

Speech Major Places Seventh in AT&T Investment Challenge

by Jamin Koslowe

YC junior Paul Packer placed 7th in the AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge, which ended this past Friday. For his accomplishment, Packer will receive \$2,500 in cash, an all expense paid trip for two to the Bahamas, and other assorted prizes. Packer, who at one point during the contest held the 2nd place slot, dropped to 10th place entering the final day of competition. However, an \$80,000 surge on the last day of the contest pushed Packer's portfolio up to \$1.4 million, securing the 7th place finish.

The contest began in November and continued through the end of February. Each of the approximately 13,000 college students who participated in the challenge received an imaginary \$500,000 to invest in the stock market.

Participants were each allotted fifty transactions to buy long or sell short any security listed on the three major exchanges.

Packer has been interested in the stock market since he was thirteen, when he received several stocks as Bar-Mitzvah presents. He followed those stocks closely and, soon after, began investing on his own. Summer jobs at Merrill Lynch and Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. provided him with additional

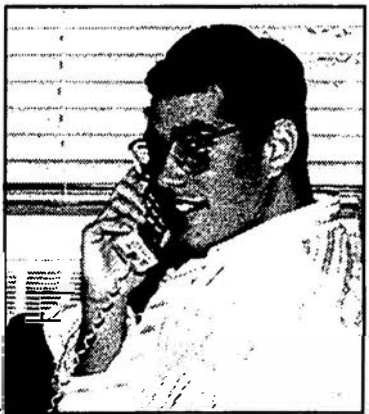


photo: D. Bendheim

YC Junior Paul Packer

experience in trading stocks.

Packer's extraordinary success in this year's Investment Challenge is the result of extensive research on individual stocks and general market conditions. Packer estimated that he spent between eight and ten hours a week studying *The Wall Street Journal* and *Fortune Magazine*, in addition to calling the investor relations departments of various companies. However, he admitted that some of his successful investments were based simply on his "gut feeling."

Packer, who works part-time for his father's shoe business, remarked, "my experience in the everyday retail market has given me a hands-on feeling for the trends of the retail industry."

Packer explained his basic strategy: "I invested in small growth companies which were selling at low P-E [Price to Earnings] ratios, which I anticipated would take off with the bull market." One such company was Sulcus, a small computer company. After following the company for a

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"MUSS THIEF" CAUGHT

Arrest Follows String of Recent Burglaries

by Gideon Shloush

On Wednesday, February 19, Ramon Rivera, a local resident, was arrested and subsequently charged with a series of thefts in Muss Hall. Rivera is reportedly a former Burns security guard who has become a drug addict desperate for cash.

The thefts began nearly two months ago, and the intruder's arrest was long awaited. YU Chief of Security Don Sommers explained that it was "a long, drawn-out process." Apparently, there were two periods of theft, approximately a month apart. The first burglaries occurred during last semester's Reading Week, on the 16th of January. Some four weeks later, the thief returned, just one day after Security ended its interior patrols of Tannenbaum and Muss Halls. Chief Sommers pointed out that "obviously the intruder had to have information of some sort from the inside... Clearly this was no coincidence."

Rivera entered Tannenbaum Hall by slipping in through the 186th Street exit as students left the building. He then made his way up the MTA stairwell and followed the corridors into the Muss dormitory building. He had no keys, so the burglar preyed only on unlocked rooms. Many wallets, Walkmans, cameras, and other valuable items were stolen. In one instance, he took a stereo as its owner lay sleeping in the room.

Whenever confronted, the perpetrator claimed that he was affiliated with Security. His escape routes included the 187th Street Muss exit and the exit near the Beit Midrash on 186th Street.

Chief Sommers said that the suspect was first identified on the Friday night of Reading Week. A guard on duty noticed him "snooping around." The guard, who was soon joined by other Security officers, immediately chased the suspect all the way up to St. Nicholas Avenue. Chief Sommers explained that "they got a very close look at him and we were able to take it from there."

In response to the first period of thefts, Security began frequent patrols throughout the Muss dormitory. This action prevented the intruder from returning. On February 18th, one day after the patrols were called off, Rivera was spotted in Raziel Frankel's fourth floor dorm room. Frankel recalled that: "I stepped out of my room for a couple of minutes and didn't bother to lock the door. To my astonishment, when I returned to enter my room, I found that I could not open my door... someone was holding my door shut." As Frankel went to call Security, the burglar leaped out of Frankel's window and landed on the 2nd floor roof. Barry Levitt, who lives just below Frankel explained that: "I was peacefully reading... when suddenly my window opened and a stranger climbed in. The man claimed that he was a Security guard, hurried right through my room, and out the door."



photo: J. Bailey

Security Supervisor
Eddie Moises

After Tuesday night's events, the patrols in Muss were reinstated. On the following afternoon, Rivera was seen by another dorm resident. Ironically, a Security guard was distributing flyers with a picture of the suspect at the time. Having received a flyer only moments before, the student recognized the thief as he entered his room. The student phoned Security, who responded quickly and searched the building. Supervisor Eddie Moises grabbed the startled intruder as he tried to escape via the fenced-in alleyway adjacent to Muss. Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeff Socol arrived immediately after the capture, brandishing a handgun until police officers arrived.

On February 25th, three Muss Hall residents testified before a grand jury regarding the incidents on the 18th and 19th. As a result of their testimony, Rivera was indicted on numerous felony charges including burglary and criminal trespass.

Chief Sommers stressed that students could "solve so many problems" by simply locking their doors.

Sefarim Sale Increases Inventory, Earnings

by Martin Goldberg

As the last few customers at the annual S.O.Y. Sefarim Sale began to leave the fifth floor of Belfer Hall, Shmuel Pollack, the sale's chairman, expressed satisfaction with the sale's overwhelming success. Pollack attributed the positive results to the innovations which were introduced this year, the dedicated staff members who assisted in all phases of the operation, and the various departments of YU's supporting services.

Relocating the sale from the basement of Furst Hall to the larger fifth floor suite in Belfer offered customers a more attractive room with increased aisle space. It also accommodated a floorplan with room for seventy tables with over 25,000

sefarim, a significantly higher number than in previous years.

Pollack said that, in light of the recession, the sale's officers stressed the need for lower prices when dealing with their suppliers. The suppliers, including Feldheim Publishers and Artscroll, were willing to accommodate S.O.Y. According to Pollack, prices were noticeably reduced this year. By using a different buying strategy, the sales' operators offered customers a selection of almost 4,000 titles, up from approximately 2,300 in past years. Pollack noted that this year's sale placed unusual emphasis on catering to the diverse and eclectic interests of the YU community by stocking numerous esoteric sefarim.

In addition to a departmentalized layout of

sefarim, the sale's planners created a bargain table with sefarim ranging in price from two to twenty dollars. Assisting customers who could not afford "an entire set of chumashim or mishnayos, we offered single volumes of used sefarim in good condition for people to enjoy," Pollack said. This bargain table allowed S.O.Y. to empty their storage rooms of lost and unused sefarim.

In order to avoid confusion, the misplacement of orders slips, and the haphazard accounting procedures which plagued last year's sale, Pollack devoted special attention to inventory control. He explained that with the aid of the software designed by Jeremy Weider and updated by David Schwartz, the sale enjoyed a more efficient computer system geared to handle purchases and monitor inventory. Each of the six computers used in the check-out lines adjusted inventory lists as sefarim were sold. To maintain tight supervision over the inventory and prevent mismanagement, the computer system, through the use of various passwords, allowed Pollack to designate different levels of clearance and access for each of the sale's staff members.

Pollack cited the staff's contributions to the sale as

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photo: D. Bendheim

YC Senior Geoffrey Rochwarger peruses the large selection at this year's Sefarim Sale

Securing Our Borders

It is unnecessary to inform our campus readers that we live in a dangerous neighborhood; shots and sirens pierce the night-time air as we try to guess their proximity to campus. The surrounding neighborhood might be right out of a Charles Bronson movie, but as many of us have witnessed, the blood is frighteningly real. The last few months have seen an increase in dangerous incursions onto campus. Two late night car accidents (one driver high on drugs and the other drunk) and a firearm-brandishing criminal fleeing a nearby bloody crime by running past the Beit Midrash and library, highlight the special security needs of our campus. The fact that a thief could enter Muss Hall on a number of occasions and subsequently escape calls into question the present security procedures. The inconsequential traffic signs that bookend the campus theoretically limit traffic during the daytime hours, but in actuality do little to deter crime, violent incidents, or accidental pedestrian-fender encounters. The Burns security guards, while performing competently, are simply not equipped to deal with the violent crime of the Heights or a traffic mishap.

