the only way to hope for a schedule acceptable to all students.

Bottle Busha

Many students have complained about the lack of consideration that the residents in Washington Heights demonstrate by blasting their radios at all hours of the night. Yet students living in the Morgenstern dormitory have shown even less sensitivity by dropping bottles (accompanied by primordial screams) out windows at two in the morning. This is not only destructive but potentially dangerous as well. What makes their actions even worse is that as representatives of the Jewish people they contribute to a major Chillul Hashem. It's time for students to grow up and learn to throw away their bottles in the cans provided by the Philanthropy society.

Signs of the Times

The extension of elections to encompass a two-week period shows a lack of forethought by the canvassing committee and a flair for waste by the campaigners. Signs began appearing all over campus last Monday and they have shown no evidence of letting up. In an age of conservation, when man is becoming more aware of his limited natural resources, it is irresponsible to allow students to campaign for two weeks prior to the election. Guidelines must be drawn up for future elections, in order to avoid the tremendous waste of material that has accompanied this election.

My tenure as editor in chief has come to a close, and with it, a long year of heartache and edification, frustration and uplifting experiences. An editor's role at Yeshiva University is fraught with contradictions and misunderstanding. Never before have I felt I had so many supporters and detractors, admirers and antagonists, all at the same time. I've found it all quite bewildering, but also incredibly insightful.

Perhaps the most remarkable discovery for me was the ability of any given Commentator article to elicit literally 70 different opinions and interpretations. From the caf to the Macs, YCSC to MYP, I found that no issue was black and white and no story clear cut. Take the BB gun incident. Should our focus have been security abuses or student recklessness? We're overly harsh on security or did we let them off easy? Should more names have been mentioned? All these viewpoints and more were put forward to me, sometimes angrily.

In general, I took opposite reactions to our articles as a testament to our objectivity. But I also saw an important lesson. On the surface, Yeshiva University appears to be a paradigm of homogeneity - a single body of modern orthodox Jews committed to Torah, Israel and successful careers. But the

YU community is actually quite diverse. Behind the stereotypes stand a thousand individual students, perfectly willing to think for themselves.

I believe that if The Commentator is to fulfill its mandate to the student body, it must remain an unbiased forum where any idea can be expressed and any issue tackled. More than freedom of the press is at stake here. If you silence The Commentator, you are denying the diversity of the community and enforcing a depressing sameness of opinion on the

student body.

But the obstacles are great. My chavruta often jokes that now that I am through with The Commentator, I should return to Yeshivat HaKotel, set up an investigative journal, and expose what's really going on behind the scenes at our Israeli yeshiva. I laugh, knowing full well that there is no tradition of journalism in the yeshiva world. YU is still first and foremost a yeshiva and despite fifty six years of publication, The Commentator is often viewed as a foreign entity.

I view the question of a newspaper at YU as uniquely tied into the Torah U'Madda debate. Like the university it

serves, The Commentator is a grand experiment, on the one hand terribly necessary to the growth of students, and on the other, seemingly incongruous with their religious values. But if western culture *can* be successfully combined with the highest ideals of Torah, then journalism must be part of that equation.

YU has grown from a small yeshiva into three undergraduate schools, six graduate divisions and numerous affiliates. But the small size and seeming

homogeneity of the student body continues to foster a family atmosphere. And a newspaper is as out of place in a family setting as it is in the yeshiva world. The conflict manifests itself in several unpleasant ways.

First, because an author at YU is almost never a "faceless name", students tend to read between the lines. Criticism, especially of individuals, is not accepted at face value, but reinterpreted as part of some kind of "family feud" as it were. The focus of criticism, in turn, believes he has been made the target of a malicious attack.

Second, because The Commentator

remains an anomaly, its editor tends to get lumped together with other student leaders. As a member of this family elite, the editor receives a coveted second floor suite, invitations to meetings and dinners, and angry rebuke when he sides against, exposes or fails to fully endorse programs, projects and platforms of elected student officials.

Putting the journalistic ethic aside, I consider it a great injustice for any writer to have his actual words disregarded and hostile intentions ascribed simply because he has chosen to be critical. A tremendous amount of time and effort (subtracted from school work and normal social life) goes into every Commentator article and to label a piece a hatchet job or a cheap shot is both illogical and unfair. Those who know me and other board members well have only been able to laugh at the suggestion that we have somehow been vengeful or malicious.

Honestly, I think YU can boast the most sincere, responsible and friendliest group of students anywhere, and I don't believe our student leaders are any different. But an editor is not a student leader or at least, he is a very different breed. To avoid bias, he must be willing to stand aloof, even when the most worthwhile project presents itself. And he must be willing to criti-

The Commentator

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The Commentator, on behalf of the student body,
expresses its condolences to
Rabbi Israel Wohlgeleter on the loss of his wife.
May Hashem comfort you among the mourners of Zion
and Jerusalem.

Parting Thoughts

Daniel Oshinsky

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

JAY BAILEY



"It is not up to you to complete the work [of perfecting the world], but neither are you free to forsake it."

Pirke Avot, 2:21

"If we stop changing we're out of touch with life. Life is flux. Movement. It's change." These were Dr. Lamm's words to me in a recent interview (see page 1). And I would be foolish to disagree with him - Yeshiva University has been anything but stagnant. Discussing YU's history with a number of alumni this week, I realized that changes in the outlook of the student body, the curriculum, and religious direction make each decade look revolutionary compared to the last. But change is somewhat of a loaded word used in this context. After all, we can refer to the Spanish Inquisition as change just as easily as the discovery of America. Both changed the lives of many in 1492.

And change is undoubtedly coming to Jewish studies programs at YU.

Perhaps most crucial to these changes is the man who will replace Dean Well. Dr. Lamm considers the selection of Rabbi Dr. Shmidman, head of the City College Political Science department, a carefully researched, logical choice. The President has never had the obligation to include others in his presidential appointments. Dr. Lamm minimizes the practical changes being instituted for next year; time will tell if the students' definition of 'minimal' corresponds to his. But he is quite confident that JSS and IBC will flourish and grow.

And he may be right.

Before my interview, I approached several IBC and JSS faculty members, asking them what they perceived to be the future of the two schools. An overwhelming majority had no idea. After repeated assurances that their names would not appear in print - an understandable concern - these rabbis and professors expressed frustration that their insight, a result of years of experience as well as direct contact with students, had not been a factor in Dr. Lamm's decision. They are genuinely afraid that their school is about to be wounded, perhaps mortally.

And they too may be right.

In terms of actual adjustments, Dr. Lamm spoke only of the redistribution of some of the faculty to keep a logical ratio of faculty to students in a shrinking school. Yet it seems to me that we are dealing with the effect rather than the cause. Faculty and students have maintained for years now that one of the crucial reasons for the lack of interest in IBC is the Alternative. MYP, a program that, for many, begins after lunch, and demands relatively little in the academic/time requirements department. Dr. Lamm considers this program a "contributory" that does not consume other factors.

As a student in IBC, I know that I have not been able to attend the program. The idea of losing my reading week has almost tipped the scales a number of times. As the new Editor-in-Chief, it will be logistically impossible from an attendance standpoint for me or the Executive Editor to remain in IBC, as we go downtown to the printer every other Monday morning. Anyone with time-consuming extra-curricular activities can relate to this problem. Most of you will end up in YP. This problem, for IBC, is not simply contributory.

In a recent conversation, Dean Well agreed with me that attendance and exams are a significant part of the picture. "The rigor, discipline and academic expectations exceed any other Jewish Studies school, and this is a deterrent for some." He also attributes IBC's enrollment problems in part to the lack of name recognition. He explains that many alumni who graduated from Teachers' Institute (the precursor to IBC) have no idea the program still exists - neither do their children! Dean Well does not blame the alumni; without diligent public relations, there is no way to know about a program whose small size renders it the choice for the non-conformist, rather than an equal alternative to YP. How are we dealing with these problems? Dr. Lamm explains that there are ideas being considered.

Why am I so concerned with IBC? Because it has so much to offer - courses taught only in Hebrew, comprehensive Tanach, structured Talmud shiurim, a look at Modern Israel, insight into the historical background of Judaism, and an opportunity to dip into the cultures of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt - a background crucial to understanding the customs and lives of the Avot. Taken together, this formula affords a complete Jewish educational experience.

These opportunities may not be what every student is looking for, especially those who have just returned from Israeli Yeshivot where the emphasis was put on the learning of Gemarah and Halacha. Ironically, it was originally for these students that IBC was designed. Upon return from Israel, a student wanted a shiur in Hebrew, a class in Zionism, in short, a way to keep his Israeli experience alive. Today, Rabbi Meir Goldwicht's IBC Gemarah shiur, conceptualized by Rav Meir and Dean Well exemplifies this ideal. Why is the shiur so small, compared to his YP shiur? I have no answer. The mind-set of the student returning from Israel is all the more reason to offer an attractive alternative to YP, not to assume that there is no interest. IBC must be presented as another first class Jewish Studies program, not a radical alternative. While taking Yeshiva away may be the logical step forward, it does mean the opportunity will diminish. One thing is certain, if the program is not viable, IBC will not only leave a void in the Jewish Studies program, it will cease to exist.

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RESPONSA

Presidential Protest

To the Editor,

I am writing in order to respond in a constructive manner to two articles printed by The Commentator during the 1990-91 academic year. As President of the student council, I have come to expect to be the recipient of numerous complaints from my fellow students and I normally take these complaints as constructive criticism. In addition, there have been one or two times when The Commentator has printed suggestions that have been subsequently implemented. However, there have been two articles this semester that have been neither constructive nor factual and I am writing to express my disappointment at this irresponsible journalism.

The first article appeared in the first issue of The Commentator of the second semester ("Felsenthal - Behind the Scenes or Out of the Picture"). According to all the facts of the article, it seems that the answer to this question was "behind the scenes." The author mentions that during the brief period that he was in my room conducting the interview, I had visits from five different people who needed to consult me about events or activities. However, the author failed to mention that at least that many people come to me for help most hours of every night. An easy way to check that out would be to ask my roommates or my chavrusahs, but the author did not bother to find out what I was doing. The author pictures, and the YCSC Constitution does not, a more visible President. However, he does not realize that if the President attempted to be more visible, class councils, clubs, and numerous other students and administrators and their activities would suffer. According to the YCSC Constitution, all responsibilities ultimately fall upon the President. There has never been a "visible" YCSC President and there probably never will be due to the fact that it would limit the time he has for the students. The author also fails to mention that I am the first recent YCSC President to institute office hours. Student leaders knew exactly when they could find me. In my opinion, it is more important for a YCSC President to be accessible, which I have been, than visible.

My question to The Commentator is, if all the facts in the article show that I was working hard behind the scenes, why is the headline misleadingly negative? Why is all the conjecture in the first two paragraphs negative, while all the facts (for which you have to turn to a later page) are positive? This newspaper is sent to alumni throughout the world and I don't think it is appropriate for The Commentator to editorialize unfairly on the front page. The place for editorials and conjecture is the editorial page, not the front page!

The second article which appeared in the last issue of The Commentator was much more offensive. I am a strong believer in freedom of the press and have never attempted to censor The Commentator or tell them what to print

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CLAL Clarified

To the Editor:

By focusing its coverage of Rabbi Irving Greenberg's lecture on the sensational aspects (was the lecture authorized? were there attempts to suppress it?) and by failing to have the reporter present to actually cover the talk, The Commentator distracted from the substantive issues which are raised by CLAL's work and Rabbi Greenberg's career.

There is a crisis of freedom and assimilation in the American Jewish community. There is less and less contact and respect between the denominations and more and more people of contested personal status as Jews. This raises the danger of a split in American Jewry.

CLAL believes that Orthodoxy can increase its contribution to Jewish survival by reaching out beyond its own institutional programs and educational systems. Orthodoxy can participate in the creation of a 'demilitarized zone' in which all types of American Jews and their Rabbis can meet on a mutually respectful, dialogic basis. In this 'neutral zone', which CLAL represents, there is room for substantive criticism and disagreement but also an opportunity to come to understand the motives and needs of the other side with an eye to narrowing the gap or working out common solutions.

At CLAL, Torah is taught and religious experiences offered. Many Jews who will not come even to the most liberal Orthodox outreach are prepared to come and study in the CLAL setting.

