

Overheard at a  
recent BRGS  
sit-in:

# The Commentator

"Could the  
Administration  
be breaking out  
Color War?"

January 13, 1992/ 8 Shevat 5752

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

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## Student-Administration Dialogue Initiated

*In the hope of establishing an ongoing dialogue, student representatives and administrators attended a procedural meeting on January 6. The meeting, which lasted approximately six hours, ended with the drafting of a statement outlining the goals and procedures of the dialogue.*

As a result of the meeting held on 1/6/92, an ongoing effort will be made to involve students in all major budgetary decisions as they affect all aspects of student life.

1) An ongoing meaningful dialogue will take place between undergraduate student leaders and YU Administration regarding University budgetary problems and challenges. Students who will participate in this dialogue must receive

approval in advance from the Office of the Dean of Students.

2) Every effort will be made by the University administration to involve appropriate student leadership in the decision-making process.

3) The University will make available to the student representatives involved with this dialogue all information relevant to the University budgetary problems including but not limited to budgetary data, philosophy, etc.

4) A student sub-committee will be formed to review and

have input in prospective changes in the credit structure of the Isaac Breuer College.

5) All student leadership participating in this dialogue will not participate, engage in, nor attend any unlawful protest or actions at Yeshiva University. All students are encouraged to act in a manner consistent with the ideals and values of our Yeshiva and in accordance with principles which guide proper behavior for B'nei and B'not Torah.

## Tensions Rise as Revel Protests Continue

by Michael Eisenberg

Citing the Administration's lack of response to student concerns, more than 200 YU students staged a sit-in at the front entrance of Furst Hall, the University's main academic and administrative building, for forty minutes on Thursday, January 2. The protest, which began at 3:42 p.m., just prior to afternoon classes, was the culmination of a tension-filled rally that started an hour earlier to protest the "restructuring" of the Bernard Revel Graduate School (BRGS). The protest commenced two hours after the University released a second statement concerning the future of BRGS. This statement was the result of a meeting between YU President Norman Lamm and four influential members of the Board of Trustees. The new statement claims that the University needs \$600,000 per annum for five years in contrast to the first statement which mentioned only \$300,000 for the same amount of time.

At the rally, one of the protest's organizers, Yitzchak Blau, read portions of the new statement aloud, pointing to alleged discrepancies between

Rabbi Saul Berman, head of the Executive Committee of Jewish Studies Faculty, was scheduled to address the protesters at approximately 2:45, the beginning of the rally, but was summoned to Dr. Lamm's office. Upon his return 25 minutes later, he enjoined the students to fulfill the biblical commandment of rebuke motivated by love and to demand answers to their questions. Recalling the University's decisions to cut the Kollel Elyon headed by Rabbi Aharon Kahn, BRGS, and their consideration of a proposal to eliminate Talmud from Isaac Breuer College, he asked, why was Torah the first to be cut? "Do you want to get an answer to that question?" he asked rhetorically.

The protesters ascended to the President's office, filling the Presidential Suite to capacity for the second time since the protests began. After the students chanted familiar slogans, Shoshana Levine, a BRGS student, described the potentially disastrous effect the closing would have on women's Jewish education. Pointing to the fact that the bulk of elementary and high school

photo: J Bailey



Students block main entrance to Furst Hall

the new release and the prior one. He noted a reference to Mr. Stern in the new statement, which states, "a prominent businessman, educator and philanthropist has not only offered the first gift to support the Revel School during this period of transition" but has also offered to become chairman of a Board for the restructured BRGS. However, Blau and Rabbi Avi Weiss who spoke at the rally, informed students that the offer made by Mr. Stern was for Revel as currently organized and not the proposal for restructuring. Students reacted to Blau's statement with chants of "No more lies" and "Whose school? Our school!"

Jewish educators are graduates of BRGS, she asked, "Who will educate our children?"

At 3:33, seven minutes before the rally was scheduled to turn into a sit-in, Dean of Students Efrem Nulman told Blau and co-organizer Hillel Novetsky that Dr. Lamm was prepared to address the students. Viewing this as a ploy to delay the sit-in, Novetsky and Blau limited Dr. Lamm to seven minutes. Nulman stated that Dr. Lamm would not speak with any time limit. A heated exchange ensued. Nulman proceeded to present the proposal directly to all the assembled protesters. Students shouted that they did not want a repeat of Lamm's

continued on page 7

## JSS Discussions Include Students

by Carey Schreiber

JSS student representatives and Administration met in an unprecedented open exchange of views last Monday. Both parties raised issues of concern, including JSS midterms and finals, class schedules, elective course offerings, the JSS Minyan, and degree offerings. Both students and Administration expressed eagerness toward working in unison to develop concrete proposals.

Those present at the meeting agreed that the midterm and finals situation for JSS students is unsatisfactory; JSS midterms are administered during Yeshiva College reading week when instructors have the option of holding classes in the afternoons. Participants at the meeting determined that no more than one JSS midterm may be given on any one day. This necessitates an expansion of the allotted time for JSS midterms, during which no YC exams may be scheduled. Additionally, it was decided that the class session immediately preceding the JSS exam would be entirely devoted to review.

With regard to finals, one major problem persists: JSS students have four to six finals while the rest of the college has reading week. The student representatives proposed a one-test-per-day limit on JSS finals, in addition to a review week

prior to these exams. JSSSC President Brian Ostrow feels that "These solutions offer the best studying for JSS, because you're learning in an open environment with both Rebbeim and Talmidim."

In regard to regular class scheduling, students currently attend three 75 minute classes in a row, with five minute breaks in between. "These overburden students and faculty alike," said JSSSC Secretary/Treasurer Barry Levinson. Dean Michael Shmidman concurred; an alternative for the Fall 1992 semester is being jointly researched.

Another topic under discussion involved the earning of degrees. Current JSS students receive an A.A. degree, in spite of the fact that the standard program entails 4 years and requires 128 credits. Since the school is accredited by New York State, Dean Shmidman is currently researching the laws which apply to those areas.

Student Representative Michael Ripstein urged a greater variety of electives for JSS students once they have fulfilled certain requirements. Presently, it is relatively easy to take courses in other JSS sections and in IBC. Further expansion of electives offered will be considered by the administration.

Dean Shmidman discussed the JSS Minyan, which is held daily to provide for those

Yeshiva students who need guidance during davening. He stressed that while it is important for those students in need of assistance to attend, it is equally important for other students to attend that minyan to lend a helping hand. There have been many occasions when getting a minyan has been troublesome, as Sophomore Rep David Blum pointed out. Student leaders consented to making a stronger effort to promote this minyan and its importance, not only in JSS, but in the Yeshiva as a whole. "I'll pray there too," commented YCSC Junior class VP David Perl.

Rabbi Aaron Selevan, Director of Student Activities at the school, felt that "the meeting was productive. There should be more of them in the future. It serves an important function helping further develop the keshet, the tie, between Administration, students, and faculty." Rabbi Shmidman's attitude, as evidenced by his repeated offer, "my door is always open..." was viewed as warmly receptive by the students. Brian Ostrow feels that "We've developed a healthy relationship between the Dean and the students. The JSS students should be grateful that they are being afforded this unique opportunity -- having a Dean actually working closely with students."

EDITORIALS...EDITORIALS...EDITORIALS

# Just A Moment, Please

As readers may have noticed, every article that The Commentator has run on the Revel issue ends with the sentence, "Dr. Lamm was unavailable for comment." Members of the administration complain that we do not fairly present both sides of the story. It is most difficult to portray an individual's viewpoints when access to said person is completely denied.

