

How many Stern women does it take to screw in a light bulb?

# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

None. YU has already installed them all... Uptown!

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## Belfer Hall Lockout

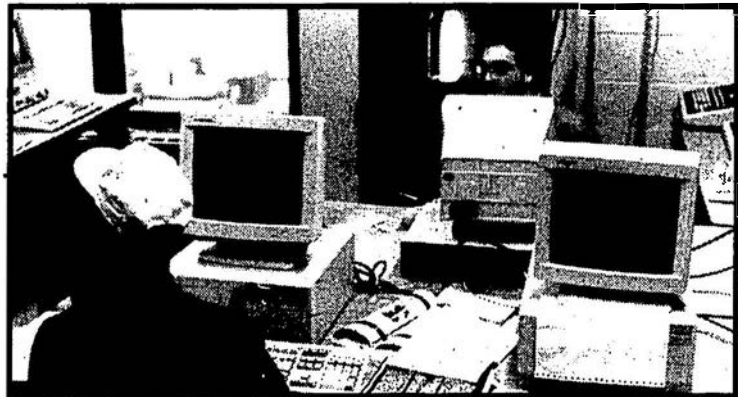
by Jamin Koslowe

In an abrupt policy switch, Yeshiva University has decided to deny students access to Belfer Hall past 1:00 a.m. In past years the computer room on Belfer's 11th floor has been open throughout the night, contingent upon the presence of an operator on duty. For many late night computer room users,

According to Brandwein, the change in policy comes as a result of budget cuts. Brandwein maintained that the decision was not his, adding that he has "no problem keeping the computer room open all night." Brandwein said that he received notice of the change from Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol.

that while he sympathized with the Administration's desire to cut security expenses, "use of the computer room is necessary for the benefit of the students." Wallach noted that students who major in Computer Science, Business, or English all frequently need to use the computer room. Wallach hopes the Administration realizes the importance of keeping the computer room open 24 hours and will return to the previous policy.

Ari Shapiro, a third year semicha student and a computer room operator, was one of those who were upset at being denied access to the computer room late at night. He, along with approximately ten other people, was told to leave the building by the nighttime security guard. Shapiro explained his preference for using the computer room late at night: "It's the easiest time to work. During the early evening, it's crowded and noisy in the room. Late at night it's much quieter in there." He also noted that the situation in the computer room is likely to get worse as the semester progresses and students receive more assignments that need to be completed by use of computers. "What is a student supposed to do," asked Shapiro, "if he has an assignment due the next day, and he doesn't have a computer in his room?" Only time will tell if the Administration can answer this question.



Commentator file photo

Heretofore open 24 hours-a-day, the computer room's limited hours restrict students to working during the busiest hours of the day

this rule change has come as an unpleasant surprise.

Yitzchak Hollander, president of CompuSci and head Computer Operator at YC, mentioned that several students have come forward with complaints concerning the new policy. Hollander said that "people have lots of work to do, and need to be able to use the computer room late at night." Hollander brought the grievances to the attention of Director of YU Laboratories Leonard Brandwein, under whose jurisdiction the computer center falls.

Speaking on behalf of YU Security, Socol said that the University decided to clear Belfer Hall and lock up the building at night in order to spare the added expense of paying for a night guard.

Socol added that "a night guard could be made available" if the expenditure were billed to the Computer Department's existing budget.

Stephen Wallach, Head of the Undergraduate Security Council, a student watchdog group founded last year by then Commentator staff member David Silverblatt, explained

## Sports Budget Questioned

by Jason Muss

As effects of the national recession reach Yeshiva University, YC students have expressed concern over athletic cutbacks. One particularly delicate issue is a perceived favoritism shown towards the basketball team. Major points of contention include the Macs' trip to Florida and the issuance of new sneakers and uniforms to the basketball team each year.

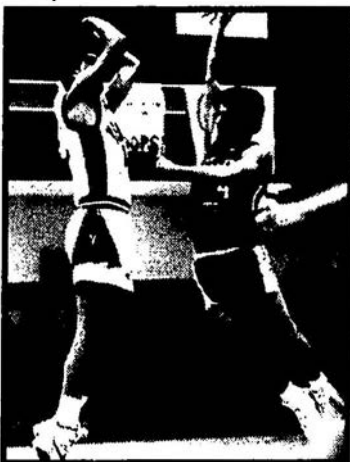
A member of the volleyball team, who wishes to remain anonymous, mentioned that certain athletes, particularly wrestling team members, feel neglected due to unanswered requests for uniforms.

Assistant Athletic Director Stanley Watson commented, "In some ways these concerns are well founded. However, the

basketball team does attract an overwhelming interest among the student body. The game at Madison Square Garden attracts an alumni response as well." In this way, he contends, the basketball team serves the needs of the entire university, more so than other teams.

YU Athletic Director Dr. Gil Shevlin, maintains that his budget was calculated in the Spring and is already set. He claims that the Macs have never received "luxury" money for sneakers or trips at the expense of other teams. He also made it clear that the Macs' schedule is already set, with "contracts and officials signed and travel arrangements made."

The basketball Macs' expenditures have not increased since last year. Watson calls it "business as



Commentator file photo

Basketball Macs:  
A priveleged breed?

usual," although some students might call it a continuation of unfair practices. Despite current complaints, Watson recalls that "when the volleyball team received new uniforms two seasons in a row nobody said a word."



photo: J. J. Sussman

A danger sign for YU car owners

## Increased Ticketing Troubles Students

by Ari Rosenstein

Sudden enforcement of a once ignored double-parking violation has sent YU students into a frenzy, resulting in hundreds of dollars in fines. Whereas police officers generally continue to overlook double parking near the Joel Jablonski Campus during the alternate side parking hours, the City's recent budget problems have necessitated the collection of additional revenue, leading traffic cops to invade the area and ticket student vehicles with new enthusiasm. Local police explained that the increased ticketing is not confined to Washington Heights and has been on the rise throughout the city.

YU has several parking lots reserved for staff and faculty who hold special parking permits, but these areas are off-limits to students during school hours. Chief of Security Don Sommers pointed out that these lots are, however, available for

student use at night.