CLAL participants overwhelmingly take on more learning, more personal observance, more commitment to support Jewish education. Orthodoxy itself benefits by recruiting more people and winning respect as well as raising the observance and commitment levels of the entire community.

We think that this policy should be seriously considered. We welcome debate on the halachic, theological and sociological issues involved. Neither suppression nor stereotyped rejection is appropriate in this matter which is central to the future of the Jewish People.

Sincerely Yours,
Alan Bayer
Executive Vice President
The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership

Goodwill to Guards

To the Editor:

Yeshiva University's Security and Safety Department weathered unusually heavy demands this year. It faced the BB gun incident, the threat of terrorism arising out of the Gulf War, and, most recently, the intrusion of armed robbers. Unfortunately, throughout the year Security has also had to face continual and unwarranted criticism, apathy, and, worst of all, a lack of student cooperation.

First, we would like to point out that there was no actual intrusion into any of the buildings on campus, despite one article and one letter to the contrary.

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CAMPUS NEWS

YC Loses Five Full Time Faculty

by Joel Haber

As in the past, many of Yeshiva College's professors will not be returning next year. The reasons vary for each individual.

According to Dean Norman Rosenfeld, five of YC's full-time professors will not be returning next year. Dr. Fox from the Chemistry Department and Dr. Datskovsky of the Mathematics Department will each be closing

out their contracts at the end of this year and will not have them renewed. History professor Dr. Schrecker will be on one year's leave of absence next year to complete research for a book. Professors Posen of the Physics Department and Adler of Psychology will be retiring and are returning next year in a part-time capacity.

Dr. Fox seemed to think that the reason his contract would not be renewed was due in part to monetary constraints. He explained that in August 1989, after teaching part time, he was offered a two-year contract. In September 1990 he was informed that his contract would not be extended. Although the reason given was that "some students didn't like my attitude," Fox feels that this is only an underlying factor. Of greater consequence is

the fact that he is a "high-priced commodity." Since Chemistry is a low-profile major (there have only been two chemistry majors in each of the last two years), Fox feels that the school would rather save money and sacrifice educational quality.

Nevertheless, Fox still holds the students of Yeshiva in the highest regard. He characterized the students here as extremely capable. "I've enjoyed the students and teaching here," said Fox. "In general the students were interested in learning and many students in the classes which I taught were outstanding."

Dean Rosenfeld was unavailable for comment on Dr. Fox's departure.

According to one faculty member, a replacement has already been found for Dr. Fox. Dr. Schrecker's position will be filled for the year by a professor from SCW. The Psychology Department has already been enhanced by the arrival this semester of Dr. Reynolds to fill Dr. Adler's vacancy. Interviews are currently being conducted to fill the other two positions.

Caf Card Buyout

by Eliezer Brodt

On May 1st, the Furman Dining Hall was the site of a great many *shidduchim* between dining card-carrying students and their cash-paying counterparts in the first ever Great Dining Card Sell-Out. This event, sponsored by the YCSC Food Services Committee, gave students on the mandatory meal plan an efficient way of emptying their Dining Card accounts. Students with meal cards "treated" their peers to lunch and/or dinner on their cards, and were then paid back in cash.

Committee members and cafeteria management alike felt the event ran smoothly. "Students took advantage of the service and it worked very well," said Jay Lehman, co-chairman of the Food Services Committee. Added Jeffrey Rosengarten, YU's Director of Personnel: "Everything went reasonably well."

Running alongside the sell-out was the cafeteria's own "Dining Card Warehouse Blowout," which enabled students to buy items in bulk with their meal cards. Although this resulted in slightly longer than usual lines and considerable grumbling from some of the cashiers, Steve Arnold, the Food Committee's other co-chairman, felt that the two events "worked well together."

Arnold and other committee members mentioned that if such sell-outs are in great demand, they will readily do it again. "We want to make sure that students won't get locked into their cards," said Arnold.

Meanwhile, Rosengarten said that the cafeteria was also planning other such events, like a potential "care package" sale during finals week and additional bulk item sales.



Sy Syms Dean Schiff and Assistant Dean Jaskoll join Morg Mart "employees" at a dinner sponsored by SSSB

Spring Renovation Underway

by Stephen Buch

With the first breath of spring comes the work - the work of the maintenance men, that is. Whether it's painting, planting, or just general fixing, at any given time one can see these men on the job. If it's a stubborn elevator, an exhausted light bulb, or a contact lens in the drain, they are the people who "fix" it. They are also the people who have to keep everything from getting broken in the first place (that's why they're called maintenance men). This is all part of what Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Personnel, calls "spring cleaning."

In recent months, the men in brown have kept hard at work on the upgraded Dean's offices, the

Schottenstein Center, many minor projects and the inexplicable replacement of Morg's "6, 7 and 8" with "6th, 7th and 8th Floors." Much of their work, of course, can only be done in fair weather, and all of it must be scheduled "around" students, teachers, and various special events. Accordingly, much of this work is done during the summer. "Every summer, every dorm room gets a complete run-through—anything broken gets fixed and anything soiled gets cleaned," notes Mr. Rosengarten.

The reaction of students to the look of the campus and all of the ongoing work is generally positive. "When I first came to YU, I

Students Join Senior Citizens in Celebration

By David Rozenson

A crowd of 150 senior citizens and students filled Furst 501 for the May 2nd Lag B'Omer celebration sponsored by "Project Sages." It was an afternoon of refreshments, song, and gratitude to the students who gave so much of their time to visit the elderly.

The Ivan Tillem Project Sages, which is celebrating its seventh anniversary and is under the auspices of the Wurzeiler School of Social Work, was founded in order to provide Jewish educational outreach to the elderly of the Washington Heights and the Lower East side communities. For the past three and a half months, fourteen students from Yeshiva College and RIETS have been instructing classes on Jewish theology, joining sixty-five student volunteers from Yeshiva College, Stern, and MTA who visit the elderly on a weekly basis.

Professor Bonnie Beck, who directs the program, expressed her appreciation to the student instructors: "You have proven that being older does not necessarily mean the loss of intellect or curiosity." The elderly, many of whom sat beside their young student friends, seemed eager to show their appreciation. Sara Fried, receiving the certificate which was presented to each one

of the elderly students related, "we are almost reaching the completion of our journey, yet we are extremely curious about our vast and beautiful Jewish heritage and culture ... you have given us the opportunity to explore them, and we thank you."

Ami Aharon, a YC senior, describes 87 year old Herla Hamlin, whom he has visited weekly for the past two years, as a very close friend, with whom he can discuss his thoughts and get "real constructive, intelligent advice." RIETS student Tzvi Weitchner had a group of friends help bring a woman to the program who had not been out of her home for seven months. Ely Rotblatt, another one of the volunteers, enabled his elderly friend to attend minyan every Thursday morning. "The age gap makes no difference to us," said Sadie Sierra, who had travelled from the Lower East Side, where Stern students visit her every week, "they are my friends."

Belz School of Music cantorial students Seth Lutnick, Noam Goodman, and Yossi Rose joined Aaron Deutsch on the piano, entertaining the audience with a special musical presentation, as the crowd clapped and sang along. Songs included Adon Olam and L'cha Dodi, which many of the crowd remembered from synagogue services in the recent or distant past. A slide show and closing remarks completed the event.

Professor Beck is concerned that many of the students involved will be graduating this year, and hopes to find new students to continue the program. Anyone who is interested in becoming part of Project Sages can contact Professor Beck at 960-0830.

expected to find one ugly, disgusting campus," remembers YC senior Richard Ehrlich, "but I was pleasantly surprised." Our neighbors in the community also seem to enjoy going through the JJC grounds, taking time for bicycling, break-dancing, and some high-spirited skateboarding. However, some students feel somewhat dissatisfied. Clearly, our campus remains, well, urban at best.

"This is not a campus. A campus has flowers and trees and grass; a pedestrian mall does not a campus make," declares YC Junior Judah Kaplan. Nevertheless, Mr. Rosengarten maintains that the mall, the flowers, and the benches all make, "the area more conducive to outdoor activities. A pleasant atmosphere generally appeals to people. They seem to be enjoying themselves." YU President Dr. Norman Lamm agrees. "I'm in favor of beauty.... It took a lot of doing, but it certainly was worth it."

Of course, all of the improvements and upkeep require money. Though he would not

even hazard a guess as to the cost of some of the annual improvements, Rosengarten states that "our buildings and grounds are a major investment and therefore we do our best to maintain them." Some things will slide, he admits. "It's like your home...it's an uphill battle and, at times, we lose it." In this regard, Rosengarten notes the role of student cooperation and input. He affirms that students can and do continue to have a say in the appearance of the campus "through their governments, via the Dean of Students' office, and through the standing committees," and that together "we can do our best to keep up the campus."

Lately, the focus on the campus for many students centers around the pool and the crater in front of it. Rosengarten promises "landscaping to restore the area back to a nice look....which will, hopefully, complement the pool." When it opens this fall, we should see a few trees, a "garden" path, new grass, and a familiar sign from last year: "KEEP OFF THE GRASS!"

Dershowitz, Lewin Debate Religion

by Jonathan Taub

It was a homecoming of sorts for Harvard Law Professor Alan M. Dershowitz, YUHS '55, and prominent Washington attorney Nathan Lewin, YUHS '53 and YC '57. Last Wednesday night, April 24, they participated in a debate on the topic of separation of Church and State. This "first annual dialogue," as it was introduced by Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, was held in the Weissberg Commons as one in a continuing series of Torah U'Madda lectures.

The topic was introduced by Dean Michael Hecht, who asked two questions based on the wording of the two clauses

in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which says first that Congress shall pass no law for the establishment of religion, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Dr. Hecht cited a local program that was started 40 years ago, where parents of children attending parochial schools were reimbursed for busing their children. He then explained the basics behind President Bush's proposed educational reforms, which entail parental choice of the schools their children should attend. This policy would not require additional funding. The question then was whether the

busing law violates the establishment clause, and whether the use of government money for Bush's proposed reforms pose any risks to the free exercise of religion.

Lewin responded by citing the Lemon v. Kurtzman case of 1971 where Chief Justice Burger stated that government funding of secular education violated the establishment clause. He said the American Jewish Congress also fought school aid as unconstitutional, citing the Supreme Court decision. Lewin said the Supreme Court decision "set a dangerous trend," and he called the

American Jewish Congress's success in this particular lobby a "tragedy." He said that religious minorities have found themselves at a very disadvantageous position, and that "it is discrimination against religion to tell a minority that it has to meet state standards with regard to secular education," without providing concurrent governmental funding. He thought that the Bush proposals (where funds would follow a child to whatever school he or she attended) were a recognition of religious pluralism, and that we need help for Jewish schools because "they are a necessary precondition in the survival of the American Jewish community." Lewin then showed how the establishment clause had been taken to radical

heights at the expense of the free exercise clause.

He then told a story of a decision in which he was involved, where the Court found that the placement of a menorah in front of the City Hall in Pittsburgh for Chanukah in 1989 was not in violation of the establishment clause. Since the Jewish community was a minority, there was no danger of "establishment" by placing a religious symbol on public property.

Professor Dershowitz began his rebuttal by citing one Supreme Court Justice's decision to vote against the Menorah. This particular justice had stated that the tradition of Chanukah gelt had in effect become a Jewish version of giving Christmas presents.

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Lamm Cont. From Pg. 1

considered "managerial," included in designing the educational program as opposed to simply executing it. Has the premise of this decision been challenged here? Many of the professors and rabbis in the Jewish studies departments are frustrated, as they feel that they have been intentionally ignored with regard to their input for these programs and the selection of the individual who will be replacing Dean Well next year.

Lamm: Let me take [your questions] one by one. First, the Supreme Court did not mandate the Yeshiva to put more power in the faculty. It said that what we have now is managerial. Second, with regard to the choice of a new Dean, I'm simply following tradition and history. None of the previous Deans of any of these Jewish schools was ever voted in by a faculty. They were appointed by Dr. Belkin, alav hashalom, and when I came I just followed the same practice and no one ever found reason to object to it.

Commentator: Haven't there been search committees of some sort?

