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REVEL GRAD SCHOOL FACES SHUTDOWN

Budget Constraints Cited, Final Decision Pending

by Michael Eisenberg

The Commentator has learned that the University recently approved a plan to eliminate the Bernard Revel Graduate School (BRGS), YU's oldest graduate school. Revel, initially founded to afford religious students the opportunity to pursue a higher education in Judaic studies, is the latest casualty of the University's cost cutting measures aimed at trimming its budget deficit. Rabbi Lamm's office has informed us that exhaustive efforts are being made to raise funds to keep BRGS afloat.

BRGS Dean Rabbi Leo Landman, stated that he was told "they are going to restructure Revel, but," he continued, "it isn't Revel." Of the 116 Revel students, 22 are currently enrolled in the joint BA/MA program with YU's undergraduate schools. Aside from the student population, this decision also affects Revel's eight faculty members.

One major concern involves the academic future of students that have already begun their studies at Revel. Senior Vice

President Rabbi Israel Miller did not outline a specific plan, but asserted that "each student will be dealt with individually; many will be allowed to finish. Every student will be taken care of. We've closed down graduate programs before and taken care of the students."

It appears that the scheduled closing of BRGS stems from purely financial considerations. Landman confirmed Revel's budget at approximately \$390,000. YU has initiated other substantial cutbacks throughout the institution which dwarf the savings resulting from the proposed Revel cutbacks. Vice President for Business Affairs Dr. Sheldon Socol confirmed that YU cut approximately \$5,000,000 (five million) from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine budget.

While across-the-board cuts begin to take their toll, increments (salary raises) were approved for administrators effective July 1, and for some faculty as of September 1. Dr. Socol said, "The University permitted a raise pool of four percent." While four percent of the aggregate salaries was given

to each department head to allocate, the President similarly apportioned increments to administrators from a four percent raise pool based on their own salaries. RIETS Vice President Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, in an interview four weeks ago, justified the increases: "You don't starve things that are essential to the institution... People that function effectively, even in difficult times, should be rewarded."

Dean Landman was apparently excluded from the decision: "nobody asked me and in my estimation it shouldn't be closed. The Middle States Report called Revel the crown jewel of YU."

President Lamm could not be reached for comment. Additionally, none of the administrators contacted would specify an official date for the announcement. However, Rabbi Landman said, "All I know is that come June 1, I won't be dean of Revel anymore."

This late-breaking story is obviously a complicated issue. The Commentator is currently following all developments.



Photo: Jay Bailey



Photo: Jay Bailey

NYPD Pursuit Ends at YU

by Jay Bailey and Michael Eisenberg

At approximately 12:30 am last Thursday morning, a brown sedan driven by a Hispanic male jumped the curb near the YU intercampus shuttle stop at the northwest corner of 185th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

The car struck a diprooted a fire hydrant and then collided with a large planter which brought the vehicle to a crashing halt. The driver, travelling north on Amsterdam Avenue, crashed in an attempt to turn the corner on 185th Street. According to police radio reports picked up by YU students, the driver had already run eight red lights and was driving while

intoxicated. With two New York Police Department patrol cars in pursuit and two patrol cars intercepting him on 185th Street, the driver was forced to swerve onto the curb. The policemen jumped from their cars, drew their guns, pulled the driver from his smashed vehicle, forced him to the ground, and handcuffed him. Police found a 9mm pistol in the back seat of the car; the driver was arrested and taken away for booking. YC students stood cheering in a large semicircle, observing the goings-on. The 34th Precinct could not confirm or deny the details, as the accident report had not been filed by press time. (This information was gathered from NYPD officers, Burns Security, and student eyewitnesses.)



Photo: Jay Bailey

On His Mind: A.M. Rosenthal Speaks

Students, administrators and friends of Yeshiva University filled Weissberg Commons last Wednesday for an address by A.M. Rosenthal, former Executive Editor and current columnist for *The New York Times*. The lecture, titled "Israel - Suicide or Survival?" was followed by a twenty-five minute question and answer session.

The program, consisting of a dinner (for student leaders and administrators), the lecture, and a reception afterwards, was the latest project sponsored by the President's Circle. For the Circle, an organization currently comprised of eighteen alumni dedicated to funding special projects for YU undergraduates, this was their largest and most publicized event to date.

After a short introduction by YCSC President David J. Kay, Rosenthal began with a short background of himself. First he alluded to the "A.M." in his name. He explained that in his reporting days, the name

Abraham was "unacceptable," so that every reporter named Abraham "had his name changed for him," by lower level editors. Even under Jewish management, he explained, *The Times* was especially wary of appearing too Jewish.

During his forty years at *The Times*, Rosenthal worked as a reporter, a foreign correspondent, metropolitan editor and later executive editor. As a reporter and editor, the journalist's job was to keep his opinions out of news reporting. But, he related, "keeping those opinions bottled up in me was journalistically correct... but it wasn't good for my blood pressure or my disposition," and now that he can express his views freely in his column he feels "a lot healthier, a lot happier and a lot better natured."

Rosenthal went on to explain how the subject of Israel became one of his priorities. He relayed the story of an affair he attended at the State Department a few years ago, at which



Photo: D. Blumkin

ambassadors from across the globe were present. Represented that day at the federal guest house were small countries that had not been in existence before World War II, countries with short, tumultuous histories, countries run by dictators. Many were "figments of the imaginations of colonial administrators." Nevertheless, their boundaries and their right to exist were recognized and regarded with sensitivity and dignity. Yet Israel, a country whose existence dates back almost as far as history itself, established by the U.N., has been not only challenged, but has fought and won five wars, to no avail. "Israel was, and is portrayed not only as illegitimate, but as the direct enemy of most of the people of the world."

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Don't Know Much About History

Yeshiva College's interest in the world's history and cultures is pitifully limited. In addition to Jewish History selections, this semester's History options include only American, European and Middle Eastern history. Next semester's schedule adds Greek Civ to the program. The only Archaeology class taught is in the Bible department and rather than emphasizing a pursuit of the mysteries of past civilizations, is merely an attempt to use examples of Middle Eastern finds to prove the words of the Bible. All these courses share a common Judeocentrist or Eurocentrist bias.

In order to live a full life outside an academic setting, it is not enough to learn one's own heritage and culture. Although Jewish History and Religion, European music and art, and the American political system are all indisputably vital to a college education, the university experience should expose the student to a wide range of viewpoints and introduce him to the world in general. Our University and its students should recognize the potential returns inherent in a broader array of classes. This is not an advocacy of multiculturalistic splinterism, but simply an appeal for a cosmopolitan approach to scholarship. Knowledge of other societies can help us understand our own while better preparing us for entry into the outside world.