The Yeshiva College Student Council and YU Security are striving to help alleviate this growing problem. YCSC Vice-President Steven Usdan explained that last years student council brokered a special deal with the parking garage on 181st Street. "YU students can park in the garage for \$470 per semester. Although this seems to be expensive, it is substantially cheaper than other garages around the city. Forty students currently have spots, which is up 40% over the past year. If students have not yet reserved a spot, they can still get one, and it will be pro-rated on a weekly basis," Usdan explained. Another arrangement with the garage provides parking spots for a nominal fee to those students who only need a car on a short term, or weekly, basis.

The parking crisis dates back to the days preceding the creation of YU's pedestrian mall on Amsterdam Avenue several years ago. Protests from the Washington Heights community forced the City to compensate for the loss of parking through the creation of angle parking spots on 189th Street. A nearby guard booth manned during the day provides a measure of security and Yeshiva Security provides on-call van service to transport students to their cars.

Students still fear leaving their cars on the street, guard booth or not, and the parking garage remains an expensive solution. Therefore the dilemma will continue until a private garage is available for student use. Meanwhile, students must still leave in the middle of classes to move their cars, find parking for the few hours the alternate side rule is in effect, and then once again move their cars to another spot. "It is a big pain" commented YC Junior Class VP David Perl. Chief Sommers summed up the situation as he sees it: "The parking situation in Washington Heights is no worse than anywhere else in the City. We all just have to grin and bear it."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Responses to Last Issue	page 3
Dean Shmidman on JSS	page 5
Rav Schachter Discusses Land for Peace	page 6

## Your Mouth in the Media

Last week we witnessed an historic event in Madrid. The convening of a conference bringing together adversaries in pursuit of peace marks the possible dawn of a new era. Israel has been thrust into this media circus, more commonly referred to as the Middle East Peace Conference. The media spotlight shines brightly, with each spoken or written word carefully scrutinized. The careful construction of the diplomats' speeches reflects their fear of having their statements misconstrued.

We at The Commentator are acutely aware of the media's ability to blow remarks out of proportion. Consequently, the responses of certain students to a Channel 4 news reporter last week concerns us gravely. The reporter, here to survey students' responses to a statement made by Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek about the viability of peace in Israel, was greeted by a chorus of coarsely worded, amazingly inane and potentially damaging comments. Putting the veracity of the statements aside, the comments were purposeless and boorish. YU's student body is viewed as representative of American "Centrist" Judaism. Therefore, our comments and opinions carry far more weight than most of us realize. Let's take our responsibility seriously.

## Clubs in Action

"Chazak V'ematz" to David Kay and the leaders of many of the student organizations at Yeshiva. Various clubs have established their presence on the Joel Jablonski Campus; examples include the innovative Cultural Society, which has organized a Future Young Couples night (pronounced *Blind Date*), and the upcoming wine and cheese evening sponsored by the Poli-Sci Society. Also making a name for themselves are the upstart Mussar Movement with their Middah of the Month, and the Actuary Club.

The emergence of the wide variety of clubs at Yeshiva is a refreshing change. Apart from the always dependable Sephardic and Philanthropy clubs, not many organizations can boast continued strength year after year. Hopefully, the individual clubs will continue to be a force on the uptown campus, and this encouraging situation is not simply a manifestation of beginning-of-the-year excitement. If this is the case, however, club leaders know that YCSC will have to carry out its promise to cut funding.

## PICTORIAL



"So Mom, once you're through typing my paper on the computer, you'll have to fax it to me tomorrow morning as soon as possible. What? - Yeah, I guess this IS what you're paying \$15,000 for..."

# The Commentator

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## Editor's Note

With almost two pages of student opinion in this issue, I am pleased that so many of you are taking advantage of this forum and I encourage others to do the same.

I must comment briefly on student reaction regarding last issue's discussion of YU's "paranoia" and hypocrisy in preventing free access of women into the Schottenstein Center.

While the overwhelming majority of the students I spoke with agree with my sentiments, two letters here indicate that there are those who interpret my views as a statement against "fences" for *issurei arayot*. This, I neither said nor implied. I do, however, maintain that these safeguards already exist, in *issurim* of *yichud* and *negiah*, neither of which would take place in The Schottenstein lounge any more than any other location. This, of course, is my personal opinion and there are those with other outlooks who disagree.

Rabbi Mordechai Willig spent an hour of *shiur* time analyzing and criticizing my column, phrase by phrase. After later hearing about the content of his discussion, it became clear that we do, in fact, agree on one undeniable fact: YU's lack of consistency is pathetic.

Our differences are simple as well: Rav Willig represents a view that approves of relationships only within the framework of immediate plans for marriage; any other type of male-

female relationship must necessarily have sexual overtones. As a result, Rav Willig feels the need to erect every possible halachik fence, thus preventing any such relationship.

Do I maintain that Rav Willig's opinion should be dismissed while mine merits consideration? Of course not. As a rabbi, his job is to 'paskin', and my interpretation of his views as paranoia are, for all intents and purposes, irrelevant for any practical application.

So what am I so worked up about? For many years there have been co-ed activities at YU, whether it is student council related or two people chatting across the table in the library or Morg lounge. Rather than use this as a precedent, let us ask why we have no set rules as to co-ed activity of any kind.

As long as we don't have a party line - a spectrum of views that combine to form a sharp, defined rainbow - we will lose the students and financial support of the Centrist Orthodox population who see "random" applications of halachik stringency as challenging the comfort with halacha that we all desire. Yeshiva University still has the power to establish the religious lifestyle of our communities, whatever such a lifestyle may entail. But without a universally accepted authority for the entire YU community, where can we turn? Apparently only to the right.

Jay Bailey



## Queries, Qualms and Quotes

# Responsa

To the Editor:

In his inaugural column, Editor-In-Chief Jay Bailey decries what he calls the paranoia which leads the university to impose restrictions not specifically required by halacha. He writes, for example, that "it is a mistake - a lamentable, misguided move - to add this unfounded restriction [viz. prohibiting VCR's in the dormitories] to our hashkafa." (Incidentally, I don't think it would be too difficult to demonstrate the solid halachic basis for the other restrictions Editor Bailey decries - see Orach Chaim 529:4 and the Mishnah Berurah there.)

