

The Commentator

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Purim at YU As Photographed by Judah S. Harris



(l to r) Rav Meir Goldvicht, Rav Dovid Lifschitz, and Dr. Israel Miller: See story page 5

Board Preserves Revel School

32 Courses To Be Offered:
\$2.5 million in "Secure Commitments"

by Michael Eisenberg

Following three contentious months of student protests, the YU Board of Trustees has voted to maintain the Bernard Revel Graduate School with thirty-two courses. The decision, coming on the heels of the Board's Academic Affairs Committee recommendation that the University adopt the Task Force's minimalist position, ends months of student activity.

According to a University press release, "Revel will now operate on the basis of a plan that was developed by a blue-ribbon Task Force of academicians, students and administrators. . .

that was formed earlier this year by Dr. Norman Lamm, University president."

Additionally, the statement claims that Lamm has "succeeded in securing commitments from the philanthropic community totaling some \$2.5 million towards a \$3 million goal." Furthermore, the Board of Trustees "has authorized the establishment of a board for the Bernard Revel School." Concurrently, Lamm announced the appointment of Dr. Arthur Hyman, senior professor of Philosophy, as acting dean of the school. Businessman and Board member Irwin Shapiro has been named founding chairman of the Revel Board. Other

members of the Board include: Ludwig Braverman, Walter Feder, E. Billi Ivry, Ludwig Jesselson, Mordechai Katz, Martin N. Kaufman, Lamm, Manfred Lehmann, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Samuel Sebbi, Joel Stern and Moshe Talansky.

Student leader Hillel Novetsky said, "The Board's decision reaffirms the centrality of Judaic studies for the mission of YU and acknowledges its significance for the Jewish community. Hopefully, adequate funds will be raised to restore the full complement of BRGS offerings and incorporate additional courses in Machshevet Yisrael."

The New Revel Plan

The plan the Administration is now outlining, containing thirty-two courses, deviates slightly from the Task Force's minimalist position. The Task Force report called for sixteen

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Morg Thief Apprehended Students in Dismay as "Friend" is Exposed

Thousands of dollars in cash and credit cards were stolen from students on the third and fourth floors of Morgenstern Hall, leading to the arrest last Wednesday of a frequent visitor to the dormitory, a man of large build, blonde hair, and a southern accent. This episode comes just one month after a former Burns Security Guard was apprehended for committing a series of burglaries in Muss Hall.

YU Chief of Security Don Sommers explained that this visitor borrowed money from his friends under false pretenses. He also stole money and credit cards from the unlocked rooms of students who had left for Shabbat. Sommers insisted that the individual is a "kleptomaniac in need of medical attention."

The thefts occurred over three weekends in March. It appears that the visitor came to visit several friends at Yeshiva; none of the hosts had any reason to believe that he was a thief. They allowed him to stay with them for Shabbat, signing him in as a guest.

The visitor made it a habit to sleep in the fourth floor lounge. A YU maintenance worker cleaning up the lounge noticed the visitor's clothing, realized that someone had been sleeping there, and asked students on the floor if they knew who owned the clothing. Amiel Lindenbaum, a fourth floor resident who was present at the time, helped the maintenance worker search for some identification. To their astonishment, as they emptied

pockets, they found dozens of credit cards featuring various names. They also found the missing wallets of two third floor residents and immediately called Security. Security arrived, and, according to Sommers, "sat on the clothing until he returned, then. . . they nailed him."

Surprisingly, just two days after his arrest, the visitor returned to YU. He was spotted in the fourth floor lounge and was charged with trespassing.

As a result of the thefts, Shmuel Hook, who was robbed of \$140 in cash and significantly more in credit card charges, explained that, "I never used to lock my door when walking down the hall. . . now I'm a fanatic about locking it."

\$1300 Mandatory Meal Plan Proposed

by Jay Bailey

The Food Services Subcommittee met on Friday, April 3, to discuss methods of reducing cafeteria deficits by means of cutting labor, maximizing efficiency, and increasing guaranteed revenue by a \$300 increase in the Caf Card Mandatory Meal Plan.

Comprising the subcommittee are: Dean Rosenfeld (YC), Dean Bacon (SCW), Jeffrey Rosengarten (Director, Supporting Services), Jake Leiberman (Food Services), Efreim Nulman (Dean of Students), Michael Kranzler (Associate Director, Admissions), Toby Weiss (Director, Alumni), and representatives from the Wurzelweil and Cardozo graduate schools. Three student leaders, YCSC President David J. Kay, SSSBSA President Laizer Kornwasser, and SSSBSA's sole presidential candidate Ofer Naor, representing both YC and SCW, were also in attendance to offer "input"; as they are not part of the Committee, they did not take part in the voting.

At a previous meeting to which students were not invited, the Committee decided

than \$1100, in line with tuition increases (slated for 1992-3 at seven percent). The voting members said this was unacceptable as there was no Caf Card increase this year, in spite of a ten percent raise in tuition. In a final effort to lower the \$1300 figure, students responded with a proposed seventeen percent increase to \$1170. This proposal was made in vain, however, as the Subcommittee voted 6-3, passing the \$1300 motion.

In response to student inquiries as to where students can spend the additional \$300, it was announced that an increased selection as well as elevated prices will make spending the meal plan funds easier.

The \$300 increase comes as part of an overall plan to raise the required Caf Card commitment to \$2000 (two years ago, the initial proposal for the plan, rejected by students, was \$2200). The initial proposal for a \$1500 plan followed by a further \$500 increase in two years narrowly failed. Nevertheless, according to Kay, increases (either every

...an increased selection as well as elevated prices will make spending the meal plan funds easier.

to increase the Caf plan minimum. Unbeknownst to the students until the meeting itself, the first item on the agenda for this meeting was establishing the amount of the already approved increase.

A motion to raise the amount to \$1500 was rejected by a vote of 4-5. Only after a motion for \$1300 was already on the floor, were the students permitted to collaborate on a recommendation. Students proposed an increase to no more

year or every second year) will escalate the Caf Card to \$2000 within what is likely to be no more than four years.

Additional methods of reducing the Food Services deficit were also discussed. Plans to require both high school and dorming RIETS students to join the mandatory plan were tabled pending proper representation from these schools at a future meeting. The subcommittee passed a motion

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Forcing It Down Our Throat

The proposed \$300 increase for the Food Service's Mandatory Meal Plan is made by a group of individuals who evidently have a preset agenda, in which student satisfaction plays no part. Adding \$300 to a plan resisted from its inception, in order to maintain the viability of an overcrowded and overpriced cafeteria of second-rate quality is unethical, manipulative and indicative of this administration's sense of priorities: the institution over the students it serves. Perhaps, if the members of the Subcommittee were themselves forced to participate in the plan, their recommendation would have been realistic or compassionate.

The objective of Food Services should incorporate both food and service. In effect, when the compulsory plan was initiated the Administration nullified the foremost protection of such an objective: the boycott. If the Administration wants business for its ailing cafeteria, let it improve standards to lure customers, and not force already dissatisfied students into paying even more for what they do not want.

Like the Revel issue, the final decision lies in the hands of YU's Board of Trustees. Only they can save next year's students from \$300 worth of unwanted, mediocre food. We must make our voices heard, and now. Otherwise, the plan will quietly be adopted and next year's tuition will feature an additional \$300. The Commentator joins YCSC in calling for student protest in the immediate future.

Culture Shock

While YU certainly advocates taking advantage of the best secular culture has to offer, we must always remain within the parameters of halacha. Culture cannot be used as a guise to contravene normative halachic prohibitions. Consequently, we were most disturbed to discover that a YCSC club, the Cultural Society, sponsored a "cultural" event wrought with issurim. Over two nights, one hundred students joined the Cultural Society on a trip to the Broadway musical Miss Saigon, a performance employing scantily clad women in sexually suggestive postures and actions, and defying explicitly proscribed behavior. Aside from the aveirot and the insensitivity towards the pervasive halachic attitudes of YU, the sight of thirty YU yarlmulkes at such a performance is a chillul Hashem.

We are not spying on or condemning people's private activities, although we should hope that a YU student's actions adhere strictly to halacha. Nevertheless, it is unfathomable that YCSC, an official organ of YU, should approve and sponsor such events. Our student body is quite diverse in its religious adherence, but our official and preferred posture should never violate our halachic traditions.

The Commentator

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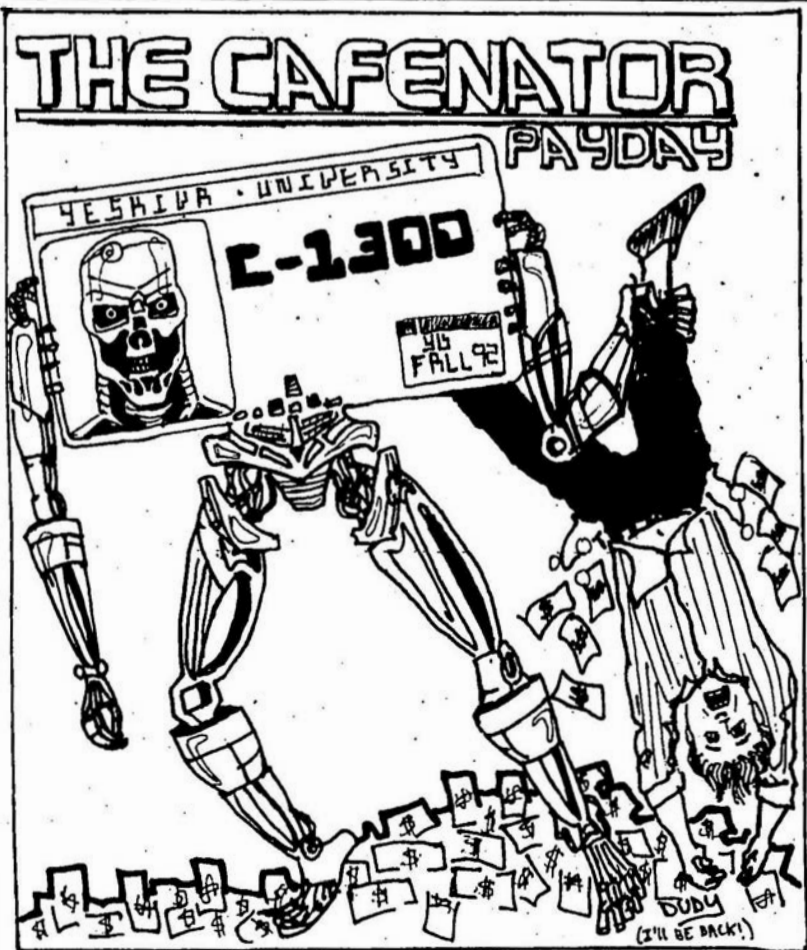
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P I C T O R I A L



COMING SOON TO AN EATER NEAR YOU...

THE COMMENTATOR INVITES ALL STUDENTS TO THE ANNUAL STUDENT COUNCIL CANDIDATE DEBATE

Tuesday evening, April 7
at 10:30 pm
in Rubin Shul
All are encouraged to attend!

Elections - this Thursday! Will your vote be bought cheap,
By the candidate who makes promises, some imposs'ble to keep?
Or are you the type who must grasp all the issues?
How touching - you care! (sniff) please pass me the tissues!
Whatever your approach, it's not THAT big a deal -
Sure, voting's important, but crucial? Get real.
Do I confuse you - do these sentiments sound strange,
From this weary crusader for activity and change?
I just grieve for the new guys - they'll cry and bemoan,
Because once elected, they're all quite alone.
Oh, they'll be energetic; what, with ideas to spare,
But soon they will call you, and you won't be there.
Organized mediocrity - well I guess that's okay,
But with \$100,000, our student council can play!
So open the Guide, to the Clubs on page eight.
Select one to work with; if you make your own, great!
Remember Mother-May-I, and those "one baby steps"?
Your vote is just that - just as easy as CLEPs.
As soon as he's chosen, amid "Hail to the Chief",
Don't be like the Caf, so they'll ask "Where's the Beef?"
We're in this together - we can really go far!
For our dying school spirit, let's have quick CPR.