The Administration must find a better way to protect YU students; this might include fencing off the campus in some way. If that should prove truly impractical, then alternative drastic security measures are necessary. To date, only good timing and Divine providence have insured that blood is not staining the sidewalks on our little strip of Amsterdam Avenue. A shot heard round the campus might unfortunately add a couple of vowels to the "Morg" dorm.

Broken Machines, Broken Trust

We've blown it again.

When David J. Kay ran his Presidential campaign last spring, one of his promises was to place a copy machine in Morg Lounge for student use. True to his word, he arranged for the installation earlier this year and, until recently, it served the student body as an added convenience. Yet, due to the thoughtless misconduct and irresponsibility of students, it was removed over winter vacation.

Students broke the lock on the side of the machine, destroyed the card reader, and spilled toner inside the machine. This follows the incessant vandalism of the candy machines in Morg Lounge and the constant "sabotage" inflicted on the video game machines in the basement of Morg. YCSC's efforts to ameliorate dorm life have constantly been thwarted by thoughtless, selfish individuals.

Our student leaders have made good on their promises to the student body. Now it's our turn to fulfill unwritten promises by acting like adults, not callous hoodlums.

Baruch Dayan Haemet

The Commentator Staff extends heartfelt condolences to Features Editor Stephen Buch and his family upon the loss of their father.

Shiva will be observed at
1016 Harding Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Hamakom Yenachem Etchem B'toch Sha'ar Aveilei Tzion V'Yerushalayim.

P I C T O R I A L



The Occupational Hazards of a Student Entrepreneur

The Commentator

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RESPONSA

In Favor of Forfeit

To the Editor:

It was with a feeling of pride that I read of Coach Halpert's forfeiting the game with Pratt. Our Macs accomplished a kiddush hashem for the college, university, and alumni. Keep up the good work!

Rabbi Morton J. Summer
Coordinator, Office of Professional
Services for Jewish Education
YC '54

A Question of Style

To the Editor:

Although I ordinarily subscribe to the belief that an individual's writing style is a wholly personal matter, after reading "Wake Up and Smell the Cappuccino," I sadly concluded that an exception was in order. The feature was, by and large, relatively enjoyable, and it had a number of skillfully delivered satirical remarks; as a college student, however, I find it highly annoying to have my intelligence insulted

by an article that uses one of the most hackneyed motifs known to me. I refer, of course, to the "suddenly I heard a strange buzzing-- what could it be--Oh, what a shock, it's my alarm clock, suddenly I realized that this could only mean one thing: It was all a dream!" motif. Whether this sort of ending was ever, at any time, considered original (I am, unfortunately, not sufficiently well-versed in the relevant Aristotelian writings to determine this) is severely questionable; it is the ominous suspicion that a sixth grader would react to such an ending with a similar degree of nausea, that has tipped the balance for me in favor of writing such a deprecatory letter. I hope that the authors do not interpret my criticisms as a personal attack; if they do, my sincerest apologies are hereby extended. Now that the necessary disclaimer has been issued, my advice to the authors is simple: please wake up (use your neighbor hyper-audible boom box if necessary) and smell the cliches.

Raffi Levinson
YC '93

Editor's Note: Actually, the last two lines of the piece were accidentally cut off. They indicated that it was President's Day and there was no school. My apology to the writers and any reader as offended as you were.

From The Editor's Desk

Jay Bailey

Biting the Hand That Would Feed

A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him, I may think aloud.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Friendship

"We never know the true value of friends. While they live we are too sensitive of their faults; when we have lost them we only see their virtues."

J.C. and A.W. Hare
Guesses At Truth, 1827

How do you define "friendship?" To some, it is a completely unselfish, emotional devotion like that of the legendary pair David and Jonathan, while to others it is a utilitarian arrangement which yields a union as a side effect. Regardless, a serious relationship between administrator and student must be based on mutual sensitivity, esteem, and trust. Give-and-take in a steadfast relationship is not conditional, but constant and sure. With this definition as a prelude, I would like to relate a number of incidents that occurred in the last few weeks. Please consider for yourself the impact of these incidents on the relationships of the parties involved.

Two weeks ago, on February 19, Rabbi Cheifetz requested that eight students report at 9 a.m. to the dorm office. They were questioned regarding a recent disciplinary problem in Rubin Hall. According to these students, the process was more like an interrogation, complete with selective tape recordings, unfounded accusations, and insulting insinuations. In addition, they felt that the process was not handled with professionalism or confidentiality, thus marring the reputations of those students who were innocent by associating them with a disciplinary issue. (David Kay and I called a meeting to discuss the issue with three representative students, Dean Nulman, Rabbi Cheifetz, Chief Sommers and Jeffrey Rosengarten. However, while the facts were clarified somewhat, at no point did the administrators express unanimous, sincere remorse.)

Commentator reporter Mike Eisenberg has spent hundreds of hours covering the Revel Graduate School story. His desk is cluttered with folders stuffed with hand scrawled notes, stacks of taped interviews, and every press release and document related to the issue. Since the day that The Commentator learned of Revel's situation (about a week before we first broke the story), he has been asking for an interview with President Lamm. A Commentator editorial two issues ago argued that a ten minute interview in a

one month period is not a ridiculous request. Finally granted an interview last week, Mike was informed two hours before the scheduled time that his meeting was canceled; Dr. Lamm had "left." As if this was not distressing enough, Eisenberg went directly to the President's office and watched as Dr. Lamm himself left an adjacent office. Eisenberg is once again denied the opportunity to reschedule.

For an indication of the Administration's reaction to the recent Revel Task Force's report, Eisenberg requested an interview with Dr. Egon Brenner, Executive Vice President. After a number of follow up calls, Michael was informed that Brenner did not want to meet with him, but he would meet with another reporter. Michael called me, laughing: "I know the facts; I guess that scares him!" Sending a reporter without Eisenberg's perspective would have been a waste of time for all involved.

Uri Cohen, a YC/Revel/Smicha student (founder of the "Middah of the Month" Club) and dorm counselor, was standing along the walls of Belfer with other students, quietly holding posters on Parents' Day. On two separate occasions, Dr. Nulman approached Cohen and asked if he had received Rabbi Cheifetz's memo concerning "illegal" activity and its consequences. He was subsequently called to the Dorm Office for an "urgent" matter and was told to read the rules regarding illegal activities from the Yeshiva University Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order and for the Enforcement Thereof. (Interestingly, he was pleasantly surprised to see that the activities in which he was then involved could not possibly be defined as "illegal"). As far as I know, these rules have not been publicized to the student body as a whole, even in light of recent student unrest. Uri Cohen confided to me that he feels he is being threatened and is afraid that standing up peacefully for what he believes in might cost him his job for next year. While I cannot believe that YU would stoop to this, Cohen's anxiety is understandably unnerving.

Before I continue, there is one point I would like to make clear. The above episodes are not being reported as news, per se. I did not approach the administrators involved to ask for their versions. My point is this: regardless of specifics, situations like these are making a bad impression on students at YC. In a university notorious for its restricted concentration of power to the noticeable exclusion of faculty and students, every manifestation of this attitude reinforces this reality. We get the impression that the people who are paid to run the University have formed an exclusive Mafia-like group; it answers only when it wants, bullies whomever it desires,

feels no remorse or compassion when cries of "misconduct" are heard, and considers only its own views and perspective as valuable.

What might be the final repercussion? A generation of YU graduates who feel little or no allegiance to their alma mater. This trend may translate into significant shortages in financial gifts upon which YU depends so heavily. Groups like the President's Circle will have trouble gaining members, and the Alumni Office will see less affiliation through dues. And there is, of course, the question of our children; I shudder when I hear students say that they could not see themselves sending their children here. And many of my friends have, indeed, made that decision.

Understanding that any intelligent student leadership would feel slighted by the Administration's attitude, Dr. Nulman has made efforts to establish some student understanding of YU's decision-making process. YC and Stern leaders have been given a brief outline of YU's financial breakdown, but the results of this series of meetings is dubious. More productive would be the inclusion of two students on the YU Executive Committee (made up of Board

members, deans and administrators who meet once a month), an idea that Dr. Nulman is attempting to implement.

Regardless of the sadly sporadic, sometimes blatantly symbolic displays of "concern" intended to calm the waters rather than foster harmony, there is a continuous lack of respect for students, both as individuals and as representatives of the entire student body. It may be an efficient way to operate today, but the fallout will be felt tomorrow. From the way Dr. Lamm described the situation regarding Revel's financial straits, YU cannot afford to be so blind.