The perspective which



pervades this column is, unfortunately, both prevalent and erroneous. Judaism certainly approves of, and recommends, prohibiting that which is not technically problematic in order to guard against that which is technically problematic.

The Mishnah in Avos 1:1 states, "The Anshei Knesses Ha-Gedolah said three things, one of which was, "Make a fence to the Torah." Rav Ovadiah MiBartenura explains there that this refers to setting up barriers to prevent transgressing what the Torah itself prohibited. And lest one think that this exhortation is only directed to Chazal, the Tiferes Yisroel there suggests that, really, everyone is obligated to make barriers for themselves, in order to prevent coming into situations that facilitate the commission of sins.

This behavior pattern is discussed by the Mesilas Yesharim in the very beginning of Chapter 13. There, he explains that the trait of perishes includes forbidding to oneself that which is technically permitted when it could lead to that which is technically prohibited.

And as for Editor Bailey's

phrase, "paranoid component of YU" in Mishlei 28:14, it states, "happy is he who always fears", which is understood to be a reference to demonstrating rigorous concern vis-a-vis one's spiritual growth (see Mesilas Yesharim Ch. 4).

Eliyahu Ferrell  
RIETS '92

To the Editor:

After reading the last edition of "From the Editor's Desk", I felt I should clear up a misunderstanding. The letter spoke of creating a YU in which there is no relaxing of halacha but that in which there exists a paranoid "yeshivish" element that wishes to "stretch the existing boundaries of halacha for the sake of being 'frum'." Among other things, the article used the issue of policy regarding women on campus as a main example of this. I'd like to address this issue by saying that in truth, sources for controlling the male-female relationship outside of marriage abound in halacha. Our sages understood, as I'm sure we all agree still applies today, that the desire for arayot is very powerful. The Rambam in his halachik treatise "Yad Hachazaka Issurei Beah" chapters 21-22 deals with this issue through a set of strict halachot controlling every facet of the male-female relationship depicting the hard-line stance taken on the subject by the Torah. Among the many examples in the Talmud expressing the ease at which people succumb to these types of aveirot is a gemara in Kiddushin which speaks about

a student making fun of his rebbes for warning against being together alone with even their daughters of daughters-in-law. The gemara goes on to say that is wasn't long before the student himself succumbed to this with his own mother-in-law. Although this is an extreme case, still we see with what ease one can fall in these matters.

I first want to address the problem of having a social lounge on campus. In truth, there is no specific halacha that can be brought to prohibit a social lounge that is immune to a questioning of its applicability. However, even if we assume this, we clearly see that this can create a situation in which people can easily transgress issurim such as yichud and negiah among others, which the Rambam lists as biblical transgressions. Granted, the lounge may not have any dark corners, but in these matters, as we all know, where there's a will there's a way. Understand that in an Orthodox Jewish setting such as this, the policy makers cannot sanction such activities regardless of whether there is an explicit halacha forbidding it or not. In halacha, one must allow for reasonable preventive measures. On the other hand, we realize that the shiduch scene is not for everyone and that there is a significant number of YU students who demand such settings of social interaction in which to meet people. For this reason, YU does sponsor co-ed events as well as a van to Stern. Now you may ask, why can't these gatherings take place on campus? To understand this, we must appreciate the fact that many of us in YU expect as much of a Torah environment

continued on page 9

It is a long-standing tradition at Yeshiva University to have a seder and a shiur on Sunday. While I am not sure why this tradition is limited to the MYP program, generations of students have attended class on Sunday morning. But the truth is, as much as the students are dedicated to Torah, Sunday morning shiur is one of the more difficult aspects of life at Yeshiva.

Perhaps Yeshiva University is trying to demonstrate that Torah supercedes such human boundaries as a week or a day. Perhaps they feel that since Sunday is a normal working day for the Jews of Israel, it should be for us as well. Whatever the reason is, the fact remains that in the United

States, the traditional weekend vacation day is Sunday.

Any student in Yeshiva University who has had to attend a Sunday class, would readily agree that they lack sufficient time to spend with

**OP-ED:**

**Just a Matter  
of Time**

by Robert Fagin

their families over the weekend. Although they may (depending on their schedule) have Friday off, their parents usually do not.

Although, in theory, students have Sundays after shiur free, they often find themselves stuck uptown.

In addition, a rebbe would certainly enjoy having a full day to share with his family. "Out of Town" students who have left Yeshiva University for Shabbat, should be able to enjoy a full weekend with relatives or hosts.

I am not suggesting the obliteration of Sunday shiur entirely. What I propose is to move Sunday morning seder and shiur to Sunday evening. I believe that this would increase the relatively poor attendance at Sunday shiurim. Such flexibility would provide a happy medium between learning torah and juggling an already difficult schedule.

## Kay Calls For P'sak

To the Editor:

In light of differing, heated reactions to Editor-in-Chief Jay Bailey's last desk piece, it is appropriate to address this symptom of a more crucial issue afflicting our Yeshiva. Call it paranoia, call it hypocrisy, call it whatever you like; the point remains that the framework of YU Halakha appears to be operating neither as a framework nor as Halakha.

Confusion apparently runs contradictory to the very essence of Halakha. Ideally, Halakha exists as a blueprint governing how we live our lives - what to do upon waking, how to eat, how to conduct business, etc. Absence of clear definitions within such a system leads to chaos, seemingly undermining the very purpose of the blueprint itself.

Among the relevant Halakhic issues that should govern women entering Schottenstein, the pool, the MSAC, the library etc. are *Yichud* and *Kalus Rosh*. Unfortunately, women's use of these facilities is apparently not being determined properly by Halakhot but by seemingly arbitrary university policies. Even if the University's policies regulating social contact are based on *Chumros* or *Syaggim*, they must be applied systematically rather than erratically. However this is not the central issue. It is merely the manifestation of one of the singularly most sensitive topics plaguing our Yeshiva. Rather than operating through the framework of Halakha, YU is fumbling in confusion.

Do not fall into the temptation here of equating confusion with Machlokes. Machlokes is like a catalyst that stimulates debate, precisely defining positions and concepts. The very nature of Machlokes excludes it from the realm of confusion, in that its purpose is to move yet another step closer to the truth.