From the Editor's Desk

Jay Bailey

RESPONSA

Poor Purim Planning

To the Editor,

After attending this year's Purim Chagiga, there are a couple of important matters which I found quite disturbing; one relating to safety, the other relating to religious principle.

The Chagiga, no doubt, had the kind of ruach that you would come to expect and I am very happy that I came to YU that evening. However, the location of the Beit Midrash cannot accommodate the mass of people that attend every year. If you dance for more than ten minutes in the Beit Midrash, it can become hazardous, as I have witnessed people faint over past years. I just don't understand the logic of YU in the fact that Purim has at least triple the amount of people attending, in contrast to the Yom Ha'atzmaut Chagiga, which takes place in Belfer's Weissberg Commons. If God forbid there was a fire here on Purim, hardly anyone would survive.

Another concept that disturbed me about the chagiga was that YU decided to have separate refreshment rooms for men and women, besides the usual separate dancing and entrance areas. As far as I'm concerned, this is getting a little bit out of hand! Why suddenly this year was it decided to do this? If YU wants to ban the men and women from speaking to each other altogether, they should just have a separate chagiga on each campus; men in YU, girls in Stern, respectively. I guarantee you that the women would appreciate this as three-quarters of them are spending their evening at the entrance due to lack of space for them. This was evident from the fact that approximately two-thirds of the women and one-third of the men left early (and I can tell you that it was not because of the snow storm). A Purim Chagiga can be a place to socialize in addition to dancing. There is nothing wrong with that.

In summary, YU should move the Purim Chagiga to Belfer. This way, Purim would be an even more enjoyable experience than it already is, and the chances of a major tragedy would be

minimized. Second, this idea of separate refreshment rooms is ridiculous. After all, this is YU, not Chaim Berlin.

Natan Horowitz
SSSB '92

Not a Laughing Matter

To the Editor,

Many people, especially the witty and perceptive elite, anxiously look forward to Purim all year. The 14th of Adar somehow entails a temporary suspension of all taboos and inhibitions, a free hunting season, if you will, where almost anything is fair game.

Based on this assumption, both The Lamminator and the YU Purim skit felt it within reason to make niddah jokes. Here is where my jocular spirit departs and my sense of tzniut and propriety takes over. Niddah jokes, especially when made by men, in particular those who ostensibly spend half of their time learning Torah, are simply not appropriate.

While this topic is not something about which I am at all ashamed, it is not "fair game." This aspect of marital life is sacred and beautiful. And, like many things that are sacred and beautiful, it is intrinsically private. By bringing niddah into the Purim playground, it loses this status. With the deduction of the tzniut factor, niddah exits the halachic framework and enters the crass domain of Al Bundy--style period jokes.

Certainly, I can laugh (very hard) at jokes that put my college, or even my gender, in a less than favorable light. I can dish out the sarcasm with the best of them. However, good taste and Torah values must be maintained above all else. Even if it means one less laugh.

Name withheld upon request
SCW '93

Editor's Note: The name of the author was omitted as per her request in the interest of not having her become material for next year's Purim issue.

Ethan Ciment

Morg: Residence Hall or Reception Hall?

Engagement parties. They are an integral part of the "YU Experience," at least for Juniors and Seniors. It's an incredibly unique way of celebrating an upcoming marriage in a Jewish environment, with close friends and family, and "laibedick" dancing. I love to see these simchas take place just as much as anyone else, I just hate that they take place in the lounge of my dorm.

In this school, which is densely populated by New Yorkers, I, being of the "out of town" constituency, don't view my dorm as a substandard, temporary lodging place. I don't routinely retreat to home on Thursday nights, not to return until Sunday night. I live in this building on weeknights as well as on weekends. Despite all of its shortcomings, my dorm room is my home in New York.

I do consider myself a considerate and sociable person. However, my hospitality does have limits. I am one of the many students who is more productive studying and doing work in my room than in the library. I fail to understand why I am routinely being forced out of my dorm by the loud music and dancing below in my lounge. In its statement about the dorms and their purpose, the University states on page 23 of the student handbook, "The residence halls are intended to provide an environment that promotes the University's educational purposes and enhances personal growth and development." The disturbances

which these parties cause are in no way beneficial educationally. Quite to the contrary; they impede our ability to productively work in our optimal studying environment.

Perhaps the administrators who authorize these intrusive gatherings would consider re-evaluating the current situation. We have a beautiful gathering hall (Weissberg Commons of Belfer Hall) just down the block. Belfer is able to accommodate such parties between the traditional 8-10pm time slot. In cases of scheduling conflict, there is Furst 501, which seems to suit JSS and IBC functions of a similar nature quite well. If these gatherings were to take place in Belfer or Furst, they would be just as wonderful and fun. Yet, they wouldn't disturb any of the students who live in the dorms. We could study, relax, or even attempt to catch some sleep in the peace and quiet of our own homes.

I also wish to acknowledge students who are sick and trying to recuperate, sleep, or catch up on work in their rooms. They don't need this additional irritant either.

Yeshiva College has an extremely stressful environment, both academically and socially. Why add stress to an already strained situation? I realize that sfira is just around the corner, but the sfira is not a solution to this problem. It's just a seven week hiatus. We need a real solution for all of the other weeks and for the years to come as well.

In Whom Do We Trust?

To the Editor,

What most amazes me about the recent creation of a coed course is neither the decision itself (perhaps inevitable once SSSB was set up as the same school on both campuses) nor the direction in which it hurls us (the left). Rather, it is that while YU has taken a giant leap of undeniable halakhic import without consulting its own rabbinic authorities, there has been no public outcry.

Earlier this year, many of us shrugged off the edict of general exclusion of women from Schottenstein Hall. True, it was a slap in the face of YU's Roshei Yeshiva when certain administrators (still unidentified) took the liberty of paskining the shyleh on their own, without bothering to check with the experts. But that was okay, we reassured ourselves; it ended up with the same machmir bottom line, didn't it?

We cannot delude ourselves any longer. Now that the decision-making behind closed doors has led to YU's cavalierly crossing a line deliberately drawn decades ago, we must ask ourselves: whose standards should we be following? Does administrative power automatically confer upon someone the authority of semikhah? If not, are we prepared to live with the

consequences of a cabal's capriciousness? Judging from the lack of response to the coed class, the answer is painfully obvious. Where are the Roshei Yeshiva denouncing this blow to the status quo? Where are the student leaders demanding clear parameters to be set before this "small step" devolves into a slippery slope? Has the cancer of apathy and cynicism so eaten away our Jewish sensitivities that we have been miyaesh (given up hope) on YU's claim to halakhic viability?

There is an instructive parallel in the movie "Ghostbusters." The character played by Bill Murray at first rebuffs Sigourney Weaver's advances, informing her that "I have a rule not to get involved with my clients." Shortly afterwards he succumbs, rationalizing: "Actually, it's more of a guideline than a rule." Suddenly converting hard-and-fast rules into amorphous "guidelines" is funny in the movie because Murray's excuse is so transparent, he isn't fooling anybody. In real life, however, it is not at all funny when laymen do the exact same thing with halakhic issues. My point is not that the coed class is intrinsically unacceptable, but that such a decision - and all others with halakhic ramifications - must be preceded by consultation with those most qualified to judge such matters. Certainly in this case, which has far-reaching implications, YU should think long and hard before allowing convictions to fall prey to convenience.

Uri Cohen
YC, BRGS '92

CAMPUS NEWS

Sephardic Club Event at Stern Draws 80

Approximately eighty YC and SCW students gathered in Koch Auditorium on March 12th for a pre-Purim event sponsored by the Sephardic Club. The evening began on a somber note as all of those assembled commemorated the recent passing of Menachem Begin, as well as the deaths of four Jewish girls who were caught and killed in Lebanon as they tried to escape Syria in 1974.

Coby Noy, president of the Sephardic Club, opened the proceedings and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Israel Miller, YU's Senior Vice President. Dr. Miller discussed his own personal relationship with Menachem Begin and eulogized the former Prime Minister of Israel as a true hero of the Jewish people. A moment of silence was then observed, followed by a memorial prayer led by Rabbi Mitchell Serels, YU's Director of Sephardic Programs.

The second half of the evening took on a more festive air as the students moved from Koch Auditorium to Jerusalem II restaurant, where they enjoyed an hour of food and fun.

—Joey Nussbaum

Two New Food Stores on Campus

In approximately one month, two new food commissaries will occupy the vacant Amsterdam Avenue storefronts previously occupied by Grandma's Cookie Jar and another small business. According to construction workers remodeling the old Grandma's, the store will become a fresh produce and general grocery store. The other will be a Chinese food enterprise. As yet it is unknown whether it will be kosher.

—Michael Eisenberg

Tannenbaum Copper Dome Shines Again

The green dome atop Tannenbaum Hall, a symbol of the uptown campus for many years, is taking on a new look. A checker board-like copper pattern is being painted onto the dome as a waterproofing measure. The operation, which has been going on for the past month, is expected to last at least one more month. According to Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol, holes developed in the dome, and rain had begun to seep into Tannenbaum Hall. The dome, originally coated with gold trim that was sold during the Depression, was later replaced with copper. Due to the oxidation of the copper, the dome gradually developed the now familiar mint green color.



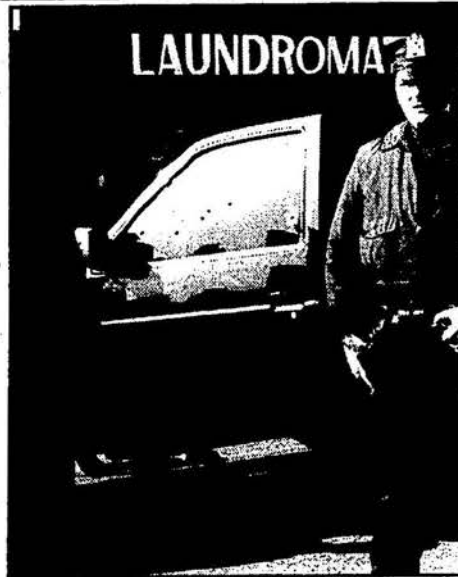
While the new traffic light at 185th and Audubon may prevent cars from whizzing through the intersection, we will need something else for the flying ammo. On March 16th, a drive-by shooting left one Washington Heights native wounded in the arm and shoulder. Additionally, on opening night of the YC Dramatic Society's new production, Police apprehended a suspect at this same intersection as he was fleeing from another shooting on St. Nicholas Ave.

Project 1 Organizes Student Chessed

Project 1, a program designed to provide community services on Purim and thereafter by asking students to volunteer one hour of their time, commenced its activities last month. Efforts included the collection of charity for the poor, delivering Mishloach Manot on Purim morning, reading of the Megilla for sick people, and inviting guests for the Purim seuda.

Created by the Philanthropy Society and its founder, second year RIETS student Daniel Wolff, Project 1 was not intended to be associated with YCPS so as not to deter students not enrolled in Yeshiva College.

"It was meant to be a University-wide project," Wolff stated, "not specifically tied to any particular school. We didn't want students outside of YC to think that they couldn't be involved." Ironically, because the publicity fliers listed no campus organization, students hesitated to volunteer. There was little response at first, although by Purim



over 65 people had registered for the assorted services. Reflecting on the success of Project 1, Wolff commented, "It indicated hope for a larger project in the future and was successful on its own because we were able to match up people and their needed functions with the volunteers."