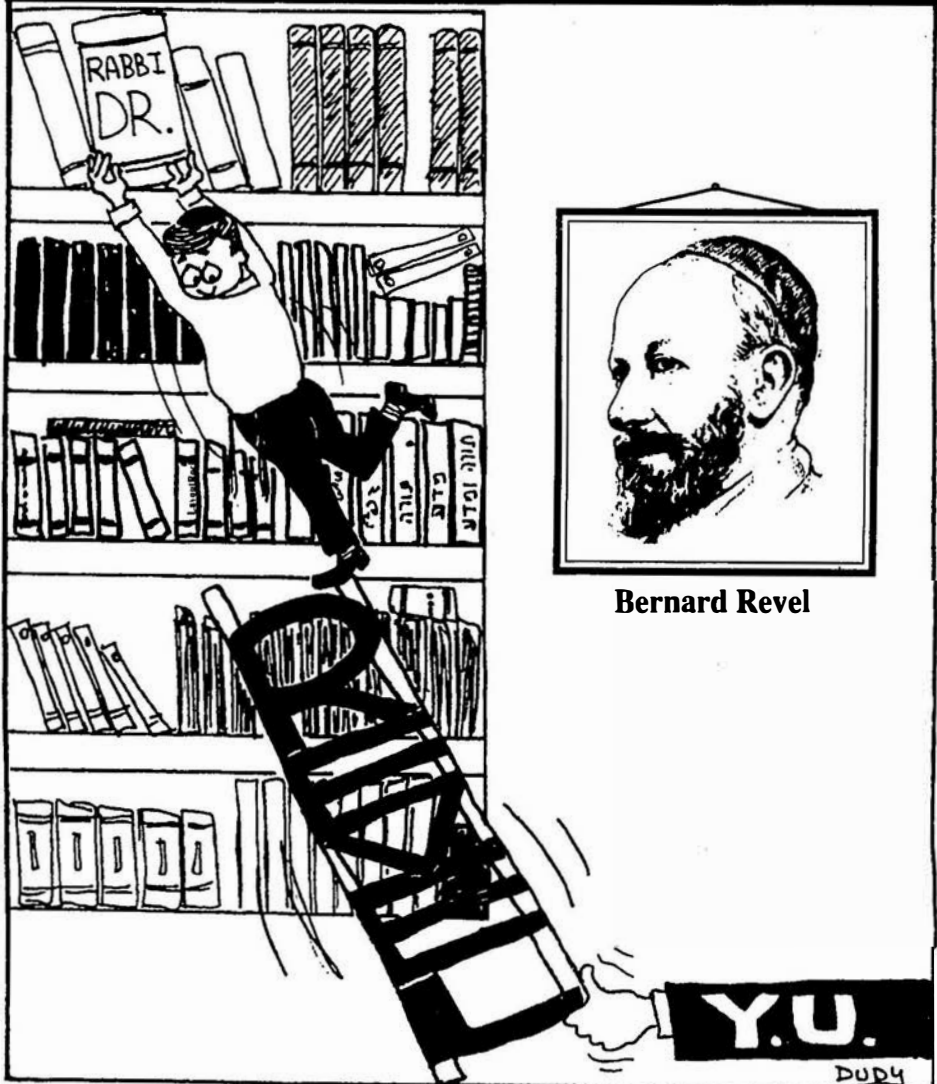
Bible Blues

Any MYP student who has sat through a Bible class in Yeshiva College knows the sensation; approximately fifty minutes into class, you steal a look at the clock only to find close to an hour left until freedom. Why must the Yeshiva Bible requirement be taught in classes lasting one hour and forty minutes? The length merely contributes to the ill humor and ill attention of the students who are subjected to it. We have all heard of the studies proving that classes of more than an hour are detrimental to the learning process. Why hasn't YU?

This wasted time could be more effectively utilized if divided into two classes: one on Tuesday and one on Thursday. If Bible were taught on separate days instead of only one of them, as is currently the case, then not only would more be accomplished in each class, but less time would be taken from morning seder. As opposed to the current arrangement, when the day of one's Bible is a day lost since seder consists of only an hour and half, the new plan would allow for an almost normal seder with only a smaller, fifty minute piece bitten out of it.

The moving of all Bible courses to two days would also eliminate the problem of overcrowding, experienced by many students who are closed out of their chosen Bibles. The disproportionate amount of students attending Shiurim whose Rebbeim give Shiur early on Thursday causes a tremendous glut in that day's Bible classes. If the classes were given on both days, these problems could easily be avoided.

PICTORIAL



Bernard Revel

The Commentator

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From The Editor's Desk

Jay Bailey

"One who joins us from other nations... will not be equal to us... because we are called unique from all men."

No, it is not an excerpt from a neo-Nazi pamphlet; it is taken from the first chapter of Rabbi Yehuda Halevi's *Kuzari*. Rabbi Norman Lamm, in *The Condition of Jewish Belief*, notes that "Only a deliberate misreading of the *Kuzari*... can mistake it for a precursor to modern racialism" (p. 128). Indeed, at the end of Halevi's narration, the Kazar king embraces Judaism, and his new co-religionists, in turn, embrace him. Racism and prejudice are not elements of our creed; considering the suffering in our history, this should not be a difficult fact to grasp.

"Am Segula" is not the expression of a superiority complex; to Jews, it means we are chosen by G-d for additional responsibilities, rather than merely singled out for special treatment. Our "privilege" is our responsibility for the maintenance of Avraham's original assignment to disseminate the notion of monotheism, and more specifically, the name of the One and only Creator.

But oh, did we forget our role last Wednesday night.

On my desk lie over four dozen photographs from the accident scene (see page 1). The images of the YC students are sickening. We are cheering, waving, pointing, laughing. Also discernible are the suspect's eyes, staring fixedly at the ground; perhaps he had to squint from the glare of our Ohr La'goyim.

"Bin' filat oyveychem al tismach" -- "Do not celebrate the fall of your enemies." This traditional dictum forbids our celebration of even an enemy's just downfall, even an exciting, seemingly appropriate Chanukeseque triumph of Good over Evil.

We were judges that night. And we were the criminals.

How much did we know about our "enemy?" I was saddened to hear a sophomore enlighten his friend: "One of these Puerto Rican guys. Another drug bust, of course..." His friend laughed and joined in the chorus of "Goodbye" that the YU Boys Choir had struck up.

Condemning a man because he is part of a particular culture is bigotry, plain and simple. What if he had been a white American man in a business suit? A man with a yarmulke? A friend?

To realize how Jewish immigration mirrors the Hispanic experience, one has only to peruse a September 19, 1991 article in the *New York Times* in which Sara Rimer describes the predominantly Dominican population of Washington Heights, "crowded into tenements that were once home to German Jews... Their lives are still defined by money: earning it, saving it, and sending it back to their families." Many of these "permanent immigrants" endure poverty so that families they rarely see can survive.

Like any immigrant group,

Dominicans are not lazy -- they cannot afford to be. They own livery cabs, manage bodegas, and trudge across the bridge each morning to find work in New Jersey. "It's an injustice to just equate Dominicans with drug dealing," states Captain Robert Curley of the North Tactical Narcotics Team. Of course there are drug dealers, many of whom turned to dealing due to the lack of good jobs in New York.

Their struggle cannot be compared to the petty frustrations many of us will face trying to find the right courses, cram for finals, or locating programs for our computers. Their work ethic is an outgrowth of experiences to which we cannot relate.

Was it only a one-time occurrence? A little insensitivity?

Many of the Hispanic guards from Burns Security would disagree. Last month, after a particularly rude confrontation in Morg, one guard mumbled to another, "these guys think they're so smart. No respect." The lack of respect shown to many of them can only be another Chilul Hashem.

And we wonder where anti-Semitism comes from. Right now there may very well be a Hispanic out on bail, who, according to the police, favors a 9mm automatic handgun. And now he doesn't like YU students.

Is this prejudice limited to our relationship with Hispanics? On campus, relationships between American and Iranian or Russian students leave much to be desired. They live here, often alone in the world, sometimes leaving their parents behind. Yet our display of Chessed and Hachnasat Orchim to them is minimal. How many of us Daves, Daniels and Mikes have made friends with the Kouroshes, the Fahrzads or the Alexes down the hall? I dare say not many. YCSC has never run an event to facilitate such mixing, as there is perhaps no demand. How sad it is that within such a small student body we have developed such a xenophobia.

Every culture is distinct, and we recognize this reality. I am not recommending that we invite the Hispanics in our neighborhood to the Caf for dinner (they've got higher standards anyway), or drag them in to dance at our engagement parties (though, come to think of it, they might enjoy a quick "Yiddin" dance). Instead, we should always keep in mind that people around us are observing, analyzing and feeling our behavior.

Sydney Smith, the English clergyman and essayist, advises: "Never try to reason the prejudice out of a man. It was not reasoned into him, and cannot be reasoned out." As Jews, our literature teems with hundreds of quotable passages that require us to do exactly what Smith deems futile -- to acknowledge that every human being deserves our respect. Only then can we expect the same.

It is the difference between harm and harmony, for us and for them.

RESPONSA

Foreign Aid

To the Editor:

The group at YC that stands to lose perhaps the most by budget constraints at the Writing Center is the foreign students. Highly motivated yet often entering college with minimal language skills, many students are faced with the near-insurmountable task of progressing from the basic conversation stage to respectably completing freshman composition in the all-too-short span of four years. With only three hours of ESL offered weekly, tutoring becomes a vital supplement to their initial instruction and adaptation to an overwhelming English speaking environment.

On a personal note, I am continually impressed by the professionalism and genuine attention that the tutors show towards the foreign students, often going out of their way on their own time (and without remuneration) to ask advice about how to best help individual students.

I trust that as students, faculty, and administration are made aware of the vital services offered by the Writing Center, all efforts will be made to allocate funds to guarantee its smooth functioning; I commend The Commentator for highlighting this very important matter.

Norma Silbermintz
Coordinator,
ESL Instruction, YC

Paper Problems

To the Editor:

In the November 21 Commentator is an article discussing the possibility of recycling the take-out trays from the cafeteria. However, I think that an even bigger issue was overlooked. Every week, thousands of newspapers go through our institution. You will have difficulty convincing me that while Grand Central Terminal has a recycling program for newspapers, Yeshiva University is incapable of one.