For a month our reporter has requested an interview with Dr. Lamm. The President's office, in turn, requests that we submit our questions in writing to enable the President to answer them quickly since he is pressed for time. We have rejected that proposal on the grounds that an essential component of a responsible interview is the ability to ask follow-up questions based on newly obtained information.

The President's office consistently rebuffs us, stating that Dr. Lamm has no time to talk to our reporter. It has come to our attention that on one of the days we requested an interview, Dr. Lamm managed to squeeze another student into his schedule on shorter notice.

We understand that the President must prioritize his schedule, but over the span of one month, is ten minutes too much to ask for?

# SSSB: They've Got Class

SSSB has announced that next semester's course schedule will include a class taught by Professor Burton K. Malkiel, a leading figure in the world of finance. Since Prof. Malkiel's eminent stature does not allow him to teach more than one class, the course will be open to both sexes and will be given at the Midtown Campus.

This move stresses the importance given to higher education by SSSB, and YU in general, which last year offered a Main Campus English class to Stern Students, and arranged a biology class for both sexes given at AECOM. In a time when many students claim an integral bias against the Midtown Campus, and coeducational events are frowned upon by various factions, the University has guaranteed that all students, regardless of sex, be given full and equal occasion to pursue the complete educational opportunities available at YU. Rather than playing to the social and religious stigmas of coeducation, the University is declaring the significance of advanced scholarship. While Prof. Malkiel's presence at YU will be a great boon to the University's image and reputation, the importance of his class is in the instructional potential. With the realization that denying this chance to either campus would be a great injustice, the Administration has instead reconsidered a long-time tradition of separate education at YU to provide for equitable treatment for all.

# The Commentator

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Rabbi Miller's office notified the following students that they have been nominated to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, a national publication that recognizes academic and extracurricular achievement. Rabbi Miller's office considered GPA, Student Activity Forms and recommendations by YU Deans to determine the nominations. These students will be receiving questionnaires that will determine the final selections for the publication. Congratulations to all!

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# P I C T O R I A L



On that fateful Wednesday night, Arnie unwittingly mixed theater and thought



# Guest At The Desk

## Hayyim Angel



Recently, some of my friends insulted me.

It seems that they noticed in The Commentator's December 18th special issue about the "restructuring" of Revel a quotation that read: "A student requesting anonymity stated that he will go to Israel next year because there is no longer any reason for him to pursue his education here." My friends thought I was the student quoted. Their implicit assumption that I would hide behind namelessness offended me.

Their conjecture was not so far-fetched. After all, RIETS, in which I am enrolled, will soon no longer be supplemented by the valuable program for higher Judaic studies in which I also study. And it is true of my feelings to say that I wonder about the value of learning Gemara in Washington Heights when I could do so in Israel. Indeed, I have considered spending next year at a Yeshiva in the Holy Land. Although my friends were accurate in their appraisal of my feelings, they forgot my name.

My name is not "a student requesting anonymity." My name is Angel. Hayyim Angel.

If anyone is anonymous here, it is my friends and all the other readers of The Commentator who remain nameless. [Editor's note: The Commentator readership for every issue is over 5000] It is unlikely that all of our readers agree with every idea, or with the religious principles governing each article.

Yet we still go to print. Let's face it: maturely handled controversy can be intellectually exciting. Unfortunately, many religious, thinking individuals miss the excitement and see only fear.

Many are justifiably concerned with the possible repercussions of what they say or write. When they are concerned because of some halachic problem, they belong to the highest class of individuals. It shows remarkable restraint when one does not stoop to personal attack, or violate the halacha in some other way, despite the emotional desirability of doing so.

The fact remains, however, that many do not present their opinions because they are averse to potential criticism. By not expressing their convictions, these people avoid the risk of being called heretical, offensive, or wrong. Whether from fear or

complacency, they stay out of the fray, content to let others debate in the world of ideas and opinions.

The religious Jewish world, to a certain extent, fosters this attitude of intellectual surrender and subservience. To illustrate, let me share an anecdote. I recently enjoyed a conversation with a Rosh Yeshiva about the tendency of certain competent rabbis to adhere to the rulings of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein zt'l, even when they reach different decisions on their own. The Rosh Yeshiva explained that this trend is evidence of humility, in that the lesser rabbis maintain that they should not oppose the decisions of somebody greater than they, even though they feel confident of the validity of their own decisions.

But Rabbi Feinstein himself, in Igrot Moshe, Yoreh Deah 3:88, told a rabbi in B'nei B'rak that he could argue with the rulings of the Chazon Ish, who had been the previous rabbi of that town. Rather than considering this disagreement a sign of disrespect for the Chazon Ish, Rabbi Feinstein wrote of the rabbi: "truth and peace love him." Rabbi Feinstein concluded that if one finds substantial evidence for his own views, he must follow them, while still showing proper respect for the greater rabbi's views. Clearly, a rabbi who defers his own decision in favor of another's sacrifices his intellectual integrity. Such an action is thus anti-halachic, not humble. If you want anonymity, don't say anything.

Similarly, anonymity should not be confused with humility. Anonymous opinions reveal only the author's fear to support his decisions. Furthermore, it is unethical and immoral to make critical remarks about people or institutions without giving the "accused" the opportunity to face their "accusers."

In a world where original thought and nonconformity are often discouraged, it is important for those who truly believe in what they say to stand up and state what they think and feel. I hope and pray that Yeshiva University will continue to produce communal leaders able to arrive at competent decisions, and, more importantly, to stand firmly by their decisions.

*Hayyim Angel, Features Editor for The Commentator for this past semester, is leaving the paper in order to complete the substantial coursework for his degree in BRGS. Due to the unexpected "restructuring" of Revel, he does not feel he can continue with both of these pursuits at the same time.*

## Editor's Note:

In my last column, I discussed the tension between mission and pragmatism. I described the perception of high school students vis a vis requirements for admission to YU, with the contention that YU's standards are not taken seriously. It was a subjective perception, based on personal experience. It was subsequently brought to my attention that in the last two years, the Office of Admissions has been rigorously strengthening requirements, to the chagrin of many students who would have, in the past, slipped in while not technically fulfilling requirements. Associate Director of Admissions Moshe Kranzler explained to me that the average SAT score at Yeshiva

College remains between 1180 and 1220. (Discrepancies result in whether or not foreign students are included. Kranzler does not allow foreign students with at least two years in the U.S. to take an English as a Foreign Language test.) In addition, there has been a slight drop in verbal SAT scores versus math, a fact that will not help alleviate the Writing Center's burden.

I formally apologize to the Admissions Office for deprecating their selection process without citing specifics, and hope that they continue to successfully introduce appropriate individuals to the YU community.

-Jay Bailey

A bright and articulate student approached us last week in regard to a rather caustic Letter to the Editor he had drafted. When asked to summarize his lengthy commentary, he stated curtly, "Oh. I'm asking Lamm to step down as President." We laughed for a moment, until we realized that he was quite serious. Immediately, the grins vanished from our faces.

This experience shocked us because we recognized in it a far wider sentiment, one manifested in the chants of a few protesters at the recent campus demonstrations ("Lamm's lost it! Get him out!"). Faced with these harsh realities, we decided that it was time to formulate, as official student leaders, a firm statement on this critical issue:

Few people would deny that President Lamm has served as an innovative, effective, and fundamental driving force behind YU's fundraising, administration, and philosophy. Despite his impressive record, many individuals consider the decision to eliminate the Revel degree programs as misguided, and denounce President Lamm's integrity and devotion to YU's mission. While mature criticisms of University policy and procedures are both fitting and beneficial, attacks on individuals, even the President as representing the Administration, remain inappropriate, counterproductive and disrespectful. In effect, they encourage those outside the University to condemn YU as a whole, causing the loss of indispensable moral and financial support.