YU's decision to bar women from Schottenstein angered student leaders not because of the decision itself, but because of the manner at which this decision was arrived. What is the operating formula which bans women from Schottenstein, yet permits them access to Belfer and the Library? Hiding such a formula from the YU community, assuming it exists to begin with, only augments the current confusion.

The general sentiment among students, however, is that no such formula exists. It is incumbent upon the Yeshiva to



evaluate its position and inform the YU community whether its policies are fundamentally Halakhic, extra-Halakhic or just political.

We realize that reevaluating our Halakhic obligations may limit rather than expand the scope of permissible activities; our goal is intellectual honesty and not complacency.

David J. Kay  
President, YCSC '92

## Muss Menora Mystery

To the Editor:

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur have passed and Chanuka is almost upon us; however, the need and requirement to do "t'shuvah" (repentance) is with us constantly. The Torah tells us that a thief must return that

continued on p.9

# CAMPUS NEWS

## YCSC NEWS

by Joel Haber

The Freshman class held their elections on Thursday, October 17. Barry Lebovits was elected President, J.J. Sussman Vice-President, and Avi Morgan is the new Secretary-Treasurer... YCSC is currently offering a fax service out of Morg 214. Costs for incoming letters are \$1 per page. Outgoing local letters are \$2 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page. Long distance charges are \$2.50 for the first page and \$1.50 per page thereafter... YCSC offices in the Schottenstein Center will soon be stocked with new computers and laser printers courtesy of the alumni President's Circle. There will be one laser printer and two computers for student use and one computer with laser printer for club use... Two copy machines will be installed for student use in the near future. One located next to the vending machines in Morg lounge and the other in Schottenstein for YCSC use... The Sophomore class will be running a trip to the Knicks game tomorrow night, November 7th as their inaugural event of the year.

## Aliyah Club Holds First Event

On Wednesday, October 23, the Aliyah Club ran its first program of the semester. For the inaugural event, they invited Meir Fachler, President of Yavneh Olami in Israel, to speak about the Peace Conference. Despite a lack of extensive publicity, the event was well attended by approximately 70 students from both YC and Stern.

Simi Chavel, President of the Aliyah Club, opened the program by outlining the Aliyah Club's past achievements, future plans and goals. Upcoming events include a shabbaton and numerous other serious and social Israel-related activities.

Fachler summarized the factors that led up to the current peace talks, described the workings behind them and provided predictions of their outcome. Students heard the informed opinion of one who has studied the topic from the Israeli perspective.

- Michael Z. Kellman

## WYUR Hits the Airwaves

Following the move into its new broadcast center at the Schottenstein Student Center, WYUR began its 1991-92 broadcast season last Wednesday night. This year's board plans to operate professionally, as opposed to recent years, with new ideas to attract more listeners.

With over 30 hours a week of scheduled broadcasting, WYUR formats range from rap/hip hop or alternative music to heavy metal and the ever-present classic rock shows. The station has arranged a deal with Ron Delsner, one of the largest concert promoters in the New York area, to give away concert tickets on the air. In the past week listeners have already won tickets to shows by Blues Traveller and Urban Dance

Squad and tickets will soon be given away for an EMF concert. WYUR will also be giving away promotional albums and cassettes over the air. In addition, the board is currently negotiating for FCC licensing to go over the airwaves rather than the "carrier current" which presently broadcasts only in the dormitory buildings.

There have, however, been some minor hitches to date. The transmitters in both Morg and Muss Halls did not work at all and those in Ruben and Brookdale were barely audible. These, and other problems will hopefully be corrected following an upcoming meeting with Director of Supporting Services Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten.

--Joel Haber

## SSSB Students Hold Career Fair

SSSB held its annual Career Fair last Tuesday. The event, designed to give students a chance to explore career opportunities, was organized by Dean Schiff, Assistant Dean Jaskoll, and Assistant Directors of Recruiting Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolff. Among the forty or so companies represented were Citibank, Chemical Bank, Metlife, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Many students looking for full-time and summer employment were successful in setting up interviews. Pleased with the turnout, Ms. Wolff commented that the corporate representatives "were very impressed with the quality of the students." She added that she would "definitely" plan another event like this in the future.

- Michael Schachter

## YC and Stern Students Soon to be 'Guide'd

The *Guide to the Perplexed* is off to the printers. With an estimated three weeks until publication, YC co-editors Mike Grynberg and Steve Wallach wait anxiously to see the product of hundreds of hours of work that began at the end of last year.

"We've added a few new features," explains Grynberg. "We have color coded the pages to differentiate between sections, and we've put together a list of students by Dorm rooms." Although this year's

staff raised approximately \$6,000 in ads, the editors decided against the spiral binding and tabs of last year's *Guide*, deeming the additions too costly. The book itself contains 200 pages, and cost approximately the same as last year's. Funding for the *Guide* comes from ads and student fees paid with tuition.

To answer the question on everyone's mind, namely, 'what's on the cover?' You'll just have to wait and see!

-Jay Bailey

## Students Visit Consulate

On October 30, day one of the Middle East Peace Conference, active pro-Israel student leaders from YU joined over 100 students from local colleges in a reception at the Israeli Consulate. The reception, the largest of its kind ever held at the Consulate, was organized to stimulate pro-Israel support on campus. It provided students with an opportunity to hear from the Consul General Uriel Savir and other figures

involved in the pro-Israel Zionist scene. Savir and others urged students to rise up and make their positions heard during these historic times. Citing the need to focus on substantial issues, Savir prodded students to paint their campuses blue and white and to make it known that for the past 43 years Israel has strived for peace through direct negotiations.

-Michael Eisenberg

## Dorm Talks Back

Should you, as a religious Jew, continue a relationship with old friends who turned their backs on Torah Judaism? Considering the present situation of health care unemployment in Israel, which of your dreams must you sacrifice: Aliya or a medical practice in the U.S.? What do you do if you realize that the way your Mom heats up food on Shabbat does not quite follow the procedures described by your Rebbe?

These questions were addressed last week in Morg Lounge and Ruben Shul in a

series of discussions known as Dorm Talks. Dorm Talks provide a forum for Rebbeim to help students make the right decisions when confronted with the practical, yet frequently misunderstood, areas of halacha.