Additionally, with the help of his brother Josh, the Vice President of YCPS, and YCPS President Mordy Rothberg, Wolff intends to continue Project 1 in the future with larger programs. Newspaper and can collections, food delivery for the homeless, a "chauffeur" service for Rebbeim, and a tutoring program for children in Jewish or Hebrew subjects are only some of the services Project 1 hopes to continue until Pesach with some continuing specifically for the holiday.

If enough people volunteer, Project 1 will establish a monthly rotation, with students participating in a number of possible volunteer projects.

—Ari Rosenstein

YCSC Raises Funds for Ambulance Corp

YCSC sponsored a March 12th fundraiser for Hatzolah, organized by Sophomore Class President Richie Maron. Hatzolah, the Jewish volunteer ambulance corps which serves the emergency medical needs of our community, requires these funds in order to maintain equipment and supplies. With the help of Assistant Dean of Students Jeffrey Chaitoff, a table was set up in the lobby of Furst Hall for one afternoon. By contributing over \$1,000 in just four hours, the students, faculty and administration of YU helped make this year's fundraiser the most successful in recent memory. "I was amazed how much money we collected in such a short span of time," commented Maron. Anyone who did not have a chance to contribute can still do so by contacting either Richie Maron in Rubin 306, or Jeffrey Chaitoff in Furst 413.

—Joseph J. Sussman

Drug Raid Leads to Arrests of Area Residents

Shortly before 8 a.m. on March 31st, armed NYPD officers and members of the Tactical Narcotics Team (TNT) outfitted in bullet-proof vests raided an apartment at 505 West 187th Street. According to an officer on the scene, the early morning raid resulted in eight arrests, the confiscation of four kilograms of cocaine, three grams of heroine, \$20,000 in cash, and three guns: a .357 magnum, a 9mm, and a .380. The building, which is directly opposite the 187th Street entrance to Tannenbaum Hall, was surrounded by the officers for well over an hour as they searched for illegal narcotics.

—Michael Eisenberg

SSSB Drops Prerequisites for Six Intro Courses; Liberal Arts Students Welcome

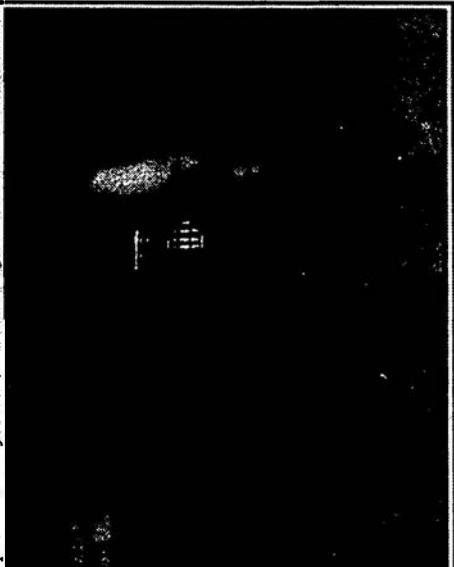
Beginning next year, all undergraduate YU students will be permitted to register for SSSB introductory courses in Management, Marketing, Management Information Systems, and Business Law without prerequisites. In the past, most YC students have refrained from taking SSSB courses as electives or correlates because of the Accounting and Economics courses which were required as prerequisites.

The six SSSB courses which will be affected by the policy change are Principles of Management, Principles of Marketing, Management Information Systems, Legal & Ethical Environment of Business, Business Law I, and Business Law II.

Dr. Harold Nierenberg, dean designate of SSSB, explained that the courses "have been restructured in order to make them more readily accessible to all undergraduate students at YU." Nierenberg explained that YC and SCW students will be able to use these courses to explore the possibility of a business career, to prepare for business or law school, to prepare for an administrative position, or simply to broaden their educational experience with electives in business.

Laizer Kornwasser, President of SSSB, praised the policy change, noting that "students can now take courses that apply directly to their field of interest, without having to take Accounting courses."

—Jamin Koslowe



In another effort to maintain the Joel Jablonski Campus, the wooden benches and tables on the pedestrian mall are being replaced. The benches and tables have also been deteriorating over time due to the weather and other factors. This project is expected to begin as soon as the weather permits.

—J. Sussman

WYUR Ready to Rock n' Roll

by Ari Rosenstein

WYUR, YU's official radio station, has recently reactivated broadcasting after a long hiatus. The station's new governing board has repaired broken equipment, purchased needed supplies, and interviewed potential deejays.

The new board was created in early February after the departure of several previous members. Akiva Fuld was appointed the new Station Manager and Mark Weissman, Assistant-Station Manager. The rest of the Board consists of Program Director Garren Macklin, Musical Director Daphne Kalish, Promotional Director Zevi Adler, Technical Advisor Steve Lauderdale, Becky Ehrenpreis and Rene Glickman. Fuld pointed out that: "All members of the governing board are current deejays who care about the station. This is essential for WYUR to be a success."

Many new changes have been instituted at the station recently. The circuitry on the broadcasting board which blew several months ago was recently repaired. Old transmitters and receivers that were not functioning properly were fixed by YU electricians and a private contractor. New needles for the turntables were purchased and many other technical problems in the station have been corrected. New locks will be installed in the near future.

On March 16, Fuld and Macklin interviewed approximately twelve people for new positions. Potential deejays were asked a variety of questions, ranging from basic program ideas and the length of the programs to

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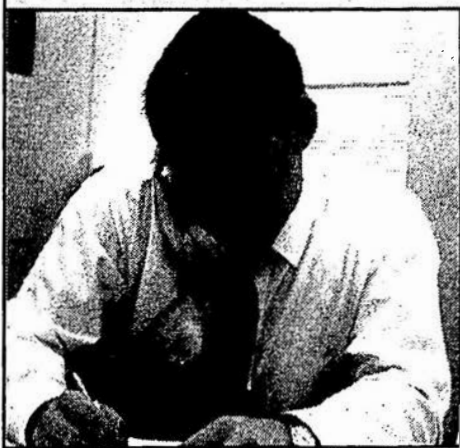
YU Library Goes Hi-Tech

Research facilities at the uptown YU libraries have finally entered the age of computer information with the installation of three work stations equipped with CD ROM drives for database searching. Each of the CDs for the new systems located on the second floor of Pollack Library cost between \$1,500 and \$2,300 for one-year subscriptions, updated monthly or quarterly, depending on the subject.

Staffers have prepared training materials to assist students in using the CD ROMs, which can access the following: General Studies Index; Humanities Index; Reader's Guide Abstracts; Social Sciences Index; and Wilson Business Abstracts. Reference Librarian Dave Crugnola commented that the new systems are "a time-saver because you have ten years of the indexes on one disk, whereas the printed indexes you have to search one at a time. You can also customize your search with the more sophisticated searches." The next disk the library plans to purchase is for Social Work. Soon thereafter, the library hopes to add Psychology Abstracts to its collection, but its cost is a prohibitive \$3,000 for a one-year subscription. The Library will offer hands-on training sessions to introduce the new technology to the student body.

—Shlomo Zwickler
and Michael Eisenberg

Admissions Office Improves on YU Image



Associate Director Michael Kranzler

by Adam J. Anhang

As part of an ongoing effort to attract students, YU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions has been modifying application and recruitment procedures.

According to Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, YU competes for students who generally also apply to two major university groups: the Ivy League colleges and the state schools. The Ivy League schools have obvious academic appeal but are very expensive; the state schools have been improving academically and are much more affordable. However, admissions offices in each of these two groups share a common factor: they successfully market their schools by presenting attractive, professional images. "It is in this area,"

said Kranzler, "that YU's Admissions Office is steadily improving."

To that end, Kranzler has changed YU's application deadline from April 15 to February 15. "This alleviates two problems," said Kranzler. "First, it puts us in the same deadline ballpark as Ivy League schools [who set a January 1 deadline], allowing us to compete for students applying to colleges like Columbia, Harvard, Yale, and Penn. Second, in forcing students to make an earlier decision about applying to YU, the new deadline erases YU's image as an 'also ran' [second-choice] college." Also, the Admissions Office now guarantees decisions within thirty days.

Kranzler also claims to be making greater use of the wait list for borderline

students. In difficult fiscal times increase the pressure to admit more tuition paying students, Kranzler believes that quality students attract other quality students. Although Admissions statistics for 1992 are not yet available, Kranzler presented figures showing an outright rejection rate of approximately 10% in 1991; he predicted that percentage will increase this year. "Moreover," said Kranzler, "the actual rejection rate is much higher than 10%, since we counsel many candidates to withdraw their applications if rejection seems likely." In fact, Kranzler claims that these students comprise a significant

portion of the approximately 15% of 1991 applicants who either deferred or withdrew their applications.

At a time when many colleges are suffering from a declining applicant pool, the number of applicants to YU has remained fairly consistent. Kranzler attributes this to such factors as sending professors out on more high school speaking engagements and training recruiters to present a more professional image at college recruiting nights. Recognizing that the middle class — YU's chief constituency — has been hard hit by the recession, the Admissions Office is also publicizing the large amounts of financial aid available to prospective YU students.

Kranzler's office has also been involved in some innovative, indirect recruiting programs. These include sponsoring the high school model United Nations this past February, as well as hosting a high school basketball tournament last week. "A well run program imparts a subtle sense of YU's academic achievement and professionalism," said Kranzler. "This in turn fosters YU's image as an attractive option for high school students." Other ideas include linking gifted high school students with YU professors in mentor programs, recruiting Russian students, and better marketing of IBC and JSS to students who are not as interested in MYP's intensive Talmud-only program.

Ta'anit Esther Program fills Beit Midrash

Over 500 people filled the Main Beit Midrash on Wednesday, March 18, Ta'anit Esther, for an assembly stressing the importance of "Eretz Yisrael Hashleimah" ("the complete Land of Israel"). The gathering came in direct response to an alarming letter sent by Reform and Conservative leaders to presidential candidates urging them to pressure Israel to cease Jewish development in Judea and Samaria.

Rav Hershel Schachter outlined the halachic prohibition against withdrawal from any territories controlled by the Jewish People, explaining that the "Land

for Peace" formula would set back the geula process, placing an obstacle in its path, and is therefore antithetical to Jewish law.

Introducing Rav Schachter was MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, who delivered a eulogy of Menachem Begin, who passed away earlier in the week. Rabbi Charlop highlighted the former prime minister's belief in God and his unrelenting pride in his Jewishness. The MYP Dean also reminded those in attendance of the importance of prayer when the Jewish People are faced with disaster.

Rav Meir Goldvicht followed with a discourse on the place of Emunah in times of trouble, expanding on the theme introduced by Rabbi Charlop.

Capping the event was Rabbi Allen (Eliezer) Schwartz, who, building on his colleagues' presentations, drew specific

political conclusions. Comparing the situation of Esther with contemporary problems facing Jews, Rabbi Schwartz recalled Mordechai's scolding of the Queen, declaring that if the Bush administration refuses to grant loan guarantees to Israel, "Revach v'hatzala" ("relief and salvation") will surface from another source, perhaps from "another administration within the year," pointing out the threat to the incumbent's presidency.

Following Mincha, students were asked to sign petitions declaring their "unequivocal support for the inalienable right of Jews to live anywhere in their historic homeland, Israel." Organizers have thus far collected 500 signatures, in addition to the over 1500 letters sent by YU students to Congressional representatives and Senators over the past two weeks.

Purim Chagiga A Smash, Raises Questions of Planning

by Jamin Koslowe

Over 1600 people crowded into the Beit Midrash in Tannenbaum Hall for the annual SOY Purim Chagiga. The festivities followed the Megilla reading on Purim night, beginning at 9:30 pm and continuing past 2:00 in the morning. YC and SCW students sang and danced to the music of the Neshoma Orchestra with continuing vigor throughout the night. The dancing paused only for the presentation of the annual Purim Shpiel at midnight, picking up again around 1:00 am. One of the evening's highlights was the entrance of Rav Meir Goldvicht and Rav Dovid Lifshitz into the Beit Midrash, surrounded by over one hundred students who had followed them from Rav Meir's apartment. The hundreds of students already in the Beit Midrash immediately surrounded Rav Meir and

Rav Dovid, singing and dancing with incredible intensity (see picture, p. 1).