Lamm: No search committee...it was always by presidential appointment and the faculty had no reason to object to it. In this case I did introduce Dean Shmidman to the faculty and I appointed him. As to the question of program, I have not made any new program changes, and the faculty, of course, will be consulted about that - about what kind of changes we ought to have, and how we ought to improve. And don't forget - IBC faculty have been meeting for some four years. When I asked them four years ago to come up with ideas I spoke to Dean Landman and a few others on the faculty. They spent about 18 months coming up with ideas. I have not neglected the faculty. Participatory democracy is all very good

but when many faculty members just don't attend I can't help it. But there has been faculty input and there will continue to be faculty input to the maximum extent that is possible, in consonance with efficient operation.

Commentator: Is there a possibility, though, that if someone is appointed to head the Jewish studies faculty, without input - not that they should have final say - there may be antagonism towards or internal problems within IBC and JSS?

Lamm: We must go back to history. This has been the tradi-

tion of everything seems to have been fine.

Commentator: [a Jewish studies faculty member] mentioned that he was involved in a Search Committee of sorts for Dean Leiman.

Lamm: I don't recall it. Leiman, actually, was Dean when I came in. But it's possible that with Revel, because it is such a tiny school, you may have one or two people as a committee. I'm talking now about the larger schools... The same thing is true about when I appointed Rabbi Handel as dean of Azrieli. There are cer-

tain things for us in the past.

Commentator: Can we discuss the qualifications and experience that make Rabbi Michael Shmidman the man to oversee IBC and JSS?

Lamm: He is the head of a very large department in one of the schools of City University; I think he has fifty people working for him - larger than our entire faculty. And he has been the head of that department for many years. So he has excellent administrative experience.

Commentator: What department is that?

Lamm: Political Science and

knows them, he loves the idea, he's committed to it, and therefore he's going to be given this opportunity to lead these schools and do something great with them.

Commentator: Does he have any particular direction or suggestions that he has discussed with you, in terms of the future of the two Schools?

Lamm: Only general ideas, because he has to first learn the realities that he is dealing with. He has to learn the facts on the ground. But he is a very thoughtful person, creative, and we are going to give him a lot of assistance, and I will personally give him as much help as possible and I hope he'll succeed. I'm very eager that these schools succeed, and go back to the way they used to be...

Commentator: In regard to helping IBC increase enrollment, are there specific plans in the making? Right now it seems the only action being taken is the reduction of faculty.

Lamm: Redeployment. There's a difference. We want to keep them within the Yeshiva family if we possibly can. In reference to your question, there are other ideas. It's premature now to discuss them because firstly, we are not done thinking, second, Rabbi Shmidman is new in this, and third I do want to consult faculty about this. The older faculty and the younger faculty as well. We're open to new ideas, and we are looking for new ideas, and we will be consulting many people. And I hope that we will have enough of these ideas put into place and prepared so that we will be able to start changing things as time goes on, and see greater enrollments in these schools and on their way to success. These schools are going to succeed, im yirtzeh hashem. There's no question about it. And we are going to do everything we can to help them.

What's Become of IBC?

By Rabbi Louis Bernstein

There's always the warmest of emotions when sitting down to write an article for The Commentator. There's always the recollection of the first article that appeared in print on its pages forty-five years ago.

Would it that an article on education could have been written without the realistic pressures of a depressed economy. The recession (if not depression) has brought on seven lean years with resulting dismissals, layoffs, and other cutbacks in the largest philanthropic and governmental bodies. Universities have not been spared, as the recent student protests in the City University demonstrated.

Yet, even under the best of circumstances, the decline in the Isaac Breuer College's en-

rollment is a very proper concern for the Yeshiva University administration. But it is not only the administration's alone. The concern must be shared by faculty, alumni, students, parents, and the community at large.

Since I fall into four of the categories, my concern and interest must understandably be greater than most people's. I came to the forerunner of IBC, Beit Midrash L'Morim, more than fifty years ago. Its impact and influence remains with me through five decades. The teachers I had then remain major factors in my daily life today.

Surely its goals then were different. We were trained and some did turn out to be Hebrew teachers (the term used today is Jewish educators). This aspect

has been overlooked during these seven years of plenty. Jewish educators today can be financially secure, even handsomely so. My contemporaries used their teaching background to assist themselves financially while they pursued graduate and professional studies.

Their Hebrew studies gave them an insiders perspective as they assumed communal leadership. IBC graduates are usually more involved in communal life than other alumni of our university, excluding the Rabbinate. During the seven lean years it might be advisable to take up Jewish education as a second career.

What is very clear is that

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Photo: YU P.R. Dep't



Rabbi Louis Bernstein

tion in Judaic Studies when I appointed Rabbi Charlop as Dean, when I appointed Rabbi Hirt as Vice President, when I appointed Dean Landman as Dean of Bernard Revel, and before him Dean Soloveitchik...all these appointments were done and everyone cooperated. Faculty was not involved in these choices and ev-

tain schools, because of intimacy, because of size, because of faculty and administration of this university happens to be better acquainted with Judaic Studies than anything else, this is the minhag. It's the mesorah that has developed over the past many, many years. And I simply followed the same mesorah which has been working well

Social Studies. From what we could learn he's been doing an excellent job. So he's an administrator, an academic administrator of proven merit. He's a Rabbi who is a Talmid Chochom, and known as such; he has worked as such. He has worked with young people because a Rav, a modern Rabbi, works with young people. He

RESPONSA

Cont...

President Cont. from page 3

even though, as their last issue pointed out, I could have. In addition, The Commentator claims that they have had problems receiving funding this year. At the beginning of the year The Commentator submitted a budget requesting \$25,050. Last year, the Commentator received \$15,000 less than they requested. The amount they requested last year, although considerably higher, was due to the fact that they did not have new equipment bought by YCSC to cut Commentator costs and make production easier. Therefore, YCSC allocated \$24,000 to the Commentator and they were told by me that if they needed more money, we would "try to work it out." During this year, The Commentator has received almost \$27,000 from YCSC, which is more than one fourth of our total YCSC budget and more than they originally expected. Also, any club leader can attest to the fact that no club (or newspaper) gets the amount of money they request. YCSC simply does not have the budget to allow it. The author failed to mention these facts.

The author claims that the alumni office had the same understanding of funding as The Commentator. Then normal procedure, however, for alumni funds to be distributed is that they are first given to the Dean of Students office, then to YCSC and then YCSC distributes them. Even if a club wants the money, only YCSC has the right to distribute it and the club has no right to take matters into its own hands. A mistake was made by a new alumni director and this should not be interpreted as the normal procedure. The Commentator, according to YCSC, had already received these funds in form of a loan from student council and student council needed these funds in order to fund other activities such as Yom Haatzmaut, Senior Dinner, the Business Dinner, etc... Although The Commentator may have honestly had a misunderstanding of this process, YCSC had the correct understanding because we are the ones who decided upon the funding to begin with, and the funds should have been returned immediately. Instead, we had to resort to threats and force The Commentator into a settlement.

This article was also poorly researched. The author claims that a two man "judiciary committee consisting of the President and the Vice-President"

was established in order to deal with The Commentator's funding. The author also claims that nobody else was consulted about the decision that The Commentator was wrong and that the money should be returned. If the author had bothered to check on this before he wrote it, he would have found that all members of the executive board were consulted and voted unanimously on this issue. The author should have checked this out before making accusations.

The author then voices further concerns implying that YCSC is some sort of dictatorship. For the record, and anybody is welcome to find out for themselves, all decisions made by YCSC are discussed in weekly meetings (every Tuesday night in the YCSC office). Every member of the board has the opportunity to express himself at these meetings and to vote as he sees fit. The decision to request that The Commentator return funds that were not rightly theirs was made by the entire YCSC, each member having his own vote. There is no better system of "checks and balances."

In my years at Yeshiva College, I have been privileged to read and enjoy The Commentator for its literary quality, choice of articles, and good taste and I believe as an alumnus I will feel the same. However, I am very disappointed as are YCSC and the literally tens of students who have approached me to express their outrage at falsehoods, lashon hara, and motzei shem rah appearing in The Commentator. Next time please don't cloak a personal attack in a free speech argument. Next time please have more respect for truth and fairness and remember what Barry Kaye wrote in the last issue: "The public you mention are not merely name-

less faces but are instead often friends who live next door." I have written not to lambaste this past year's Commentator, but to offer constructive criticism for the future. I have faith that next year's Commentator will attempt to right these wrongs and restore The Commentator to the reputable publication that it once was.

Steven Felsenthal YC '91 President, YCSC

Security Cont. from page 3

Also, though it is true that a high turnover rate among the guards continues plague Security, this is in the nature of the occupation. In terms of quality, Yeshiva security guards receive the most demanding training of any campus security force, despite insinuations to the contrary. Perhaps the perception of the guards as merely a "nuisance" stems from a failure to appreciate the deterrence value of uniformed security and an obsession on the part of students to abuse the system. When students at Columbia or other colleges must show their IDs, they do not attempt to circumvent the system (and their own protection) by presenting baseball cards (Toronto Blue Jays), Visa's, or pictures of Saddam Hussein. Why does a simple and sensible system meet with such an uproar? When we are asked for our identification, why do we not assist Security and show our IDs to the guard or driver? We may not always realize it, but often showing our ID affords us a privilege we might not otherwise enjoy. For instance, the van service is a privilege. Accordingly, we should recognize it as such and appreciate the enhancements in service this year, the expanded routes and the increased hours. (The inter-campus shuttle now runs until 1:00 AM on Saturday and Thursday.)

Clearly, the efforts of those people upon whom we depend merit our trust and commendation. Unfortunately,

the action of a few may cause us to neglect the achievements of many. Likewise, many may choose to regard the actions of a few as indicative of the achievements of the many. This is not unfamiliar to Jews--it is the operation of the twin forces of Kiddush and Chillul Hashem. Accordingly, we applaud the administration for their accomplishments, yet we must note failings as well. It is our hope, that by pointing to a problem we may see its speedy treatment and remedy.

Against the successes of this year's Security one recent incident stands out as a problem. On April 22, at approximately 9:00 PM a Hasidic fundraiser attempted to board a van. Although he received a temporary ID several hours before, he was asked repeatedly thereafter to leave the campus. He did not heed these warnings and continued to solicit funds around the campus, eventually accosting several shuttle passengers. It was then that the night supervisors removed him. While they may have acted within their rights and duties in

ejecting him, the ensuing verbal abuse was out of line, as was the insult directed at a student attempting to mediate.

It saddens us to know how many witnessed this incident, yet we hope that all those who witnessed it, heard about it, or are only now hearing of it, realize it as the exception rather than the rule. Generally, Security manages to ensure our safety while safeguarding its humanity. Only through our help can we improve the situation. Security deserves our support, appreciation, and, above all, our cooperation. The Undergraduate Security Committee aspires to help both sides, Security and students. Security serves us, and we can serve them best with our assistance, not our resistance.

Undergraduate Security Committee

Stephen Wallach, Director USC, SSSB '92 Stephen Buch, Director USC, YC '92

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Oshinsky Cont. from page 2

size, even when intentions and dedication are above question. Still, I regret that more than once, my obligation to the newspaper has put me in conflict with people I admire.

It is important to realize that YU has long since outgrown its family origins and evolved into a major university whose influence is felt in many academic circles. Its stars have shined from around the world and the institution is proud to play a major role in the Jewish community. We can all be proud of YU's growth and transformation, but we should also be willing to accept the sacrifices change entails.

A university can only thrive in a democratic environment where free inquiry is paramount. It is for this reason that the free press has always played an integral role in American universities. YU can be no different.

Although here I am biased, I do believe the University can be proud of The Commentator as well. I certainly am. We put out thirteen professional issues on schedule and with our new desktop publishing system at minimum cost. My father once headed the implementation of a similar system at YU. I am proud of the staff who made it happen.

A broad range of issues were covered. Torah U'Madda conflicts, College cheating, security abuses, MYP failure, and practical Aliya to name but a few. Our feedback from alumni was almost entirely positive. Towering stacks of paper diminished in an instant. Letters and op-ed pieces were plentiful and displayed prominently, even when critical of our performance. And we broke the gender barrier, leading up with our Stern counterparts to produce the first joint Commentator/Oshinsky issue ever.