In Connecticut, the recycle bins read, "An American Revolution." At YU, it's an American revulsion. At a time when so many companies exist for recycling just about anything, it's a travesty that in our school, even the basics (and easily the biggest) like newspapers, paper, etc. cannot be covered. One commercial states, "We're not asking you to save the planet, just make it a better place to live." Every day that a substantive program does not exist, we damage the planet a little more.

I offer Kudos to the Philanthropy Society for their efforts in cleaning up YU, and I hope we can all learn something valuable to our children and not just another mess to clean up.

Ira Kosowsky
YC '91

Editor's note: We print over 5,000 copies of this 12-16 page publication every two weeks, approximately 3,000 of which stay on campus. As much as we'd like to think so, students do not treasure the issues as keepsakes. That's 384,000 sheets in the garbage. Add that to 200 subscriptions to the New York Times, and you've got a gargantuan number. It's embarrassing that we do nothing to help the planet (and make some money in the process!)

Time for Introspection

To the Editor:

It would appear from the comments of those interviewed in the previous "Commentator" that the purpose of the Middle States report went completely overlooked. To any observer, the intent of the report was to serve as constructive criticism. If a group of outsiders has done a thorough evaluation of the school and documented problems which exist, it is incumbent upon those criticized to consider the appraisal and deal with it appropriately. Of course here, the conclusions of the report go overlooked and dismissed out of hand.

I think that any rebukes found in the report, especially of the upper administration, should be taken extremely seriously.

Not too many people were surprised by excerpts. Those singled out should look deep within themselves and work on improvement, not defense. As for Dr. Brenner's assertion that his office is the most open, I strongly suggest that he visit the grave of Dr. Ralph Behrends.

Bryan Zimmer

Retort to a Republican

To the Editor:

Jeff Stier, in his article "The Republican View" [it was entitled "Orthodox Judaism: Which Party is Right for the Religion?" in its Washington Heights Citizen incarnation], correctly points out that the religious viewpoint of Orthodox Jews in many ways conflicts with liberalism insofar as he disparagingly defines the liberal philosophy. Opinions aside, his errors of omission, commission, and implication typify most attempts to connect religious and political philosophy. It's a shame that Mr. Stier did not consider it worthwhile to get his facts straight - if he had, he might have arrived at an altogether different conclusion.

The following are but a few of Mr. Stier's major errors:

Mr. Stier points out the support for... condom distribution... that exists among the most vocal members of the Democratic Party. Orthodox Judaism forbids its adherents from the practices

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CAMPUS NEWS

Chanuka Chaggiga a Special Treat

SOY held its annual Chanuka Chaggiga on Tuesday night, December 3, in the Tannenbaum Beit Midrash. Rav Aharon Soloveitchik, Shlita, began the chaggiga with a D'var Torah on the halachic and philosophical aspects of Chanuka, and the lessons to derive from them.

Dancing began shortly thereafter, to the music of the Negina Orchestra,

making their first appearance at the annual chaggiga with surprise guest, Yossi Piamenta. At the height of the dancing, there were over 200 students and Rabbeim present. Rav Dovid Lifschitz, Shlita, President Lamm, Rabbi Blau, Rav Goldvicht, and Rabbi Neuberger all attended.

--Ari Rosenstein

Student Study Skills Session a Success

Last Thursday during club hour, YC Guidance Counsellor Rabbi Yehudah Fine ran the opening session of a two-part seminar before a packed classroom in Furst Hall. Based on the program "Where there's a Will there's an 'A'," it helps students improve study habits and test-taking skills.

The program is designed to help students perform better in school while lowering stress. It was designed by a law professor at Arizona State University after he found that his son, who had been a good student in high school, was having problems succeeding in college.

Rabbi Fine decided to run the program when he realized that many of the students who came to him didn't "have some of the real basic skills of approaching their coursework." He decided that he "needed to do something more positive, more helpful, and more

state-of-the-art."

The program focuses on skills in many different areas, ranging from ways to study well and make efficient use of time to methods for taking tests, writing papers, and even choosing courses. However, maintains Fine, "There's no big chidushim here." Many students may have figured some of these things out on their own. Nevertheless, the seminar is still quite effective since it gathers all these ideas together into one program.

About 30-35 students attended the first session of the seminar and the second half will be held tomorrow, Thursday, during club hour in Furst Hall. There would be no difficulties in attending the second half without previously hearing the first, says Fine. Additionally, a video of the seminar will be made available to any students wishing to view it.

--Joel Haber

Rabbis Clarify Issues in Business & Halacha

by Ari Z. Bernstein

In an effort to clarify the Jewish perspective on issues in the workplace, the Sy Syms School of Business held its first in a series of Business and Halacha Seminars on November 13. SSSBSA President Laizer Kornwasser introduced the featured speakers, Rabbis Blau and Willig, who fielded questions related to donning a yarmulke in the workplace and participating in business meetings in non-kosher establishments.

Rabbi Willig first addressed the "yarmulke problem" in the context of hiring and advancing within a corporation. He explained that wearing a yarmulke is not a mitzva, but a mida chassidit (a trait of saintliness). He quoted Rav Moshe Feinstein who states that a mida chassidit or minhag (custom) is not more obligatory than an actual mitzva. He said a man is not obligated to give up a fifth of his livelihood in order to observe a mitzva. Therefore, in a case where one would earn substantially less by taking a job where it he would be able

to wear a yarmulke he would be permitted.

Rabbi Blau emphasized that a person should first try to find a job where he would be able to wear a yarmulke, pointing to the positive opportunities for kiddush Hashem.

With regard to business meetings in non-kosher restaurants, Rabbi Willig emphasized the need to prevent such a situation since generally one has "no business" being in a non-kosher establishment in the first place. He referred to marit ayin [the correct pronunciation of a frequently mispronounced term] as a primary concern, yet said that today, particularly in New York, it is well known that such meetings take place so this problem does not apply. He proceeded to analyze each situation as it would occur. One should first schedule a meeting in a kosher restaurant. When an inevitable appointment nevertheless takes place in such an establishment not only is non-kosher meat forbidden, but even cold vegetables are subject to the restrictions

ΣΔΡ Hears AECOM Dean

Over forty YC and SCW students attended a November 18 talk given by Dr. Dominick Purpura, Dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who discussed the structure and development of the human brain and its nerve cells.

The lecture, sponsored by Sigma Delta Rho and the Biology Department, focused on recent discoveries concerning spinal processes found on the dendrites of nerve cells, which play a role in the processing of information, as well as the abnormalities which prevent their development and thus hinder proper brain function.

Dr. Purpura ended his discussion with a humorous ten step do-it-yourself method of making a human brain. The final step of this process was not to poison the brain with toxins, trauma, or trivia. Sigma Delta Rho and the Biology Department sponsor a total of nine lectures on various topics. Upcoming lectures include: Ethics in Medical Research (12/9), Hormone-Brain Relationships (12/23), Clinical Applications of Fertilization (12/30), and DNA Damage in Acquired Disease (1/06).

--Josh Steiner

Corrections

Last issue's article "Pool Dedication Ceremony" was incorrectly attributed. The article was written by Michael Schachter.

In last issue's editorial "Job Half Done" The Commentator unjustly accused the Administration of suggesting we lie to the phone company. The error was a result of miscommunication.

Two New Projects for YCPS

by Jonathan Schloss

Since its creation in 1988, the Yeshiva College Philanthropy Society has always found the time to aid the local Jewish community. At present, YCPS plans to initiate two new projects for the coming year.

Last June, Jay Feinberg, a twenty-three year old Orthodox Jew, was diagnosed with a rare type of leukemia. His only chance of survival is to receive a bone marrow transplant. The chances of finding an acceptable donor are slim. After blood tests showed that none of his relatives would make suitable bone marrow donors, the Feinbergs called upon the Jewish community at large to find someone with Jay's bone marrow type.

On Thursday, December 19, in conjunction with the New Jersey HLA Registry, YCPS and SCWSC-TAC will administer blood tests in Morg Lounge and Stern's gym to prospective bone marrow donors. This function, appropriately named Project Chai V' Chayim (Life and Lives) requires the extraction of just two tablespoons of blood. Blood type and recent blood donations are not important factors in this type of blood test. Anyone who is in generally good health and between the ages of 18 and 55 may be tested.