Rabbis Blech, Willig, Neuberger, and Fink, served as panelists. They were allotted an hour and a half to speak and to answer the questions of approximately 100 students. Those who attended were then offered refreshments as they broke up into smaller groups to discuss the topics among themselves.

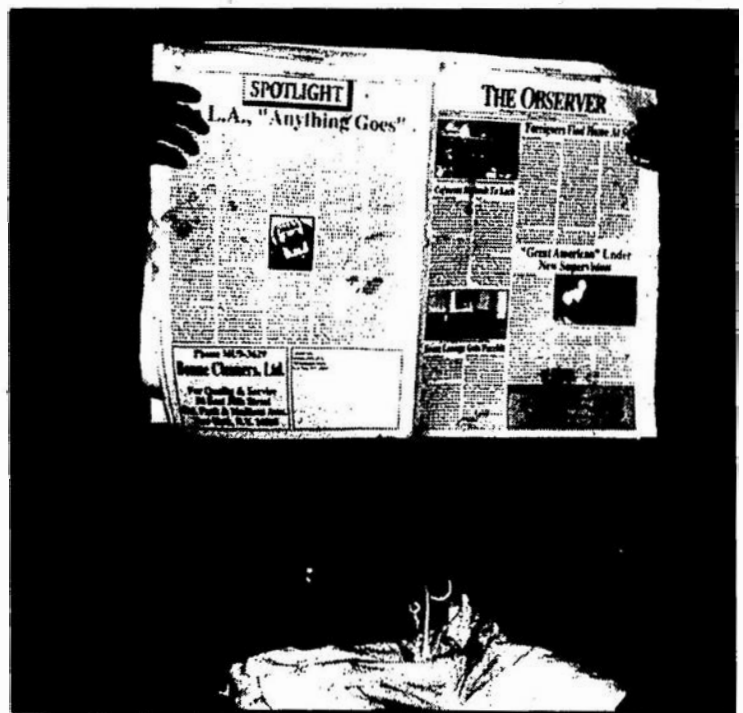
-Jonathan Schloss

## Blood Drive in Gear

YU's latest blood drive, which took place on October 23rd and 24th, went as smoothly as it has gone in the past. According to Jon Mensch, organizer of the drive, only 175 students gave blood this year as opposed to approximately 200 in previous years. YU has

been commended by the New York Blood Services for their efforts and this year was no exception. Kudos go to all those who gave blood and those who volunteered their time to help out. The next blood drive at YU will be on December 23 and 24.

- Michael Z. Kellman



Concerned YU student gets heated up over plight of Stern women as depicted in *The Observer*

photo: D. Bendheim



# Shmidman on JSS

by Joel Haber

Clearly the most intriguing aspects of this year's James Striar School program are the changes in its schedule. Most noticeably, the JSS student now has one or two periods a week specifically designed to be spent in the Beit Midrash. The new dean, Rabbi Dr. Michael Shmidman is extremely proud of this program since it allows the JSS student to feel that he is more a part of the Yeshiva as a whole. It also spurs "learning on a higher madrega." Additionally, said Shmidman, "One of the problems in Yeshiva is that it's too much lecture to begin with." This new plan offers the student a chance to "use his own brain, to move at his own pace."

Since the Rabbeim are always present during the Beit Midrash period, Rabbi Shmidman can answer any questions a student may have while still affording the student a large measure of individual attention. The student sees that "things come from his own achievement."

Shmidman said that reaction so far has been positive both from Rabbeim as well as students. He added that JSS is in the process of creating a library of sefarim in Furst 216, the room used for their Beit Midrash.

Yet another change in JSS this year is the move from two to three periods per day. "That change," said Shmidman, "I have to ascribe to the wisdom of Dr. Well." The problem was that a four-credit course meeting two times a week would consist of 100-minute periods. Many feel that this is not a viable teaching period. "Is time being 'stolen' or not being used to its fullest?" asked Shmidman. The idea was that two 65-minute periods and one 70-minute would make better use of the time while it would still "guarantee the integrity of the 200 minutes." Furthermore, Shmidman pointed out that "the exposure is better" when a class meets three rather than two times a week.

Although there have been "no complaints so far,"

Shmidman feels that there are minor changes which should be made. While the new schedule allows a break between periods, some students, due to their schedule, only have five minutes between classes. Attempts are being made to correct this.

Shmidman explained, that despite the fact that the IBC curriculum suffered greatly this year from budget cuts, JSS did not endure similar hardships. "There isn't one faculty member that was cut short and there hasn't been one change in JSS whatsoever," he remarked. He pointed out the size of enrollments as the source of this disparity. There are no classes in JSS with only two or three students as there were in IBC before the cuts. However, there are also no overcrowded classes which necessitate the creation of new classes, claims the new administrator.

Nonetheless, Shmidman said that if there would be a "large influx of students" into JSS there are plenty of available teachers. This year there are three or four kollel students teaching in JSS

and are, according to the Dean, "doing very well both as teachers and as mentors to the students. I have no compunctions," he added, "of dipping into the Beit Midrash if I needed to create a new section."

Yet there still could be more modifications made of JSS in the near future. "One always looks at core curriculum revision," commented Shmidman. "One always looks and asks, 'Am I giving the right courses, are my choices right?' But also one asks, 'Am I laying out the courses correctly?'" Therefore, Shmidman is considering ways of consolidating various courses such as Basic Jewish Concepts and Halacha into one. This would help those students who are taking too many classes by making their load lighter.

Additionally, there are three Rabbeim this year teaching both in IBC and JSS as opposed to the separation of previous years which Dean Shmidman characterized as "silly." Additionally, many students this year have cross-registered between JSS and IBC for various reasons. There have even been some YP students who have taken courses in either program in order to graduate.

Shmidman noted the obvious shift which has occurred in JSS

over the years. "JSS is open to ba'alei t'shuva and we welcome them and cater to them," he stated, adding that "we now have people who come to JSS for a different reason." Many students went to a Yeshiva high school yet didn't gain the necessary background in learning. "For them, JSS is the right answer."

Despite this, Shmidman feels that there is no problem of students above the level of JSS classes using the program as a free ride. Shmidman added that if a rebbe felt a particular student was above the level of a class he would certainly be moved up. "The worst thing to be is for a person, with the limited number of years he spends here, not to be functioning at the full level of his potential."