However, I tend to think the reputation of The Commentator depends not only on what we produce but on who we are. I couldn't have asked for a more outstanding board. Even at five in the morning, neither their dedication nor their sense of humor wavered. Despite all the heartache, the countless all nighters, and the constant conflicts, given the same team to work with, I would do it all again.

Finally, if you're still with me, I'd like to thank my loving family and my terrific best friends and our YU (you know who you are) without whose support I wouldn't have ever lasted a year. Take it easy, I'll see you next year. The Oshinsky staff.

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Advertisement for Oshinsky, continuing from page 2. The text discusses the newspaper's role in the Jewish community and expresses pride in the staff and the publication process.

Dershowitz-Lewin

Cont. from page 5

This "accounts for the social prominence of Chanukah in the U.S.," which meant that the American Chanukah was a Christianized version of the holiday. Citing the adage "He who pays the piper calls the requiem," Dershowitz said that if one seeks state funding of religion, one will have to accept "their" version, and the uniqueness of religious holidays would be lost to Jew and Christian alike. According to Dershowitz, the uniqueness of the First Amendment guarantees that we do not become merely a "tolerated" minority, but retain full citizenship rights. Yet, said Dershowitz, "From 1862 to 1942, there were amendments drawn up every year to recognize that the United States was a 'Christian' nation; we really were 'tolerated' for the first century of this country's existence. We are full citizens of this country; we are as good as anybody else; we have contributed more than anybody else. Anyone who accepts a second class status accepts that this is a 'Christian' country." He then stated that the First Amendment's first and second clauses "are in tandem," he said that the U.S. was not a

Christian, or "Judeo-Christian" nation.

Dershowitz went on to explain why he feels that Jews should push for the rigorous separation of church and state: "We are no longer the third largest religious group in the U.S...The only way to ensure equality is to make sure that the government does not recognize religious establishment or religious preference. Pluralism means no preferences; once we do that we start getting into the question of 'What is religion?'" One example, he said, was the claim in Massachusetts that a Moonie prayer was not acceptable in schools because it was not a "real religion;" another was when Jews for Jesus wanted to read the Megillah one Purim on the M.I.T. campus. Referring to Lewin's story, he said that "a menorah belongs in the window of our homes. It only belongs on a public lawn if you're prepared to deal with the question of Jews for Jesus; in that case, are we really better off?" Dershowitz concluded by saying that "free exercise" does not mean "subsidized". "We are so economically well off now; why do we need subsi-

dies? We've survived without it; in the old days, we didn't ask the government for anything. I get worried when we have to ask for handouts; we had to build our own hospitals, support our own priorities; tzedakah is defending our freedom. The alternatives? Look at every other country on the world." Dershowitz then cited the case of RIETS alumnus Rabbi Simcha Goldman, an Air Force psychologist who took the Army to the Supreme Court because they did not allow him to wear a yarmulke. The Court ruled for the Army.

Lewin countered first by stating that Congress passed a bill which in effect reversed that decision, which he himself had lost in the Supreme Court. "We need all the accoutrements, all the display of public recognition," he said. "We are only becoming third because of intermarriage; we need Jewish identification in the U.S. The menorah is the only identification we can use during Christmas; it shows that Jews in this country are there!" In response to Dershowitz's assertion that the American Chanukah is a Jewish answer to Christmas, Lewin cited Justice Blackmon's decision, where he used the brachot of Chanukah candles and the story of Chanukah itself to show that the Jews "do not water down the menorah to Christianity. The Supreme Court did not secularize the menorah.... We have to stand up and say that we don't encourage secularization; what we want is a multiplicity of religious expression, not homogeneity." Dershowitz said the only alternatives in the U.S. are that we are either a Christian or secular state; eliminating secularity invites the U.S. to turn into a Christian state. "There is no precedent of any other state without an official religion." He then said the "Chanukah is not so high in the hierarchy of Jewish holidays; yet the menorah stands in the shadow of the Christmas tree. I fight against all religious symbols. Having lost the fight against the

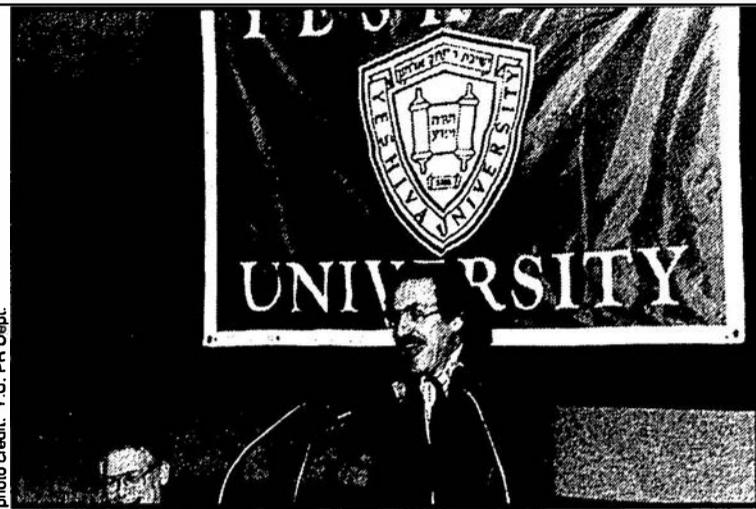


Photo credit: Y.U. PR Dept.

Alan Dershowitz: Argumentative yet Entertaining

Christmas tree, should it stand alone without the menorah? That's a hard question." Dershowitz said his view of a secular state was "not one where religion didn't thrive, but where the state has no position on religion. In other words, do what you want at your own expense; don't ask the rest of us to pay for it. Do we want to pay for Jim and Tammy Bakker's haggadah?" he said, referring to a gift the ex-minister had sent him. He said that he almost agreed with Jesse Helms on the issue of government funding of the arts; "I don't want censorship; if the government pays, it gets the excuse it needs. You can tolerate anything as long as you don't have to pay for it." Can we ask the court to fight for us? "We can't ask the state to leave its position of neutrality, I don't want the government to get into debates about religion. I like Justice Brennan's position; leave religion to the religious, leave the state to the secular."

The next question posed by Dean Hecht was whether civil law should enforce Jewish observances. He specifically referred to kashrut, eiruv, gittin, and agunot, and asked whether such laws violated the establishment clause. Dershowitz addressed the problem first, stating that eiruv were not a high priority; "we lived without it in cities. It can be built without state help; all you have to do is buy easement rights." Regarding Kashrut, he said that the state was entitled to help avoid deception and fraud. "There are laws ensuring that you're selling what claim to be selling. You can't get into political disputes of Satmar and Bobover; you can only deal with fraud."

Dershowitz then turned to the problem of gittin, saying that he had drafted a statute that would solve ninety percent of the problem. It stated that a court had the jurisdiction to inquire whether there were practical barriers to remarriage, and require that a get be granted before any civil divorce. The problem was that: "they wanted to solve one hundred percent of the problem, and someone added language that made it less secular. For instance, what would happen if a man was no longer religious and did not want to submit to a religious

court?... A secular state is not better, it's just less worse."

Lewin provided an update of the gittin issue, saying that a law had been passed in New York that required an affidavit to be filed in order to remove any barrier to remarriage, before any civil divorce was granted. "Does this solve ninety percent of cases? No. Twenty percent? Maybe. But it survived constitutionalism." As far as Kashrut, he said that there is already a bill in New York and New Jersey that enforces Kashrut under consumer fraud laws. "The ACLU has fought this bill on the grounds that Orthodox standards of Kashrus are the ones applied," he said, "despite the fact that all denominations agree that Kashrus has to be Orthodox."

In response to Dershowitz's point that a secular state was "less worse," he said that the ultimate secular state was the USSR. "When our founding fathers wrote the establishment clause, they were trying to avoid a Church of England. Let me ask you: Where can Jews practice more freely, in the USSR or UK? I'm in golus in the U.S. I want my freedom of religion here. Should I tell the Christians to remove their symbols? I want my religious symbols out there; all the more power to them if they do too." He quoted Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch as saying not to offend non-Jews by interfering with their holidays.

Dershowitz countered by saying: "I'm not in golus; I stand for the rights of Jews. I'm a first class American, not a guest of Christianity. I won't accept it; I won't let my kids say a prayer in school. It's my America, not their America." He called Lewin's designation of the USSR as the ultimate secular state a "flawed analogy; they have an established state religion: atheism! Judaism will survive--will be stronger--without help."

Lewin agreed that he was not a "guest;" rather, he is "part of the American fabric, which is a democratic fabric. I am a minority and I recognize that. The majority has certain views; our control of their views is anti-democratic." Dershowitz nodded in assent. Lewin continued: "We can't tell the government to make everyone the same. We say: recognize the

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YCSC '91-'92: Who's it Going to Be?

Joel Tennenberg?

by Dwayne Pechet

As election fever comes to a peak, students and professors have been besieged by a barrage of signs and election slogans from the various candidates. At times, this makes it difficult to distinguish between the different candidates and offices. However, despite this bombardment, the attention of the student body seems to be clearly focused on the YCSC presidential election and Joel Tennenberg, one of the candidates in this year's race.

Tennenberg is a YC Junior and a stu-



PHOTO CREDIT: D. BERENSON

dent in the Mazer Yeshiva Program. He is majoring in Political Science and hopes to pursue a career in Law. Tennenberg has a record of involvement in the political forum of Yeshiva College; he was Sophomore Class President and presently serves as Junior Class President. He is also an associate judge on the Student Court and has participated in the Harvard Model U.N.

Due to his experience over the last three years, and the aggressive attitude he claims to possess, Tennenberg sees himself as the "man to step to the forefront and act on what he has witnessed." He feels that he is the candidate best suited for the job of YCSC president. He sees the role of president as serving a threefold function. The president should oversee the proper allocation of student funds to the various YCSC organizations. In addition, he should guide class council activities and clubs. Finally, the president must serve as a mediator between the students and the administration. Tennenberg views this function as the most important. He is convinced that a "president must be capable of unifying the wants and the needs of the student body to be successful at his job."

Although Tennenberg seems confident in his abilities, he recognizes that there are underlying problems which plague YCSC and the student body as a whole. He feels that over the past year there has been an overwhelming indifference to Student Council events. Students are either too busy with previous engagements or are uninterested in the events that are being offered. He traces this problem to the broader issue of a general misunderstanding and lack of communication between the students and the councils and clubs which representative them. He feels that students are unaware that the YCSC and its clubs are there for student use, and as sound-

ing boards for complaints and suggestions. He therefore suggests that an open forum between elected representatives and the student body should be held several times during the course of the year. At these forums, students could openly voice their concerns and suggest ideas and events that they find appealing.

Another problem which Tennenberg sees in the school is a lack of school spirit among students. He believes that students view YC as a "Monday through Thursday job, but not as a complete college experience," which he feels YU can offer. Although he does not expect "an overnight miracle," Tennenberg asserts that YCSC should become more actively involved in promoting events, such as basketball games, which are capable of drawing large crowds. He also wants the administration, with the help of YCSC, to become more actively involved in bringing in well known speakers such as Alan Dershowitz who "draw the student body, improving YU's image internally and externally."

The final problem which Tennenberg wants to address is the lack of communication between the clubs and YCSC, which is responsible for the budgetary demands of the various clubs. Many times, Tennenberg saw certain clubs receive money when it was not fully deserved. As a result, other clubs in need of money suffered. He advocates having meetings several times during the course of the year between the executive board and the club presidents to "ensure the efficiency and productivity of each club because budgetary allotment should be based on club performance." He also hopes that these meetings will allow the council and the clubs an opportunity to familiarize themselves with each other so "student government can operate as a cohesive unit within the school...."

Tennenberg seems confident that he is the man most capable of being the next president of YCSC. His past experiences, coupled with his hard working approach, are what he feels to be the necessary ingredients for success. He believes that he is the man on top of the issues facing YC and that he can offer the necessary solutions for any problems which will arise.



Class Council Competitions Crystalize

By David Polinsky

This year's Senior class race features three candidates. David Gershbaum declares that as president he would have the power to organize the senior dinner, and arrange other class events. Additionally, he states that he is interested in building a strong relationship between the governing and student body. By forming this association Gershbaum feels he can determine the needs of his peers with greater success. When questioned as to why he should be elected Gershbaum answered, "The bottom line is that I get things done. I'm resourceful, efficient, and responsible."