We cannot ignore the Depression that plagues the entire country, particularly academic institutions. As always, it remains the task of the University to reconcile the tensions between finances and ideology. Unfortunately, recent reconciliations have been poorly executed.

The upper administration decided to close the Revel degree programs in a secretive, unilateral, and rushed fashion,

Jay Bailey, Editor-in-Chief

without input from most of the parties directly affected. The move to "restructure" Revel was ideologically one-sided and myopic. President Lamm focuses on students' personal fulfillment arising from studying Machshevet Yisrael, considering the pursuit to be of greater value than the certificate. His opponents, however, stress the scholarly, textual learning that ends in a respected academic degree. *The issue here is clearly not one of a lack in values attributable to either side, but one of emphasis within a common value, namely, Limud Torah.*

This realization, however, still leaves unanswered the question of the University's unacceptable methodology. Ongoing dialogue between student leaders and the Administration promises to prevent future tensions by discussing budgetary problems before cuts are enacted. Only time will tell if these exchanges will prove productive and grant students a genuine role in decision making.

However, these discussions will not deal with the current Revel crisis. Although President Lamm is establishing a committee to discuss the "restructuring," *ex post facto*, the student representatives were chosen by him. No student representation in this matter can be genuine until the students choose their own representatives. As long as students are not permitted to do so, student leaders will not sanction these proceedings.

It is therefore essential to recognize that until such time, students' objections and assertions are as effective and essential as ever. Again, everyone must bear in mind that while we criticize the University for its hasty decision, and reprimand the administration for their shocking methodology, we must not attack President Lamm himself. Maligning the very individual who brought this institution to where it stands today will bring further disasters upon our institution, and is simply not acceptable conduct for Yeshiva University students.

David J. Kay, YCSC President

## RESPONSA

## Radio Station Response

To the Editor:

Ari Rosenstein has done a serious disservice to the Yeshiva University community by his sensationalized reporting of "internal conflict" at WYUR. His article contains much accurate and valuable information about the technical difficulties that the radio station is facing and the improvements necessary to once again place WYUR at the center of campus life. He correctly reports that station personnel are met with indifference when requesting technical support from the administration. His reports of internal mismanagement, however, were based on a lack of diligent research. Even as station manager I do not have the authority to assign university technical staff to affect repairs on our equipment. Until the quality of our transition is improved it would be a waste of YCSC money to purchase new equipment. This is because high technology equipment depreciates in value quickly and if it were purchased now I would be forced to keep it in storage until our soundboard is modified to accommodate it.

Rosenstein used the ticket incident as well as the key shortage to allege mismanagement on my part. Indeed, it was one of the board members who suggested that I consult with Rabbi Blau regarding the Halachik ramifications of the ticket distribution. My decision was

thus made with appropriate consultation and approval of the other members of the WYUR board.

I have made duplicate keys to the station on two separate occasions this semester. These keys were lost by members of the staff who are responsible for opening the station. As it is physically impossible for me to be present at the station during all of its hours of operation, it is necessary for me to delegate responsibility to others. I do not see how Rosenstein can blame their negligence on me.

What should have been a serious article designed to focus on the improvements necessary for WYUR degenerated into a personal attack on me. In fact, one of the board members has told me that he was instructed by the author to be very aggressive in his charges against me. The focus of the blame should fall upon the administration officials charged with providing technical support to WYUR. Had Rosenstein done more research he would have been able to better assess the situation at hand. It is a shame that the author's ignorance of the facts allowed what should have been a serious critique to become a character assassination of a student leader.

Yitz Treitel  
YC '92

ResponSA continue on page 8

# CAMPUS NEWS

## A note from CompuSci Speaks::

It has come to our attention that three major strains of computer viruses have begun to appear on our computer room networks: Jerusalem [Jeru], Stoned [Stoned], and Azusa [Azusa]. To prevent you and your data from being obliterated by a virus **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SCAN YOUR DISKS FOR VIRUSES ON A REGULAR BASIS.** At YC, this means using the machine in the front of Room 1111 after every session of work in the computer room. AT SCW, the TNT anti-virus program is on the network and instructions on how to run this program are posted around the computer room. If you suspect that a disk has become infected, please tell the operator on duty. Viruses can usually be removed with the aid of special anti-virus programs. Also, **DO NOT RUN 'CHKDSK' ON A DISK YOU SUSPECT MAY BE CONTAMINATED.**

The virus epidemic will be discussed in detail in a future issue of *CompuSci Speaks*.

## Student Wins Award for Classics

Yeshiva University has been honored by the induction of a new member to the Gamma Delta Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honorary Fraternity. "The entire college takes pride in the tradition of our faculty and students for distinguished scholarship," said Dean of Yeshiva College, Dr. Norman S. Rosenfeld.

The induction of Joshua Z. Zlochow, the current President of the Classics Society marks the first such honor in the past three years. Dr. Feldman, the Chairman of the Classics Department at Yeshiva College, hosted 25 members at his home for the induction. Present were many members from the past 40 years of the society's history, including Dr. Berger. Former members include Dr. Moshe Bernstein and Rabbi Fulda, the founding student member. All initiates complete two years of superior course work and submit a translation project to a panel of all members for critical review.

"I am very proud of my students. In one year we won three of the six prizes in a national contest. We only had three entrants; we only had three

students. That's quality. The world has heard about Yeshiva. We represent excellence."

Zlochow expressed his gratitude to Dr. Feldman's caring instruction. "His dedication was my inspiration."

-- Stephen Buch

## Tell Us What's Going On!

Students, Faculty, Administrators -

If you have a story, tip or suggestion, please drop us a note in our Furst Hall Mailbox.

## WYUR Meeting

Last Monday, WYUR, YU's official radio station, convened a meeting to address concerns over technical and administrative difficulties the station has been facing. WYUR's board explained to the assembled DJ's that the problem preventing the use of vital equipment had been diagnosed, and that the University electrician was awaiting permission from Director of Supporting Services Administration, Jeffrey Rosengarten, to proceed with repairs. The group discussed new ways of attracting listeners, including the posting of a station bulletin board listing programming information.

Adam Cantor and Josh Eliavson announced plans to step down from their posts as board members, either immediately or in the near future. Yitz Treitel, WYUR Station Manager, explained that these plans have been considered since last year as a way of allowing new students to gain experience in running the station while still under the tutelage of WYUR veterans.

At press time, Treitel and YCSC President David J. Kay were planning to meet with Rosengarten, Dean Nulman and Vice President Sheldon Socol today to discuss the future of the station.

--Joshua D. Goldberg

## Josh Seidemann

## A Perspective: "Suddenly Last Summer"

A young lady turned to me after Saturday night's performance of "Suddenly Last Summer" and, after skillfully appraising the sad state of affairs in the world today, as well as her conception of theater as escapism, solemnly reflected, "That disturbed me." I was delighted.

If the play disturbed the audience, then the actors, technicians, and director have done their jobs. "Suddenly Last

"We are not clowns, whose sole purpose is to entertain." (David Mamet, "A Life in the Theater" - YCDS Fall 1989)

College theater strives to educate. Everyone involved is presented with the opportunity to explore, examine, and grow. The actors learn role and character interpretation; the technicians study how light, sound, and set design complement and affect a production; the audience, hopefully, is enlightened and driven to think about what they have experienced.