In closing, Shmidman added that working with the JSS Student Council "has been one of my greatest joys." He meets with them regularly and hopes to meet with the class representatives in the near future. He added that "It's been a pleasure being here. I came here to be with the bachurim and it has been an extremely pleasant experience. For many bachurim this is the ultimate baggage that they are going to take with them for the rest of their life learning."



Students study yet another culture, custom and language.

## Sun Rises Over New Japanese Course

by Joseph J. Sussman

For the first time ever, YC and SSSB students enjoy the opportunity to study Japanese. The course was one of the first to close out at registration.

The study of Japanese has obvious advantages for business students. SSSBSA President Laizer Kornwasser noted that "by studying Japanese, the students are familiarizing themselves with the history, language, and culture, of a country. . . in the international business arena." Other disciplines may benefit from the new course as well. Dr. Ruth Bevan, who chairs of the Political Science department, points out that "when our students become professionals, whether it be in law, government, or business, they will inevitably encounter the Japanese."

The course is being offered by Mrs. Miyoko tum Suden, previously a faculty member at both Drew University and NYU.

Mrs. tum Suden notes that her students are "taking the challenge of learning a new and difficult language very seriously." She brings with her a very innovative and unique style of teaching, as Jonathan Cooper, one of Mrs. Suden's students, commented, "this is the first time since grade school that I've seen oak tag and construction paper used as a teaching method." Mrs. tum Suden utilizes these visual aids for the study of Japanese sentence structure, numbers, and other aspects of the language.

Although Mrs. tum Suden has previously taught Jewish students, this is the first time that her class consisted solely of Jews. She feels that the students have "very inquisitive and analytical minds." Mrs. tum Suden also expressed a desire to see her students relax and enjoy the language a bit more, as opposed to the competitive tension of many YC classes.

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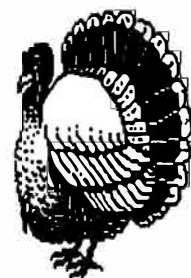
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# Response Continued

## Qualms

continued from page 3

as possible. Making it a place for social gatherings would preclude this. It is true that women are allowed into the library and other buildings. But at the present time, they are officially here solely for academic purposes. We understand that this is a university as well, and that women, too, should have access to the academic facilities. In truth, though, if the rebbeim have been decided to enact separatist policy, it should be followed through all the way according to the letter of the law. However, this situation, realistically speaking, is unavoidable for now, owing to the fact that women must be given the same opportunity to complete their work as well. In Jewish law, there is such a concept of the suspension of a decree for which it would be unrealistic for most of the population to uphold. The solution to this problem, of course, is to provide ample facilities for the women downtown. Meanwhile, this should in no way be used as an excuse to support a situation where women will be coming up on a regular basis for social purposes. Dating must be done off campus to keep at least some semblance of a separate atmosphere which has always been fundamental to Orthodox communities. As a prime example of this idea, nobody would question that this separation is essential to the success of the yeshivot in Israel. For example, the large number of returnees from Hakotel, Shaalvim, as well as other yeshivot, rightfully expect to continue their studies in at least some semblance of a clear atmosphere conducive to their studies. These restrictions placed on us by all yeshivot should in no way be misinterpreted as mistrust. It is, on the contrary, out of the great love the rabbis have and have had for Klal Yisrael, and out of their deep understanding of human nature which has led and continues to lead them to place these restrictions on Klal Yisrael to help us reach those goals which we all strive to attain. Of course, these decisions are in effect for everyone, from the smallest child to the greatest sage. There are many hypocrisies in YU policy, not all of which can be so easily explained. If we are all as dedicated to the idea of creating an atmosphere of commitment to an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle on campus as we say we are, then instead of name-calling and stereotyping lets sit down and try to figure out how many of these things we see as misguided, unfounded, overprotective restrictions to our hashkafa are, in fact, responsible, realistic decisions necessary for the preservation of Yeshiva University. I suggest that to start off with, we stop trying hard not to be like the other yeshivot and start trying to figure out what exactly it is that separates us from the secular colleges.

Jeremy Poupko  
YC '92

## Menoras

continued from page 3

which he has stolen in order for his repentance to be effective (see Vayikra 5,23; Rambam, Laws of Repentance 2:9). Last year during the eighth night of Chanuka, all of the menorahs used in the designated candle lighting area of Muss Hall were stolen by Yeshiva University personnel. This may be a strong accusation, but there are witnesses to the incident. The students of Muss Hall did not have to be surprised by these actions since it is known that certain departments of the University go out of their way to make their life more difficult. Why no effort was made by the university, and in particular by offices concerned with student affairs, to return the menorahs is a question still unanswered; as of yet, they remain missing. In the broad picture of Yeshiva University this incident is minor, but it certainly reflects the school's general attitude toward its students. The University should, and according to halacha, must return or reimburse the students for the stolen property. If no initiative is taken by the University perhaps the University should be taken to Beit Din!? Our sages teach us that a penitent must correct his ways by perfecting his midot which are the source of his failings. In terms of the University this should mean the making of halachik considerations the prime consideration in all decisions. If the halacha was the operating force behind the university, incidents such as the Chanuka heist would be avoided.

Evan Herbsman  
YC '91

## AD GRipe

To the Editor:

On page five of The Commentator's first issue, there was an ad run by Group Resources Unlimited (GRU) about an upcoming seminar they are holding on careers in the sports marketing field. The first few lines described the goals of the seminar, and following that were the particulars. Heading the list was some shocking information: "Date: Saturday, November 2nd - Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon."

My initial thought was, "Boy, were these guys stupid for putting this ad in a Jewish school's newspaper!" But then, I began to consider this from The Commentator's perspective. I couldn't think of a legitimate reason why The Commentator would take money for this ad. How could this have happened?

I came up with three possible scenarios for what might have occurred here. Possibly, The Commentator did not realize that the event was to take place on Shabbat, in which case, they surely could not have informed GRU of the impending lack of response. If so, The Commentator was irresponsible in handling this business deal by not reading the ad carefully.