Another candidate, Joshua Pollack, asserts that the class president's primary function is to budget the funds allotted the class council by the YCSC

executive board, while planning events at least once a month. Pollack intends to include Broadway shows and some original activities among his monthly events for the senior class. By planning these events he hopes to "provide opportunities for people in the senior class to let loose and have fun." When asked why he thinks that he deserves to be elected he stated: "I'm capable, intelligent and will provide the greatest diversity to make the senior year most enjoyable for all."

The list of contenders for senior class executive is completed with David Silverblatt who claims he is "determined to work hard to ensure a terrific senior year for all." Senior events, he states, will range from "sports to Broad-

way plays to on-campus activities....a plethora of exciting events." Silverblatt maintains that he is suitable for the position based on his thoroughly demonstrated ability to effectively organize and stimulate improvements. Some of his experience includes acting as News Editor of The Commentator and Director of the Security Committee.

The race for Junior class presidency is also composed of three candidates. Daniel Faizakoff, the reigning sophomore class president, has to his credit the "Best Class Council Award" presented by outgoing YCSC President Steven Felsenthal. He plans on focusing attention on next year's schedule, which doesn't provide the students with a vacation from the beginning of the semester until intersession. To combat these

David J. Kay?

by Jonathan D. Blum

Here is a candidate who says he is determined to see to it that YCSC, the student body, and Yeshiva University in general, will never be the same again. "Next year is going to be a good kick in the pants for this school," says David Kay, who wants reform, and means business.

His main objective is a whole new school spirit. "No one's excited," he explained in an interview. "I look around, and I say to myself 'this school needs someone to give it a good shake.' I want to build school pride! I want to get more involvement on the part of the students!"

The first way that Kay intends to instill new spirit is by improving life on campus. His proposals include a lot more social events and his list of things "we really-should-have-them-but-don't'."

Kay intends to arouse new spirit by bringing democratic government back to the student body. "YCSC," says Kay, "has 17 members, and none of them has had anything to do with YCSC's decisions...The Executive Committee [i.e. the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer] is doing everything, and the other members aren't even being invited to the meetings.... The positions have been desecrated."

YCSC, says Kay, has become a secret organization. The student body, aside from not being adequately represented at Student Council meetings, has no knowledge of decisions which are made behind the meetings' closed doors. "Student Council meetings should be open to the students," insists Kay. "Students should have an opportunity to stand up and address the council."

Kay says that if he wins, all YCSC meetings will be open to the students. Not only that, but the meetings will be advertised, and will follow a regular schedule, in order to ensure that the students know when they are taking place. When the Student Council votes, he continued, all 17 members will vote, including all the class officers, and the SSSBSA president. With everyone participating, he went on, the now inactive class officers will be encouraged to take a more active role in planning and running activities, which will create an opportunity for the executive committee to play a much needed administrative role - helping the class officers unite their efforts, keeping events cost efficient, and petitioning the administration.

Another problem, Kay explains, is that SSSBSA has been totally cut off from YCSC, because the president of SSSBSA has not been invited to YCSC meetings. According to the constitution, the president of SSSBSA is sup-

posed to have a vote in YCSC decisions. "I'm not blaming Felsenthal," he clarified. "It's been done every year like this...Felsenthal just continued it, like everyone else...It's become the tradition."

Kay realizes the extent of the reforms he seeks, and says "Obviously, I'm going to see it as my job to motivate all YCSC members to cooperate." In fact, Kay sets himself apart as "blatantly more qualified for the job than practically anyone else here." Right now, he is the

Chairman of the YC/SSSB Senate, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Junior Class, the Assistant Editor of The Commentator, and a regional coordinator of Yachad, among other things. He estimates that he spends "fifty hours a month on YU causes, no exaggeration," and says, "the rest of my spare time is spent doing kiruv."

Kay realizes that his opponent has a great deal more popularity, but sees it as a minor set-back. "There are three kinds of positions: There are positions which involve a lot of image, hype, and profile... and some work; there are positions which involve an awful lot of work, but where you get very little recognition for it, and there are also some positions which are a combination of both."



PHOTO CREDIT: D. BERENSON

Kay hails from Winnipeg. He is a Biology major, with a minor in Speech and Drama, and is enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program. Next year will be Kay's fourth full year on campus, and presumably his last. If he is elected, he intends to make it a year of many firsts.

Carey Schreiber boldly declares, challenging all the other candidates, that if he is elected, YC and Stern will see the "best social events ever...if there are any monetary constraints I'll go out there and raise the money myself...I want to circumvent the limits." He feels he can handle the responsibility of the presidency as he writes in his campaign ads: "I'm a serious and 'with it' student who puts 100% into any endeavor that I undertake."

The competition for sophomore class president is fierce. The fight is between Richard Maron and Richard Maron. Although not normally an endorser of candidates, The Commentator hopes that Maron will rise to the occasion and win.

V-P's and SSSBSA

By Torin Rutner

Seth Frolich lists responsibility and capability as his primary assets for becoming YCSC Vice President. Frolich has proven this through the YU High School Model UN, which was his original idea from the start and required extensive dealing with YU administrators. Frolich's involvement in YC activities includes positions as Vice President of the Pre-Law Society and Director of the Undergraduate Security Council. His activities extend beyond merely YC: NCSY chapter advisor, volunteer for an old age home, Camp HASC, and the Jewish Survival Fund. Frolich's many plans for office include major cafeteria reforms: "The Caf will have a million dollars a year in mandatory student funds coming to them, yet they lack both the physical space and the food quality for all the students." He also wants to see more social/educational programs for YC students, like more cultural events and Broadway plays. Perhaps most significant is his intention to see more interaction between SOY and YC, including sponsoring special weekly shabbat.

Steven Usdan, with competent credentials, displays his intent on becoming the next Vice President of YCSC with his various platforms. Usdan was the founder of the YU debating club and serves on the board of Hamevaser. He helped coordinate the rally against "Zionism is Racism" at the U.N. and is the Executive Vice President of the Coalition for Pollard. Usdan is committed to the priorities and interests of the students helping to improve campus life. As a priority, Usdan hopes to accommodate student parking needs to the fullest extent possible. He wants to work with club leaders on initiating and planning events. He hopes to promote an open door policy welcoming student input and perspectives, a major variation from current YCSC practice regarding student input. "I want students to come to me and ask me how I can help them, and with their input, YCSC can move into one of its most successful years ever."

The SSSBSA presidential campaign seems to have two well qualified candidates. This election will be a close one and will be well worth the tremendous effort both candidates have devoted.

Laizer Kornwasser, running

please turn to page 10

Two Treas.
by Jonathan D. Blum
Two key positions which students will have to vote for in the upcoming elections are those of Secretary and Treasurer of the YCSC. These offices make up half of the four-member YCSC Executive Committee, which in recent years has held most of the executive power in YCSC.
Amiel Lindenbaum is running for Secretary. He is an events coordinator for the Statewide Executive Board of NYSIPAC and a chairman of the YC Philanthropy Society. Lindenbaum does not plan to push for radical reforms in office, and said, "I think the last Student Council did a good job." He did say that he wants to run some worthwhile programs which will improve both YU's social and its intellectual life, at the same time.
Sageer Wallace is running for Treasurer. He is a member of the YC Council and has worked for the YCSC in the past. He said, "I am an excellent bookkeeper. In fact, Lyons has been employed as a bookkeeper by Raskas Industries." Lyons said that if he is elected, he will be open to suggestions from the students. As he put it: "I will see myself, at all times, as a representative of the student body; they'll be the ones in power." Lyons explained his desire for the position this way: "I feel that the school has given me a lot, and I want to have a chance to reciprocate before I leave."

"A" Train Cont. From page 1

serted that the "A" express train should follow the Eighth Avenue line during the hours of 6 a.m. to midnight weekdays, and weekends. He also recommended that the "Q" express idea be abandoned entirely.

In addition to the discontent expressed at the community meetings, a petition was circulated and signed by YU undergraduates and sent to the Transit Authority. Yeshiva University also offered to join other community leaders in meeting with the president of the M.T.A. to directly discuss the issue at hand. YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller will represent the University should such a meeting materialize.

With the issue still unresolved, the general consensus is that YU and the community will not have the "A" service to which they are accustomed. However, the changes may be minimal, perhaps coming in the form of less late-night service. A Traffic and Transportation sub-committee has been established by the Community Board to see that proper attention be focused on this issue.

SSSB

Cont. from page 9

for SSSBSA president, has a long list of proposals which begin with the premise that the students of SSSB deserve more than what they have received in the past. Kornwasser's experience should not be overlooked. He was business editor of the Guide to the Perplexed, bringing in more funding than any of his predecessors. He sits on the Student Court and participates in Project Sages. Kornwasser is also an SSSB student tutor in Accounting, Stats for Business, and MIS, and was layout editor of the Business Journal last year. His proposals include student/executive seminars with big name CEO's from the Board of Trustees to get students involved in different business scenarios. He wants to bring back the SSSB Journal with plenty of student input. He also seeks to reinstitute the big brother program to assist first year SSSB students and to bring the Chaykin CPA review course to campus. Kornwasser remarked, "Through student council activities, students will start to feel pride in SSSB and finally see fruits of their labor paying off."

Moshe Zwebner, running for SSSBSA president, feels that his tremendous experience and know-how is why SSSB students should vote for him. A small sample of his experience follows: He was business editor for Hamevaser and The Clarion, P.R. manager for these for sale, and is presently Vice President of SSSBSA. He was in charge of the SSSB tutorial service involving over fifty students, and organized business writing seminars. Zwebner wants to start a pre-registration advisory program to help new students with guidance, working with both undergraduates and administration. He wants to plan more shabbatons, especially one in which professors, students, and representatives of business firms would participate. He hopes to make the Business Journal into a much larger success next year. Zwebner also wants to continue student tours of various business firms.

YCSC Marks End of Year

by Michael Z. Kellman

On the weekend of April 26-27, YCSC and SCWSC sponsored a shabbaton at Stern college. The SCW-SSSB Student Council and the Torah Activities Council also co-sponsored the event. The shabbaton featured Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm as its guest speaker.

In his speech on Friday night, the president exhorted the students to increase their activism. He compared times from Jewish history when Jews have been active, such as Ezra's and Nehemiah's return to Israel, to times when they had shown "quietism," or reliance on God. Concluding that there must be an element of both in Jews today, Rabbi Lamm cited Nachshon ben Aminadav as his example. Although God was responsible for parting the Red Sea, he required Nachshon,

an activist, to jump into the water in order to begin the miracle.

On the Thursday night preceding the shabbaton, YCSC held its annual Awards Dinner. Among the awards bestowed were "Best Club" to The Philanthropy Society and "Best Event" for the Junior Class' Comedy Night. Hatzolah was honored with an award for "Best Service to Students." Additionally, Ami Aharon and Reuven Harow were acknowledged for "Service to the Student Council." The newly-instituted Senior Awards (which were voted on a second time) were also presented at the event. Finally, each member of the executive board received a certificate, Vice President David Borowich received a gavel and President Steven Felsenthal received an inscribed clock.

Guard Cont. from pg. 1

tently asked for I.D.s even from people he knew by name, and something like this warrants his removal from YU."

Hanes is best known for his famous "I.D. GUYS!" and "I am checking for Identification at the present time," accompanied by a friendly smile. YU students have grown to appreciate Hanes for his persistence in doing his job, and for his ability to interact well with students. Students are in an uproar; the circulation of a petition is clearly indicative of the void which is being felt by the students. "It's upsetting that they remove the only guard who was able to establish a rapport with the students while still doing his job," says Charles Rube, YC '91.

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Nominations for 1990-91 Commentator Awards

RESPONSA Cont...