The Shpiel drew many laughs from skits which "Lamm"-pooned YU administrators, faculty, rabbis, and students. The skit drawing the biggest laugh was a very "moo"-ving scene in which a YC student discovers that the Stern girl he's been set up with bears a remarkable resemblance to a cow. Donald Bixon's uncanny imitation of Rabbi Yosef Blau, which even Rabbi Blau admitted was a "good imitation of me," topped the evening's impersonations. The Shpiel also included, for the first time ever, a cameo appearance by a female, when "Rabbi Lamm" (Jonathan Kroll) fielded a question from "Sweetie" SCWSC Vice President, Lisa Mayer.

The Chagiga may have been a victim of its own success, though, as many students complained that the Beit Midrash was overcrowded. Some

students felt that the Chagiga should have been moved to the more spacious and better ventilated Weissberg Commons; others, however, felt the Chagiga should stay in the Beit Midrash.

Ari Mosenkis, Chairman of the Purim Chagiga, and Allen Pfeiffer, SOY Treasurer, made the final decision to keep the Chagiga in the Beit Midrash. Mosenkis explained that "there's much more ruach in the Beit Medrash." Additionally, Mosenkis noted that Weissberg Commons has terrible acoustics and columns which would block the view of the Shpiel for the girls. Mosenkis also feared that the Shpiel would turn into a social event if moved to Belfer. A final concern voiced by Mosenkis and Pfeiffer was that Rav Dovid Lifshitz, whose presence added much ruach, might have felt uncomfortable attending the Chagiga had it been held in Belfer.

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Special Editorial

Facilities MisManagement

The decision to discuss an individual's behavior is one that requires a great deal of thought. Our purpose is neither to poke fun, nor to malign. The issue we discuss below relates to the efficiency and atmosphere of every aspect of Yeshiva University.

The appearance of this article is prompted by a strong contention, frequently voiced, by students, faculty, employees, and administration. Before proceeding with this objective, the editorial board consulted with a rabbinic authority as per halachic considerations.

In the past, The Commentator has received many complaints regarding the brusque behavior of Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management. Until now, we passed them off as isolated incidents. However, a recent abundance of grievances from within and without the University has prompted us to investigate many of the episodes.

After Parents' Day at the Joel Jablonski Campus we received phone calls from many parents expressing their indignation at Socol's treatment of the student protesters outside and around Belfer Hall. Additionally, we received the letter printed at right complaining about Socol's behavior. What you are about to read is but a limited sampling, as many individuals declined to relate their stories for fear of reprisal.

September 1987:

Claiming that he did not like the way they were hanging, Socol ripped down all the telephone wires (which had been installed by New York Telephone workers) in the High School dormitory. The dorm counselors and the rest of the dormitory had no telephone service until December. "There was a meeting with Rosengarten to smooth things over but the general consensus was that we couldn't work with him. He never responded to memos..." said one source who has requested anonymity.

Spring 1989:

A YU student and MTA computer teacher was working in the High School computer room one night with a number of his students. Socol entered the room and threatened to arrest him for trespassing. The teacher had been authorized by Dr. Richard Geldard, the director of general studies at YU's High Schools, to use the computer room with or without his students. One student, sensing that this was not an auspicious moment to remain in the room, attempted to leave, whereupon Socol jumped in his way and said, "You're not going anywhere!" Socol then proceeded to confiscate the student/teacher's I.D. and keys.

Fall 1990:

Roaming the halls and entering rooms of Strenger Hall, the MTA dormitory, Socol discovered a roll of aluminum foil. He began searching the

building for toaster ovens. After failing to locate any ovens, he shut down the building's power and said, "I'll turn it on when I'm ready." The Head Dorm Counselor was forced to call Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten at 11:00 pm to have the power restored.

Early October, 1991:

YCSC President David J. Kay arrived on campus one week early to make arrangements for student council business. He immediately asked Socol for the key to the room opposite Morg Mart, which has been used by YCSC for years as an office and which contained all student council files and stationery. Socol told Kay that he would take care of it. A week later, as Orientation started, Kay still had no key. Kay repeated his request for a key daily, and a week later finally obtained one from a friend who had used the office the previous year. To his surprise, YCSC's property was gone and the room was full of mattresses. Socol later claimed that he had a right to relieve YCSC of their office, as they now



had space in Schottenstein. Socol's staff had thrown away the files and stationery belonging to YCSC, without any consultation.

December 17, 1991:

When the MTA wrestling team, coached by two YC students, arrived at Tannenbaum gym at 2:30 for a 3:00 match, they were surprised to find that the wrestling mats were not prepared. They set up on their own, and as the team from Dalton High arrived (passing the security guard, explaining that they were here for a match) with officials, parents, and fans, a security guard announced that everyone (approximately 100 people) had to leave, by order of Jeffrey Socol. The coaches produced a copy of the official YU schedule, indicating that they did, in fact, have a scheduled match on that day. They were then informed by the guard that Mr. Socol did not have the paperwork; the forms had not been turned in. The coaches had seen the forms filled out, but could not guarantee that MTA had turned them in. They immediately filled out a new form (to go through the motions of "informing" Security and Maintenance) and brought them to Socol's office, where he was in a meeting. Moments later, they heard Socol tell the guard on the radio that the request was "denied." Socol never came to investigate. When the guard turned

off the lights in the gym and unplugged the scoreboard, the coaches went to Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, as did an angry parent who sits on the YUHS Board. Rosengarten cleared up the situation, and the match finally commenced, an hour and a half behind schedule.

January 17, 1992:

On the day of President Lamm's press conference concerning the future of BRGS, YC Junior Michael Segal rode an elevator in the SCW school building to inform the media of a planned conference by the Committee to Preserve Revel (CPR) following Dr. Lamm's. Jeffrey Socol and another maintenance worker entered the elevator on the ground floor along with many SCW students and a photographer from PR. Socol spoke into his walkie-talkie saying, "We're going to get the pipes." Upon reaching the top floor of the building, Socol asked the maintenance worker for a key and subsequently shut down the elevator, telling Segal, "Get out. It's no longer for public use." The PR photographer left as well. Socol then tore down CPR signs posted in the elevator and threw them onto the eleventh floor landing. Socol walked over to the staircase door and said into the walkie-talkie, "We're coming down." Segal then picked up the sign and began heading towards the elevator at which point Socol said, "Where the hell do you think you're going?" As the elevator was about to close, Socol invited the PR photographer back into the elevator. Segal screamed, "What about the pipes?" There was no response. Segal commented, "It's hard to respect the administration when they treat their students so poorly."

March 5, 1992:

Approximately twenty students carrying a letter to Executive Vice President Egon Brenner, along with two Commentator reporters, entered the elevators of Belfer Hall heading for the twelfth floor. Near the tenth floor, the elevators went dead and began descending back towards the ground floor. The three elevators servicing Belfer Hall opened in the lobby and one of the reporters standing at the front of the elevator bank asked, "What happened?" Socol retorted, "Electrical failure. The elevators broke." Revel student Robert Klapper, who was in the lobby during the episode, informed the Commentator reporter that he had seen Socol turn off the elevators. The reporter approached Socol and asked to see the electrical report regarding the elevators when it came in. Socol responded, "Shut the hell up." The reporter said, "Excuse me?" Socol repeated, "Shut the hell up." Students began heading for the staircase, intending to climb the twelve flights but Socol locked the door to the stairwell before they could reach it. He sent a security guard to shut down the freight elevator as well. Finally, Dean of Students Efram Nulman pulled Socol aside to inquire what he was doing.

Forty-five minutes later, after students found a staircase to climb the twelve flights and had finished presenting their letter to Brenner's office, one Revel student asked Socol why he had turned the elevators off. Socol responded, "We don't have to let you go upstairs if we don't want to."

March 17, 1992:

Claiming they lacked proper I.D., Socol ejected a video crew (hired by the Admissions Office to produce a P.R. video) from Tannenbaum Hall, without consulting the Admissions Office. According to eyewitness accounts, one of the video crew members stated that he was doing a service for YU, but ended up being treated like a criminal and was denied access to all rooms. An Admissions representative tried to mediate between the video crew and Socol, but Socol wouldn't budge. Eventually (long after the video crew had left), Socol apologized to the Office of Admissions.

The incidents described here represent only a fraction of the many similar complaints about Mr. Socol's behavior over the years. These have come from students, faculty members, and even administrators, many of whom are understandably reluctant to tell their stories publicly, fearing some sort of reprisal. It is clear even from the few stories mentioned here that Jeffrey Socol lacks even a minimal degree of courtesy or consideration. This might not be a problem if he had only a desk job. However, Socol's job requires that he interact with people in pressured situations on a regular basis. Job pressure does not prevent individuals such as Don Sommers, Jeffrey Rosengarten, Jacob Blazer, Steve Berkowitz, or Burns supervisors from being amiable and even developing friendships with students, while concurrently executing their responsibilities effectively. In addition, it is important to note that Mr. Socol's strict standards are not under fire here; adherence to rules is crucial to any organization. Yet there is an element of sensitivity, flexibility and *menshlachkeit* that must go along with responsibility.

We do not condemn all instances of nepotism; many individuals in YU are here by virtue of relatives who precede them and "pave the way." But the condition for such an arrangement must be a strict examination of the quality of the service that an individual has to offer. Jeffrey Socol's father happens to be a YU Vice President, a fact which has obviously resulted in both the younger Socol's hiring and considerable job security, since potential critics have generally been silenced by fear of retaliation from the office of the elder Socol. Needless conflicts and animosity have sprung up in the wake of Jeffrey Socol's insensitive handling of numerous campus situations. This has gone on for too long. It is time to reevaluate Jeffrey Socol's effectiveness in his present position.

Good Riddance

To the Editors:

I witnessed this scene in the Tannenbaum Hall lobby at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3:

They were a married couple dressed in the semi-formal attire parents wear when they scout out schools for their children, and they appeared to be in their late thirties. Upon turning towards the stairs leading to the second floor, Jeff Socol ran up to them from behind, put his hand on the man's shoulder, and brusquely spun him around.

"Where's your authorization?" he demanded.

"You mean these temporary ID cards?" asked the woman after a second. The couple displayed two light brown squares imprinted with the YU logo.

Socol grabbed the cards and barked, "Why didn't you notify security?"

The woman was speechless. Her husband protested, "We stopped at the desk in the other building and signed our names and the guard gave us these cards."

Socol marched the couple around to the guard station in the lobby, saying, "You can't just walk around the buildings! You didn't register properly."

The man became angry. "We got I.D.'s at the desk in the other building; it's not our fault that -"

Socol cut him off. "Wait here." Socol moved to behind the guard station and picked up the phone. "Wait here," he repeated, then concentrated on the phone.

The woman stood dumfounded, but her husband, after watching Socol on the phone for two minutes, said to her, "Let's go. We don't deserve this." His wife turned to me and said, "Bye."

At this point, Socol looked up, shrugged his shoulders, and scowled at them as they walked out the door. Though I did not hear him say anything, the look on his face as he walked away practically shouted, "Good riddance."

Thanks to Mr. Socol's efficiency in ridding Tannenbaum Hall and the Joel Jablonski Campus of these dangerous intruders we don't have to worry that they might return and perhaps even send their son to MTA or YU.