In his masterpiece *Don Juan*, Lord Byron writes:

*O fall the horrid, hideous notes of woe,
Sadder than owl songs or the midnight blast.
Is that portentous phrase, I told you so.*

I pray with all my heart that I do not look back in ten years at a generation of alumni who prefer to direct their funds to another institution, one which respected them as "friends" who had more to share than an annual check.

Ari Pinchot

Op-Ed: Unsportsmanlike Conduct

We were all sitting in shiur, wrestling with an untamed Tosafot, when Rabbi Charlop interrupted our learning with an announcement, disguised in religious garb. His lecture urged the elimination of "foul language" in the Yeshiva, specifically in the sports arena where it is most prevalent. Foul language bothers me, for I see no advantage in communicating with it, but making it synonymous with athletics really perturbed me.

ATHLETICS IN GENERAL

Athletics is competition, against others, as well as yourself. It teaches you tremendous discipline and an ability to handle pressure which will help you in everything you encounter, whether in the work place, in marriage, and yes, even in learning Torah. An athlete must be able to put things in perspective. There are always different options, and the real athlete knows when to use the right one at the right time. When you are dubbed a fair sport, this does not imply that you are a pansy as well. Rather, it means that when you hit someone down during a play, you pick him up when it's over. Be competitive, be intimidating, but don't do it through empty words or dirty cheap shots, do it through your solid play and strong abilities.

MAGIC

Earvin Johnson, although a bad example in some areas, is a real competitor. His dominance in the game of basketball was not due to his wearing at the refs, or fighting with other players, but because of his fantastic abilities and his wonderful attitude. His famous smile will be associated with him for many years to come. He smiled when he was interviewed, he smiled when he was yelling at the refs, and he smiled during high-tension moments in competition. Why? How could he pass up the chance to be the epitome of macho-ness by displaying his wide repertoire of four letter grunts? Because Magic has confidence and a tremendous regard for himself and he

knows nothing will be improved by swearing; he doesn't have to prove anything to anyone. He knows that these things are part of being an athlete and playing sports, and to conquer them and move on makes you an even better competitor. This was best shown in the press conference in which he announced to the world that he had tested HIV positive. He didn't let even something this catastrophic knock him off his path; he evaluated, decided what would be best for him, then stormed out to conquer. He didn't blame anyone, he didn't yell or scream; he used his athletic brain instead of a sharp tongue. For these reasons, Magic Johnson will always be one of the greatest "athletes" on this planet.

SPORTS AND JUDAISM

How would you feel if Sandy Koufax, one of the all-time great Jewish athletes, after he was asked by an interviewer, "How do you think the game was called?" replied, on national T.V., "Those umpires were the worst pieces of @#!\$ I've ever seen." A little embarrassed perhaps. Then, if the press blew it out of proportion and made it into a national issue depicting Jews as cry babies and immature competitors, you might get more embarrassed and perhaps even a little miffed. So why invite these comments into our little, inconsequential competitions? Especially when you won't remember the game you played last week and certainly if you are merely a spectator. To be a real athlete means you don't "let yourself go" in any arena, you are always confident in yourself and in what you believe to be right. In Judaism, this means acting like the same person people see talking to G-d three times a day; knowing just how much you can integrate the secular world before it infringes on your Jewish self. Don't be a streak shooter and only show up for half the season! Be confident in yourself so you can become a solid contributor, and be a real Jew for the rest of this game called life.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Yeshiva UN Delegation Visits Harvard

After last week's successful national high school Model United Nations, YU students welcomed the opportunity to participate in a similar venture at Harvard University. The conference was held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, which accommodated the 2000 college students in attendance. The Yeshiva delegation represented Malaysia on various committees, but its participation was limited because of the substantial blocks of conference time on Friday night and Shabbat.

Some Yeshiva delegates expressed their disappointment with the relatively poor representation of Israel throughout the conference. Although Malaysia supports the Palestinians politically, many members felt compelled to keep a watchful eye out for the Jewish state on their own time. Political Science Society President David Saffra spent much of the weekend advising the delegates from Israel on many Middle Eastern issues. Pitzer College, the institution which represented Israel, was not prepared for the heavy uphill battle that faced their "country." "Beside simply participating in the UN," commented YC Junior Stephen Davidson, "we had the opportunity to enlighten students from other universities about Jews and Israel. There are plenty of people out there who still believe that Jews have horns." After the conference, Saffra stated his desire to have Yeshiva represent Israel at Harvard next year because of "natural emotional attachment" and "the wealth of knowledge of the issues at hand."

—Neil S. Bromberg

Student Initiates Tutoring Network

Convinced that a significant segment of the Yeshiva College community requires specialized instruction in various courses, YC Junior Martin Goldberg created the Student Tutorial Network, a resource center composed of eighteen YC students serving as tutors/consultants in nineteen subject areas ranging from Yiddish to Physics. The network is designed not only to serve as a tutoring clearinghouse, supplying students with competent instruction from tutors who excel in their respective specialties, but also to function as an information hub during registration, apprising students of the particulars of specific courses and professors.

On February 24, YCSC distributed a directory of the network's tutors and their phone numbers. Any questions concerning the network can be addressed to Martin Goldberg - Morg 613, Tel. 740-6599.

Suspected Car Thief Crashes On Campus

Second Auto Accident in Three Months

A speeding stolen car crashed onto the pedestrian mall early Monday morning, February 24th, causing minor damage. The Salvadoran driver, later determined to be under the influence of narcotics, was travelling north on Amsterdam Avenue at approximately 4:00 a.m. when he lost control of the car as he tried to turn left onto 185th Street. The 1979 sky-blue Oldsmobile 98 knocked over a tree and a potted plant in front of Gottesman Library. The driver attempted to regain control, but his vehicle careened across the street and over the pedestrian mall divider on the eastern side of Amsterdam Avenue in front of Morgenstern Hall. The car then shattered one of the sand-filled poles which line the barrier and came to a stop, balanced half-way over the wooden divider.

When police questioned the driver, he claimed that he was pursuing someone who had stolen \$2000 from him. The police were skeptical of this story, since the driver was reportedly seen attempting to break into the same car earlier that evening at 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Additionally, the driver claimed that his brother owned the car. However, the registration was called in to the police station and the two names did not match. Finally, the officers noticed that the car had been hot-wired and the driver had no keys. The back seat had been ripped out and dozens of oranges were strewn about in the back of the car.

In contrast to a similar accident earlier this year, few students were awakened by the crash, and a handful of spectators watched quietly from their dorm windows.

—Akiva Fuld



Phi Beta Lambda Hosts Speaker on NY Economy

Over 30 students gathered in Rubin Shul last Wednesday to hear Dr. Samuel Erenhaltz, Regional Director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, speak about the state of the New York economy. The event, hosted by Phi Beta Lambda, was the group's first of the semester.

Although he did not offer a quick fix for the recession, Erenhaltz expressed some optimism for the future. He pointed to the sharp distinction between this recession and the seven other recessions that the U.S. economy has suffered since World War II. Previously, when crippled by economic decline, the manufacturing industry was hurt the most in regard to loss of jobs and production. However, during this recession, effects are being felt in almost every major American industry. In the past seven recessions, New York has encountered the effects of the downturn approximately two months after the rest of the U.S. However, during this recession, New York experienced the shocks eleven months earlier than the rest of the nation. New York is currently in its third year of economic decline, a

noticeable difference from past recessions, in which the periods of decline, on average, lasted for approximately seventeen months.

Dr. Erenhaltz pointed out several important problems that we are currently facing. Many large corporations have begun to restructure their financial makeup. Although the immediate result is often the loss of many jobs, sometimes numbering in the thousands for a single corporation, the eventual result is positive. By reassessing the financial structure of a corporation, managers have developed effective cost reduction strategies. This will help provide the basis for a speedy recovery and will help prevent a recurrence of a recession in the near future. He also stated that education is the "key to prevention." In the past, a graduate degree was the final step in education for a prospective employee. Now, however, he feels that employers will have to periodically update their education programs in order to stay competitive in the future and meet the needs of a changing business world.



Rabbi Berel Wein

Rabbi Wein Reflects on the Power of Miracles

Rabbi Berel Wein, Rosh Yeshivat Shaarei Torah of Monsey, delivered a shiur entitled "Miracles" to about 200 YC and Stern students last Monday in Weissberg Commons. Rabbi Wein began his lecture with a discussion of how miracles apply to the secular world. He explained that secularists believe God never cares about "the little details" in today's world. According to Rabbi Wein, the power of miracles only becomes negated.

Much of the ensuing speech dealt with a machloket (argument) between the Rambam and Ramban. The former, Rabbi Wein explained, holds a philosophical view that can be considered rationalism in its most extreme form. The Rambam, we learn from *Moreh Nevuchim*, believes that "nature never changes," and in the power of free will. This power is so great that even people as despicable as Hitler always have the right to renounce their own evil; they simply choose not to. Maimonidean thought sees the world as a computer: God inserted the "software" when He created the world; miracles are included in the "package."