"Suddenly Last Summer" raises important issues of social and psychological concern, themes that deserve to be examined in a college atmosphere. A young man, frustrated and driven by greed, explodes and viciously attacks his brother; a health care worker's hostility and anger is barely checked, even in the presence of his patient's family; a man, infuriated by the impending loss of his dead son's reputation, prepares to subject the defamer to a frontal lobotomy.

All of these accentuate the crisis that surrounds the unraveling of the mystery of Sebastian's death. As Mr. Venable ruthlessly orders the doctor to "cut this hideous story out of his brain", the play provokes, prods, and yes, disturbs.

"I don't care if there are only three people out front, or if the audience laughs when they shouldn't, or don't when they should, one person, just one person, is certain to know and understand." (Ronald Harwood, "The Dresser" - YCDS Fall 1988)

Certainly YCDS would like to see a crowd every night, and tickets are sold aggressively in the weeks before a play. But campus interest in and exploration of the arts should not stop at the theater doors. The YU Spring Schedule lists over 20 upper level English and Speech courses that range from the development of the English novel to a survey course in Film history. The Greek department offers a course devoted solely devoted to Greek drama. A newly constructed recital hall with a grand piano and tiered seating now graces the Belz School of Music. Opportunities to think creatively and to express one's self artistically are available Yeshiva - it is up to individual students to take advantage of them.

We've played to bigger, of course, but quality counts for something. I recognized you at once...as fellow artists."

"I thought we were gentlemen." (Tom Stoppard, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" - YCDS Fall 1975)

The actors and technicians are gentlemen - gentlemen who aim to shock and jar the mind into thinking again. To the fellow who shuddered at the end of the first act last Monday night and said "I need a play like *this* to take my mind off my problems?": No. One of Mr. Venable's 5 o'clock cocktails might placate you, but the theater is not a panacea. It is no less an academic experience than reading a textbook, but it is an emotionally charged one that can leave you silent in your seat, with a question on your lips and your eyes wide.



Actors Seth Gersberg, and Avi Finberg exchange heated words in this semester's YCDS production.

"Summer" is a play that is not meant to be wrapped up as the stage dims and the house lights come up. People should walk away from the theater questioning what they have seen and grappling with the issues the play has raised.



YCDS Treasurer Daniel Schloss presenting Yitzchak Blau with a \$710 check from the Monday night performance of the play which was donated to the Committee for the Preservation of Revel.



# Farewell to SSSB Dean Schiff

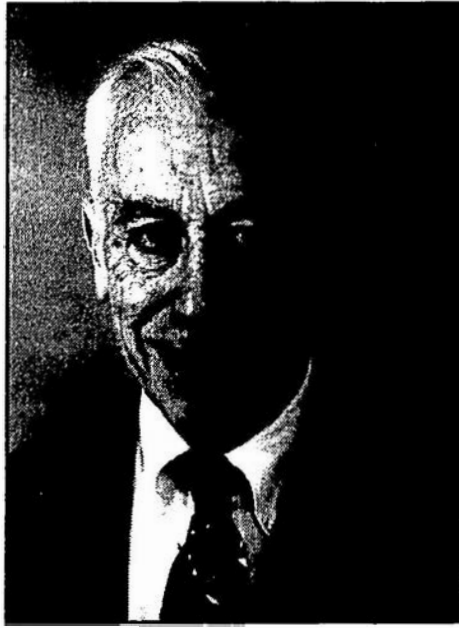


photo: YU P.R. Dept.

In 1987, Yeshiva University decided to open the first business school under Jewish auspices in the Western Hemisphere. Dean Michael Schiff, former chairman of the Accounting Department and director of the Ross Institute of Accounting Research at New York University, was named founding dean of the Sy Syms School of Business. Accepting the challenge of building up a quality business school, Dean Schiff appropriately gave SSSB the motto of "A commitment to excellence in a unique environment." Dean Schiff will be leaving SSSB in two weeks.

Over the past five years Dean Schiff has managed to set up a rigorous curriculum and to staff each course with high caliber professors such as Professor Malkiel and Noble Laureate Dr. Modigliani. He has also managed to attract various guest lecturers to address the student body, including the Chairman/Chief

Executive officer of ADP, a Professor of Business Administration at Harvard University, the Vice President of Proctor and Gamble, the Chairman of Sanford Bernstein & Co. and various other distinguished speakers.

As the founder of SSSB, Dean Schiff has established a respectable name for this growing business school in the business community. Dean Schiff's concern for each and every Sy Syms student goes beyond the call of duty. Professor Moses Pava states, "his commitment to excellence and deep-rooted concern, is the foundation on which our school will continue to grow and prosper."

Dean Schiff will be known as being single-handedly responsible for making SSSB what it is today, a vibrant young business school which is dedicated to *Torah U'Madda*.

## THE UPTOWN AND MIDTOWN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OF

## THE SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

*EXTEND THEIR WARMEST GRATITUDE  
AND BEST WISHES TO*

## DEAN MICHAEL SCHIFF,

*WHOSE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS AND  
INNOVATIONS HAVE FIRMLY  
ESTABLISHED SSSB AS A UNIQUE,  
DISTINGUISHED INSTITUTION.*

**WE WISH HIM SUCCESS IN HIS  
FUTURE ENDEAVORS.**

# Special Coed SSSB Class To Meet at Midtown Campus

by Joel Haber

Professor Burton G. Malkiel, a renowned expert on financial markets and former dean of the Yale School of Organization and Management, will be visiting Yeshiva University next semester as a Kucin Distinguished Scholar. His course is unique in that it will be coed and will be given on the midtown campus on Friday mornings for two hours.

Malkiel, who currently teaches at Princeton University, will be offering a Financial Markets class. As a Kucin Scholar, he follows Dr. Modigliani, a professor at MIT and Nobel Prize Winner who visited YU three years ago. Modigliani gave a class to 20-25 students on Finance in Capital Markets, but many Stern women felt deprived of the opportunity to learn from such a distinguished academic. Therefore it was felt that it would be most fair to alternate from uptown to downtown and have this class taught at SCW. Yet, since the number of women taking the class would be quite small, it was decided that the men should not miss out and should also be allowed to register for the class.

Assistant Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business Ira Jaskoll explained that it is the plan to alternate between the two campuses for future notable professors, though the courses will not necessarily be coed. However, he added that due to the smaller expected enrollment downtown (stemming from the relatively small number of SSSB downtown students and SCW economics majors) "it didn't seem possible just to have Dr. Malkiel teach down there."

The class will be open to SSSB students and Economics majors in the liberal arts colleges. In order to increase the number of potential students, its only prerequisites will be Economics I and II and either Money and Banking or Corporate Finance.

The idea came before Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller and he accepted the plan to make the class coed. "...We would like to give the women a chance to learn with someone of [Malkiel's] stature," he explained. Jaskoll said he was "pleasantly

surprised" yet also added that "we're a yeshiva and we should be able to be creative to solve a problem. That's what Yeshiva is about." He also noted that the decision was understandable since the class is an advanced level elective, almost on a graduate level, and YU's graduate schools do have mixed courses. Also, this is a case of a special scholar and the course resembles a seminar, in which there would be "no problem."

Nonetheless, the Administration felt that it would be more appropriate to hold the class downtown.

The class will be held on Friday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00 and students from the Joel Jablonski Campus will be transported by van to and from the midtown campus. Many felt that this would be detrimental to the overall enrollment in the class by lowering male registration due to the inconvenience. Jaskoll, however, contended that "the quality of this individual is such that if someone realized how good he is, he will go wherever he is, within reason." SSSBSA President Laizer Kornwasser concurred, saying, "Any student who is really interested in furthering his education in business should be willing to make the extra effort."