What grave threat did this couple pose that justified such treatment? What could justify it? Even if detaining them had actually been necessary, Mr. Socol should have explained that security procedures weren't properly executed, and apologized for the delay. Not only didn't he do this, he didn't have the decency to extend them the common courtesy of an "excuse me," and, "may I see those cards, please?" Even the security guards ASK to see ID.

This is more than just a single instance of gross neglect of courtesy, loss of a potential student, and a chilul Hashem. Once here, we tend to accept brusque and inexcusable behavior as de rigueur. But why should total strangers have to encounter it at all? Why should anyone?

It is time to shrug our shoulders and tell Jeff Socol, "Good riddance."

Avi Greengart
YC '93

'Dorm Talks' Draws Crowd

by Jay Bailey

Approximately forty students heard insights from Rabbis Abba Bronspiegel and Michael Shmidman at last week's Dorm Talks in Rubin Shul. The topics, titled "On Language," "Settling Down in a Jewish Environment," and "Da'at Torah and Personal Autonomy," were introduced by moderator Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani of YU.

The first question posed to the panelists was: where do we draw the line when we define "nivul peh" and "lashon nikiya"? In a day when our approach to language is increasingly liberal and acceptable, how do we know what constitutes unsuitable language?

Rabbi Shmidman spoke first, stressing the importance of language as the fundamental characteristic that is uniquely human. He then presented various examples of situations where chazal used euphemisms in place of "unacceptable" language. Rabbi Shmidman noted that none of these examples were "dirty" or "obscene;" the issue is against "inappropriate language" and this is not only in the form of words, but in dress, gestures, and even courtesy. He stressed that taking on customs like "slapping five" in place of the traditional handshake is in a way symbolic of our accepting the decision of "some fellow on the Chicago Bulls or the Knicks" who decided that this is the way we give a "yasher koach." Lastly, he alluded to "non-language" - the absence of words like "please," "thank you," or actions such as holding the door. These are basic courtesies that define us as Bnei Torah.

Quoting the Rabbeinu Yona, Rabbi Bronspiegel began with the story of a Kohen, who used language involving the phrase "tail of a lizard" to describe a situation involving the lechem hapanim. He was subsequently investigated, and it was discovered that he was in fact pasul as a cohen. It is clear, he explained, that language is an indicator of what is inside; one can make accurate judgments based on the words he hears from a friend. One who, intentionally or unintentionally, uses language of "the street", indicates that he is not cognizant of his "special" status as a Ben Torah, and instead incorporates the surrounding society's culture into his own behavior. Rabbi Bronspiegel asserted that the tragedy of society today is that they have no busha - no sense of shame. Turning on the radio, he explained, we heard the Thomas hearings, complete with offensive language from supposed leaders of society. He maintains that it is something we should not tolerate from our friends. Only once we "sur mera" (avoid evil) can we then "asai tov" (do good).

The next scenario involved the choice of going to a shul that is "yeshivish" (described as having many shiurim, quiet, but anti-Zionist and against a Torah U'Maddah ideology) versus a Young Israel minyan (fewer shiurim, noisy, but with a world-view more in line with our own). Rabbi Shmidman suggested that in a shatiebel where there is mocking of Hesder, of Medinat Yisrael, of the kind of kippah one wears, and similar issues, one must call into question the appropriateness of his davening

there. Also, he stressed the importance of being sensitive to where one's wife wants to daven. If women are put behind a wall or completely hidden from the rest of the shul, women will end up davening in their kitchen or in a virtually separate, noisy room. Lastly, he noted, one must acknowledge that there are roles that a shul plays in our lives. For instance, when a Rabbi speaks, even if he is not the world's greatest orator, he might mention ideas, names and terms to which your children should be exposed. Interestingly, Rabbi Shmidman put forward the problem of leaving a "community" Orthodox shul en masse, in favor of a shatiebel. In the eyes of the public at large, and to the community who has built up the shul over many years, it hurts to see the "frum" crowd reject their shul because of someone, for instance who has an aliya without a perfect knowledge of Hebrew. This symbolic communal unity should play a role in our decisions.

Rabbi Bronspiegel, on the other hand, identifies with the yeshivish minyan. However, as he stressed repeatedly, the



Rabbi Shmidman addresses students in Rubin Shul

only criteria in choosing a shul should be its adherence to halacha and learning. Ideology should not play a role; either it's a makom kodesh (holy place) or not. Zionist or not, Torah U'Maddah or not, Chassidish or not, it is only important that it be a makom Torah. The shul must serve its dual purpose of Beit Midrash and Beit Knesset. Of course, he claims, there is a human element; if Sinat Eretz Yisrael (hatred of the Land of Israel) is a serious irritation every day, one should of course leave that minyan as it will effect his peace of mind during t'fila.

Senior Jeremy Leibowitz asked the panelists the following question: Some students return home and realize that their shul's mechtza is too low or that there may be other minor problems with the davening, even if it is just a "feeling." Is it a problem to leave your family's shul?

Rabbi Bronspiegel was quick to place great importance on the family unit and the problems with separating one's self from one's parents. Even if the davening is not perfect (it must still be halachic, as he pointed out), the fragmentation that many families experience upon the boys' reaching Bar Mitzva should be avoided if at all possible.

Rabbi Shmidman added that there is an element of pride involved for parents and community; to return from yeshiva and communicate a "holier-than-thou" feeling is to deny those who raised you the pride they deserve. Even if the rabbi is giving a shiur that may be too simple

for you, your attendance demonstrates that you are part of the community.

Rabbi Bronspiegel addressed the last question dramatically. In response to the question [paraphrased]: How does one deal with the opinions of a rav, when one's own learning, experience and opinion differs; he asserted that "to my knowledge the term 'Da'as Torah' is almost unknown in the YU community." (He explained that he prefers the old term "Emunat Chachamim.") Rabbi Bronspiegel cited cases (e.g. Mordechai) where g'dolim made questionable judgments and where listened to, and eventually proven to be astute. Today, he contends, we do not have that faith in the judgments in "grey areas" that may not necessarily reflect strict halachic laws. YU, he said is in an unfortunate predicament, as we can no longer look to the Rav for our hashkafa. As a result, many graduates go into the world without a solid approach to halacha. In a way, he said, yeshivot with extreme (strict or lax) hashkafot have it better than we do - at least they can relate to one view. It is simply important, maintains Rabbi Bronspiegel, to identify with a gadol hador, or a rebbe.

Rabbi Shmidman differentiated

between a Da'at Torah situation and the more common Halachic she'eilah. While on a halachic issue, one is required to be completely consistent in asking and accepting the word of his Rabbi, on a Da'at Torah issue there is more flexibility in solving the problem. He related to an instance in Israel where the Brisker Rav did not deal with a Jerusalem hotel putting in a mixed swimming pool, but fought tooth-and-nail to prevent a new Sanhedrin from being established. The first was a complicated situation with various approaches, while the second was completely anti-halacha. He stressed that the responsibility of the posek lies in determining the kind of she'eilah being asked and answering accordingly.

Rabbi Blau concluded the discussion with a brief explanation of the conditions under which people may paskin for themselves. He maintains that if one has learned the Gemara, the Rishonim, and all the elements that went into the Mishna Brura, and is confident that the rules apply to a particular situation, then one may decide. But the moment that a hint of doubt enters, rather than try to creatively derive the answer from a single sefer (Mishnah Brurah, Shulchan Aruch, etc.) we must go to someone who has the background to do so.

Summing up the session, Rabbi Blau noted that "It is interesting to listen to people with two different perspectives who are not actually arguing."

ELECTION TIME!

*On these pages you will find information on many of the candidates running for the YCSC Student Council of 1992-3. Reading this is only the first step, however. Please join us tonight for the Annual Candidates Debate in Rubin Shul at 10:30. There, you will hear provocative questions and discussions in order to help you choose the most qualified and the most **appropriate** man for the job.*

by David J. Kay,
President, Yeshiva College Student
Council 1991-92

With campaigns in full swing, it seems that everyone around here has student council elections on the brain. While it's bucket-loads of fun watching the candidates try to convince you that they are by far the best man for their position, it is far more important for you to understand what these positions actually involve. The following is my heavily biased account of the duties (practically, not constitutionally, speaking) of the YCSC Executive Council.

President - The decision maker. All things said and done, this is the major role of the highest ranking student leader. Some decisions are trivial and insignificant, others are imperative and crucial, but all fall on the lap of the president. He should be someone whose decisions you trust, because while ideally he will consult with others before taking action, this is not always practical. Additionally, in the role of student advocate, he should be someone in whom you have confidence to prevail when championing causes.

Vice-President, Liberal Arts - The events coordinator. Beyond the Chanuka Concert and student parking, the VP is responsible for assisting all class councils, clubs and societies in running events and programs. He should be energetic, know (or at least be able to instantly learn) the red tape of the University, and enjoy dealing with people. Ideally, the VP should complement those attributes which the President lacks, to ensure that various interests are not overlooked.

Vice-President, Business - The SSSBSA President. Yes, he does serve on the YCSC executive council, although a quick look at past yearbooks will show you that this seldom actually occurred. Thus, in addition to a vision for SSSB, he should also have in mind plans for improving the entire campus.

Treasurer - The accountant. I cannot stress the importance of this position enough; he is the backbone behind YCSC. He should be either a) someone who loves book-keeping, or b) someone sharp enough to never allow himself to fall behind. He should be able to not only track every penny YCSC has spent, but also give accurate fiscal projections as

new projects arise. Since much of YCSC's duties involve allocating funds, it is essential that these funds are monitored scrupulously.

Secretary - ???. No, those question marks are not typing errors. While this job traditionally meant maintaining the YCSC Calendar, this year that was shifted to the VP in order to reduce the bureaucracy involved in running events. As a result, this position remains essentially undefined. The secretary should therefore have a clear vision of precisely what he plans to do with the job, which should include picking up the slack on specific areas that he sees as lagging behind.

Pay attention to all the candidates' propaganda, but look beyond that to the people themselves to see who will really come through and who is just a big talker. With any luck, we'll vote not merely for five competent individuals, but five guys who will work well together as a team.

President of SSSBSA: Ofer Naor

by Joshua D. Goldberg

Political analysts predict a smooth ride for Ofer Naor in his race for SSSBSA President. Naor, an Accounting major, is running unopposed for the position; two possible competitors decided to run for other positions due to personal conflicts. He feels that running unopposed will be greatly beneficial to his position. Rather than shrugging off the sure-thing election, Naor promised to campaign anyway in an effort to reach out to SSSB students.

When asked about his qualifications for the job, Naor called attention to his experience within the system. His role as a member of the YC/SSSB Uptown Senate Task Force on SSSB and hands-on experience running the Accounting Department's tutoring service, coupled with a close friendship with this year's president, Laizer Kornwasser, has taught him how to interact with students and work within the organization of SSSB.

Plans for next year emphasize student involvement, including class representatives and a suggestions box. He stressed that interaction with a new dean, open to new ideas and activities, will be essential for a successful year.

YCSC Vice Presidents

by Stephen P. Davidson

In the race for YCSC Vice President, two candidates, Avraham Cohen and David Saffra, are vying for the office currently occupied by Steven Usdan. The candidates bring interesting ideas and varying levels of experience to the table.

Cohen, a JSS student majoring in Economics, said that "There are two big problems affecting YC and Stern. The first, dealing with YC alone, is the lack of unity between the 'yeshivish' YP group and the JSS 'less frum' crowd." Cohen suggests a program that would bridge the two crowds, such as "staging events that would draw all types of people, or having a Beit Midrash program with YP guys assisting others who need help." Cohen maintains that he is the right man to pull off this challenging plan because as he points out, "I am part of both crowds. I fit in with everyone."

The other problem Cohen points out is not new. "People at both YC and Stern should have at their disposal an outlet for socializing." Though he did not offer any solutions, Cohen says that if elected he would attempt to organize more events that would suit the tastes of all parts of the YU spectrum.