In contrast, the Ramban, through his commentary on the Torah, views nature as constantly changing. To use one example, the world that existed after the flood was a completely different world than the one that existed beforehand. The explanation for miracles is that God continually intervenes in earthly affairs.

Rabbi Wein told a number of poignant stories to illustrate his points. One anecdote involved an experience he had in Eretz Yisrael. Invited to daven Shacharit at the Boys Town Yeshiva in Jerusalem, Rabbi Wein prayed with 200 Ethiopians. As he davened Shmoneh Esrei, he witnessed an Ethiopian boy talking to God as if He were standing next to him. Rabbi Wein related how the boy could learn Gemara at a very high level, yet only eight months ago, he did not know what a flight of stairs were. By offering this anecdote, as well as discussing the miracle of Soviet Jewish emigration, Rabbi Wein asked the students to view themselves as participants in God's world.

—Michael Dyckman

Joseph Bensmihen: Challenging Society's Handicap

by Jay Bailey

"Just give me a shot and I won't let you down."

The seven-year-old glared up at Quebec's Minister of Education, hoping that his message was clear: he wanted out of the school in which the government had compelled him to enroll. It was June 25, 1976.

That September, Joseph Bensmihen joined the ranks of the five hundred students at Crestview Elementary School in Montreal, Quebec. As he sat down triumphantly at his desk, he felt -- he knew -- this would be the first of many such victories.

Born with cerebral palsy, doctors told J.B.'s parents that he would never walk or talk.

Well, he's been doing quite a lot of both.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Mackay Center for Crippled and Deaf Children: a facility authorized by the Quebec government to handle children with both physical and mental impairments. J.B. neither understood nor questioned the disease that impaired his muscle control, but he knew that he did not belong at Mackay. Not until he hurled a desk through a school window was his protest taken seriously.

At Crestview, a public school, he was placed in a Special Education class along with students with learning disabilities, and for the first few years, the excitement of spending his day with physically "normal" students overshadowed his aspirations of joining a completely normal class. J.B.'s parents strove to impress upon him his equality to other children, sparing him from much of the stress, depression and confusion frequently experienced by the physically

impaired in a world that makes character judgments based on physical appearances and capabilities.

In 1980, J.B. determined that he wanted to leave the Special Ed class. Once more he petitioned the office of the Minister of Education, and was granted his request on the condition that he pass a standard math exam at the end of the academic year.

But when his home-room teacher stubbornly refused to believe that he was supposed to be in her classroom, J.B. knew the fight was far from over.

The teacher changed the math period to a period in which J.B. had physical therapy, suggesting to the students that they not mention the math class to him so as not to "frustrate" him more than necessary. Needless to say, he failed the exam administered at the end of the year and begged the principal to allow him to retake it a month later. The request was granted and J.B. disappeared from school. Frustrated and cognizant of the fact that he could not possibly learn a year's worth of mathematics theory, he memorized every question in the textbook from which the problems on the exam would most likely be taken. The test took him 20 minutes and J.B. scored a 98.

The obstinate young man transferred to the Hebrew Academy of Montreal in 1981, where he graduated as valedictorian. Looking into television cameras at his graduation, he declared his now familiar dictum, "Society has the handicap while the individual only has the disability." He hoped that his old home-room teacher was watching the news that night.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

After graduating from Yeshiva College in 1991, Bensmihen sent out 35 applications for various civil service

positions in Canada -- an idea suggested to him by the Vice Premier of Quebec and other government officials. All 35 applications were either ignored or rejected. This got J.B. thinking: did Canada have a policy for ensuring equal rights for the disabled in government employment? As if to answer his question, Canada announced the initiation of its "National Strategy for the Integration of Disabled Persons" (NSIDP) last September. After studying



Joseph Bensmihen

the details of the program, it was immediately evident to J.B. that there was no provision for equal opportunity employment. He realized that if he, a relatively mobile individual with few restrictions (ambulatory or otherwise) was being rejected, how much more difficult would it be for those with more limiting impediments? His assessment of the NSIDP was heard and supported by the chairman of Canada's Parliamentary Human Rights Commission. J.B. also compared the Canadian "arrangement" to the Americans with Disability Act: tangible legislation requiring public buildings to be fully "comfortable" for the handicapped. The ADA, unlike the NSIDP, includes a deadline for compliance and fines for lack thereof. On February 18, 1992, J.B. met with the chairman in Ottawa, and expressed shock in an hour-long oration. "It is a slap in the face, an embarrassment to Canada," he declared, "the disabled have become a political issue just like abortion; policy is implemented during election years." He received no response

-- the Canadian government realized that the point was irrefutable. Only time will tell if Canada will revamp its half-baked program. To the surprise of no one who knows of his fearless, direct approach, J.B. has, on numerous occasions, challenged the Prime Minister to a debate.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

In the United States, J.B. has worked with Rabbi Marc Angel, President of the Rabbinical Council of America, to initiate an educational campaign to make pulpit rabbis aware of the existence of the Americans with Disabilities Act. While religious institutions are exempt from the government's guidelines, this Orthodox Jewish body may be the first religious institution in America to formally implement a campaign to voluntarily comply.

A little closer to home, Bensmihen informed Dr. Lamm on October 28 that YU is not above the law -- by January 26, the University would have to comply with the Act. J.B. maintains that while the new Schottenstein Center and Max Stern Athletic Center were built with the ADA in mind, old buildings were not modified. Although access may be technically manageable, basic facilities like bathrooms and water fountains are still a problem. "It's nice that disabled students can join the basketball team while majoring in Belz school, but they cannot attend a Chemistry course in Belfer or a Poli-Sci course in Furst since neither building has accessible restroom facilities. I know for a fact that a student called Admissions to ask about facilities for the disabled." If such a student were to apply, YU could not accept him with a clear conscience. Such a student could sue the school and win easily, explains the YC graduate. He would, incidentally, win \$50,000 according to the law.

J.B. is fond of quoting Robert F. Kennedy: "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not." With over 2,400 speeches and addresses around the world, Joseph Bensmihen looks forward to going to law school, and one day debating in the Supreme Court.

He'll do it too. He's certainly off to a running start.

New Professor Joins Chem Department

by Ari Rosenstein

Following the dismissal of Dr. Robert Fox last summer, the University hired Dr. Raji Viswanathan to teach the first year General Chemistry course and the Physical Chemistry course for Senior Chemistry majors. Born and raised in India, Viswanathan took her Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University. She spent the following two years as a research associate at Rice University and at Princeton University. She taught one year as a visiting faculty member at Barnard College before coming to YU.

Dr. Viswanathan is pleased with the level of motivation and seriousness

exhibited by her students. "Their desire to learn makes my life easier and more interesting," she said. Because most of her students are pre-med majors, Viswanathan's main objective is to enable her students to recognize basic biological molecules and to prepare them to do independent research.

Overall, Dr. Viswanathan has expressed satisfaction with the laboratories, but says that the research facilities are insufficient for serious research projects. However, she stated that because YU is not doing any serious research at this time, the lack of research facilities does not restrict the Chemistry Department in any way. On her own time, Dr. Viswanathan researches collision dynamics (the study of the interaction between colliding molecules). She hopes to incorporate these findings into her teaching at some point in the near future.

Viswanathan hopes to continue teaching at the undergraduate level at YU. She commented that compared to larger universities, there is little departmental tension at YU due to its small size and flexible hours.



Dr. Raji Viswanathan

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Keeping Up with The Times

Judah Kaplan, YC '92, YCSC Treasurer
Major: Accounting
Position: Campus Subscription Representative for The New York Times

In the early hours of the morning, if you're awake, you can see the hundreds of newspapers arrive. In a few short hours, these piles of paper find their way into all the right mailboxes. Under the skillful direction of Judah Kaplan, every subscriber somehow manages to receive his paper each morning.

Judah, of course, does a few other things. He coordinates the promotional campaigns at the start of each semester, collects subscription fees, arranges payment to The New York Times, and manages delivery logistics. Now in his second year, Judah finds the task second nature.

Judah began his business a year and a half ago because he was dissatisfied with the state of newspaper delivery. This, however, was not his primary motivation. "I wanted to make money!", exclaims Kaplan. Unfortunately, he did not meet with instant success.

At first, Judah tried to convince the Times' campus representative to give over the job to him. This didn't work. Trying an alternate route, he tried to sell USA Today on campus. That didn't work either. It did, however, send the message to his rival that there was competition brewing. Finally, further persistence on Judah's part won him the subscription rights on campus to The New York Times.