YCPS will be sending students an information packet on Project Chai V' Chayim with a return envelope for donations to defray the costs of laboratory fees. Everyone who is tested will have their blood data listed in a national directory. In this way, those who do not match with Jay Feinberg may be able to save someone else's life.

YCPS has encountered complications with YU insurance, but is optimistic that the program will proceed.

On Monday December 16, YCPS will be sponsoring a Kollel for Russian Jews called Kollel L'Bnai Chorin - Learning for the Freed. Danny Wolff, YCPS's co-founder, came up with the idea of a Kollel for Soviet Jews after speaking with social workers who deal with Russian immigrants in Israel. Because the idea of learning Torah is foreign to most Russian Jews, Yiddishkeit is not a part of their lives. "These people need motivation to come to classes," said Wolff.

Those selected to participate in the Kollel will receive \$100 per month to come to three classes each week. The Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights, an organization involved with helping Russian Jews on a regular basis, selected ten heads of households based on their attitudes toward religious observance. This beginners' Kollel will consist of classes in basic Hebrew, Chumash, and Jewish Holidays. The JCC hopes that other communities will start similar Kollel programs using YCPS's as a model. YCPS will raise money for the Kollel through a tzedaka box campaign, with Tzedaka cans with orange YCPS stickers soon to appear all over campus.

In order to carry out ideas for programs or to create new chessed projects, YCPS needs dedicated members. If "lots of people put in a little time," said Wolff, "a lot can be accomplished."

of Bishul Akum (cooking by Gentiles) and other prohibitions because of the utensils used. Rabbi Willig noted that many restaurants will bring in kosher food if prior arrangements are made. When this is impossible, one should inquire into the type of utensils used. A simple solution would be to order a whole fruit and bring your own utensil; or to order yogurt or ice cream (provided it is known to be kosher), since it is permitted to put cold kosher food on a questionable plate. All of these cases, though, are b'diavad and should not become a habit.

Both Rabbi Blau and Rabbi Willig said that in considering all situations, one must take into account not only the place, but also time, and tone at events such as the particular one at hand. Is it more social than business? Is anything more than an appearance to show one's face necessary? All questions must be considered, and in most cases a Rabbi should be consulted.

Accounting Society, Caf Store Reach Mutually Beneficial Agreement

by Michael Z. Kellman

The Accounting Society is concluding an agreement with the Department of Food Services to staff the YU Convenience Store for new, extended hours. The arrangement, beginning next semester, supplants the settlement which the administration was cultivating with another student organization, the Joint Business Society.

According to the new plan, the JBS will continue to run Morg Mart in the basement of the Morgenstern dormitory, while the Accounting Society will supply workers to man the Convenience Store in Rubin Hall. The Caf Store's new hours will extend from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

JBS rejected the initial plan put forth by Food Services, as it required the closing of Morg Mart, which would prove inconvenient to Morg residents. In addition, the students felt that a conflict of interest precluded working at both locations. SSSBSA President Laizer Kornwasser, formulated the arrangement which will allow the JBS to continue operating Morg Mart while also extending the hours of the Convenience Store. This proposal involves persuading the Accounting Society to take up the job of staffing the new store.

Kornwasser has jurisdiction over the Accounting Society. However, he also serves as Second Vice President of YCSC, and in that role, oversees the JBS, which is a YCSC organization. Utilizing this dual role, he was able to represent both

parties in his dealings with the administration.

After discussing the issue with David Kolb and Shmuel Hook, President and Vice President of the JBS and Dan Silverman, President of the Accounting Society, Kornwasser offered his suggestions to Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten. This led to several meetings which resulted with the current proposal.

In addition to staffing the store, the Accounting Society students will make decisions about which new items to sell in the store and the implementation of new marketing strategies. New features may include price specials and unusual store hours to accommodate students' needs during reading week and finals.

The money which the Accounting Society raises through this new enterprise will be added to funds earned by Morg Mart to help defray costs of the Sy Syms Business Dinner at year's end. According to Kornwasser, "In the worst case scenario, the Sy Syms Dinner will be getting more than in the past because both the Morg Mart and the Convenience Store will be open."

While this will create new competition between the two stores, Kornwasser sees benefit coming from that. "There will be competition between the two but that challenges the JBS and Accounting Society to use their marketing skills." Silverman also sees future benefits coming from the new arrangement. "I'm looking forward to it," he said. "We'll make money, we'll learn important skills and we'll have a good time."



Successful Shabbaton Ends In Disappointment

by Ari Z. Bernstein

A joint YC and SCW Shabbaton planned to foster support for Prime Minister Yitzchak Shamir ended in disappointment two weeks ago, as most participants were unable to gain admission to an address by the Israeli Head of State.

Students attending the Shabbaton had received tickets to hear Prime Minister Shamir's Saturday night address at the Kehilath Jeshurun Synagogue. After arriving early and waiting on line for over an hour, only a handful of the over 120 YU students were admitted.

The tickets were obtained from the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) with the help of former YCSC Vice President David Borowich, now associated with Likud USA. Borowich expressed regret that the students were not admitted, although it is clear, he maintains, that neither he nor Likud USA were responsible.

Assistant JCRC Director Craig Frank explained in a telephone interview that many others in addition to the YU students were denied entrance to Shamir's speech. He attributed this to the turnout, which was larger than

expected. Mr. Frank said that in issuing the tickets, the JCRC used the "standard dropoff formula rate." Accordingly, the number of tickets printed exceeds the number of seats available. In this case, about 3,000 tickets were printed for 1,500 seats. Over 5,000 people came to hear Shamir. He pointed to the mild weather that evening and the increased interest generated by the peace conference as contributing to the unanticipated turnout. Frank claimed that there was "widespread counterfeiting of tickets" and that many people were admitted without passes. He added that this was the first event he knew of where ticket-holders were turned away.

Shabbaton organizers suspect that the JCRC printed 3,000 tickets intentionally, in order to guarantee a very large turnout, showing strong support for Shamir.

Frank apologized to the students and the people who did not get in, and a formal apology was printed by the JCRC in The Jewish Week.

Prior to the Motzaei Shabbat episode, a contingency from YC and Stern greeted Prime Minister Shamir upon arrival at his hotel Friday afternoon. Shamir was visibly excited at the sight of supporters waiting to greet him; after getting the approval of his security people, he approached the YU students, shook hands with many of them and asked them in Hebrew to "Come to Yerushalayim."

The Shabbaton itself, co-sponsored by the Israel Club, NYSIPAC, and the Student Coalition for Pollard, had Israel as its central theme. Shiurim were given on the various Talmudic and Halachic sources that discuss exile, redemption, and the Land of Israel.

For Friday night's event, the Israel Club welcomed Michael Freund, assistant to Israel's U.N. representative. Freund spoke about the Israeli Government's position on the peace process, his role in the U.N. and its general attitude towards the State of Israel. After the talk, he took questions from the audience and then stayed later to speak to individual students interested in careers in Israeli politics or internships.

David Schimmel, president of the Israel Club reflected: "A lot of people came to me saying that although they enjoyed the shabbaton and thought it was successful, they were very disappointed that they didn't get in to hear him [Shamir] speak, claiming it to be their primary reason for coming to the shabbaton. Some students even asked for refunds."

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Changes: Looking Back Over YU's Last 25 Years

Twenty-five years in the making, the following comments represent the carefully considered thoughts of several decidedly opinionated and insightful professors, administrators, and alumni who have kindly contributed their impressions on Change at YU. Many have found great change, others some, some none. They are nifty, groovy and keen. Most of all, they are candid.

Dr. Manfred Weidhorn

"25 years ago, to be sure, the hot local issues were whether the faculty coach of the YC College Bowl team should have worn a skullcap on television and whether reproductions of Modigliani nudes on dormitory walls constituted, if not idol worship, at least idle libido worship. On the other hand, a new faculty member who attended a reception at Dean Isaac Bacon's house soon after the start of the fall 1963 semester might recall that a topic of

discussion, earnestly introduced by the Dean, was whether the US was morally justified in helping topple the Diem regime in Saigon. In the light of subsequent events, all the discussants - like, indeed, all of America - seem to have been hopeless *naifs*. Ill-fated semester! A bare few weeks later, John Kennedy's body was a-moldering in the grave, and the Era of Bad Feelings had begun: a dozen years of waving fists, gunshots heard round the world, the

blood of great ones on the floor, foreign policy debates in the streets, police riots, and a flood of young refugees from -- and not, for once, to -- America.