Cohen lists as experience involvement in the Blood Drive, Freshman Orientation, Purim Chagiga, Sefarim Sale, PPC, JSS Class Rep and the Chanuka Concert. These are positions, he explained, that are not impressive "resume" titles, but instead require serious dedication. Still, it is important to note that Cohen has no formal experience in student government, a fact that may or may not hinder his ability to function at peak efficiency for the student council. Cohen notes, "I have been at YU for a full four years and I really know the ins and outs of the system. I believe that I would be able to help others due to my own experience."

Saffra, a Political Science major in MYP, quickly points to his vast experience in all areas of student activity. "Having been involved in numerous school activities, [Saffra is currently a student Senator, president of the Poli Sci society, Business Manager for The Commentator, and Undersecretary General of the Yeshiva University Network Model United Nations] I have found that it is extremely important to have a clear and knowledgeable understanding of the activities and what goes into their organization. Student council elections offer the student body the opportunity to decide who will represent them - who will act as their voice. The proper role for a member of the student Council is to be aware of the wants and needs of the students and not his own personal agenda. Therefore, as an example, I would allow students to choose for themselves the performers for the Chanuka Concert and other activities."

This position is simply fundamental to club activity; the man who holds it is integral to student life, and it is worth your while to talk to the candidates so that you can make a responsible choice.

YCSC Treasurer

Avi Speiser - Accounting Major
Experience:

- Sophomore Class Treasurer
- Junior Class Treasurer
- Yacht Cruise
- Stern Shabbaton
- Jackie Mason Show
- Blind Date Night
- Undergraduate Security Committee
- Circulating Editor for the Guide
- Freshman Orientation Ticket Sales, YCDS

Bruce Tager - Accounting Major
Experience:

- Manager of Caf Mart
- Treasurer for Phi Beta Lambda
- Teacher's Asst., Stats for Bus.
- Student Tutor for Accounting
- YC Philanthropy Soc.
- YC Volleyball Team

YCSC PRESIDENT

A Fresh Approach: BARUCH HERZFELD

Baruch is perhaps our most unique candidate, his platform being, "I have had a lot a good ideas that people didn't take seriously because I look different. . .there's no fun on campus; it's dull and boring."

Some of you may remember Baruch from a large birthday party he threw for himself at El Batura, a local meringue establishment. He also worked on the Pickle Sale for the Environmental Society. On a more personal level, he has done advertising for his friends' campaigns in the past and he boasts a collection of 3,500 antique ties that he has accumulated from old men in his shul. He claims it is the biggest collection in Staten Island.

Herzfeld cites his creativity, demonstrated in his redecorating the bunks in Camp Moshava. In addition, he "advises" his friend Seth Gerszberg in various enterprises. Once, they sold rocks from a Moshav and claimed they were from the Berlin Wall, thereby making many people "very happy." They also built a house on the back of a truck on the way to Florida. His interest in archaeology and pottery led Baruch to work on his current project, painting a large pot in his room.

His campaign promise is to fulfill all the promises of his opponents. "After all," he explained, "they are all valid ideas and there is no reason not to take them."

When asked about a possible weakness, he admitted that he is in some ways unorganized, but he is not worried as the Treasurer will take care of finances, phone calls, and the like.

Perhaps his most dramatic plan is to fight for women to be allowed in the dormitories. "If people think they can control themselves they should have a chance. It's not a halachic problem." This issue will obviously stir up controversy, to say the least. Baruch added that he thinks that Rabbi Cheifetz acts too much like a "technocrat" rather than an adviser.

Baruch favors a multicolored poncho around campus, and sees nothing unusual about wearing what he wants. Most of his clothes are multi-purposed, he noted.



Incensed:

CAREY SCHREIBER

He's sick and tired of students being pushed around, and he's going to put a stop to it. So claims Carey Schreiber, a JSS/YC Jewish Studies/Economics major from Phoenix, Arizona. Schreiber believes that the administration has too long taken advantage of students, rudely treating them as pawns that can be manipulated without regard for their priorities and preferences. Complaints generally go unheeded, he maintains, and protests and boycotts are too rare. Schreiber is quick to point out that he is not blindly militant, but intent on carefully picking his fights and handling them well.

Responding to questions regarding possible election complications due to the fact that he is a student in JSS, Schreiber explained that this point is, for all intents and purposes, irrelevant. The bottom line is that this is an Orthodox Yeshiva and just as fundamentally, a college. He sees his goal as satisfying the majority of students rather than himself. YU is small enough, he says, that it is not difficult to pick up on communal concerns and to act on them. In addition, he believes that opinion polls like the annual Commentator poll should be conducted much more frequently.

Campaign promises?

- More printers in the computer room
- Bring students to Schottenstein, and use the building to its fullest potential
- Trying to get a student on the YU decision-making Boards and Committees
- Expansion of the Beit Midrash
- Enhancing the Shabbat experience for the many people who stay on campus
- Limiting access to dorm rooms - too many people, YU employees and others, have keys to rooms.

Schreiber has experience on the YC/SSSB Senate as well as on the University Security Committee and the recent Ta'anit Esther program. In addition, as vice president of the Swim Club, he is involved in running swimming intramurals. When asked about the weak track record of the Swim Club, Schreiber responded that an activity like this in the new facility must be handled in a thorough and organized manner -- and may take some time.

Carey could technically graduate in January and his work load will accordingly belight; an important factor for a YCSC president. While his aggressive approach may be a positive attribute, Schreiber will have to put some of that passion in check if he wins the election. He expressed an understanding that he may have to temper his initial reactions before acting, and is confident he can do so.



YCSC PRESIDENT

Interviews by Jay Bailey

Intense:

AVI STEINLAUF

Direct, goal-oriented pragmatism is Avi Steinlauf's approach to the YCSC presidency. He believes in taking the existing YCSC framework and instilling it with new enthusiasm and pride. If elected, his first move will be to sit down with the current YCSC Board to analyze the past year's work in order to improve on it.

Having spent his first semester at school in London, this MYP/YC/Economics/History major gained unique experience and perspective that may help him to develop programs next year. On the other hand, some have wondered whether his absence from campus may have left him slightly distant from situations like the Revel controversy and student reactions. Steinlauf explained that he kept in contact with campus events through communication with friends and newspapers sent to him.

One of Steinlauf's priorities is to rework YCSC meetings. While David Kay began pre-meeting publicity, students generally did not take part in the meetings. Steinlauf wants to spark the kind of enthusiasm that, in the early 80's, brought students in the hundreds to YCSC meetings. At these meetings, they announced agendas and upcoming events, and asked for advice on policies and programs. Steinlauf also plans to draw up a Club Calendar at the beginning of the year, so that Clubs will have a set schedule for activities from the start.

His plans for next year include:

- Vending machines in Muss Hall
- Moving the big screen TV to the Morg basement video room and possibly adding a VCR. Morg Mart would have a feeder and Morg Lounge would be quieter for engagement parties and studying. Additionally, he wants to move video games to a room in Rubin basement, increasing YCSC's revenue by up to 10%.
- Developing closer ties with the Senate with the help of The Commentator

Steinlauf is impressed by YCSC's handling of the budget this year. They were careful with spending; clubs got money based only on performance. He also noted that they unofficially eliminated the Secretary position, thereby losing one quarter of the board.

This will be Steinlauf's fourth year on campus. He worked on the Senate, participating on Senate task forces dealing with issues like attendance and student/teacher relations. He played on the Volleyball team for three years, two of them as captain, and received a trophy from the coach. Last year he served as the Guide's Associate Editor, helping to produce the book on a deadline of just three weeks.

He has few academic requirements left next year and plans to take a minimum number of classes so that he can dedicate his time to YCSC.

Regarding the Administration, he feels that students have gained a lot of respect, particularly on the Revel issue. He understands that students have to deal with administrators, but this should not become the focus of our activities. He is not looking for a fight, but will fight tooth and nail if necessary.



CLASS COUNCILS

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David Perl

Vice President:
Noam J. Cohen
David Cohen
Teddy Perlman

Secretary/Treasurer:
Joshua Dobin

Junior Class...

President:
Scott Goldberg
Nossional Kleinfeldt
Daniel Gelbtuch

Vice President:
Seth Cohen

Secretary/Treasurer:
Jeff Wilde

Sophomore Class...

President:
Michael Kupferman

Vice President:
Avi Morgan
Saul Mond

Secretary/Treas.
Eli Mond

Lamm Delivers Yahrtzeit Shiur to Capacity Crowd, Discusses Anger

by Michael Eisenberg



Making thinly veiled allusions to student protests against the restructuring of the Bernard Revel Graduate School, President Norman Lamm delivered his annual shiur commemorating the yahrtzeit of Rabbi Yitzchak Elchanan Spector and Dr. Samuel Belkin, entitled, "Anger and its Correlates in Halacha and Mussar of Judaism," to the Rabbinic Alumni and student body.

Speaking to a capacity crowd in the Main Beit Midrash, Lamm discussed the sugya in Masechet Shabbat dealing with one who rends his garment out of grief or anger on shabbat. He offered three alternate interpretations to explain Maimonides' seeming omission of the Gemara's final answer that one who rends his garment out of anger is considered to be an idol worshipper.

Upon concluding his halachic analysis of the sugya, Rabbi Lamm expounded on the ethical underpinnings of the character trait, anger. Quoting

from Maimonides' Hilchot De'ot, Lamm explained that anger is one of the two character traits on which one does not take the middle road, but rather distances himself from it greatly. Further, he pointed to the midrashic exegesis of the serpent, stating that one much like the serpent often couches his egotistically and repugnant anger in idealism and "noble causes." Commenting on the mussar section of the shiur, YC senior and first year semicha student Simcha Axelrod stated, "I thought it was very skillfully done. He didn't mention Revel once yet he mentioned it a thousand times."

President of the Rabbinic Alumni, Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig stated that "the average member of the Rabbinic Alumni found it [the shiur] very edifying and food for thought."

expanding air-time from 8 hours daily to 24 hour programming, and the possibility of FCC licensing.

WYUR

continued from p. 5

special gimmicks they would utilize to make their shows more interesting.

On March 10th, board members approached the YU alumni President's Circle in the hope of procuring money for the purchase of additional necessary equipment. The President's Circle has yet to respond. Mark Weissman, stated that "The Student Council has cut our budget in half this year and we have to make this station a reason to get it back where it was."

WYUR would still like to purchase a new CD player with a five-CD changer, an advance which would ease the deejay's job substantially, and a new multi-line telephone system. "All we want," said Weissman, "is to make this a full-fledged college radio station which will be taken seriously."

Long range goals of the station include

Meal Plan

continued from p.1

to eliminate the vending machines at SCW for the summer months, leaving Azrieli students with no on-campus food services. Also tabled were the elimination of Sunday meals and weekday breakfasts, pending further investigation.

Recommendations of this Subcommittee still must be approved by the University's Board of Trustees.

"Keep the mandatory meal plan at \$1,000 and compete like any other business for the remaining market share," maintains Kornwasser. "Let the students decide where they want to spend their money!"

Students Hear from Executives at SSSB Trustees Forum

by Joel Haber

Between 50 and 60 students attended the March 10th inaugural SSSB Trustees Forum hosted by Josh Weston, chairman and C.O.O. of Automatic Data Processing. Speakers included Alair Townshend, publisher of Crain's New York Business, Alan Belzer, president and C.E.O. of Allied-Signal Corporation, and Sy Syms, who made a special guest appearance. The goal of the program was to give students the opportunity to learn about various fields from insiders; the speakers discussed their particular companies and respective industries.