Judah's efforts immediately boosted sales by nearly 15%. The young media mogul soon found himself waking up every morning at 6:00 A.M. The profits from his industriousness, he claims, financed a pleasant and much-needed vacation in Florida.

Alas, business is not all sunshine. Judah finds the complaints he receives "sometimes annoying." Nevertheless, Judah quickly urges any students who have not signed on to do so immediately.

Next year, Judah will be working at Deloitte and Touche, one of the "Big Six" accounting firms.



Many of us sometimes ask ourselves, what if I went to a secular college and had the whole afternoon off? What would I do with my time? Because of our dual program, most students cannot even find the time to ask themselves this question! Some of our friends, however, who do find the time, despite their tremendous workload, to run a little business that keeps them very busy and their wallets full. . .



STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

Writers: Stephen Buch, Robert Fagin, Akiva Fuld, Torin Rutner

West Coast Y's Guys: Playing Up a Storm

Jeff Wilks
Major: Accounting
Minor: Music
Company: The Y's Guys
Position: Founder, Keyboardist, and Singer

Fortunately, such instances of hesitation have been few, and The Y's Guys have generally been well received by their audiences.

Before he came to YU, Jeff was the founder and leader of a band called "Simcha Diego" in his home town of San Diego. For three years, Jeff and his band members built up a solid reputation as talented, creative musical artists. Jeff has also sung for Mordechai Ben David and the Los Angeles Boys Choir.

Jeff's other professional associations include training under Cantor Hershel Einhorn (who also gave lessons to Abraham Fried). He has several years of experience organizing, coordinating, arranging, and performing the music played at the events for which he is hired. Jeff loves this aspect of his music. "I enjoy leading members of an orchestra to new heights of beautiful sound."

Though only a Freshman, Jeff Wilks is quickly making a name for himself as an artistic entrepreneur. He is an accountant-in-training by day, a musician by night, and a chazan on weekends. He can often be seen at engagement parties, weddings, bar mitzvas, and other social occasions playing with his band, The Y's Guys. In only four months since the band's formation, The Y's Guys have performed at three weddings, two bar mitzvas, and numerous other "engagements". At first, Jeff encountered some hesitation on the part of prospective employers who felt that he might be too young to manage all the details of a musical "event".

...Where Credit is Due

Yehuda Rose, SSSB '92
Major: Finance
Company: K & G Associates

Yehuda Rose, a Sy Syms Finance Senior and YC Senior Seth Gerszberg began their affinity credit card company, K & G Associates, by combining Rose's vast SSSB knowledge with Gerszberg's previous business experience.

Their enterprise issues Visa and MasterCard with the logos of particular organizations, usually charities, using a five-step process. First, they locate organizations with fairly large numbers of affiliates. Then, they offer to issue credit cards with the organization's logo, which would guarantee a small percentage of all their affiliates' expenditures to the organization, thereby allowing the members to give charity painlessly. Next,

they find a bank which offers terms and benefits suitable to the organization's needs. Once they reach an agreement with the bank, Rose and Gerszberg market the affinity credit cards to the organization's affiliates. After the cards are issued, K & G provides continuous progress reports to the organization's affiliates, which show the progress made with the funds generated through their subscription to the credit card plan.

This business, says Rose, "has been a vehicle for applying what I have learned in Sy Syms to real-life events in the business environment." He also feels that there remains much room to market these cards among Jewish circles. Their company currently represents the National Endowment for the Education of Immigrant Children, which is endorsed by the Rabbinical Council of America and the National Council of Young Israel. Rose and Gerszberg value the feeling they experience by earning an income while doing generating profits for the community organizations they represent. Each balances his time well between school and work, operating out of a not-so-glamorous 10' x 6' room. They are considering establishing this entrepreneurial sideline as a full-time job for themselves after they graduate. Like all our student entrepreneurs, they deserve a lot of credit.

Judah Harris: Perspectives from Behind the Camera

by Akiva Fuld

Judah S. Harris, a former Assistant Director of the YU Admissions Office, is a prime example of a YU graduate who has successfully applied the skills he learned while in college to his career. At an early age, Judah travelled across the United States, recruiting students, and taking photographs. Today, as a result of that experience, Judah is a professional commercial photographer. In an exclusive Commentator interview, Judah discussed his views on business and offered advice to young entrepreneurs at YU.

The first topic Judah addressed was the factor of age in running a business. He explained that "age can be a drawback, yet it can also be advantageous." According to Judah, an employer who sees responsibility in a young businessperson will realize that this quality is ingrained in the person, and will overlook his or her age. He then discussed aspects of getting started in

business. He noted that "College isn't like business; it's more harried and people aren't as pleasant." He emphasized the need to be enthralled with one's chosen career, as well as the importance of gaining experience and an intimate understanding of the nature of the chosen field. Judah asserted that experience is important in that it demonstrates competence to oneself and to others and clarifies whether one is happy with a given career choice. He urged students "not to waste your time on a career that isn't for you."

Judah mentioned the significance of learning from mistakes. He also warned that as a result of the current economic recession, consumers are either cutting down on luxuries or are seeking lower prices. The recession factor has had both positive and negative effects on young entrepreneurs. Consumers seeking lower rates will often be willing to try the services of new businesses, but on the other hand, the major cuts in spending have hurt sellers across the board. Those newest to business, with fewer clients, are hurt most.

In general though, young entrepreneurs have a number of advantages. First, they can be more flexible with fees because of their lower overhead. Also, starting a business successfully now will give them an edge in years of plenty. Third, self-employment allows for flexible hours. Finally, lower overhead allows for greater investment in the business.

Judah urged young entrepreneurs to follow through with their dreams, since many new businesses are not successful. Reasons for business failure include mismanagement, shortage of funds, lack of interest, products of poor quality, and lack of selling ability. Judah reminds young businesspeople of the need to give a customer "more than what they are paying for, to differentiate themselves in terms of quality and service from their competition, and grab consumers' attention." Judah claims that this can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including advertising, press releases, direct mailings, and trade shows.

Judah also gave important advice on how to handle money in the early stages of

a business. He emphasized the importance of cutting costs, spending only on essentials, purchasing used items (if possible), and not taking on any employees unless it is absolutely necessary.

Most of all, Judah feels that "young entrepreneurs who approach their own business with a combination of talent, selling ability, and a great willingness to learn stand a reasonable chance of succeeding. Indeed, it seems for the determined there exists a plethora of other options in addition to the usual corporate route we encounter most often."



The Grass is Always Greener for K&G

Seth Gerszberg YC '92
Major: Speech and Drama
Company: K & G Home Care
Position: Founder and President

Since Seth Gerszberg was seventeen, he wanted to restore classic 60's Mustangs. Knowing that these restorations would be extremely costly, Seth decided to go into business for himself to finance these restorations. He was able to obtain equipment for a landscaping business and entered into a partnership with his uncle and later his brother Ephraim, who is currently a YC Freshman. Now a twenty-year-old senior in IBC, Seth has built a successful home maintenance and landscaping business. After his biggest competitor was arrested for growing marijuana plants, Seth came up with the slogan: "K & G Home Care: We Cut Grass -- We Don't Grow It."

K & G Home Care employs between five and eleven people throughout the year, performing residential and commercial building maintenance, painting, washing, landscaping, and pest control. They currently have over 60 accounts, each of which grosses between \$500 and \$16,000. They have also painted the interior of an entire school building and currently service a townhouse development with 144 residences. Seth recalls that, "In my first year of operation I made and lost more money than I had ever come in contact with." Starting with no experience and growing on the job from his own mistakes, Seth quickly learned what his customers expected. Now, he and Ephraim successfully manage their business and school work simultaneously.

The unique balance Seth has achieved seems to spring from the boundless energy he brings to every task he undertakes. He handles his schoolwork and business very efficiently, finding time in the afternoon after classes and on the weekends to drive to Lakewood, New Jersey to oversee this business as well as one other (see the Yehuda Rose article for details). He also finds the time, somehow, to serve as President of YCDS and attend rehearsals most nights until 12:00 AM.

It's in the Cards

Elisha Rothman
Captain of the Basketball Team, YC '92
Major: Economics
Company: E.R.'s
Position: C.E.O.

Like many other entrepreneurs, Elisha Rothman shares a common interest with his consumers in the merchandise he sells. This interest has become something of an obsession for him. Elisha buys, sells, collects, and often marvels at the many baseball cards that pass through his hands.