In its own parochial way, YC participated in these events. Who remembers now, or would not rather forget, that in early 1965 student leaders circulated a letter to President Johnson backing his Vietnam policy to the hilt? It garnered a lot of signatures [about 80% of YC's]. Most Americans, of course,

felt that way too; the tunnel, everyone knew, was only a short underpass. A couple of years later, however, the teachers had finally come to even YC, as well as a mimeographed anti-war "journal" with articles by faculty and students. Teachers who had primly kept their personal values out of the classroom found themselves, not without misgivings, injecting anti-war statements into their lectures."

I think students here have always been on the conservative side. I understand that there is a Senate and that it meets somewhere, but I haven't heard from it. It doesn't seem to impinge upon campus life at all."



Commentator Staff at the Printer

Murray Jacobson YCSC President 1966-67

"When I took over it seemed the world was in turmoil, yet YU was calm. Although American colleges were facing the problems of student unrest, as at Berkeley, the most serious campus crisis was a caf strike. There had been a rift between the Student Council and The Commentator the year before I was President, but the relationship was pretty good in my year.

Politically... YU was a center of political conservatism. As Johnson proceeded with the war, many students (about 80%) signed a petition supporting him. There was even a delegation of students and teachers who went to

Washington D.C. during a lull in the U.S. bombings to express their support. The day we arrived, the bombings resumed.

When you sit back and reflect a moment, you see things differently. I now view YU as an embodiment of an important Centrist philosophy. I would advise students to sit back and reflect a moment on this philosophy that they should strive for and continue to uphold. They are doing a good job so far; they continue to portray a solid image regarding their educational pursuits and their professional goals."

Stephen Bailey Commentator Editor-in-Chief 1966-67

"I see the expansion of the non-academic services -- the building of the gym and the recreation facilities -- as an important change in the quality of student life; it allows the development of the "whole person" during the college experience. Exciting changes like these were not a factor in our time.

Fortunately, students are developing themselves in the fields of world and Israeli politics, an important step for ensuring the future of Jewish community leadership.

'Leadership' at the ground level of YU is less encouraging. The relationship between the administration and student leadership still lacks a feeling of

partnership. The Administration still views students as naive when it comes to the realistic administrative issues attendant with running a university. The students, for their part, remain skeptical of Administrative concern for student rights and they feel the need for clear guidelines and philosophy. The end result, it appears, is that students and administration are not working for the same goals! There is a great loss of potential and a lot of wasted energy working to cross-purposes.

The most disappointing aspect of change -- or should I say lack thereof -- over the past 25 years is the pronounced dearth of YU-produced leadership, of

Centrist Orthodox Day School Administrators, teachers, and community Rabbis. The result is that there are not many Centrist Orthodox communities outside of New York. The Orthodox communities are moving to the right by default. Most alumni could not define Centrist Orthodoxy, because no key personality (like the Rav) has emerged in the last quarter century to define it. Rabbi Lamm may be the personality we seek, but his responsibilities do not allow him to take an active leadership role. YU's future as the proponent of Centrist Orthodoxy is therefore dim."

Rabbi Louis Bernstein

The primary difference, explained Rabbi Bernstein, is the absence of the Rav. "What the Rav said, nobody challenged. He was the unquestioned authority for the institution and all those associated with it."

At that time, the President (Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin) came from "Rosh Yeshiva ranks," rather than the pulpit; this had a subtle effect on the Yeshiva. Rabbi Lamm makes an honest attempt to improve faculty situation, but there is only so much he can do, due to financial realities.

On a whole, YU's Jewish Studies departments have lowered their standards. Students are too grade-conscious and emerge unprepared.

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz

Students are becoming more career and profession oriented. Learning in Israel is the major and most important change, having profound effects on students and on YU, including commitment to Judaism, and religious life issues. The Israel experience forces students to think about the meaning of life. As a result of the time spent in Israel, we have created a complete Yeshiva religious experience, where

students are more studious, and school more academically demanding. There is also a more diverse student body with larger percentages of Sephardim, Iranians, and Russians. 25 years ago, the student body was more homogeneous, with most students coming out of public high schools.

Torah U'Madda was called synthesis 25 years ago to synthesize Torah with secular studies - thus said Dr. Belkin. Dr. Lamm wants to integrate the two. As a philosophy, it has become a strong and powerful way of life. Because of the Israel experience, this idea of Torah U'Madda becomes more real with many students taking it very seriously and finding themselves within Torah U'Madda framework. Most Roshei Yeshiva don't live in vicinity of YU affecting student life and YU community.

Dr. Louis Feldman

"The students in general are more idealistic, interested in learning, more devoted...Also, many more of the faculty are actually graduates of the University. They know the ideals and the problems -- they've been through it. The relationship between faculty and students is therefore better.

Today, the administration encourages and rewards publication and scholarship. Even though the University is not well off financially, it still puts what resources it has to these ends. Consequently, the reputation of the University has greatly improved. . .

In my day the administration there was a President, Dean, Registrar, a few secretaries and that's it. Even though the student body has not grown that significantly in size. . .

I had some students when I first came who would have done well at Harvard and yet there were some students who wouldn't have been admitted to a community college. Today that is no longer the case. I find very few students who really don't belong. I see that my students don't do enough writing -- for some a term paper is a new experience.

Generally, my students give me a good run for my money. The kids are sharp, first-rate; they don't just accept what I say because I say it. They are critical, sometimes impolite in this, but that's okay -- We're all here to learn.



Dr. Maurice "The Reb" Wohlgelechner

"Students. . . they are the greatest asset of YU. Having taught at many other colleges, including CUNY, Baruch, and Brooklyn, I find the students at YU the brightest, ablest, and most dedicated. Unfortunately, I don't think that in the history of this school this fact has been sufficiently recognized. Anyone who has not taught here doesn't know the joy of teaching at YU. The closeness of the student-faculty relationship is just incredible. I still maintain contact with many of my former students, I even keep a record of every student whom I have ever taught and, with it, a tremendous file of student letters. I have written more letters of recommendation than any other professor, even though I am always candid. I don't think this sort of joyful continued contact can be done as well as it can in YU.

...One of the changes I see now is the loss of the "middle" student; the "gentleman C" is gone, there are only the "very goods" and the "flunks." As far as the pure academic interest in pursuing a college education, I believe things remain the same. The school serves as a funnel to graduate school, and the students gear themselves for

that prospect for they know that whatever they do they will need an advanced degree. Still, I wish more students would spend a year between YU and grad school learning in Israel.

Administration...It is worlds apart from when I first came here. Dr. Lamm has encouraged scholarship and publication and in that he is unique. Still, more could be done. Teaching programs are still too heavy. Perhaps the emphasis on teaching can be shifted to place greater encouragement to publication once budget problems are over.

Torah U'Madda...It's hard for me to judge Torah U'Madda. It used to be a synthesis the idea was to have "the beauty of Greece in the House of Shem." Now, Rabbi Lamm is trying to develop a system. In my own life, I haven't looked for a system. I do not mix the two. I live in two separate worlds, I even keep my libraries, Torah and secular, in separate rooms. For me the primary overlap between these two subjects occurs in the methods of study each requires--careful textual analysis. In my English courses, for instance, I show my students how to read a poem as though it were a Mishnah."



Dr. Manny Sternlicht

"There is a greater interest in Psychology now than there was 25 years ago. Currently, more people are required to take courses in Psychology. This is problematic for the department, because many students are taking courses which they would not have otherwise taken. Additionally, more students are now majoring in Psychology with no plans to practice the profession in the future.

In general, there is a greater commitment to halacha now than there was 25 years ago, although at the same time, many more students are now less observant. Students seem to be drifting more towards the religious extremes.

Students now are far more sophisticated; 25 years ago, many students still asked me if one could impregnate a girl by kissing her. Students today are not as naive.

The faculty used to be much closer with each other; they worked hard to improve relationships among themselves and between themselves and their students."

Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler

"Many European Roshei Yeshiva gave shiurim in Yiddish here 25 years ago, until the Rav started giving them in English.

Today, we have more of a 'middle class' who are dedicated to learning but who do not put in the amount of time necessary to reach their true potential. Our best talmidim today are better than the best ones then, although there are now quantitatively fewer "top quality" learners.

The greatest loss to today's students is obviously the Rav. He was our bridge to the greats of Europe. We don't have that bridge anymore. In addition to his depth of learning, his charisma is missed now.