Ms. Townshend, a former deputy mayor of New York City under Ed Koch, entered the publishing field with no prior experience. Crain's had been looking for someone with a strong management track record as well as an individual who was "New York-minded." They wanted their publisher to be able to sell New York as a "dandy place to do business." She noted that her job as a publisher focuses primarily on the business side of the periodical without too much emphasis on the editorial side. Nevertheless, she works closely with the editor to create the magazine's image.

Townshend discussed the relative benefits of various careers in publishing, focusing on jobs in sales, marketing/promotion, and circulation. She pointed out the excellent opportunities for women in sales as well as the fact that it is a good way to "get a foot into the door" of the industry.

The publishing industry has changed in recent years, according to Townshend. She noted a rise of niche publications aimed at more specific "target audiences." Townshend attributed this to the increase of new ad mechanisms which give advertisers more options and therefore make it tougher for print, radio, and television to attract advertisements.

Mr. Belzer began by citing the overwhelming success his company has consistently enjoyed as a chemical

producer. Allied-Signal was #36 on this year's Fortune 500, had sales of \$12 billion, and earnings from continuing operations of \$342 million. The company's three major fields are aerospace, automotive, and engineered materials (industrial chemicals).

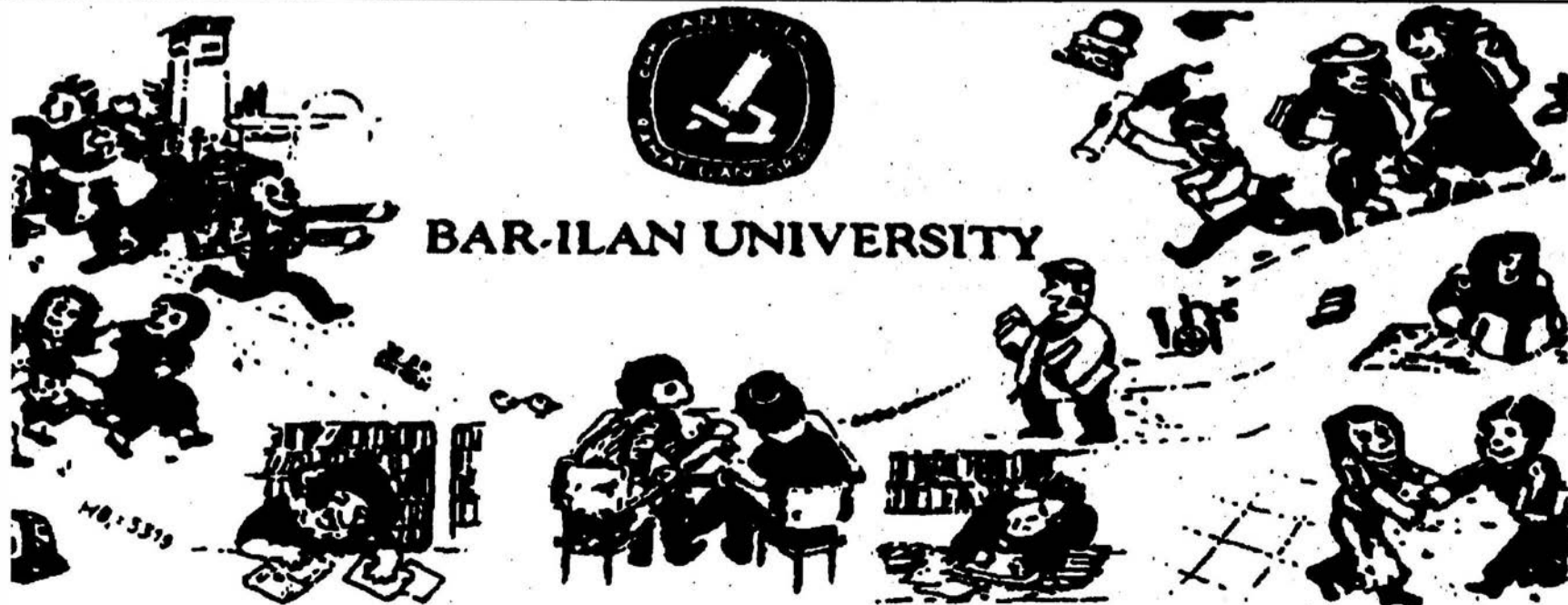
Belzer stressed Total Quality Management (TQM) as the path to success in business. This includes "excellence as a way of life," the supremacy of the customer, continuous improvement, and the effort to involve every employee in the decision-making process as much as possible. He emphasized commitment, passion, aggressiveness, and maintenance of contemporary skills as crucial for success in business.

Mr. Weston, the forum's host, told the students that his experience in the mail order business gave him insight which helped him in ADP's computer payroll business. In terms of strategy, he felt that "you must believe you can be number one" and then earn that distinction. He stressed the importance of long-term client relationships with an ongoing revenue stream.

All of the speakers felt that one should not be afraid to switch companies or careers after a few years, as did Townshend and Weston. They felt that one should also examine the flexibility which any job offers.

The speakers also said that they considered experience more important than salary in choosing a first job. Mr. Syms, a YU Board member, felt that monetary concerns should not hold much weight in decisions regarding first jobs and Belzer added that the "money will take care of itself."

In the next forum, on April 6th, Weston will host Michael Goldstein, vice chairman of Toys "R" Us, Robert Levenson, senior executive vice president and C.O.O. of Medco Containment Services, and Gordon O'Brien, senior vice president of Human Resources for Schering-Plough Corporation.



SSSB Emergency Meeting

by Joel Haber

Due to overwhelmingly poor job placement among graduating seniors, the Sy Syms Placement Office held an "Emergency Meeting" on Thursday March 26, during Club Hour. While the SSSB administration maintained that the meeting was merely called to stress the importance of proper preparation in the job search, many students felt that the administration was "blaming" the students for the low rate of hirings.

SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll claims the meeting was called to bolster student morale and out of concern "that enough of the students were not taking their placement as seriously as they should." Initial complaints related to certain people arriving late for interviews, coming unprepared, or only preparing at the last minute. Recruiter feedback was not as positive as it had been in previous years, striking an alarm within the Sy Syms Administration "vis a vis the business community." Jaskoll felt that it could have a negative impact on the "perceived nature of the school" and could therefore affect those students who were taking their job search seriously. He urged people who are not serious not to "go through the motions."

Jaskoll also pointed out that many students were not doing any legwork on their own, but were merely relying on the Placement Office. Many, he claimed, do not distribute their own resumes and do not check newspaper classified sections for job offerings. He added that others were turning down jobs for "less important factors" such as a slightly lower salary. He asserted that in these difficult economic times people had to be a bit less selective.

Many students, however, felt unwarranted blame was being levied on them. Although some students may not be carrying on the job search effectively, most contend that they are, and point the finger at the SSSB administration. One major complaint centered on the issue of the Placement Office serving liberal arts majors. Since those YC students with lighter schedules may

have higher GPAs, they automatically have better chances for success.

Jaskoll, however, replied that when the SSSB Placement Office was established it "didn't make sense to have two offices sending resumes to the same people." He added that there is nothing wrong with a liberal arts major pursuing a career in business. Nonetheless, he reassured the SSSB students that "They don't pick people just by GPA." More important to the firms, he alleged, are a student's practical knowledge and interviewing skills.

Another student charge was that the school is not utilizing its alumni list to the fullest potential. Students alleged that alumni were only being contacted about jobs in their specific departments. Instead, many students suggest, alumni should be asked to make contacts throughout their firms.

Jaskoll claimed that alumni are not usually in a position to hire. Also, the Administration felt that the constant prodding of alumni for job placement could hurt their utility for fund-raising. However, he added, the office follows up, both in writing and over the phone, on all leads regarding an alumnus who may want to help.

To reassure students who were taking their job search seriously, Jaskoll pointed out that as firms make their decisions later and later each year, people have been receiving offers later and later. He also suggested that students make themselves more visible around the Placement Office, update their resumes, and let the office know that they are available.

He apologized for the perception of the meeting as an accusation and admitted that he might have come down too hard. However, Jaskoll added, the timing was right, coming just before Pesach. He suggested that over the holiday vacation students complete a cover letter, respond to ads in the newspaper, and go on informational interviews. He additionally advised "networking" wherever a student spends his vacation. "The lobby of the Laromme is a great place to network [over Pesach vacation]," said Jaskoll.

Finally, Jaskoll stated that SSSB had 80% placement last year while many other schools were happy to get 30%. "You must be in the right frame of mind to be successful. If you are not in this frame of mind, deactivate yourself and wait until you are."

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To all Undergraduate Students:

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Open Letter Regarding the New Revel Program

To the Administration,

far the most popular major in Revel, should be our top priority to make

I think that I can safely speak on appealing to students. By simply behalf of the entire Revel student body allowing Dr. Berger to teach one more in expressing my gratitude for the course a semester, as is done now, the current plan to keep Revel open in an problem would be greatly alleviated. educationally viable way. However, While the above problem would be one facet of the current plan remains solved regardless of the elective given seriously flawed, namely, Medieval by Berger, guided readings would be Jewish History. From what I understand, particularly enticing. These courses are Dr. Soloveitchik will be giving four currently far and above the most popular courses, and Dr. Berger two, over an courses in Revel. Beyond their entire two semester year. However, popularity, I can speak from personal two of Soloveitchik's courses and one of experience, that they are also among Berger's will be survey courses and Revel's most rewarding courses. Surely therefore will remain constant from year we all realize that education isn't limited to year. Consequently, a History Masters to the time in the classroom. These candidate will be limited to the choice of courses give students the opportunity three electives per year.

I think it is fairly clear how limiting and to cover these areas extensively, this is for students. Even assuming that Considering how limited the course a student takes every elective offered, it selection will otherwise be, guided would still take a year and a half for this readings open entire new vistas of requirement alone. This problem is choices.

exacerbated for Doctoral students who I'll end with the sincere hope that all must take many more electives, but are will realize that Revel's educational goals left with the same limited choices, are completely compatible with students Furthermore, beyond the limitations of needs the course offerings, a student is forced to take a healthy diet of Soloveitchik courses. While Professor Soloveitchik is a first-rate and world class professor, students would understandably feel hemmed-in by such a restriction. Surely Medieval Jewish History, which is by

Yaakov Blau

BRGS '93

Revel Saved

continued from page 1

courses per semester totaling thirty-two. However, the present administration plan envisions fourteen courses per semester plus an additional four courses to be given during the summer in conjunction with the Harry Fischel School. Task Force Co-Chairman Dr. Sid Leiman commented, "It's a little below what the Task Force wanted as a minimalist position but we live in a world of compromise. The total package, the new Board and a dean that everyone respects, is welcome. We need to build from here."

A copy of the Comparative Schedule of Expenditures for BRGS, prepared by the Office of Business Affairs and obtained by The Commentator, elaborates on and lays out the 28 course plan dubbed the "Hyman Plan", and a sixteen course plan entitled the "Brenner Plan." The schedule indicates that the "Hyman Plan" will cost \$63,101 more than the "Brenner Plan," will employ a more diverse array of faculty and will offer a wider range of courses.

The continued appointment of adjunct faculty became a central issue at the final student protest which took place a week before the Board's decision. Students maintained that the adjuncts were an integral part of an academically viable BRGS and that many of the most popular courses were taught by adjuncts. Even in the wake of the Board's decision, YC Freshman Avi Shmidman, who plans to attend Revel, was still skeptical. "The Administration must be closely monitored. There have been no promises

on faculty members like Dr. Berger and Dr. Leiman. These issues must be resolved in order to attract students."

According to the University's press release other highlights of the "restructuring plan" include the offering of Doctoral (PhD) programs in "three sub-fields -- Medieval Jewish History, Medieval Jewish Philosophy, and Bible." Additionally, "the entire Jewish Studies faculty will be available to support the program of the graduate school."