Kornwasser estimated that the class should probably contain 6 women and approximately 10 men. Many felt the registration would be higher if the class were held uptown, even without women. Jaskoll, however, felt it was wrong to weigh the number of females against the number of males who will not attend the class because of its location. He emphasized the importance of giving the opportunity to everyone. "We're always going to be two or three times larger than our women's group. That's not our philosophy. Our philosophy is that we're here to help everyone."

Kornwasser explained that the men uptown who do not join Malkiel's class will still have the benefit of his knowledge. He will be lecturing to the whole student body during the Spring semester.

"We would hope," added Jaskoll, "that we can have, every semester, a different scholar, and one semester would be uptown and one semester downtown."

## MCAT/DAT/OAT DR. BLANK'S REVIEW

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**POINT:** The following letter was submitted to the Commentator. The tape alluded to was played by Rav Parnes to his shiur.

To the Editor:

The past several weeks have been the focus of much debate and demonstration concerning the proposed closing of the Bernard Revel Graduate School. By the time this letter appears in print, the issue may already be irrelevant, yet for the present I still feel a need to voice an opinion which should have been expressed much earlier.

I attended Yeshiva College and graduated with a major in Jewish Studies. For a number of reasons, I opted to take several courses in Revel in order to fulfill the major's requirements. Although much of the material which was presented and assigned was of interest to me, I found a great deal of it to be highly objectionable - both in terms of content and the manner in which it was approached. I will elaborate on this point shortly.

In the 1970's, the Rav delivered an address at an assembly of the RIETS Rabbinical Alumni. During that presentation, the Rav spoke in very clear terms as to how to approach the study of Torah. "...the truth in Talmud Torah can be achieved through the singular-singular halakhic Torah thinking and Torah understanding...The truth is attained from within - it is the methodology given to Moses and passed down from generation to generation...The truth can be discovered only in joining the ranks of the Chachmei Hamesorah... It is ridiculous to say 'I have discovered something of which the Rashba didn't know, the Ketso's didn't know, the Vilna Gaon had no knowledge... I have discovered an approach to the study of Torah which is completely new' - it's ridiculous... In order to join the ranks of the Chachmei Hamesorah - Chazal, the Rishonim, Gedolei HaAcharonim - he must not try to rationalize from without the Chukey Hatorah... Such an attempt, be it ... psychologism... undermines the very foundation of Torah umesorah."

On the other hand, outspoken supporters of Revel's approach have praised it for its "synthesis of halachic Judaism and the best of secular thought."

It "attempts to orchestrate a harmony between Torah study and academic scholarship..." "Jewish scholarship is neither more nor less the examination of Jewish history with the tools of modern academic disciplines." "...it is not theology that must supervise scholarship but rather scholarship which must deepen and guide our theology." It appears to me that the very principles set forth by the Rav are in direct contradiction to the academic methodology employed and encouraged by the proponents of Revel.

Not only do I believe that the approach of Revel is problematic, in light of the Rav's words, but I have also seen many unacceptable conclusions which were reached through the application of secular methodology, both while I was enrolled at Revel as well as in the past few years. One article in particular which I was assigned argued, with the support of historical inferences, that Maimonides knowingly distorted the halakha in a certain responsum. This implies that he committed the serious transgression of "ziyuf haTorah" - distorting the facts of the Torah. Other students have presented to me assertions that the authors of the Tosafot were influenced by external factors which affected their interpretations and responsa. Such statements accuse these commentators of a failure to fully adhere to objective halakhic standards which flow solely from within, as the Rav explained so clearly. Additionally, these conclusions are based upon an external, historical approach to understanding Torah - an approach which was condemned and dismissed by the Rav.

I am not writing this letter out of anger or hatred - on the contrary, I care deeply for our yeshiva and its students. It is due to this concern and a concern for Torah that I must express my opinion which, if considered objectively, may shed light and clarity on an issue clouded with much ambiguity.

Avrohom Gordimer  
YU '89, RIETS '93

**COUNTERPOINT:** The Commentator asked Dr. Haym Soloveitchik, past dean and present professor at BRGS to respond to this interpretation of his father's approach.

When one cites a written work, the reader can open the book and see if the citation is in or out of context. When one cites a tape, the reader must rely upon the writer's discernment and objectivity, for he usually doesn't possess the tape with which to check the context of the remarks. For this reason, one who cites a tape should take care to provide the reader with the proper context within which the cited remarks were made.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gordimer has not taken this elementary step. The entire thrust of the lecture cited was to challenge and disqualify attempts to abandon halakhic hazakot by psychologizing them away, i.e., to claim this halakhic hazaka is no longer operative because people no longer believe in such and such a manner. What

R.S. said was that introducing psychology, history, or sociology into halakhic thought and drawing from this psychologizing or sociologizing halakhic conclusions is a totally false approach to halakha, and a misuse of halakhic categories. R.S. never said that we cannot study halakha from the viewpoint of philosophy or history, namely, what do certain halakhic concepts mean philosophically, or what does a certain course of halakhic thought mean historically. His entire "Ish Halakha" is an explicit attempt to understand halakhic postulates from the point of view of neo-Kantianism. I find it somewhat perplexing to be told that a man who taught philosophy of halakha for 20 years at BRGS was opposed to the principles of the very school in which he taught.

# YCSC Clubs: A Semester in Review

by Torin Rutner

As intersession rapidly approaches it is time to evaluate all of our clubs and societies. According to the "Guide to the Perplexed," there are about sixty clubs and societies. One must not be fooled, however, into believing that all of these actually function or even exist. Some of these clubs serve only to fill resumes and graduate applications.

The multitude of clubs that are alive and well in the college are as follows:

**Actuary Club:** Jonathan B. Levine

This small club for the few and the distinguished has sent a group of students on an actuarial career day and has discussed the upcoming actuary exams. The second semester promises a speaker and a newsletter.

**Aliyah Club:** Simi Chavel

This inspirational club hosted Meyer Fachler, Director of Yavneh Olami, who discussed the early stages of the Israeli-Arab peace process. Operation Solomon was a great idea that did not really draw much of the student body. Flag sales have successfully raised funds. The club leaders promise a shabbaton, a Yom Haatzmaut celebration, and a Lag-B'omer barbecue/fundraiser for next semester.

**Chess Club:** Stephen Buch

Held weekly chess matches and one exhibition.

**Club Canada:** Dan Diamond

The club attended a hockey Game at Madison Square Garden and a shabbaton at Stern.

**College Republicans:** Jeff Stier

This politically active club has welcomed Ronald Perry, a councilman from the Washington Heights district. It has also shown the movie "The Candidate," and is presently trying to arrange a Rudolph Giuliani speech.

**CompuSci Activity List:** Yitz Hollander

The disk sale began well but has hit hard times because of stiff competition. "Compusci Speaks" published its first edition and Hollander hopes to produce two more next semester.

**Cultural Society:** Joshua Pollack, Natan Horowitz

Organized "Lost in Yonkers" night during Freshman Orientation. Also held the annual Blind Date Night at "Penn and Teller Rot in Hell".

**Debate Team:** Joshua Fogel

Currently preparing for upcoming debates with Touro and Pace.

**Environmental Awareness Society:** Ethan Ciment

Attempted to deal with the issues of paper recycling and styrofoam replacement at the Joel Jablonski Campus.

**Israel Club:** David Schimmel

Hosted Rabbi Avraham Toledano, the new head of the Kach party.