On the other hand, The Commentator may have recognized that the seminar was to take place on Shabbat, and in this case, there are two sub-categories. They could have purposely withheld the fact that no one would respond to their

seminar. This would put The Commentator in a really bad light. Of course, if I were to take the dan l'kaf z'chut attitude, I would say that they went to GRU with the information, and GRU decided to run the ad anyway. Unfortunately, this scenario seems to be the least likely of the three (as is too often the case in the dan l'kaf z'chut scenario).

If The Commentator is not guilty of these charges, then I am sorry for falsely accusing them. But if, as I suspect, they are at fault, then I think The Commentator should clean up its act.

Ami Hordes  
YC '93

*Editor's Note: The Commentator uses a number of advertising services, all of whom have been advised as to the nature of Yeshiva University and Yeshiva College. Any decision to run an ad of this nature is made by the agency supplying the ad. You may also note that our publication is read by students of Wurzweiller, Cordozo and Einstein, and the ad may have been of interest to those students. Last, our masthead states that we do not endorse services or goods advertised in the paper.*

*Fortunately, we do not have to fear (we hope!) that YC students will be attending the seminar, so no harm is done in printing an ad that was specifically sent to our paper.*

The Commentator will print any coherent and relevant letter or opinion. Multiple letters of similar content may be represented by one selected by the Editor. Please sign and limit submissions to one page. Letters can be deposited in the mailbox by the elevators on the first floor of Furst Hall.

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## Rav Schachter continued from p. 6

and are doomed to failure, or, in the absence of such a conclusion expert opinion, if the majority of G-d fearing Jews in Israel held that opinion. Unless that is the case, we must assume that we are winning.

Additionally, our prophets tell us that we will not lose Eretz Yisrael a third time. Our recent acquisition of Eretz Yisrael clearly marks a major step toward our ultimate redemption. The war which accompanied the independence of the State of Israel is also a part of the messianic redemption. The Gemara calls the wars leading up to that time "Atchalta D'Geula" - the beginning of redemption. As such, one would hardly expect the war effort to be doomed.

Is there any hope of reaching a peace agreement with the Arabs?

Well, yes and no. Peace with the Arabs is not an

impossibility. Our chachamim distinguish between the Arabs (Yishmael) and other religious groups (Eisav) in that we can beat actual peace with Arabs as opposed to with the Christians. Yet, to accomplish this with a cease fire and treaty would mean abandoning the war before the geula is complete, and we are not permitted to delay the redemption. Although it sounds hard to believe, our chachamim tell us that we may not prematurely end the war of geula, and a peace treaty would do just that. In other words, peace with the Arabs is something to look forward to but certainly not via concessions of land, or even as a result of a premature conclusion to the war which will B'Ezrat Hashem end with our Geula Shleima B'Karov.

# Hockey Teams Face Off

by Micah May and Zvi Klein

Hockey intramurals are back and better than ever. Teams are equally balanced and it appears to be the most competitive league yet.

With the first pick, Avi Forman selected defenseman Keith Mendelsohn. Mendelsohn is regarded as the best all-around player and is favored to repeat as league M.V.P. Forman's team has a solid defense with All-Star Amiel Lindenbaum and Jon Hirsch. It also has an exciting offense with Dovid Cohen and Barry Foyer. Goaltending is strong with Brian Kardon. Look for this team to finish first.

Shlomo Schwarzstein looked to strengthen his defensive zone with Josh Fogel, Teddy Pearman, and goaltender Yehuda Srulowitz. Their potential goal scorers include: Michael Glass, Andrew Ressler, Josh Rush, Brent Levinson, Micah May, the Dube brothers, and surprise pick Bob Weir. If this team has good chemistry,

they could go far, but we predict they will finish out of the playoffs in fifth.

Benjy Berger wasted no time in taking power forward Rob Rabinowitz who excels in all aspects of the game. Rabinowitz will probably challenge Mendelsohn for M.V.P. With the most controversial pick of the draft, Berger selected Brem Moldovsky, an intense and valuable player. Regarding Moldovsky, trade talk abounds. Look for Ari Soshtain to make a large impact on the team. This team's success rests upon legendary goaltender David Ingber. If he gets on a hot streak, Berger's team can win it all. We expect a second place finish.

Jacob Septimus selected Yossi Yarkony, the league's most dynamic goalie and a player capable of winning games on his own. Other solid players include Michael Kupferman, Ari Strauch, and Michael Ripstein; it will be a heavy load for Yarkony to make 50 saves per game. Look for this team to make some big trades before the deadline or else they

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Clippers	1-1
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Nets	0-2
Heat	0-2
Kings	0-3

will finish in fourth.

Jon Weinstein chose Kenny Schiff, a goalie with the highest save percentage in Y.U. hockey intramurals history (.994). This team has well-rounded talent including: Michael Bindell, Marc Rothenberg, Benji Chesir, Steven Tiger, and Seth Frolich. However, unless Schiff can average 60 saves per game, this team will be the cellar dweller.

Finally, J.B. Levine chose an all-star defenseman and longtime teammate, Zvi Klein.

Harris Pearlman, Andrew Lanter, David Boim, and Don Germazian, are four of the quickest forwards in the league. Expect Barry Gelman to have another great season and this team will finish in third.

In the first week of play, Shlomo Schwarzstein netted a hat trick and Yehuda Srulowitz scored a 5-0 shutout over Jon Weinstein's team. Don Germazian had 2 goals and 1 assist as Levine's team defeated Berger's team 3-1.

# Fencing Team Foiled

After years of practicing in the Tannenbaum gym, the Yeshiva College Fencing Team, also known as the Taubermen, has been given the boot. As a result, the team has been moving from one location to the next, unsure of where their permanent home will be.

The exodus from Tannenbaum is a result of renovations being done to the local public high school where the MTA Basketball team used to practice. The Lions are therefore now practicing in the Tannenbaum gym on Monday and Wednesday nights, overlapping with the scheduled fencing practices.

The Taubermen were initially relocated to the MTA cafeteria, a room which proved far too small to accommodate the entire team. Further practices were held in Furst Hall room 501, the large lecture hall traditionally used for final examinations. While this room is just large enough, it raises other complications.