Resembling the dynamics of the stock market of a developing nation, Elisha's high-powered card dealing often sees him buying and selling cards, sometimes sight unseen. This is not the petty, two-bit card flipping some of us enjoyed as kids. In this fast-paced, ultra-volatile industry, Elisha

must occasionally decide on major business tactics and strategies right over the phone, all from the Manhattan apartment he and his brother use as an office. Still, he cherishes every moment of his work as an "enjoyable challenge." He compares his enterprise to the "tradings of Monopoly . . ." because sometimes the properties bought and sold will never be seen. I may buy from North Carolina and sell to Georgia, and never see the cards," he jokes, "but I always see the check."

Sometimes, Elisha will be able to take the time to arrange a customized portfolio of cards for an individual collector. He finds this just as addictive. "The more time I spend, the more time I want to spend."

Elisha is confident that he has spent his time well and feels sure that the skills he has developed as an entrepreneur will serve him well in his possible careers of trading or investment banking.



Painting his Way to the Top ... of Your Head

Zevi Adler, YC '92
Major: Speech and Drama
Minor: Art
Company: Zevi's Yarmulkes
Position: Founder, Artistic and Technical Coordinator, C.E.O.

We all need them. We all wear them. Sometimes, their type, color, size, texture, and style suggest particular religious or political orientations. The ubiquitous objects are, of course, yarmulkes, and some of them may be the yarmulkes Zevi Adler designs and paints. Zevi takes plain leather

yarmulkes of any color and transforms them into works of art. Moreover, he guarantees full satisfaction to all of his customers on each of the one-of-a-kind yarmulkes. The most remarkable aspect of this enterprise - it all started right here on campus.

Zevi began his creative venture several years ago, in the spring of 1988, when he painted a yarmulke for one of his friends in Rubin Hall who wanted a very personalized "statement" on his head. Drawing completely in freehand, Zevi created a design with clubs, spades, diamonds, and hearts. He did this as a personal favor to his friend. Soon, the budding "kippa colorer" found himself with more work than he could handle. Now, several years later, many YC notables seek out the uniqueness only found in the "Adler Designs."

For instance, the Assistant to the Dean, Mr. David Rosenberg, commissioned a skullcap in what is known, somewhat informally, as "The Bullwinkle Motif." Mrs. Shirley Auslander, Secretary of JSa and IBC, bought several pieces of art from the "Zevi Collection" for friends and loved ones. Unfortunately, supply simply cannot meet demand because the artist insists upon producing each of his works by hand, without stencils, using only acrylic paint and a brush. In one week, sales hit 30 yarmulkes. Nevertheless, when he finds one of his designs imitated, Zevi graciously responds that he finds it "the best form of flattery."

BRGS Fiscal Plan Submitted to Lamm

Over \$3 Million Already Pledged

by Michael Eisenberg

Citing the pervading "emotional atmosphere at YU," philanthropist and financial analyst Joel Stern hastened to present his fiscal plan for the Bernard Revel Graduate School to President Norman Lamm after just thirty days, less than half the time initially agreed upon. Additionally, The Commentator has learned that the Revel family has pledged 1.5 million dollars for BRGS, bringing the amount of total pledges since the restructuring announcement to over \$3,000,000.

The Stern report asserts that BRGS cannot remain in its present state because "some subjects simply do not generate great enthusiasm for students." The Report recommends the elimination of two adjunct positions and the reclassification of the Semitics program as part of the Bible program. Stern estimates that BRGS' minimum budget deficit will range from \$400,000 - \$450,000 per year and consequently BRGS must raise funds totalling between \$2.3 - 2.7 million over five years.

Additionally, the report alleges that the \$310,000 allocated for "institutional support" in the BRGS budgets prepared by Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol, "is deemed excessive." Claiming that "other institutions around the U.S. allocate considerably less for similar programs," Stern suggests that the figure should be approximately \$110,000 lower.

Further, the report states that "the new Board of Directors should plan to raise or contribute \$125,000 - \$150,000 annually" to help close the budget deficit. It also suggests that "a new Dean should be appointed to be the school's senior operating officer, but a professional with academic integrity acceptable to the tenured faculty, presumably a specialist in Jewish Studies."

An appendix to the report criticizes the Administration because it "(1) inadvertently misrepresented the size of Revel's student body by more than 50 percent, (2) formulated a grand design for a Revel of the future that could have prejudiced any meaningful research quality from programs which Revel had been well-known throughout the world community of comparable scholars, (3) overestimated some expense categories and (4) factually misrepresented the graduate degrees supervised by particular faculty members."

Echoing sentiments expressed by a number of students recently, the report concludes by imploring Dr. Lamm to end the "current crisis" soon to "encourage students to register for the Fall term." Revel student Adina Mosak Moshavi commented, "Rabbi Lamm has to make his decision soon, because if he doesn't, everyone will have to leave by default. We have to let other universities know."

Dr. Lamm and Vice President Egon Brenner were unavailable for comment.

AT&T

continued from p.1

year, Packer saw that the stock was trading at a low P-E ratio as compared to similar stocks in the industry. He figured that the price had to rise soon, and invested \$200,000 in the company. The stock subsequently shot up in value, and he more than doubled his initial investment.

Packer also bought shares in SyStemix Inc., a biotechnology company, relying on the fact that the whole biotech industry had gone up during 1991. When a takeover bid pushed the stock up twenty points, he sold immediately, making \$100,000 in a single day. Packer noted smugly that the stock has fallen back down fifteen points since he sold it.

Surprisingly, Packer is not an SSSB student, but a Speech major in YC. He explained that "work experience has taught me that communication skills are much more important in the everyday business world than a formal business education."

This is the second year in a row that a YU student has been one of the top finishers in the AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge. Last year, YC Senior Daniel Bendheim placed 17th overall in the contest. Bendheim, who played again this year but did not do nearly as well, jokingly explained that "I decided to give the other YU guys a chance this year." YU's apparent success in the Investment Challenge has not gone unnoticed. Packer quoted a

representative from AT&T who commented to him that they have been very impressed with YU's performance in the competition over the past few years.

Asked for an investing tip for the near future, Packer advised shorting Blockbuster Video. He explained that the stock will probably be declining in value soon because "they've oversaturated the video market by expanding too fast." In addition, Packer believes that the new pay-per-view movie enterprise will begin to cut into Blockbuster's revenues.

Packer plans to give ten percent of his prize money to tzedaka, using the rest to invest in the real stock market. Regarding his all expense paid trip for two to the Bahamas, Packer has yet to choose a companion. Many of his friends have already generously offered to accompany him, and Packer admits that deciding on one of them will be a "tough decision."

Sefarim Sale

continued from page 1

crucial to its overall success. Many workers volunteered countless hours and assisted in all facets of the sale's operation. While last year's sale had difficulty securing volunteers, the 5752 sale had no such problem. Staff members wore name tags this year, thereby making it easier for customers to obtain help in locating desired sefarim.

In evaluating the sale's success, S.O.Y. Vice President Menachem Pinter said that "the cooperation of every



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Op-Ed: Sports Conduct Continued from p.3

A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

When I taught tennis in a tennis club in Virginia, I was confronted with this same predicament on a much more intense level. I taught with players from Division I colleges who had never learned about morals, let alone lived by them. Growing up hardly ever swearing, I sounded like a holy dignitary when I hung out with them on our lunch break. I also never swore or cursed at other people when playing against them, although I was often tempted. But they still respected me, and even told me so. It was definitely NOT because of my awesome playing abilities, being hardly

even a Division III player, but because I adhered steadfastly to the morals I believed in as a Jew and would not bend them to temporarily fit in. This is what we all must do when being involved, in any capacity, in the sports arena. Whether in the crowd or on the court, we must realize that in sports, the real "athletes" are the winners and stand out in the world, while the children who compromise and aren't confident in who they are simply get swept aside to be added to the mounds of others.

"BE RESOLUTE, CONFIDENT AND TRUE, AND LET THE WORLD STAND BACK AND WONDER"

department of supporting services was exceptional, immediate, and beyond our expectations...they saved us thousands of man-hours." Pinter recalled instances when Security drove sale officials carrying thousands of dollars to the bank. Also, maintenance employees assisted customers with large purchases in the transport of goods to their cars via the freight elevator.

S.O.Y. sold more than 50,000 sefarim overall. Ranking among the top selling

sefarim in the two week sale were Rav Aharon Soloveitchik's *Logic of the Heart*, *Logic of the Mind* (which sold over 150 copies at \$15.80 apiece) and Yitzchak Frank's *The Practical Talmudic Dictionary* (which sold about 100 copies). Pollack feels satisfied that the sale has achieved its objectives. He said: "the purpose of the sale is to expand the learning process so S.O.Y. can be a force in serving the students on campus and the members of the community, in that order."