**J.P. Dunner Political Science Society:** David Saffra

Hosted a speaker from CUNY, attended a Model U.N. at U. of P., had a "Wine and Cheese" party, and plan to attend another Model U.N. at Harvard in February.

**Jewish Studies Club:** Uri Cohen

Struggling to save Revel with rallies, signs, and learning.

**Mussar Movement:** Uri Cohen

Those "midda of the month" signs are their brainchild.

**Physics Club:** Menashe Dickman

Hosted a video of Nobel prize laureate Richard Feynmann. Also welcomed Martin Blank from Columbia University.

**Poetry Club:** Stephen Buch

Hosted student reading and coordinated English Honors dinner. Shakespeare's "As You Like It" at the Pearl Theater was their celebrated event, and it was followed by a discussion with the actors.

**Resident Council:** Torin Rutner

Coordinated and hosted all three "Dorm Talks". Organized two sets of floor parties for the dormitories, including the Chanuka parties. Obtained lost washing cups for students; presently working on improving relations between students and facilities management. The furnishing of three lounges in Morg and Muss is underway, and more "Dorm Talks" and floor parties are expected for second semester.

**Sigma Delta Rho:** Avigdor Butler

They have hosted nine speakers from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and have shown three movies. The have also sponsored a shabbaton at Stern.

**Sociology Club:** Renato Fusman

Printed the first issue of "Eruditio". Plan on printing six more issues and bringing a speaker to campus.

**Student Coalition for Pollard:** Ephraim Kutner

Hosted guest speaker Carol Pollard and had a joint shabbaton with Stern.

**Tagar Club:** Jerald Darvishzadeh

Hosted speaker Israeli Minister of Justice Dan Meridor. Presently coordinating Israeli flag sales.

**Yeshiva College Philanthropy Society:** Daniel Wolf

They have coordinated shabbos meal deliveries, homeless meal deliveries, a Chanuka chagiga for Russians, a three week Russian Kollel, bone marrow testing, the annual tzedaka drive, can collections, the Chanuka raffle, and concessions at the YCSC Chanuka Concert.

**Yeshiva College Philosophy Society:** Ari Ferziger

Held two lectures and student-faculty dinners; they are now preparing a journal.

**Young Democrats of YU:** Michael Dyckman

Showed the movie "All the President's Men" at Stern.



# Revel Protest

Continued from page 1

Saturday night "monologue" delivered two weeks earlier. Nulman then commented that Dr. Lamm would also answer a few student's questions. One angry student retorted, "Not some questions, all the questions."

The students used a bullhorn to personally invite Dr. Lamm out. They rose in silence to greet Dr. Lamm, and after waiting a minute and a half in silence they departed for the sit-in, inviting Dr. Lamm to address the students in front of Furst Hall.

The presence of a photographer from the Public Relations department sparked confusion, as students feared that they were being photographed for use against them at a later date. However, Director of Photography Norman Goldberg stated, "The photos I'm shooting today are only for the BRGS file, only a record of the demonstration - nothing more, nothing less."



Rabbi Saul Berman addresses students at the Revel rally

On Wednesday, January 8, over 100 SCW students staged a rally at the Midtown Center's main building. Commenting on the rally, Rivki Shuchatowitz, an SCW student stated, "we succeeded in projecting a positive statement and attitude towards YU, while impressing upon them the importance that we as SCW students attach to Revel."

Much controversy surrounds certain actions taken by the administration in response to protests. Students allege that the administration instructed faculty members and rebbeim to urge students not to attend either of the rallies. Before the Stern rally, Rabbis Ephraim Kannerfogel and Tzvi Flaum warned SCW students that the protest would be a chillul Hashem. Dean of Students Efreim Nulman responded to the allegations by saying that "the administration strongly suggested to faculty and administration to tell their students not to take part in illegal activities and to act like bnei torah."

The following day, this past Thursday, about fifty Revel and YC students staged a learn-in the lobby of Furst Hall. Participant Jeremy Weider explained, "We want to show Dr. Lamm that the students concerned about Revel are some

of the most serious students in the Yeshiva." The students brought their sefarim and learned for the duration of club hour. Rachel Mohl, a first year student at Cardozo Law School, stated, "The fact that we're learning shows what we want to continue and what will not continue if BRGS is closed."

## Latest Developments

\* In a late breaking development, The Commentator has learned that at a meeting with a number of Board members on Thursday January 9, The decision was made to issue a new statement in the near future. However, the contents of the statement are unknown at this time.

\* In a separate development, The Commentator has learned that Vice President for Academic Affairs Egon Brenner has asked Dean of BRGS Dr. Leo Landman to fill the Rabbi Arthur D. Kahn Chair in Hebrew Literature, which will be vacated when Dr. Moshe Bar-Asher returns to Hebrew University at semester's end. Additionally he was told to send applications to those potential students requesting them and that the summer session will go on as usual.

\* The Commentator has obtained a copy of the agenda from the December meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the decision to restructure BRGS was made. The agenda, which was presumably handed

to the Board before the meeting, contains no mention of a discussion on BRGS.

\* The Commentator has also learned that monies totaling over \$450,000 have been pledged by benefactors for BRGS for next year. While it is not yet guaranteed that the funds will continue beyond that time, there are indications that they will.

\* Dr. Lamm has undertaken efforts to form a committee of individuals highly respected in the YU community, to investigate the future BRGS. Lamm appointed Dr. Marvin Fox of Brandeis University as chair. The rest of the committee is comprised of Dr. Sid Leiman, Dr. Richard Steiner, SCW Dean Karen Bacon, Rabbi Sol Roth, Rabbi Yaakov Elman, Dean Michael Shmidman, Dr. Arthur Hyman, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Rabbi Ephraim Kannerfogel, SCWSC President Susan Schluskel and Uri Cohen, a Revel student. Dr. Steiner had not accepted as of press time. Cohen and Schluskel rejected their appointments, stating that student representatives should be chosen by students themselves and not by the administration. The task force, whose

# Senate Sucks

by Jamin Koslowe

What exactly is the YU Senate? You vaguely recall having seen minutes of "Senate Meetings" posted on the wall next to other announcements and advertisements, but you still have no idea who is on this Senate or what it does.

Well, you're not alone. It seems that most students and even faculty members know very little about the Senate, despite the fact that it has been an institution at YU for over twenty-two years. Dr. Weidhorn, professor of English Literature, was even quoted in a recent issue of the Commentator as saying, "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."

Officially titled the YC/SSSB Uptown Senate, the Senate serves as a forum for members of the YU faculty and administration to meet with members of the student body. The Senate consists of eight student representatives (six from YC and two from SSSB), eight faculty members, and six Administration representatives. The majority of the faculty and Administration who serve on the Senate have been on the Senate for the past few years. The student Senators each serve for a maximum of two years.

According to Dr. Will Lee, currently the Chairman, the Senate serves three main purposes: To improve education and the quality of student life at YC and SSSB; to convene faculty, administrative, and student senators in case of a crisis; and to help the three groups to better understand each other. Dr. Lee believes that the Senate "fulfills these functions well."

Naming a few of the Senate's initiatives over the past few years, Lee mentioned the Writing Center, the tightening of exam proctoring, and this semester's introduction of a Japanese Language course. While Lee maintains that "the Senate is effective over the long term," he admits that "it is a slow process."

Senate Vice-Chairman Ari Ferziger agreed, saying that "often the goals are ambitious, but unfortunately, can't be accomplished." Ferziger added that "since we only meet for one hour every other week, it's hard to get the ball rolling."