Today, the Hasidim have won -- everyone needs a rebbi. Many students now establish ties with their Roshei Yeshiva, whereas 25 years ago, it was a very rare occurrence. In addition, today's Roshei Yeshiva are willing to become more intimate with their students, and to discuss even personal matters.

Twenty-five years ago, there was still a sense of conflict over Torah U'Madda, but now, that confusion is clearing up. This is a result of our seeing the success of religiously committed professionals in the secular world.

Biology has all but disappeared as an independent field. Then, people pursued advanced degrees in Biology; now, they all go into pre-health."

I must first say that I did not want this to be a whiny YU complaint, rambling on without facts or insights. As a student who has a responsibility to the betterment of campus life, I felt it necessary to comment on this matter.

I have been getting complaints from YU students about crowded dorm rooms. These complaints, however, are not due to a large influx of students or a lack of dorm space; these students are being forced to share their rooms with roaches, and in even worse cases, rodents.

This year's budget cuts have caused this outrage. Due to the state of our national economy, Yeshiva University claims that it can no longer provide funding for the basic upkeep and cleaning of our dorm rooms as in years past. Consequently, our rooms have become unacceptably filthy and in dire need of cleaning.

Somemightask: "Whynotcleanthem yourselves?" Well, beside the fact that the average YU student barely has time to eat or sleep, let alone do housekeeping, the basic question remains: should we have to? At over fifteen thousand dollars a year in tuition and dorm fees, one would expect that general housekeeping would be included (a "package deal" if you will). Yet, no such services are being provided and this is obviously causing anger and frustration for students.

According to Steve Berkowitz, Assistant Director of Housekeeping, "Oureconomic 'crunch' just won't allow us to maintain a full working staff. We've been forced to cut back." To date, six housekeeping employees have been laid

off at YC and Stern, saving approximately \$120,000 in salaries and fringe benefits.

With the additions of the Schottenstein Center and the Pool to the YC campus, there is even more to clean, and with a reduced housekeeping staff our facilities are just not getting the attention they require. Besides the dorm rooms, classrooms and offices are also being cleaned less often. To complete the work, some of the remaining Housekeeping staff members are working overtime, earning time-and-a-half pay. Still, this is much

cheaper than hiring full-time employees. Mr. Berkowitz further explained that this is one of the reasons why students must now help pay for their own engagement parties.

As for the roaches, Berkowitz claims that he has only received an approximate 10% increase in complaints, which he says are taken care of when the exterminator sprays periodically. This additional service only costs the University approximately two hundred dollars extra monthly, which is still much cheaper than hiring full-time workers to clean

the rooms. According to this calculation, however, Housekeeping might as well fire their cleaning staff and hire full time exterminators! They should be preventing the problem, not solving one which they allowed to occur in the first place. While most housekeeping services have been cut, daily garbage pickup in dorm hallways has been increased to prevent a surge in our roach population.

Among the few services not cut by Housekeeping are those which maintain the public areas of the University, such as the pedestrian mall and the entrances to

our buildings, their main hallways and lounges. These services are considered more important because they make YU look aesthetically presentable. Berkowitz stated, "We pride ourselves on our upkeep of the University, and I'm personally happy to see that the last Commentator published the Middle States Report excerpt which stated that the Middle States Team was 'impressed with the general upkeep and appearances of the facilities.'" However, these comments are generally referring to the aforementioned public areas and out-

side grounds, and if you will pardon the cliches, looks can be deceiving, and we all know that it's what's on the inside that really counts!

"So," you ask, "What are the students doing about their rooms?" Well, a number of YC students are looking towards the Housekeeping staff for help. Some employees have recently been cleaning rooms on their lunch breaks for "tips" (sometimes as much as \$5 per room). Joseph Steinberg, a member of the YC Resident Council, told me that he found it upsetting that members of the YU Housekeeping staff have made a business out of what used to be a normal Housekeeping service. While I agree with him, I'm glad that these employees are offering their services. As long as they are on their own time, I think they should continue. Some Stern women have even been paying for outside cleaning services, with some Brookdale residents chipping in to have a maid once a week.

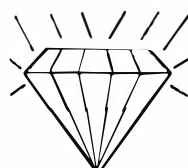
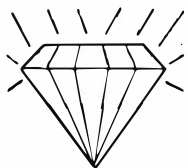
For the administration's view on this problem I turned to Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten. After five attempts to schedule an interview, he remained "unavailable." Mr. Berkowitz stated, however, that as far as he knows, the University has no intentions of providing any further housekeeping services. In fact, further cuts may be imminent.

The undergraduates at this University are left, quite literally, in the dust. If Yeshiva University is truly a religious institution and "cleanliness is next to godliness," YU had better clean up its act!

**Daniel Faizakoff,
Junior Class President**

Op Ed: When Will YU Clean Up Its Act?

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RESPONSA

GOP
Continued

of homosexuality, active birth control (under most circumstances of married life), abortion (again, under most circumstances) premarital sex, etc., and these beliefs existed long before there was either a Democratic or Republican Party. The more vocal elements among the Republican advocate imposing their religious beliefs upon all Americans, be they Orthodox Jews or atheists, Roman Catholic priests or the millions of Catholic parishioners who disagree with the Church's position on abortion and other family related matters. Does Mr. Stier believe that breaking down the Constitutional Wall separating "State" and "Church", that violating the Establishment Clause which anchors the crucial first article of the bill of rights, is "right" for Orthodox Judaism.

"Conservative ideology dictates much like what Maimonides teaches us." Mr. Stier paraphrases RaMBaM on the importance of teaching an indigent individual a trade, so that he can provide for himself and his family, and compares this with the conservative ideology which opposes keeping welfare recipients reliant upon the tax monies extracted from working people. Mr. Stier conveniently forgets that the same conservative ideology, as actualized by President Reagan, also opposed using our tax monies to teach a trade to those who can end up on welfare, while it supported sending greater sums in the form of foreign aid to our "allies of convenience," including one Saddam Hussein. Neither RaMBaM, who devotes entire chapters in "Mishne Torah" to the multitude of obligations incumbent upon Jews to support the less fortunate in their community, nor Orthodox Judaism is nearly as in sync with conservative ideology as Mr. Stier would have us believe. (Parenthetically, as more and more middle-class Americans are forced to seek "safety net" aid, e.g. food stamps, not only a resurrected RaMBaM but even that great conservative-ideology icon President Reagan would probably concur that most Americans are not economically better off now than they were four years ago.)

"Conservatives feel that we should take advantage of offshore American oil." Indeed, it is oil companies which have taken advantage of every deregulation-minded situation to cause significant environmental damage from bay (Chesapeake, Maryland) to bay (Monterey, California) and from Prince William Sound, Alaska to Arthur Kill in our metropolitan area. "Conservatives also favor many other alternatives to Arab oil..." and liberals, presumably, go beyond the Karaite position and prefer domestic darkness to using oil-generated electricity, correct?! The Democratic position, born of pragmatic experience rather than ideology, favors

oversight of energy-related companies, be they firms participating in nuclear power-plant construction or Exxon; does Mr. Stier believe that Orthodox Judaism favors development of energy sources at any cost?

What's the bottom line to all this political back-and-forth? Answer: neither the way of life that is Orthodox Judaism nor respected organizations such as the Orthodox Union can be simplistically identified with either major political party's platform. The religion, not any one political viewpoint, is right for the religion.

Michael Poppers
YC '85

A Psak
Without
Halacha

To the Editor:

Basic to the Jewish belief is the absolute equation of Halakha with the highest possible understanding of ultimate truth *vis-a-vis* behavioral prescriptions and proscriptions; I include speech and thought under the rubric of "behavior." A psak halakha is a statement which crystallizes the will and wisdom of the Torah, and we believe with all of our heart and soul that the Torah's origins and authority are divine. The halakha has what one might call a "monopoly" on determining what one must do and what one must not do.

Sammy Aziz and Jordan Maryuma advocate "confrontation" and "debate" *vis-a-vis* heretical ideas (Commentator, Nov. 21, 1991); Jay Bailey issues a not-so-veiled criticism of Rabbi Willig's, *shlita*, stance on male-female interaction (Commentator, Nov. 7, 1991). Messrs. Aziz and Maryuma and Bailey venture their opinions without employing halakhic methodology, and while it is to their credit that they are not pretending to issue halakhic statements, the fact remains that these are halakhic issues and it is for the Halakha to rule on them. To what can we ascribe this kind of non-halakhic advocacy and non-halakhic criticism?