Outstanding News Article

- issue #3 "Death Threat to Jewish Children" -David Silverblatt
 #3 "Mandatory Minyan for JSS Sophs" -Martin Goldberg
 #4 "Students Respond to Kahane Killing" -Shlomo Zwickler
 #5 "Dorm Counselors: Why Only YP?" -Stephen Buch
 #6 "Protesters Told not to Wear Kippot" -Michael Z. Kellman and
 Neil Torczyner
 #7 "Tendler Takes the Stage" -Moshe Friedman
 #8 "Draft, Reserve Duty May Bring War Home" -Moshe Friedman
 #11 "Taking Stock of the Clubs" -Michael Z. Kellman

Outstanding Feature Article

- issue #3 "Your Rights and Theirs" -Andrew Goldsmith
 #4 "Me & My Car" -Ezra Kahn
 #6 "Flight to Freedom" -Avi Lopin
 #7 "Torah vs. Madda: Halachic Framework" -Donny Posner
 #9 "Point & Counterpoint" -Jonathan Tropper and Hayyim Angel

Outstanding Photograph

- issue #3 "Russian Girls Giggling" -J.J. Hornblass
 #3 "Funeral Procession for Mr. Samuel Lamm" -David Silverblatt
 #5 "Macs Soar Through Home Opener" -Joshua Sindler
 #5 "The Pizza Store is Where it's at" -David Leventer
 #7 "Chanukah Fest" -J.J. Hornblass
 #7 "Crowd Eats Up Victory" -Joshua Sindler
 #8 "Rabbi Lamm Watches Season Come Undone" -Joshua Sindler

Outstanding Contribution

Eric Melzer and Ronnie Aranoff -Sports
 David Leventer and Dudy Stark -Artwork

Sustained Excellence

Hayyim Angel -Features
 Moshe Friedman -News
 Avi Lopin -Features
 Neil Torczyner -News
 Jonathan Tropper -Features
 Shlomo Zwickler -News

Winners to be Announced at The Commentator Dinner on May 15th.

Aliyah to Morg?

To the Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some inaccuracies which appeared in Tommy Weinberger's article about the Aliya Club using Morgenstern room 401. To be frank, my comments were misrepresented. The article implies that my sole concern is the allocation of a student lounge to a club for its use. This is not true. I also did not "complain" as the article claims, but rather I raised some issues with both Rabbi Cheifetz and Avrami Saks. This is the first time (to my knowledge), that a club has been given a lounge in a dormitory for them to identify with and be identified by. This act generates a host of questions which I feel have not been adequately answered. Since Mr. Weinberger did not feel it prudent to list them in his article, I will.

1. Precedence. If a lounge, which previously had been designated for use by all the students, is given over to a specific club, does that mean that the club has the right to ask people to leave? For example, if a group of people are studying in that room and the club wishes to hold a meeting, can that group of students be asked to leave during that meeting?

2. Responsibility. Who is responsible to maintain the room? Until the Aliya Club moved their materials into room 401, it was the responsibility of

the floor in general and of me specifically to insure that the room was kept clean and regularly maintained. Now that the Aliya Club has been given use of the room, what exactly is their responsibility for Aliya Club materials? Barely two weeks after the club moved in, some of their literature has been torn down or defaced. (While such actions are abhorrent, some people unfortunately do not have consideration for other's property.) Are the residents of the 4th floor Morgenstern responsible to maintain Aliya Club property in a lounge/resource room on our floor?

3. Perception. While I in no way intend to accuse the Aliya Club of "stealing" or preventing anyone from using the lounge, I am concerned that the room will come to be viewed as the Aliya room and not as the lounge it is. This impression may make people feel barred from using the room. If however, there were an additional source of aliya information on campus and they were informed of it in room 401, then this problem could successfully be avoided.

These are the issues which should be addressed. I am confident that solutions to these and all other problems which arise in the future with regard to this issue can and will be resolved.

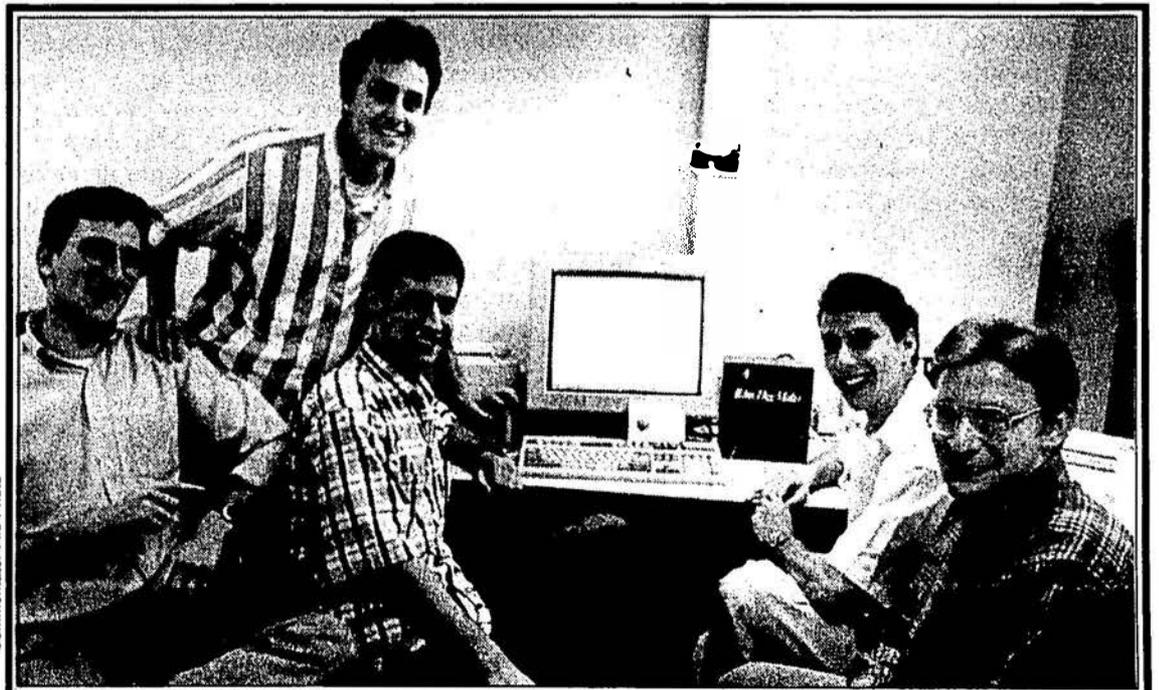
Daniel Schwartz
 Dorm Counselor, 4th Floor
 YC '91

*Don't Forget Yom Yerushalaim
 this Motzai Shabbat!*

The staff of The Commentator would like to extend a hearty farewell and good luck to their departing board members-

Daniel Oshinsky, Tommy Weinberger, Charles Rube, Daniel Loskove, J.J. Hornblass, Jonathan Tropper, David Gellman, Dovvy Prince, Naphtali Levin, Gilaad Deutch, Moshe Friedman, Richard Ehrlich, Josh Sindler, David Sheffey, Avi Lopin and Dov Cheist.

Congratulations on an outstanding year!



The Driving Force behind the production of The Commentator, Vol. 55

Tendler Discusses Brain Death and Halacha

by Ari Blech

Your mother lies unresponsive in a hospital's intensive-care unit. Machines keep her body "alive" and you contemplate "pulling the plug." Or your child, badly injured in an automobile accident, requires a liver transplant. To prevent oxygen deprivation, doctors must remove the new liver while the donor's heart still beats. Do you accept it? What does halacha prescribe -- and proscribe? Technology marches on, stirring in its wake a host of such dilemmas. Of immense importance for the families involved, these issues also highlight the relationship between science and halacha.

At an April 15th lecture in Belfer Hall, Rabbi Dr. Tendler, obviated the need for such madda-esque speculation by noting the uniformity of both Jewish and medical minds with regard to the determination of death. The lecture attracted an enthusiastic audience and demonstrated a truth long whispered in YU: Rav Tendler represents one of the finest examples of what Torah U'Madda can be. According to Rav Tendler, the Harvard Criterion defined "death" as the irreversible breakdown of both the cerebrum -- the largest portion of the brain, controlling anything from balance to literary flair -- and the brainstem, the center of respiratory control. A number of tests have been created to assess such damage.

In Nuclide Scanning tests, a radioisotope is injected into a patient's I.V. The chemical flows through the bloodstream, thereby allowing circulation to be charted. Since oxygen is carried to the brain by way of the blood, ended circulation results in a process called anoxia, the liquification of brain cells. The Apnea Test measures the patient's capacity to breathe on his own, and is required by law before anyone can be pronounced brain-dead. Finally, tests of cranial nerves coupled with an examination of basic reflexes demonstrate conclusively that the Harvard Criteria has been met.

Rav Tendler pointed out that the mishna in Ohaloth 1:6 sets a similar criteria. In outlining what constitutes death, the mishna establishes a crucial definition. Physical decapitation constitutes death, even if the person continues to move. Movements of the body, or even of the heart, do not indicate life if decapitation has occurred. But should this factor be taken at face value -- or would an internal disconnection suffice?

To resolve this difficulty, Rav Tendler quoted the Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 62:2, which deals with the prohibition of eating meat removed from a living animal. In general, a limb removed from an animal may not be eaten, even if the remainder of the animal is subsequently slaughtered. According to Rabbi Yosef Karo, in certain cases, testicles removed from an animal do not fall under this classification, "for there is within it, yet, life." Thus, we find, at one extreme, that despite physical separation, the testicles are "halachically attached" during the time of shekhita and therefore are permitted on a d'oraita level.

The gemarah in Chulin 21a accents the opposite notion. If the Shulchan Aruch notes that separated entities may be viewed as attached, the gemara suggests that attached objects may be considered halachically separate. First, the gemarah depicts a man with a broken neck (coupled with a gaping wound) as being halachically dead. In an apparently conflicting case, Eli, the high priest, died from a broken neck without any external wounds and is assigned the same halachic status. The gemara replies that "old age is different." Why should different definitions of death apply for different people? Rabbi Tendler explained that the deterioration of the brain and brain stem underlies the determination of death in both of these cases. Consequently, an older man requires less damage to achieve the same result. Were a younger man to sustain the requisite physiological damage, he, too, would be dead by halachic standards.

Finally, Rav Tendler quoted the gemara in Yoma (85a) as conclusive proof of the Torah's categorization of death. The gemara discusses the case of a man buried under a building on Shabbat. Obviously, one may rescue him even on a suspicion that he is alive, but since the process of removing bricks is forbidden on Shabbat, the determination of his death mandates the postponement of further digging until the close of Shabbat. How far should we dig to check? The gemara cites two opinions, but we follow the view that we dig "ad chotmo" -- until the nose, based on the verse in Genesis 2:7 equating life with the nose -- i.e. respiration, -- "and He blew into his nostrils a breath of life."

I Just Can't Let It Be

by David Matkowsky

I feel like a character in an Orwell novel, or a pawn in a parable by Kafka. My conscience will no longer suffer silence. I must purge my soul, lest Judgment convict me. Even now, it is difficult to believe that it is all real. But it is very real, and I am guilty.