Dean Rosenfeld, who also serves on the

Senate, commented that "in recent years, most of our effort was focused on setting agenda rather than actually doing things." Rosenfeld suggested that student Senators meet before the academic year to set the agenda, so that the Senate can deal with more substantive issues during the actual meetings.

To improve efficiency, the Senate formed "Task Forces" to investigate certain issues and report back to the group at large. One of this year's task forces is researching the current curriculum at SSSB to try to determine if there are too many requirements. Another task force will be reporting on the English Composition requirements at YC. One issue which is sure to be controversial, the possible limitation of transferable credits from yeshivot in Israel, AP examinations, CLEP tests, and other colleges is being studied by yet another task force. Dr. Lee maintains that "if the task forces do their jobs, this could be an extremely productive year."

Faculty Senator Dr. Blanche Blank commented that while she has been satisfied with the overall performance of the Senate over the past few years, many important issues are overlooked. Blank said that the Senate could try to focus on "developing a political environment on campus." She would like to see a standing committee on First Amendment issues at YU established.

Josh Pollack, who is serving as Secretary for the second year in a row, feels that the Senate could be much more effective if there was more feedback from the student body. Pollack has tried to keep students informed of the Senate's activities by printing up the minutes of meetings and personally posting them on every floor of each dorm. Pollack remarked that he would appreciate input from students regarding any of the issues currently being discussed or any other issues which could possibly be taken up by the Senate in the future.

Dr. Lee contends that "the Senate has more power than students realize." Even though the Senate does not have the power to actually implement changes, the recommendations drafted by the Senate are taken very seriously, and are usually implemented. Dr. Lee criticized students for usually viewing The Commentator as their forum for seeking changes on campus. According to Lee, "the

continued on page 11

powers are strictly advisory, is scheduled to make its report on February 17.

\*Dr. Lamm met on Wednesday with philanthropist Joel Stern who presented his fund raising plan to Lamm. In addition to monetary assistance, Stern's offer includes a ninety day extensive study of BRGS which he will oversee. Stern requested that Lamm suspend his plans to form his own committee until he responded to Stern's proposal. Lamm countered that if he accepted Stern's offer, the committee would continue, but change its objectives. After extensive

discussions, Lamm asked him to return today at which time the president plans to respond.

\*Dr. Lamm is scheduled to speak at B'nei Yeshurun Synagogue in Teaneck, New Jersey on Sunday January 12. The sponsors of the lecture asked Dr. Lamm to discuss the Revel issue. Lamm agreed to address the issue if he was presented with a list of questions in advance, from which he would choose which ones to answer. No other questions may be asked.

Dr. Lamm was unavailable for comment.

# RESPONSA

Continued from page 3

## Vending Machine Vandalism

To the Editor:

I am personally disgusted and appalled by the behavior of some YU students. At a recent Food Services Committee meeting I was forced to deal with a problem not caused by the Cafeteria but by some students themselves; an issue which as far as I'm concerned should *never* be a problem at a Yeshiva. Unfortunately I am referring to the recent wave in vandalism and theft from which the cafeteria is suffering.

This week one of the vending machines in the Morgenstern Lounge remained empty. Jake Lieberman, Head of Food Services explained that the glass had to be replaced due to the student vandalism and theft. He further explained that this was the fifth time this has occurred in the last three weeks, costing over \$1000 dollars in repairs. The problem doesn't end here, however. Students have been stealing food, trays and utensils from the cafeteria itself. I was astounded to hear the various ingenious methods and schemes which some students have devised in order to steal. It hurts me to hear that Yeshiva

students who have good upbringings are committing acts which are completely antithetical to the very ethics and values which we as religious Jews hold so dear. No one has any excuse to steal food. If a student is experiencing financial problems arrangements can be made through the University to deal with them. I would like to think that this University would never allow any student to go hungry. If a student is stealing because they are upset with the cafeteria and its services then I urge the he attend a Food Services meeting and voice his opinion to help correct the problem.

"So what are you going to do about it?" Mr. Lieberman asked. Good question! Will this letter of mussar stop the problem? I am forced to answer an emphatic no! So what will it take? Will the cafeteria be forced to have students open up their take-out trays at the register to examine exactly what is being bought? Will they be forced to police the cafeteria? Will they be forced to empty and remove the vending machines to prevent further losses? I sincerely hope not, and I tend to think that the majority of students would be offended if such preventive measures were taken. So again I ask, what will it take? I would like to hear your response to this and so I pose the question to you the students and ask for viable solutions.

Daniel Faizakoff  
Junior Class President

## Dr. Lamm, You're Forgetting Something

Dear Dr. Lamm:

On several occasions, Dr. Lamm has claimed that one of the biggest problems the university faces financially is its incapacity to tap the alumni. I would be so bold as to suggest that this situation is not surprising. The fact has been that the majority of students who have gone through YU have been apathetic in general and specifically, towards the school. If students didn't care about the institution when they attended it, obviously they're not going to pump much into it afterward.

In recent weeks, I have participated with both pride and astonishment in the CPR movement to keep the Bernard Revel Graduate School as it is (no lobotomies necessary). I have joined with hundreds of students in doing so. In the nine years that I have been a student on campus, I have never seen a student response other than apathy, and YU history indicates that with only two other exceptions, this rule has stood.

Imagine, five years worth of future alumni all rallying around the same cause. We're all carefully watching the administration to see what it thinks of student feelings. This will indubitably shape our outlook toward fund raising in the future. This is not meant as a threat, but as a realistic observation. It stands to reason that if the only time the students actively demonstrated concern *en masse*, the administration slammed the door in our collective face that we will not exhaust ourselves seeking support for the institution it administers.

Rabbi Dobrinsky is fond of telling a story in the first year semicha supplementary rabbinics class. A potential donor has expressed contempt at contributing more to the school because twenty years earlier a secretary had been rude to him. Dr. Dobrinsky asked the man, who was a doctor, how long it takes his scars to heal. The man understood and apologized.

This story falls on its face in the present situation. What we will remember as Yeshiva University will have ceased to exist. This scar will not heal, because the future YU will have abandoned its mission and we, the leaders of tomorrow, are incapable of supporting an institution which neither represents nor shares the ideals we hold dear.

Ira Kosowsky  
YC 91, BRGS 92

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# Bidding Farewell to Dr. Bar-Asher

by Shlomo Zwickler

Visiting YU this semester via Morocco, Harvard, and Hebrew U. is Dr. Moshe Bar-Asher, currently the Rabbi Arthur D. Kahn Visiting Professor of Hebrew, offering courses in our ancient yet modern tongue at BRGS, IBC and SCW.

Bar-Asher is no stranger to academics, heading the Ivrit Department at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In addition, he is currently vice-president of the Academy of the Hebrew Language, an Israeli body governing changes in Hebrew semantics. Bar-Asher's scholarship crosses the linguistic barrier as well; time spent learning Torah Lishma led to his previous appointment as head of the International Institute of Jewish Studies.

Since occupying a visiting chair at Harvard in 1978, Bar-Asher has made the rounds through various institutions of higher education. His arrival at YU is primarily due to the efforts of Drs. Richard Steiner, Haym Soloveitchik, and Dean Leo Landman of the Bernard Revel Graduate School.

An oleh from Morocco, Bar-Asher's zeal for Judaic Studies began at a young age, when he made his move to Eretz Yisrael. At age twelve, Bar-Asher organized a group of youth for Aliya, and had to argue to attend a religious school, since at the time Torah education

was not the highest among Jewish Agency priorities. "I fought for six and a half months until they said I could go to a religious school and I finally ended up in Yeshivat Hadarom."