In my opinion, we can ascribe these actions to an intellectual and/or emotional fissure between Halakha and transcendent obligation. Only a denial to the Halakha of its rightful "monopoly" and a Western-influenced pseudo-sanctification of sincere, personal opinion could lead people to value the expression of opinions on halakhic issues without the employment of halakhic methodology.

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Rosenthal

Continued from page 1

"Words become bullets," Rosenthal asserted. So many people have become enemies of Israel, because they are told to. He maintained that many Asians, Blacks and Muslims know nothing about Jews or Israel, but detest it because they are taught to do so.

Rosenthal sharply criticized President Bush's failure to remove Saddam Hussein, as well as the way the U.S. gave "political acceptability" to Syria in light of the recent hostage return. Israel's security, he explained, is in a more dangerous position now because of the fall of Communism; Israel's position as a holding ground for Democracy in the Middle East is diminished — as well it should be. Cooperation with Israel should not be based on Cold War expediency. A democratic state, Rosenthal argued, does not wage unjustified wars or kill its own people.

While Israel handles the dangers, as it usually does, there are new developments, Rosenthal explained. The U.S. refers to Israel in terms "impatient, scornful and rude, irritable. . . and hostile." In addition, Israel has taken a number of unfair blows from the U.S. It is suggested that she shrink to a ten mile width that would be "barely defensible". Also, Rosenthal alleged that the postponement of loan guarantees that Bush requested had not been initiated by the Arab states. Rosenthal claims that there is no other country he can think of whose very existence may be threatened by U.S. foreign policy.

Rosenthal attributes many of the current problems to conflict within the Arab states. Holy wars on the anti-fanatic and anti-religious voices guarantee a continuing strife. Diverting attention to the Palestinian issue keeps the peoples' minds off their own failures. Also, he stated, most Americans believe that this is a fight for a Palestinian homeland. In actuality, the Arabs are fighting for the right to eliminate Israel.

Ironically, Rosenthal stated, one of the Palestinian formulas backed by the

U.S. is almost exactly identical to a plan proposed by Israel at Camp David thirteen years ago. The Palestinians rejected the offer at the time due to Arab pressure to "keep up the fight."

Fortunately for Israel, said Rosenthal, she has a voice in the U.S. Unfortunately, however, numerous Jewish organizations are trying to silence that voice; he referred gravely to a time half a century ago that Jews were silent. Rosenthal does not suggest blind obedience; we have a right to disagree with Israel's specific policies, but we must support Israel's right to exist in wartime as in peacetime.

Rosenthal concluded his prepared remarks by quoting T'hilim 122: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers." Both these can be achieved, he said, but only with friends who do not turn away in times of trouble.

In response to a question from President's Circle co-chairman Louis Tuchman concerning the focus of the peace talks, Rosenthal put much of the blame on Israel's terrible "propaganda machine." "They come second in a field of two," he said.

Rosenthal fielded questions on Ari Goldman's *Search for God at Harvard*, Sununu's resignation, Rosenthal's relationship with columnist Anthony Lewis, Pat Buchanan's political situation, objectivity in the news, and the columnist's persuasiveness in writing only Pro-Israel columns.

A YC Junior remarked after the lecture, "Some of those questions were pretty aggressive... a couple were actually obnoxious... he answered them with frankness and some dry humor. I enjoyed it." A number of students felt that the lecture could have been restructured to include more information that many YU students do not have, or viewpoints that most students would not necessarily agree with.

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Burning Buch

by Stephen Buch

Chanukah is a wonderful opportunity for those of us at YU who so often find ourselves burning the midnight oil to stop and smell the paraffin. We can enjoy not only its unique, fragrant, and soporific vapors perfuming their way through the dorms, we can also enjoy all the other warmth the Festival of Lights radiates. We can witness its brand of ardent incandescence even as we endure the droning masses of Maoz Tzur carolers. We can forge new relationships as we try to puzzle out some uniform English spelling for "Kanuchah," wonder if thimbles could prevent those tell-tale singed, wax-encrusted fingers and mindlessly devour latkes, sufganiot, and other oleaginous delights. "Dreidel gambling," though, is still strictly forbidden.

Similarly, and in accordance with the psak of Rabbis Blau and Cheifetz, in fervent consultation with all local Rabbinic authorities (i.e. fire marshals) one may not light his menorah if it will

require any exposed heating element. Likewise, beer, women, VCRs, toaster ovens, and all such floor party frivolity, sanctioned or otherwise, are all forbidden l'halacha because of the possibility that one or more of these may start a fire.

And one of them did! It seems that Uptown there was a serious lack of space to light a menorah on the second night. (It is in fleeting moments like these that we begin to experience the cramped conditions of our counterparts downtown.) On the second night of HaHanukah a certain rather short YC student tried to find a spot for his taper on one of the crowded tables in Morg, causing a minor blaze. Fortunately, an able and quick-witted security guard wicked the problem. He threw himself upon the conflagration, smothering it. Luckily, he was not found burning the end at both candles, though he almost made a complete ash of himself. The BURNS security guards certainly live up to their reputation, and their name. When the situation was safe, of course, he checked for ID.

Close Shaves In First Week

by Stanley Watson

The action is non-stop, the contact is fierce, and the competition is hotter than any other in YU's athletic program. The Schick Superhoops 3 on 3 tournament began on November 25th and it continues to heat up the MSAC. This ever-popular contest began with 29 teams and is now down to 17. The remaining powerhouses include: Goosh, the Hermits, Don't Sleep On It, Win for Stan, the Warriors, and the Big D's. One of the most exciting matches was the first round contest between Do It for Magic and Go Rush. Hillel Cohen's

gutsy Magic squad was defeated by 2 points (44-42) as Cohen missed at the buzzer, nearly capping a 12 point comeback. Many team captains felt that they have a good shot at winning the tournament, but in 3 on 3, anything can happen. Many excellent players are involved, including Jeremy Bandler, Jason Horowitz, Craig Kornbluth, Noam Cohen, Israel Wallach, and Ronnie Aranoff. Superhoops has maintained its tradition of being exciting from the first round all the way to the finals. The champions will once again play Lethal Weapons Three and One consisting of Carlton Greene, Stanley Watson, Manuel Ortega, and Javier Castillo (replacing Victor Uraez) for the Athletic Staff Team. In Superhoops there are really no losers, since all entering teams compete in one of the most grueling and competitive tournaments at any institution. Good luck to the remaining teams.

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Insight: Sports Without Information

by Andrew Sicklick

Yeshiva University students are being cheated. Like many students nationwide, Yeshiva students enjoy seeing YU Athletics publicized in the media and the athletes enjoy receiving recognition for their accomplishments. This year, however, there will not be nearly as much recognition as there was in past years. Last year, Michael Cohen, a member of the YU Public Relations Department, became the school's first Sports Information Director. Cohen combined his interest in sports with his connections in the Department to publicize Yeshiva Athletics. One of his major accomplishments was generating the huge media coverage of Miko Danan's return from service during the Gulf War. Among the channels which covered the event were CBS, WWOR-TV, and CNN. Cohen also helped players receive recognition for outstanding performances. He produced Macs Facts, statistical brochures of the Macs' players. With these statistics, Mr. Cohen was able to inform the ECAC of stellar Yeshiva accomplishments. This enabled Miko Danan to win Rookie of the Week, and Eric Davis and Jon Rosner to win ITT All-American Scholar Athlete awards. Josh Steiner, manager of the Macs, is recording this year's statistics. Unfortunately, he cannot ensure that the ECAC gets to see them.

In order to graduate, Michael Cohen has vacated his job with the Public Relations Department. With his departure, there is no person in the department that shares any of his enthusiasm for sports. Nobody has taken over his role of Sports Information Director. Stanley Watson, Assistant Director of Athletics, calls Cohen "irreplaceable". This has proven to be true. Sam Hartstein, Director of Public Relations, stated that because of budget cuts throughout the University, this position will not be filled by a hired employee. Also, this time-consuming job is not a top priority of the busy Public Relations Department. Therefore, only a volunteer can hold this job. Hartstein regrets that nobody has offered to take the responsibilities. Yeshiva athletes are missing the opportunity to receive awards. Daniel Aaron excelled during the basketball season's first week and could have been named the ECAC Rookie of the Week. Unfortunately, no one informed the ECAC of his great outings. This also severely limits his chance to be named Rookie of the Year. This lack of publicity does not only affect the basketball team. All of Yeshiva's athletic teams will suffer from this lack of publicity. Without a Sports Information Director, Yeshiva's teams will be less widely known, and it will be nearly impossible for any team to receive awards from the NCAA.