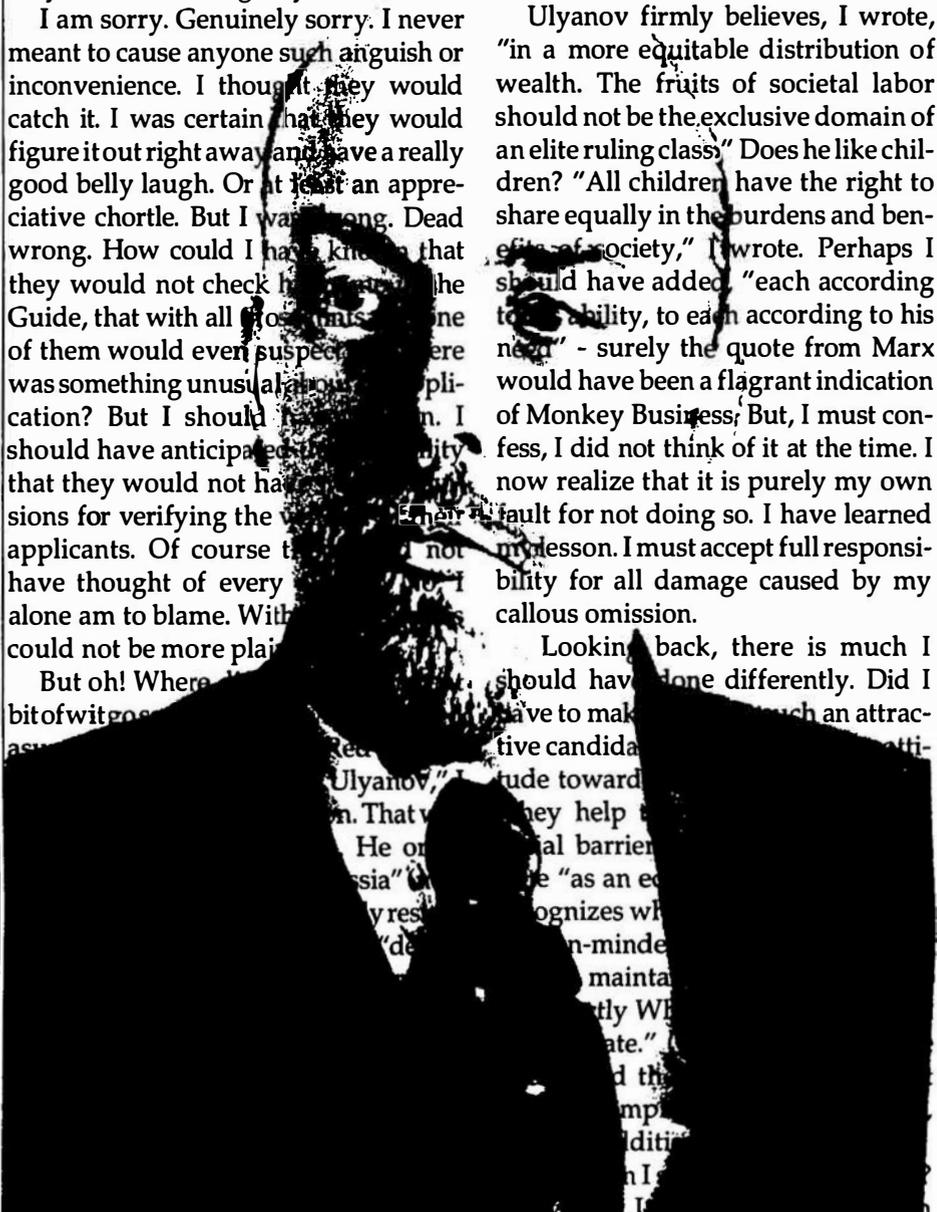
I am sorry. Genuinely sorry. I never meant to cause anyone such anguish or inconvenience. I thought they would catch it. I was certain that they would figure it out right away and have a really good belly laugh. Or at least an appreciative chortle. But I was wrong. Dead wrong. How could I have known that they would not check the Guide, that with all those applicants of them would even suspect there was something unusual about my application? But I should have known. I should have anticipated that they would not have the resources for verifying the qualifications of every applicant. Of course they could not have thought of every possibility alone am to blame. With me, it could not be more plain.

But oh! Where was I? I had a bit of wit gone.

Democratic Workers Party' have made it too obvious?). Hobbies include "Political activism, writing, Risk™ and Anti-Monopoly™." Musical favorites are "Tchaikovsky" and "Yoko Ono" (What was her Beatle husband's last name?).

Ulyanov firmly believes, I wrote, "in a more equitable distribution of wealth. The fruits of societal labor should not be the exclusive domain of an elite ruling class." Does he like children? "All children have the right to share equally in the burdens and benefits of society," I wrote. Perhaps I should have added, "each according to his ability, to each according to his need" - surely the quote from Marx would have been a flagrant indication of Monkey Business. But, I must confess, I did not think of it at the time. I now realize that it is purely my own fault for not doing so. I have learned my lesson. I must accept full responsibility for all damage caused by my callous omission.

Looking back, there is much I should have done differently. Did I have to make such an attractive candidate? My attitude toward Ulyanov? They help me. He overcame all barriers. He was "as an economist recognizes who is a mindless maintainer of the status quo." I had the opportunity to help him. I had the opportunity to help him.



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imagined that it would go this far, that the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, founder of the Russian Communist Party, the Soviet Union and the Communist International, though deceased (albeit well-preserved), would actually be allowed on the YC/SCW Blind Date. But ignorance, of course, is never an excuse. And as for my good intentions, we all know only too well what road is paved with those. Could Lenin himself have dreamed of the evil that his own noble intentions have wrought?

I humbly apologize to the members of the Blind Date Committee for any trouble I caused them by submitting an application for a dead Bolshevik, and especially to the Stern College woman with whom they set him up. That is the one thing I most sincerely regret.

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Sports Ratings

Cont. from pg. 16

ent runners competed in each of the three meets. The two runners who performed the best were Seth Gerzberg and Jeremy Bandler. This team trained hard but the insufficient number of meets this year makes it difficult to evaluate the team's actual performance. We hope that there will be at least twice as many races next semester.

Grade: Incomplete (M)

Tennis - The tennis team started off by losing three of their first four matches, but asserted itself nicely by winning five straight despite nagging injuries to Captains Jeff Greenwald and Eric Davis. This young team showed a lot of promise in its many up and coming stars including: Brian Kalb, Jonathan Weinstein, Keith Mendelsohn, David Boim, and Paul "The Wall" Kaplan.

Grade: A-

Volleyball - At times, this team looked brilliant and at other times this team looked downright awful. The volleyball Macs won a mere two matches this season (both over Mt. St. Vincent) despite considerable practice. Although the team is losing its top setter,

Johnny Klineman, many solid players including Captain Avi Steinlauf (returning second semester), Zevi Adler, and Jeremy Bandler will return. Hopefully, their experience will have an impact on the team's many new members next year.

Grade: C



Superhoops Success

by Stanley Watson

On April 21st in the MSAC, when the smoke had cleared from the flurry of three point shots, the long-awaited match between the M.S.A.C. Athletic Staff and the 1990-1991 Schick Superhoops Champions was over. This contest provided the student spectators with lots of excitement as the Athletic staff prevailed by a score of 85-81.

The Superhoops champions, including tournament M.V.P. Jeff Mor, Yoni Leifer, Daniel Loskove, and Gilad Ottensoffer battled the team of Carlton Greene, Manuel Ortega, Victor Urbacz, and Stanley Watson to

a virtual standoff. Replete with exciting plays, clutch shots, physical exertion, and constant pressure, this game capped a superb season of 3 on 3 basketball.

There were several lead changes in this game, highlighted by the three point wizardry of Jeff Mor, who canned an astounding 14 three-pointers. Mor was matched shot for shot by Macs trainer Carlton Greene. All eight players exhibited their individual skills in a game enjoyed by all present. In fact, talk of a rematch abounded and one may take place some time during Reading Week.

Of Mushrooms, Mincha and a Millenium

Josh Seidemann

The presence of "the Yeshiva at Yeshiva", so often decried as lacking, is manifested daily in the many *minyanim* for *ma'ariv* that take place on campus. Recently, "bootleg" *minyanim* for *mincha* have also sprouted like so many fuzzy toadstools on a damp forest floor to serve the needs of those who have forsaken *shiur* for secular studies or the computer room. Yet a frightening anomaly of the standard Yeshiva *mincha* service, heretofore unseen outside the *kollel beit midrash*, has crept into the newly scheduled afternoon invocations.

On a particularly busy afternoon this past week, a young man materialized in the 11th floor computer lab seeking ten men with which to compose a *minyan*. As a group assembled, a cry went out for a *shaliach tzibur*, a "voice of the people", as it were. One young man volunteered, and quickly strode to a window at the end of the hall to determine which way East, and thus the holy city of Jerusalem, ("the Monsey of *eretzyisrael*") lay. This was only the first indication that the gentleman had not *davened* in Belfer before.

As the makeshift congregation finished *ashrei*, (not to be confused with "Happy are those who chill at your place", which refers to Morg lounge and its wide-screen TV) the newly self-appointed cantor recited the last lines aloud slowly, pausing for a brief moment at each syllable. Murmurs arose from the throngs of worshippers, whose frail numbers reached only ten, and who could ill afford to lose disgruntled members to the clock. The assemblage took three steps back, and then three steps forward, and as a hush fell over the hall, the "shatz" bent his knees, bowed, and began his fervent prayer.

Silently.

Glances ricocheted about like bullets at 183rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The lad obviously knew nothing of the computer room maxim that "the best *mincha* is a quick *mincha*", or, more simply put, "make it a *hecher kedusha* or else..."

Time wore slowly. A young man who had pulled a chair into the hall upon finishing *shmone esrei* swatted listlessly at a fly that hovered lazily overhead, while others stared blankly at their watches, imagining the L: drive erasing itself in an unforeseeable system reboot.

The *chazan's* repetition wound down, and as day faded into evening, the misplaced chairs found themselves wheeled back into the computer room. The fly buzzed incessantly for a moment, and then departed, perhaps in search of another group of *mitpalelim* to disturb. The students filed back to their seats, and as the last *siddur* was collected and tucked lovingly into the box, a small voice whispered "Hecher *kedusha*, boy. Next time, make it a *hecher kedusha*.."

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Op Ed: Motivation for Jewish Outreach

by Richard Ehrlich

We are all somewhat familiar with the numerous outreach programs and organizations associated with our university. Through informal education, they have generated widespread interest in halachic Judaism. Non-affiliated Jewish youth, who would otherwise have been caught up in the wave of assimilation and intermarriage, are learning about the importance of our tradition. As an outsider, it would be inappropriate for me to publicly criticize the organizations or their work. But through these institutions and the kiruv movement in general, a new mentality has developed; one that stems from a sincere desire to serve G-d. Despite the good intentions, this mentality may actually run contrary to that service.

Typical of the kiruv personality is an overwhelming desire to be a role model. People start approaching the *mekarev* (one involved in outreach) for advice in an area of religious importance, and then feel indebted to this individual for his or her help. The *mekarev*, flattered by this kind of attention, experiences a sizeable ego boost, particularly when the one seeking help is a member of the opposite sex. All too often, such individuals begin to see themselves as authorities on Jewish subjects despite the fact that they are not.

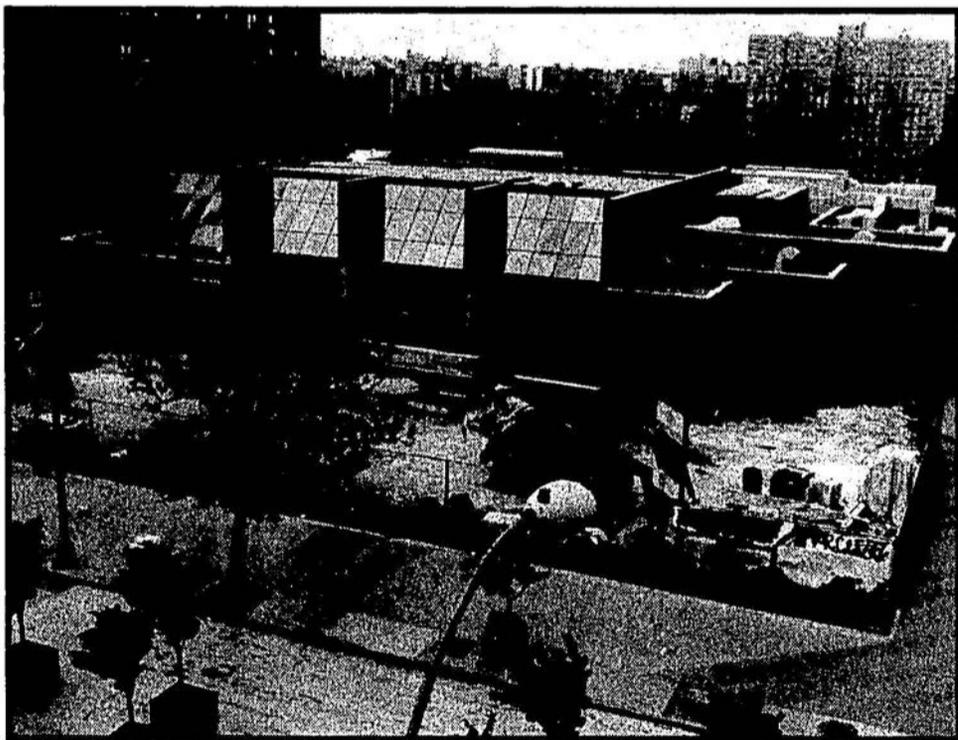
Another phenomenon I have noticed among those swept up in the outreach movement is that they tend to sugar-coat religion. In their efforts to "convert" the non-religious Jew to their brand of orthodoxy they peddle a mystical type of faith that few Orthodox Jews ever really attain. Dancing the Hora has its virtues, but how much time

should be spent on such things? Also, it is unfair to present Judaism as perfect, without mentioning its problems, to someone considering to commit themselves to it. There are those who might argue that Judaism is trouble-free, but they are few and far between; usually they are simply naive. Orthodox Jewish life is not utopian in its present state.