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The Spirit of Sephardic Jewry

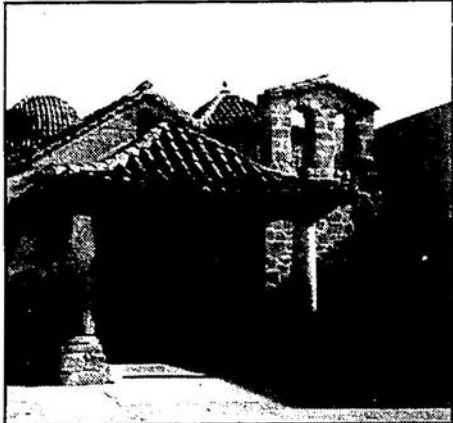
YCSC President Relates Experiences of his Recent Trip

by David J. Kay

Olympic Games, World's Fairs, quincennial celebrations. Spain in 1992 hosts scores of exciting and globally significant events attracting tourists from all over the world. Far more significant to us as Jews, particularly in this 500th year since the Inquisition, Spain offers what few other countries can: a direct link to the Golden Age of Jewish thought.

Over intersession I had the pleasure of accompanying Rabbi M. Mitchell Serels, Director of Sephardic Community Programs at Yeshiva University, on a trip to Spain as a guest of the Spanish Government and the Tourist Office of Spain. In addition to helping Rabbi Serels set up a museum display in Malaga, I spent a few of our nine days in Spain travelling to various cities, receiving an extensive cross-sectional view of Judeo-Spanish life, past and present.

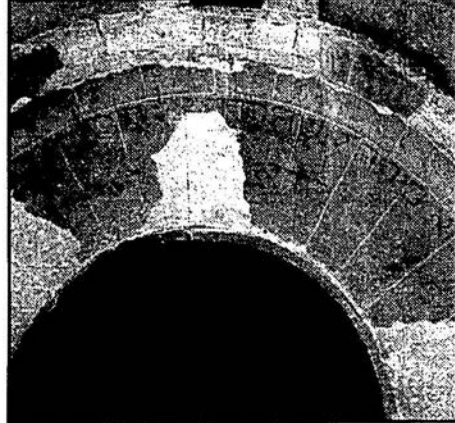
Although there are only 13,000 Jews in the entire country, Spain has a number of Jewish museums, exhibits, monuments, and historic sites. Cities such as Toledo have exclusively Jewish museums at the sites of former synagogues, serving as a tribute to the once flourishing Jewish Communities of those cities and the country as a whole.



Originally a synagogue, this building in Ademuz is now used as a church

Most of these exhibits feature the written works of such great Judaic scholars as Maimonides, Moses ibn Ezra, and Nachmanides, to name a few. In addition to published volumes of their texts, they have on display original manuscripts written and/or signed by these prodigious intellectuals. While these exhibits do not match the magnitude of the Yeshiva University Museum's Sephardic Journey exhibit, they do add a special national flavor, showing Judeo-Spanish art as well as originals of various politically significant documents.

What surprised me, nevertheless, was that many of the Spanish cities have large monuments and/or statues of, as well as streets named after, the specific Jewish scholars who hailed from those locales. It filled me with a tremendous sense of pride to walk down the streets of Cordoba and pass a monument to the Rambam, or stroll through Malaga past a statue of Ibn Gabirol. Neither were as



Hebrew phrase painting above the door of the 'church' in Ademuz

moving, however, as the many Jewish historical sites to be found in Spain. Whether it was davening Mincha in the Rambam's Synagogue, or tracing on foot Malaga's former Jewish quarter through data from the municipal archives, it was impossible not to feel a tremendous connection to the celebrated Jewish culture of Spain's Golden Age.

While Spain's Jewish roots are certainly most prevalent in cities such as Madrid, Cordoba, Toledo, Malaga, or the like, they are not exclusive to the major population centers. In fact, one of the most exciting parts of my trip involved a tiny town by the name of Ademuz (pronounced Ademuth by the northern Spaniards, who have a tradition of lisping because of a past king who did so).

Although Rincon de Ademuz is legally in the province of Valencia (pronounced Valentia, of course), it is physically surrounded by the province of Teruel, further contributing to its obscurity. Reaching Ademuz was an adventure in itself. From Madrid, we took an eastbound train for a two hour ride to the municipality of Cuenca. The taxi driver we found, although he had lived in this area his entire life, had never heard of Ademuz. The subsequent two hour (and \$110 U.S.) drive took us through and around ranges of snow capped hills (and remember, Spain is a relatively warm country), where we finally reached Ademuz.

What propelled us to seek this small town, veritably in the middle of nowhere? Although Ademuz has only 300 inhabitants, they have two churches -- an old and a new. The old church, used just one day a year, is most unusual in that the outside of the building does not display a single cross. Moreover, over the entrance, painted on the chipping plaster, lies the Hebrew phrase "Avohi Beitecha Eshlachaveh beHeichal Kodshecha beYeratecha."

Someone had recognized this phrase as Hebrew, and had sent pictures out so that someone could determine if this was indeed once a mikva, synagogue, or the like. Those pictures found their way to Rabbi Serels' desk, and we found our way to Ademuz, a town whose residents had never seen one, let alone two, Jews. We had the people in the neighboring school open the building for us, and were more than pleasantly surprised with its interior.

The side walls had stone benches running the length of the rectangular room, while the back of the room supported a raised gallery, both features of Sephardic Synagogues of the Middle Ages. While a rear addition was added on in later years, the original building had no crosses, but did have four painted medallions with such pictures as "City of God" (Jerusalem) and "Tower of David."

Although the town contained no identifying Jews, the most common name among the children, who had come to watch these two strangers who arrived by taxi, was David. One of the girls was named Elisheva. We asked the mayor, who works as the town baker, if any residents there practiced residual Jewish customs (e.g. taking challa from the bread) in an effort to find some remaining marranos, but he knew of none.

Despite sights I saw in Spain - the museums, the monuments, the Synagogues - I had trouble absorbing the extent of Jewish life in Spain pre-1492. Jews served as active members of society, not solely in the intellectual centers like Cordoba, but even in the tiny out-of-the-way towns such as Ademuz. While I may never truly comprehend how this Golden Age of Jewry could be ended virtually overnight, leaving nothing, I do appreciate the efforts Spain is making today to show the world but a fraction of the extensive Jewish life that was present there 500 years ago.

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Intramural Update

by Ronnie Aranoff

This week in intramurals saw many uncharacteristically lopsided victories. The following is a recap of the third week of play:

Bullets 65 Kings 59. The Bullets upped their record to a perfect 3-0 by virtue of Israel Wallach's season high 29 points. Wallach scored 20 points in the first half and still managed to score nine in the second half, even though the entire King defense keyed on him. Bullet guards Jacob Goldberg and Avi Roth sealed the victory with clutch outside shooting down the stretch. This game would never have been so close if not for the stellar play of the Kings' Freshman guard Daniel Lerer. Lerer led the Kings with 14 points and kept them in the game with his mastery of the 3 point shot (4-5 from downtown).

Hornets 57 Nuggets 33. This rematch of last semester's semifinal lacked the excitement of the previous double overtime contest. Motty Schiff was one of four Hornets in double figures and finished the game with 15 points on near-perfect shooting. Asaf Tzur also displayed his fine outside touch by finishing with 13 points. As usual, Craig Kornbluth led the scoring for the Nuggets with 14, but he only had 2 in the first half. The

victory improved the Hornets' record to 2-0.

Mavericks 45 Timberwolves 34. The game wasn't nearly as close as the score indicated, as the Mavericks squandered part of a 27 point lead with their starters on the bench. Jason Horowitz scored 12 points and added numerous blocked shots to his large collection. Ilan Kranz, however, played a great game for the Timberwolves netting a season-high 21 points. The victory increased the Mavericks' record to 2-0 while the Timberwolves, without Avi Esses and Teddy Perlman, fell to 0-3.

Magic 51 Heat 38. This was another contest where the superficial margin of victory was much smaller than the actual win. Forwards Moshe Benarosh, Burton Katz, and Adam Samber not only teamed up for 35 of the Magic's 51 points, but they completely outrebounded the rest of the Heat's team. The Heat struggled on offense and only got to the free-throw line four times all game. Jeremy Bandler led the Heat with 10 points.

The Nuggets, led by Captain Jerry Rozenberg and Most Valuable Player Craig Kornbluth, took last semester's title by beating the Heat 52-51, and will play the winners of the spring semester championship in the second week of May.

Wrestling

continued from page 12

The exhibition matches against Brooklyn were just as exciting as the regular matches. The highlight of the evening, however, was Matt Klein. Wrestling for the first time ever, Klein overwhelmed his opponent and proceeded to pin him in a mere nineteen seconds.