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YESHIVA SPORTS



YU Fencers Not Easily Foiled

In spite of an 0-2 record, the fencing team is optimistic this year, losing meets to both Vassar and Drew by narrow 11-16 margins.

The bulk of the victories come from the success of the team's veterans. The team is led by co-captain Jason Bernath, with a 5-1 record in foil. Sharing 4-2 records are sabre-men David J. Kay and Gershom Kutleroff, as well as Adam Balkany in foil. The team's other victories belong to Lee Hamer, with a strong 3-3 in foil, and to Elliott Cohen with a surprising 2-4 sabre record in the first two fencing meets of his entire life.

The biggest challenge the fencing team faces this year, however, is the rebuilding of its epee squad; all members of the epee squad are rookies who had no fencing experience prior to the start of the season. Although they have yet to win a single bout, head coach Arnold Messing feels that this will soon change. "By next semester, the epee squad should have enough fencing under their belts to

make a difference. As they gain more experience, the team will score many victories."

Despite early inconveniences regarding the location of team practices, the athletic department has now given the fencing team its own room in the basement of Furst Hall, and has taken steps to convert it into a proper fencing salle. The addition of a team manager, Avi Goldman, has also improved the team's efficiency, giving the coaches more flexibility in working with the individual fencers.

So far, Coach Messing has been impressed by the hard working team members, in both their dedication and camaraderie.

"We are continuing to improve as the year progresses," adds Messing, "If individual performances continue to improve, we will likely be sending fencers to the NCAA championships." "That would be great", commented YCSC Junior Class VP David Perl.

Wrestling Team In For Struggle

by Eric Melzer

On a team level, the Yeshiva wrestling Macs have once again started the season quite slowly with a 1-5 record. The one victory came over Stevens Tech at a Tri-Match. Yet, some wrestlers have performed quite well individually.

One of this year's top wrestlers is Barry Bessler. Bessler, who wrestles at 134 lbs., has dominated certain opponents while surprising many others. In a match against NYU, Bessler was losing 13-1 to his opponent. However, he managed to score a reversal late in the second period and turn it into a pin. Bessler has a very high winning percentage, and there have been meets where he was the only Yeshiva wrestler to win.

Brian Ostrow has also performed quite well at 142 lbs. He tied against Fordham University after being behind late in the third period. He pinned his opponent from St. John's and also came up with a tie in the Stevens Tech /

N.Y.U. tri-match. Ostrow is hungry for a home victory versus John Jay on Thursday.

Brad Martin won the first two matches of his career by pinning his opponents from St. John's and Stevens Tech. Martin currently holds the quickest pin for Yeshiva this year at the 1:11 mark of the first period.

Finally, Effy Zinkin has come on strong as of late by winning his last two matches by decisions on points. Zinkin has recently recovered from a broken nose.

The wrestling Macs don't seem to have much of a problem in the middle weight classes, where they are performing consistently well. However, the Macs have not been winning many matches at both the lower and upper ends of the spectrum. Most of their wrestlers in these weight classes are both young and inexperienced. As the year progresses, if these wrestlers stay in shape and avoid injury, the wrestling Macs may improve.

Macs Lose Home Opener

by Eric Melzer

The Yeshiva Macs Basketball team were hoping that unlike last season, 1991-92 would be free of serious injuries. But just nine minutes into the opening game at Stevens Tech, starting forward Seth Cohen fractured bones in his hand in a freak accident. Cohen had been leading the Macs in rebounds throughout the preseason. Cohen is expected to be sidelined for approximately ten weeks, which is most of the regular season.

Coach Jonathan Halpert described the void that this injury will create. "We will miss Seth Cohen tremendously but we feel that he can return in February and make a major impact upon our stretch run." Halpert predicted that Seth Cohen will score the winning basket against NYU in Madison Square Garden.

After Cohen left the game, the other Macs picked up the slack and proceeded to beat Stevens Tech 73-61. Rookie Sophomore Daniel Aaron baffled the Stevens Tech Ducks with a 31 point, 16 rebound display. Aaron provided much excitement for all who attended by scoring 13 straight points with two monstrous slam-dunks. Miko Danan and Elisha Rothman combined for 27 of the team's remaining 42 points, while point guard Dovid Cohen dished 10 assists. One bizarre statistic, however, was that the Macs hit a greater percentage of their shots from the field (56%) than they did from the line (52%). Once again, the Macs displayed their perpetually ugly foul-shooting. On the defensive end, the Macs did a good job, especially against last year's IAC Rookie of the year, Mike D'Allegro. D'Allegro was held to 14 points on 6 of 18 shooting.

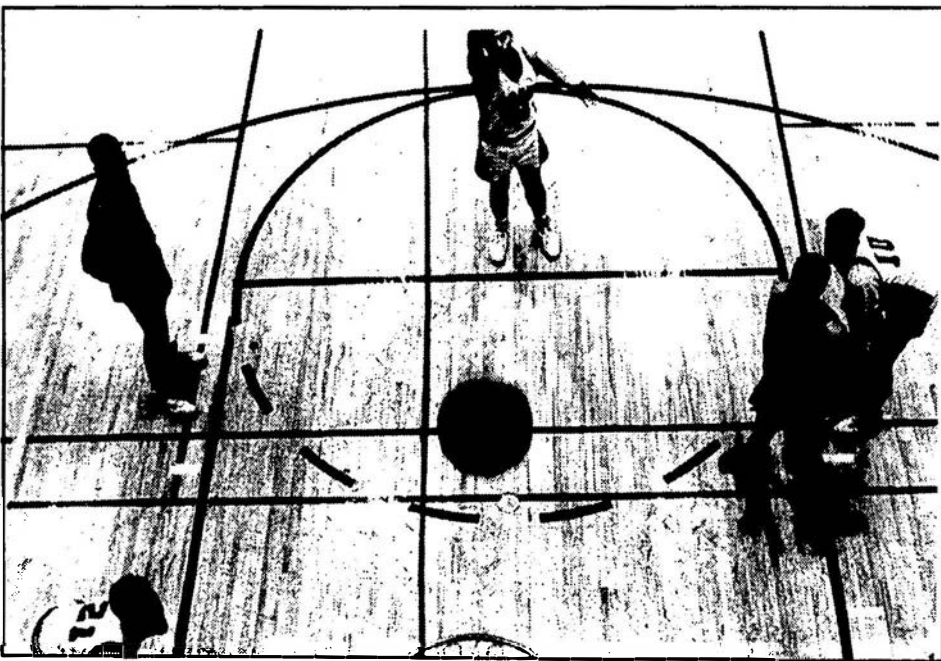
December 2nd's home opener marked this season's first defeat for the

Macs, who fell to N.J.I.T. by a score of 81-67. This game started off well for the Macs, as they opened up a 25-19 lead on another thunderous slam-dunk by rookie sensation Daniel Aaron. Aaron scored 20 points on 9 for 13 shooting and once again had double figures in rebounding (10). Incidentally, in just two games, Daniel Aaron has already established himself as one of the IAC's premier centers.

The Los Angeles connection of Elisha Rothman and Erez Ben-Ami also kept this game close for a while. Rothman scored 14 first half points and finished with 17 total (3 three pointers). Erez Ben-Ami proved to be an emerging star as he netted 14 on a perfect 6 for 6 from the field.

The game itself was close until N.J.I.T. pulled ahead by 9 with ten minutes left in the second half. The reason was more of a Yeshiva collapse than N.J.I.T. dominance. Throughout the second half, Yeshiva continuously threw away the ball and finished the game with 22 turnovers. The Macs also shot 44% from the free-throw line, a figure not even suitable in junior high school basketball. In addition, although the Macs played excellent defense on IAC superstar Lance Andrews (8 points), they allowed power forward Walter Jones to score 27 points on 12 for 17 shooting. Finally, throughout the game, many of the Macs passed up wide-open shots and even this resulted in numerous turnovers.

With approximately five minutes remaining and trailing by ten, the Macs opted to play a very conservative game and would even run the shot clock down to ten before attempting a shot. It appeared that the Macs were trying to keep the game close rather than risk a blowout by increasing the tempo.



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