What bothers me most about this new attitude is what a friend of mine calls "befriending to brainwash". I call it practicing kiruv with a hidden agenda. This would not be an issue if the people approached were aware of the *mekarev's* intentions, but usually they are not. Imagine what a youth's parents would think if they knew that someone wanted to alienate their child from them. They would be extremely protective of their child, and one cannot blame them.

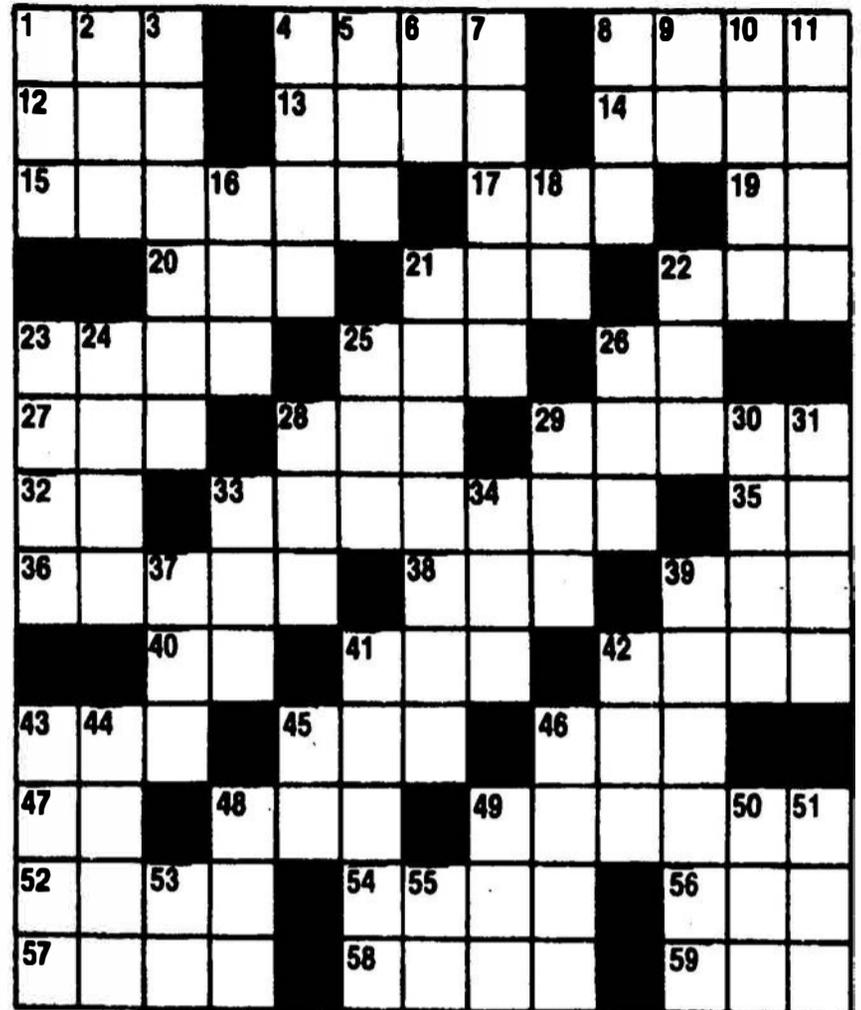
On a universal level, one may aspire to a time when all Jews practice G-d's laws. On the individual level, though, this kind of thinking is dangerous. As a friend, one should share one's knowledge of Judaism with others. But to attempt to change people's behavior without their initial consent is a violation of their trust. In order to remove this moral imposition, the *mekarev* must shift his mode of thinking.

There are ways of preventing the development of a 'kiruv' mentality. Be aware of the dangers, and guard against overconfidence. Think of creative ways to impart a realistic picture of a truly wonderful religion. Share your religion, but do not try to push it on others. Practice kiruv, it is exceedingly important for the education of the next generation; just be careful.



As the pool enters its final stages of construction (scheduled for completion in June), students look forward to utilizing this exciting addition to the Joel Jablonski Campus. In addition, the final inspections and permits for Schottenstein Student Center are expected within the next few weeks. Long awaited, these two projects will substantially increase students' pride in our campus.

Commentator Classroom Companion



ACROSS

- 1. Animal skin
- 4. Identical
- 8. Chinese food
- 12. Is (pl.)
- 13. Declare positively
- 14. Image
- 15. Cruel
- 17. Liquor
- 19. East state (abbr.)
- 20. Frozen water
- 21. Floor cleaner
- 22. Lion's lair
- 23. Guest entertainer
- 25. Cone-bearing tree
- 26. 3.141592
- 27. Length of time
- 28. Restrict
- 29. Criminal act (slang)
- 32. Iridium (abbr.)
- 33. Earth/Sky boundary
- 35. Midwest state (abbr.)
- 36. Regain energy
- 38. Middle
- 39. Is (poetic)
- 40. Morning (abbr.)
- 41. Hat
- 42. Top of head
- 43. Outside of perception (abbr.)
- 45. Jelly
- 46. Girl (slang)
- 47. Article

- 48. _____ March
- 49. Assert without proof
- 52. Norse prose
- 54. Netlike fabric
- 56. Male name
- 57. Selves
- 58. Portent good/evil
- 59. Vietnam offensive

DOWN

- 1. Owns
- 2. Gershwin
- 3. Plan
- 4. Wise man
- 5. Hall!
- 6. Myself
- 7. Mistake
- 8. Edge
- 9. Part of psyche
- 10. Adjust
- 11. Dash
- 16. Play division
- 18. Above
- 21. Least amount
- 22. Plunge
- 23. Human head cover
- 24. Monster
- 25. Great distance
- 26. Kettle
- 28. Ribbon
- 29. Fish
- 30. Exude
- 31. Red flower
- 33. Dress edge
- 34. _____ code
- 37. Snooze
- 39. Ability
- 41. String instrument
- 42. Friend
- 43. Comfort
- 44. Snafu
- 45. Southern state (abbr.)
- 46. Secluded valley
- 48. Owns
- 49. Hole-in-one
- 50. Expression of surprise
- 51. Time zone (abbr.)
- 53. Leave
- 55. Form of be verb



The Year in Review

by Eric Melzer and Ronnie Aranoff

The 1990-1991 athletic year for Yeshiva University had its successes and failures. Some teams had winning seasons, while others finished miles below the .500 mark. The following is a recap of how each of YU's seven varsity teams performed.

Basketball - For the second year ever, the Macs made post season play. They were able to qualify despite the temporary loss of Miko Danan and the eventual permanent losses of Eric Davis and Jon Rosner. The Macs' record was 14-9; imagine how much better the record could have been if the injury bug had not bitten. Despite the fact that Eric Davis, Jon Rosner, David Ehrman, Greg Rhine, and Tzvi Himer are graduating, the Macs can certainly have an impressive record in 1991-1992. Many veterans including incoming captain Elisha Rothman are returning and some outstanding players including former Yeshiva league M.V.P. Daniel Aaron will be entering.

Grade: A-

Wrestling - Although the wrestling team came up empty-handed this season, some of the individual wrestlers shone. In particular, Effy Zinken and Captain Brian Ostrow fought valiantly

this year and garnered high winning percentages. The team's overall winless record truly did not indicate how far some of the wrestlers have come. Many wrestlers, who at the beginning of the season would finish matches on their backs, were ultimately able to come through late in the year and win their matches. Captain Brian Ostrow stated, "This was a young team who gained lots of experience and will be excellent next year." We agree with Ostrow. Yet, this team was winless this year and the grade indicates this.

Grade: C

Fencing - This is a team which improved tremendously from last year to this year. Last year, the fencing team lost every match by quite a substantial margin. This season, the team finished with a 3-9 record and five of the losses

were by a one bout margin. In addition, two fencers, Sheldon Jonas and Jason Bernath, were invited to the N.C.A.A. regional fencing tournament in M.I.T. Much credit goes to Coaches Messing and Rosas for a much improved season.

Grade: B+

Golf - The golf team fared as well this year as it has done in years past. Anchored by the excellent play of Captain Josh Light, Craig Kornbluth, Jon Lasko, and Daniel Lewis, the team won many matches and was even involved in two tournaments on Long Island. This team shows a lot of promise for next year under the leadership of Kornbluth.

Grade: A

Track - The track team held a mere three meets this season and differ

Please turn to page 14

YESHIVA SPORTS

One on Ones Continue

by Ronnie Aranoff

As the year draws to a close, the races for the championships of the one on one tournaments continue to heat up. While no one is sure who will march on to victory, it seems likely that the winners in each division will be players with not only good basketball ability but also with excellent stamina. The following are some results of the most recent games as the Commentator went to print.

The 5'5"-5'9" bracket included some interesting games, but only one contest could truly be considered a standout. In this exciting game, Avi Esses captured a big victory over one of the most highly touted players in the bracket, Craig Kornbluth. Leading by one, Kornbluth was called for an intentional foul with just seconds to spare. After Esses made one of two free-throws, Kornbluth was lazy on the defensive end, and Esses hit a fall-away jumper to win the game. In other games in this bracket, Daniel Goldberg defeated Eric Reinhard and Neil Bromberg beat Joey Sutton.

Contrary to the previous bracket, the 5'10"-6'2" grouping had many great games. Erez Ben Ami (the favorite since Alex Fooksman had to withdraw due to injury) defeated David Speiser. Brett Pevan was able to come from behind and beat Michael Aaron by just one point. Avi Savitsky, Ami Drazin, and Daniel Loskove were also among those who advanced as they beat Josh Aaron, David Holser, and Noam Cohen respectively.

In the 6'3" and over bracket, the finals have been set between the two Goliaths of intramurals, Ranon Mann and Saul Stepner. The two will meet to decide the champion as soon as Stepner's ankle heels from a pick-up game injury.

Finally, in the big game of the varsity bracket, point guard sensation Eric Davis beat Yeshiva's top big man Jon Rosner in a game where a usually quiet Rosner was quick to criticize the officiating. In other varsity matches, Seth Cohen easily defeated Baruki Cohen via numerous converted three point field goals.

Intramurals' Best Chosen

by Ronnie Aranoff and Eric Melzer

Traditionally, the end of the spring semester brings out the best play in the YU Intramural Basketball League and with it awards for its top players. The 1991 spring semester proved to be a very exciting one for intramural basketball, with all ten teams performing admirably.

The first award goes to the players who displayed the top skills on the defensive end of the floor. These players were able to block shots, draw offensive fouls, pull rebounds, and effectively guard the top scorers in the league. The following five players are members of this semester's all-defensive team: guards Saul Pledler (Friars) and Moshe Zwebner (Eagles), forwards Jason Himmelfarb (Hornet) and Ami Drazin (Panthers), and center Ranon Mann (Wildcats).

most valuable ones on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. The following five players are members of the first all-star team: guards Craig Kornbluth (Huskies) and Daniel Loskove (Panthers), forwards Yoav Gilron (Orangemen) and Alex Fooksman (Panthers), and center Ranon Mann (Wildcats). The second team all-stars consist of guards Yosef Kilimnick (Orangemen) and Kenny Helfer (Wildcats), forwards Moshe Benarosh (Panthers) and David Well (Wildcats), and center Saul Stepner.

It was not difficult to decide the mvp of semester for the Spring of 1991. The unanimous choice was

Saul Pledler of the Friars. Pledler who already

was the mvp of the previous semester, was named mvp for the second time in a row. Craig Kornbluth placed third. Kornbluth had the record for most points in a game earlier this semester with 39. Last year's MVP Ranon Mann finished in second place.

And now the winner Alex Fooksman of the Panthers. Fooksman had an unbelievable semester. He averaged 19 points per game, pulled well over 10 rebounds per game, played excellent defense, had terrific rapport with the referees, and was a true leader both on and off the court.

The commissioners wish the best of luck to all teams in the playoffs and thank them for another successful season.

The Commentator
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