Against Rutgers, the Macs won 36-18, though some of the victories came from forfeitures by the Rutgers squad. The highlight of the evening once again occurred in an exhibition match. One-hundred fifty pounder Seth Gerszberg lifted an opponent who was almost

one-hundred pounds heavier than he and power-slammed him to the mat, generating a roar from the fans in attendance. In sum, this has been a greatly improved season for the wrestling Macs. In the 1991-92 season, the grapplers won four matches; four more than they did in the barren 1990-91 campaign. Captain Brian Ostrow remarked, "Imagine what would have been, had everyone been healthy the entire year."



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YESHIVA

SPORTS



First Time Intercollegiate Participation for YU Superhoop Champs

by Eric Melzer

For the first time ever, Yeshiva University participated in the regionals of the Schick Superhoops three-on-three tournament. This year marked the first time in four years that the regionals were not held on Shabbat. Instead, they took place on Sunday, February 23. The YU Superhoops championship team, consisting of Craig Kornbluth, Yoav Citron, Burton Katz, and Brent Levinson, played in this grueling tournament held at the Dodge Fitness Center of Columbia University.

Yeshiva's first opponent was York College. In this game, the YU foursome played brilliantly, as they got off to a good start, led by seventeen at the half, and coasted to a 57-37 victory. Craig Kornbluth played extremely well in this game as he buried three pointer after three pointer. Yoav Citron did an excellent job scoring in the paint, further enabling Kornbluth to score at will. The victory was special, since it was Yeshiva's debut performance against another school at the intramural level.

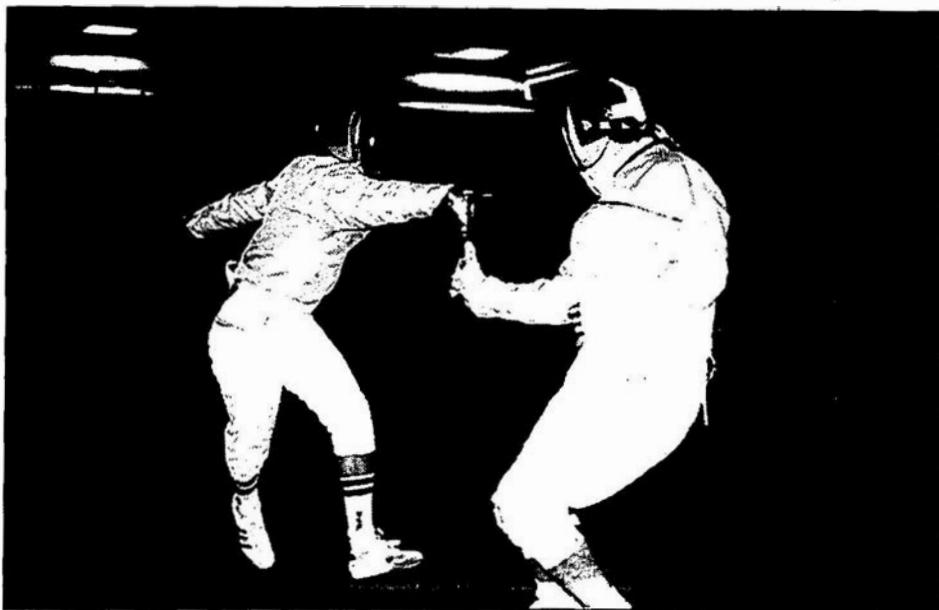
Kornbluth, Citron, Katz, and Levinson next faced Columbia, the host team, which consisted of three players who were each at least 6'5" and 190 lbs. Surprisingly, Yeshiva was able to keep it

close, as the score was tied with six minutes remaining in the game. At that point, however, the Columbia team started to really take advantage of the referees' desire not to make calls and planted themselves in the "three-seconds" lane. This enabled Columbia to successfully utilize their height and weight advantage and they were able to beat Yeshiva by 15.

The third game was versus Utica College, a Division Two School. By this point, the Yeshiva team was thoroughly exhausted from the previous two games and lost by over 20 points.

After the game, Craig Kornbluth, one of best shooters in YU, opted to participate in the K-Swiss three-point shootout for a free pair of sneakers. The sneakers were awarded to the participant who hit five three-pointers from five different angles in the shortest time. Although Kornbluth shot nicely, he was unable to beat the top time of 26 seconds.

Assistant Athletic Director and Yeshiva Tournament Coordinator Stanley Watson was present and, as usual, was not at a loss for words. "Yeshiva played superbly for their first tournament. I am proud of Kornbluth, Citron, Burt (Katz), and Tweed (Levinson)."



Elliot Cohen fends off an attack at a match against Steven's Tech on February 27th. While the saber team won 5-4, the Taubermen lost the match.

Volleyball Macs Pick Up the Pace

by Steven Dyckman
and Michael Z. Kellman

The Volleyball Macs won their first match of the season on February 24th, defeating York College three games to two. The victory was notable because the Macs were missing three players. Additionally, their coach was unable to attend the match.

Yeshiva played very well in the first game and won 15-7. Captain Zevi Adler set extremely well and, as a result, the rest of the team consistently hit some powerful slams. Avi Steinlauf, Jeremy Bandler, and Bruce Tager all had good hits at key points of the game.

In the second game, York College came out strong and the Macs, looking confused, lost the game 15-9. After splitting the next 2 games, the match was tied 2-2. Last year, the Macs always seemed to fade away in these crucial games; that did not happen this time. The Macs played tough defense throughout the fifth game and won 15-9.

On February 27th, the Macs played their home opener in a tri-match against Bard and Bridgeport colleges. After waiting an hour and a half for Bridgeport to finally defeat Bard in a five game intra-conference match, the Macs hit the floor against Bard.

The Macs were able to overcome their opponents in only two games, picking up another win and a winning record for the first time this season. They were led by the aggressive blocking and spiking of Avi Steinlauf and Jeremy Bandler and some clutch serving by

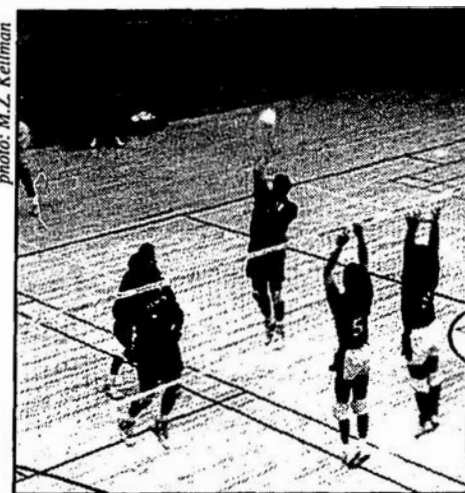


photo: M.Z. Kellman
Recently returned from a semester in London, Senior Avi Steinlauf goes up against a pair of Bard blockers

Neil S. Bromberg, who won the last three points of the match. Danny Shields, a member of the team for his second year, also contributed to the victory.

Unfortunately, their time over .500 was destined to be brief, as they immediately lost to Bridgeport in two games. Unlike previous years when they tended to lose spirit, they fought hard for every point, losing the second game by just one.

With their record at 2-2, the team attended the Bard Invitational on March 1st. While only 8 players were able to attend, the Macs performed admirably, winning two of their four matches and finishing third in the tournament. The team was helped with strong serving by the whole team, especially Amiel Lindenbaum, one of the only two non-starters to attend with the team.

Their wins in the Invitational came against Bard and Mt. St. Vincent, while they lost to Steven's Tech and N.J.I.T. The N.J.I.T. match was particularly hard, said Jeremy Bandler, a starter, because they were the top Division Three team in the country last year. N.J.I.T. also went on to finish first in this tournament. The Macs' record now stands at 4-4.

Wrestlers Win Last Three

by Eric Melzer

After a slow start, the Wrestling Macs closed out their season with a three game winning streak. The final two wins were over Brooklyn College 45-9 and Rutgers 36-18.

The victory over Brooklyn College was probably one of the most impressive evenings for the wrestling Macs in quite some time, as Yeshiva captured wins in the 142 lb., 150 lb., and 167 lb. categories. Captain Brian Ostrow wrestled as usual at 142 and defeated his opponent 9-4. Ostrow was ahead for most of the match and once again showed his tremendous

endurance by wrestling for the entire seven minutes. Ostrow led the team this season in minutes, as almost all of his matches went the entire three periods. Ostrow won most of these matches based on the score.

The second victory of the match went to Effy Zinkin at the 150 lb. weight class. Zinkin pinned his opponent early in the third period even though the score was quite close. Finally, Josh Bernheim maintained his consistent success with a first round pin. Bernheim only lost one match after his return from injury.

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