In high school, Bar-Asher became interested in Hebrew and Semitic Languages, moving on to Hebrew U. and completing thesis work at the Sorbonne.

Nonetheless, Bar-Asher's expertise transcends academia, as he lists many high-level Israeli government officials as personal friends. In fact, Bar-Asher was asked to lead the National Religious Party's (Mafdal) Knesset list on numerous occasions, foregoing the opportunity each time. "I'm not interested in politics," quips the professor.

However, he is interested in the future of Hebrew as the language of the Jewish people. While he is "positively impressed" with YU students' desire to study Ivrit, Bar-Asher finds the majority to have weak backgrounds. "The study of Hebrew is neglected all over America. Effort should be made to extend the quality and quantity. The reading of Hebrew texts should be stressed and [there should be] less use of translation."

The Israeli scholar sees the lack of proficiency in Hebrew not only as a threat to the language, but to the future of Jewish learning in general. "A real danger to the future of Jewish Studies in

America is this tremendous effort to translate every book into English. Not only Mishna and Talmud - now even the Mishna B'rura. In any translation something gets lost. One should get familiar with the original language, Hebrew, to have a real and profound idea of the original text."

Although invited to YU for an entire year, Bar-Asher only agreed to one semester in New York. "My son refused to leave Eretz Yisrael for so long. He said 'I haven't got a year to waste in America.'"

Good Luck with Finals!

## Senate continued from page 7

Senate is the political organization; The Commentator is an opinion disseminator." Dr. Lee believes that "if students really want changes to be implemented, they would do better to go to the Senate."

One of the possible reasons for student apathy towards the Senate could be the selection process for student Senators. Student Senators are not elected democratically by the student body at large. Instead, at the end of every year, the existing student Senators select new students to fill the vacancies for the upcoming year.

YC Junior Doron Storfer believes that "students feel detached from the Senate since they didn't vote for them."

Pollack defended the selection process, commenting that letting the

entire student body vote for Senators "would make the selection a popularity contest." Ferziger agreed with Pollack, reasoning that it is important to have an independent body "looking at the long term interests for YC and SSSB." Ferziger explained that "we try to implement policies which are best for YU, not necessarily those that will be most popular with the student body."

Storfer objected to the idea of an unelected group of students making decisions for the entire student body. "I don't want a select group of students deciding what's best for me," he complained. He suggested that at the very least, half of the upcoming vacancies on the Senate should be filled by a general election.

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# YESHIVA SPORTS



*Coach Halpert and the Macs discuss their game plan*

## Macs Plagued By Injuries

by Eric Melzer

It has become a yearly tradition for the top players of the Yeshiva Macs basketball team to be bitten by the injury bug. Unfortunately, this year has been no different.

Elisha Rothman, captain of the Macs, injured his ankle in the Macs 58-57 victory over Molloy College. Rothman was sidelined for three games and was limited to ten minutes in the 70-57 loss to Baruch College. Leading scorer and rebounder Daniel Aaron went down with a knee injury in the same game. Aaron was limited to two minutes in the second half; this was the primary reason that the Macs lost to Baruch. As assistant coach Dr. Jeffrey Gurock stated, "Just like it's very hard to win a chess game without the queen, it's very difficult to win a basketball game without the starting center."

At press time, the Macs possess an 8-3 record and are 5-2 in Independent Athletic Conference games. They have, however, dropped 2 of the last 3 and faced C.C.N.Y. without center Daniel Aaron and with a slowed Elisha Rothman. Senior forward Seth Cohen was expected to return against C.C.N.Y. His presence will certainly be welcomed by the Macs who desperately need Cohen's scoring and rebounding talents.

Yeshiva punished St. Joseph's College of Brooklyn 86-59. This game was not a contest at all. The Macs led 49-21 at halftime and pretty much coasted the entire way. Yeshiva was led by Miko Danan who played his

finest game of the year, pouring in 30 points on an awesome 12 for 15 shooting display. Danan was also perfect from three-point range (5 for 5). Daniel Aaron had identical figures in rebounding and scoring (13). Or Rose also put in a solid performance off the bench as he coupled 11 points with 5 rebounds. Saul Stepnar set a new Macs record by fouling out in a mere 7 minutes!

In their next game, the Macs lost to a superior N.J.I.T. team 86-76. N.J.I.T. superstar Lance Andrews, who was held to 8 points at Yeshiva, torched the Macs for 22 points including 8 for 9 from the line. Daniel Aaron played an excellent game, combining 23 points with 17 rebounds. The game was close until about 3 minutes left in the first half, when N.J.I.T. went on a 10-2 run to lead 50-35 at halftime. Josh Dobin and Erez Ben Ami kept the Macs within striking distance throughout the second half. Dobin netted 16 (15 on 5 three-pointers). Erez Ben-Ami chipped in 12 on a solid 6-9 shooting effort. Yet, this was not nearly enough to overtake the N.J.I.T. Highlanders who are undefeated in conference play.

The Macs fell to Baruch College 70-57 for their second loss at home. Daniel Aaron and Elisha Rothman only played 18 minutes apiece. The Macs shot 3 for 16 from three-point range and 4 for 10 from the line. They also committed an exorbitant 20 turnovers while registering only 10 assists. Clearly, this was the Macs' worst performance of the year.

The Macs will play at Barry College on Thursday night, January 30. All those vacationing in the Miami area are urged to attend.

Eric Melzer

## Opinion: Hoop Abuse

The slam dunk is by far the most exciting aspect of basketball, at levels of play ranging from recreational to professional. All basketball players dream of being able to dunk, especially during the course of an actual game. This phenomenon certainly exists at Yeshiva University, where many basketball players, especially those on the Maccabee basketball team, attempt to dunk during practice or at their leisure in the Max Stern Athletic Center. While dunking is certainly encouraged, the athlete should only attempt to do so if he can slam properly.

Hanging on the rim, though, is a different story.

Last Tuesday night, a number of students felt that they could publicly display their athletic abilities not only by slamming, but by hanging on the rim on the north side of the court. A few of these students, not tall enough to independently do so, climbed on each other's backs in order to grab the rim. After much continuous abuse, the rim broke. One student continued to dunk and grab the rim even after it had broken.

The rim broke at 10:40 p.m., just 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the intramurals semifinals doubleheader. In addition, a Schick Superhoops Quarterfinals matchup which was supposed to begin at 10:45 had to be delayed, since the supervisors had to deal with the problem. It appeared

that the entire night of intramural events would have to be cancelled. Luckily, a used rim was located and the Maintenance Department was present to replace the rim by 11:30. The intramurals commenced at 11:40 and finished by 1:45, forty-five minutes after the scheduled closing of the Max Stern Athletic Center. It is unfortunate that so many people were inconvenienced by the stupidity and thoughtlessness of a few.

It is interesting to note that some of the people grabbing the rim were, in fact, members of the Macs basketball team. What would have happened if these members had broken the rim just a couple of hours prior to the start of a Macs game? It would be quite humiliating for the University if the Macs would have to forfeit a game because of the foolishness of some of its own players. What if this game were a playoff game? What if members of the Board of Trustees were present only to learn that Yeshiva had forfeited?

The Max Stern Athletic Center has been termed one of the finest gyms among Division Three basketball teams. Yet, it is also a facility used by all students, not just members of the Macs. Let's make a concerted effort not just to take proper care of the facility, but also to point out those who abuse MSAC equipment to the proper authorities.

**The Commentator wants you!**  
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