"Furst 501 is simply not a gym floor; not even close," explains co-captain David J. Kay. "It puts undue strain on one's knees, particularly in a sport like fencing where the knees are under considerable stress to begin with. Moreover, the floor is ridiculously slippery - it was never designed for any sort of athletics at all." Adds Kay, "It is only a matter of time until someone gets seriously hurt."

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# YESHIVA



# SPORTS

## Macs Inside Scoop

by Eric Melzer and Ronnie Aranoff

Although the Macs season opener is still three weeks away, plenty of decisions already face the Macs' coaching staff.

Prior to the team tryout, Coaches Halpert and Podias said that they expected to take 12 or 13 players for the team. After the final cut, 14 players remained. Only six of the fourteen are veterans. The eight newcomers are Daniel Aaron, Erez Ben Ami, Saul Stepner, Donny Furst, Michael Dube, Binyamin Resnick, Or Rose, and Mark Gallik. It remains to be seen just how well these eight will adapt to college basketball.

Regarding the starting team, the coaching staff would only state that

## Back On Track

by Steven Dyckman

On October 21st one of YC's quickest teams got back on track as the cross-country squad had its first meet of the season. The five mile race at Garrett Mountain, New Jersey pitted YC against all the teams of the Independent Athletic Conference. Bard College won the meet, but YC put up an impressive performance despite having an insufficient number of runners to qualify.

Individually, Jeremy Bandler finished first for YC and 17th overall, with a time just over 33:00. David Sack and Aaron Katzman placed second and third for YC respectively. When asked about the meet, Bandler said, "It was a tough course because we didn't have enough time to prepare."

The Macs' second meet was a tri-match at Van Cortland Park against Polytech and Stevens Tech. Yeshiva finished second and Uzi Ovitz led all YC runners, capturing sixth place in the five mile race. The Macs' chances for winning the meet evaporated when Seth Gerszberg injured his ankle during the race.

Overall, the Macs looked sharp in both meets. Much of the credit for this success goes to Coach Stanley Watson. Watson did an excellent job in preparing the runners in only two preseason weeks.

The track team ended the season with a November 3rd five mile meet at Van Cortland Park versus New Jersey Tech.

Elisha Rothman and Miko Danan were locks to start at the off-guard and power forward positions respectively. After watching numerous practices, however, we are almost certain that Daniel Aaron will be the starting center and Seth Cohen will be the starting small forward. This only leaves the point guard position, and as Coach Halpert stated, "The point guard position is wide open and the most important to fill. Our entire season rests upon filling the starting point guard position." As of now, there is a fierce battle for the starting point guard. The four candidates include Dovid Cohen, Matt Klein, Donny Furst, and Erez Ben-Ami. It seems that the one who performs best in the preseason scrimmages will get the nod.

Coach Podias wasted no words regarding the Macs' defense: "We are going to press teams out of their own gym!" The coaching staff is considering transforming the T-half court press into a T-full court press. Podias stated that the team's goal is to be in the top five in team defense in Division III Basketball.

Coach Halpert predicted that the surprise victory will be over NYU this season in Madison Square Garden. He added that the surprise defeat will once again be a loss to Polytech at home.

The Macs have a preseason scrimmage tomorrow night versus St. Thomas Aquinas at 7:30 pm in the MSAC. The season will begin at Stevens Tech on Monday, November 25. The opponent for the December 2nd home opener will be New Jersey Tech.

## Ostrow Leads Wrestling Macs Again

by Eric Melzer

In Yeshiva varsity sports, members of the various teams practice as much as possible in order to ready themselves for the beginning of the season. One individual who seems to prepare more rigorously than anyone else is Brian Ostrow, Captain of the Yeshiva Macs wrestling team.

Brian Ostrow's wrestling career began in the seventh grade at Sycamore Junior High School. He says that he began wrestling simply because it was a popular thing to do in Ohio. Ostrow proceeded to wrestle for two years in Junior High and four years in High School. After graduating in 1988, Ostrow attended Ohio State University for one year, where he practiced with the Division One team - he could not be a member of the team as matches took place on Shabbat.

In 1989, Ostrow transferred to YU and immediately became one of the stars of the Wrestling Macs. Ostrow stated that 1989 Captain David Edelcreek encouraged him tremendously by pushing him to get into shape. Ostrow's first victory was in the 142 lb. weight class against Manhattan College. In this bout, he gained a lopsided win, which is a victory by at least an eight point margin. During the match, Ostrow separated his shoulder, yet he didn't feel the injury until after the match was completed. Ostrow commented that "not feeling the injury proves that you need a very strong mental attitude, possibly stronger than any other sport."

The Captain specializes in various types of throws on an opponent. Ostrow explains that this expertise helped him in a match two years ago at Fordham,

scoreless for the first minute until Ostrow successfully executed a "head-arm throw" and pinned his opponent in 2 to 3 seconds.

Ostrow feels that the two coaches are extremely professional and have two completely different styles and roles. He explained: "Coach Elman is the motivator and the one who whips the wrestlers into shape. Coach Schwitzer is the technician."

Optimistic about the team's prospects for this year, Ostrow explained that every weight class is filled with at least one experienced wrestler and therefore, this could be the best year in the team's history. He also stated, however, that the team is lacking depth and an injury could easily lead to a forfeiture of a weight class.

Ostrow wrestles in the 142lb. weight class. His roommate Barry Bessler will wrestle in the 134 lb. weight class. Aside from Bessler, Ostrow has high expectations for Harris Pearlman (126 lb.), Effy Zinkin (150 lb.), Michael Ripstein (166 lb.), and Teddy Pearlman (heavyweight). Ostrow said that the top newcomer is definitely Josh Bernheim, a former MTA wrestler who was undefeated two years ago.

Finally, Ostrow emphasized the importance of rigorous practice and training; the team practices five times a week. He summarized this ideal saying, "I think that the guys who go out for the wrestling team deserve lots of credit. . .to maintain the strength and endurance for wrestling requires more practice and training than any other sport in YU. It's a twenty-four hour sport whereby you must watch what you eat, get good sleep, and work on the track, in the weight room, and in the wrestling room."



Wrestling Macs: Ready to hit the mats.

photo: D. Blendis

## The Commentator

500 West 186th Street  
New York NY 10033