Reactions

Administration, faculty and student reaction to the decision was very positive. The University statement states, "the restructuring plan, said Dr. Lamm, represents a 'new beginning' for the Revel School, one that will enable the institution to be attractive to students and financially responsible, while maintaining its long-recognized academic leadership and integrity." Commenting on the apparent effectiveness of student demonstrations Novetsky said, "This decision also constitutes an implicit recognition of student resolve and respect for our right to participate in shaping the future of our institution. It is our firm belief that in the future, cooperation can replace confrontation and that the Administration and student body will be able to work together for the betterment of Yeshiva University." Revel professor Dr. Richard Steiner hopes that the recent uproar will attract more students. "Now that Revel is back in business, I hope that many undergraduates will be curious enough to find out what the fuss was all about."

An interview with Dr. Hyman will appear in next issue.

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Sy Syms Visits JJC

YU Business School board member Sy Syms visited the uptown campus on March 23 for a tour of the Caf Store and Morg Mart. Afterward, Mr. Syms talked with the SSSB presidents as well the managers of the two stores and Stern College's Milner's Market; they discussed possible ways to improve sales and service for the three businesses. Laizer Kornwasser, president of SSSB, expressed gratitude and hopes that Mr. Syms will reciprocate and invite SSSB students for a tour of his stores and an explanation of his company's techniques.

Chagiga

continued from p.5

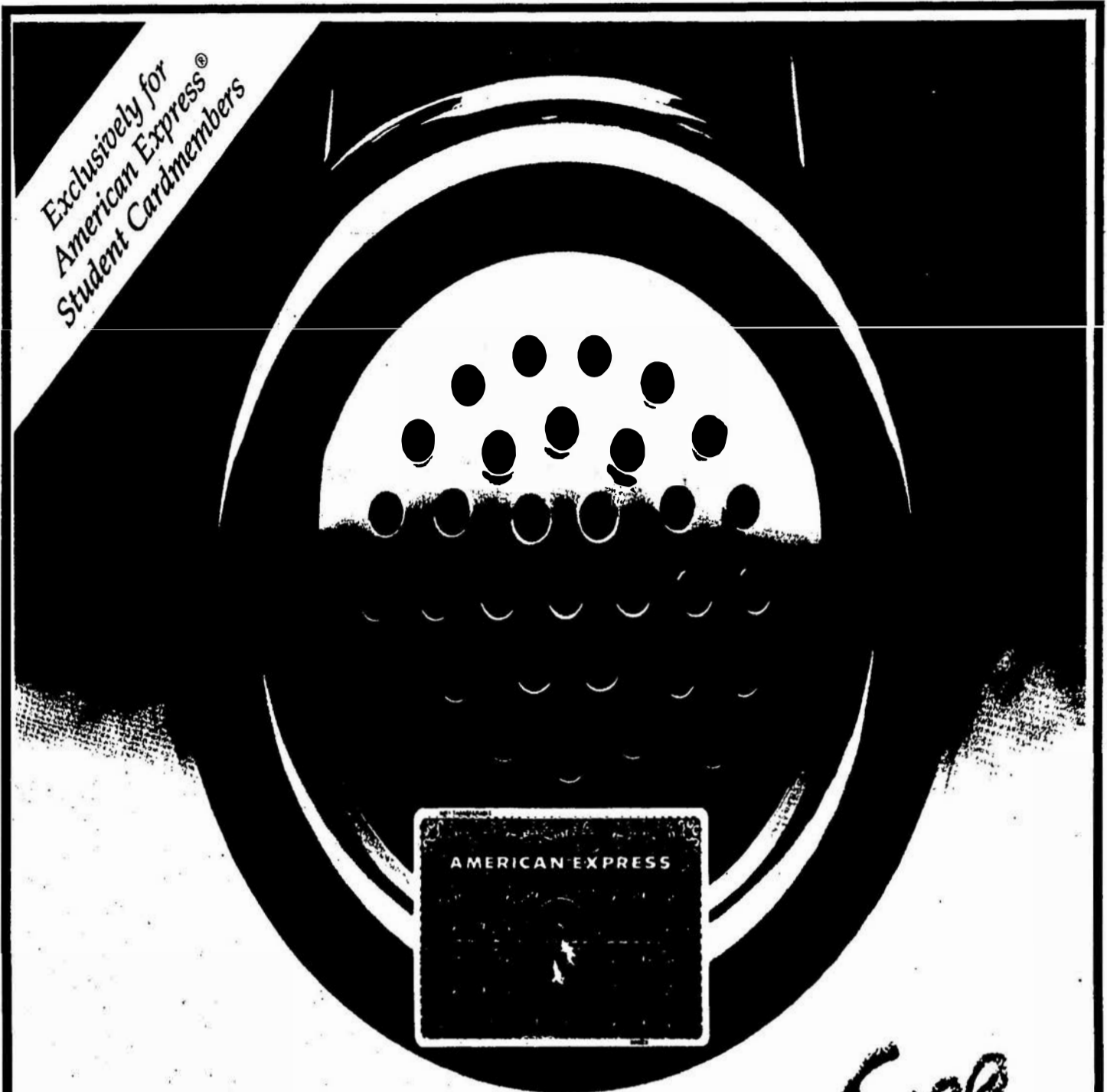
Shea Farkas, president of SOY, felt that the Chagiga was "a great success, adding to the ruach and feelings of the day's events." Nevertheless, Farkas, who is also an EMT, expressed concern that the overcrowded Beit Midrash posed a serious safety hazard. Although no one was seriously injured this year, Farkas noted that in the past some people had to be brought to the hospital for injuries sustained due to the overcrowding. Regarding the suggested move to Belfer Commons, Farkas responded that "there's a good case to be made both ways, but for next year I would recommend moving to Belfer because safety has to supersede sentimentality."

The overcrowding was especially severe for the women, who had less space to begin with. Since YU policy is to not let students from Stern into Rubin or Morgenstern Halls on the night of the Chagiga, women who wanted to leave the Beit Midrash had to stay in the equally crowded refreshment and coat rooms or go outside in the ongoing snowstorm. Susan Schlusel, president of SCWSC, described the crowded Beit Midrash as "unbearable," complaining that "there was no room to dance." Schlusel hoped that the Chagiga would be moved to Belfer next year.

Faith Chudnoff, President of TAC, disagreed, saying, "I'd rather be a little crowded in the Beit Midrash than move to Belfer; it would take away from the spirit of the Chagiga."

Rabbi Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani, explained that "we have a lot of factors to balance," regarding the debate over whether to relocate the Chagiga to Belfer. "We don't want to lose the atmosphere of the Beis Medrash," said Rabbi Blau, noting that "the Beis Medrash represents the essence of the Yeshiva." On the other hand, he admitted that if it becomes physically impossible to keep the Chagiga in the Beit Midrash, a move to Belfer might be necessary. Rabbi Blau stressed that since the Chagiga is an SOY event, students themselves must make the ultimate decision regarding the crowding problem. As an alternative to moving to Belfer, Rabbi Blau offered the possibility that "it may be the time to evaluate if the women should have their own Chagiga at Stern."

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Macs End Season on a Downer

by Eric Melzer

On March 2, the Yeshiva Macs played their final contest of the 1991-92 season versus the N.Y.U. Violets at Madison Square Garden. The game marked the first time that Yeshiva played at the "new"

Madison Square Garden on Thirty-Third Street. The Macs had not played at Madison Square Garden since 1957 when they played at the "old" Garden on Fiftieth Street.

Twenty-five hundred fans attended the game, held prior to a Big East Conference

matchup between the St. John's Redmen and the Georgetown Hoyas. The Macs knew that they were clearly facing an uphill battle against a dominant opponent. Earlier that day, the N.C.A.A. had invited N.Y.U. to their annual Division Three Tournament by virtue of N.Y.U.'s outstanding 23-3 record.

As expected, N.Y.U. won handily 84-47, but it was reasonably close after the first

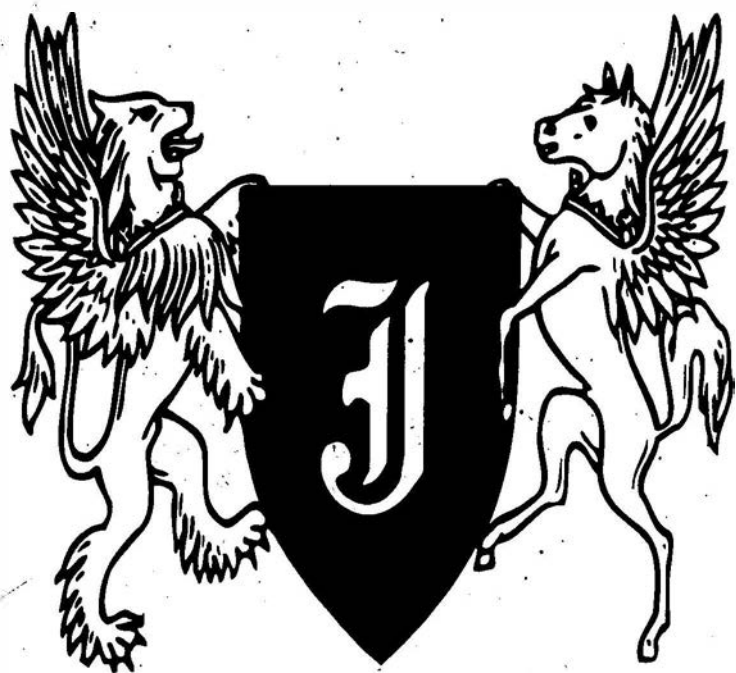
half. Miko Danan (21 points) hit a long-range three pointer at the buzzer to cut the Violet lead to fourteen (37-23). After the break, however, N.Y.U. displayed its overwhelming size and strength and coasted to victory.

At halftime, Madison Square Garden honored legendary Yeshiva coach Bernard "Red" Sarachek on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the YU game at Madison Square Garden. Most of the members of the 1957 team, known as the Mighty Mites, were present and came on to the court to honor their former coach. Coach Sarachek, however, was not present due to illness.

Despite this landmark event, many students were quite upset regarding the game at Madison Square Garden. Some complained that certain faculty members actually discouraged their attendance at the game since tipoff was at 5 P.M. (during class). Others expressed their displeasure at the Garden itself. The Garden security forbade students from sitting at courtside during the Yeshiva-N.Y.U. game despite the fact that almost all of the seats were empty. Students were even threatened by Security Guards that they would be ejected from

the arena if they persisted in attempting to sit closer to the court. A few students even felt that the Security Guards acted in a discriminatory fashion, allowing N.Y.U. students to sit at courtside, while forcing Yeshiva students to sit in the Third Promenade, even though both Yeshiva and N.Y.U. students held Third Promenade tickets.

The Macs finished the season at 13-10. The leading scorer by points was Miko Danan (434) and by average, it was Daniel Aaron (20.4). Dovid Cohen led the team with assists, averaging 5.2 per game, while Daniel Aaron led in field goal percentage (58.7%) while Miko Danan bested all in 3-point field goals made (48). The Macs outscored everyone by 0.8 points but were outrebounded by 7.4 rebounds. These figures tend to indicate a season of mediocrity, but in light of the multitude of injuries, it was a reasonably solid season. The Macs thank the 11,705 fans who attended the games this year, both at home and on the road. The 1992-3 season looks very promising, especially because the Macs are only losing two players: Elisha Rothman and Seth Cohen.



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Senate Update

Many students at YU seem to know very little about the YC/SSSB Uptown Senate and what it has accomplished this year. Regrettably, it took a recent article in The Commentator to give students their first inkling that a Senate even existed. However, the Senate is an extremely important institution at YU; it is the only forum where faculty, students, and administrators sit together biweekly to discuss academic issues.

The Senate has already discussed next year's undergraduate academic calendar and a motion was passed urging an earlier start to the school year. While any motions the Senate makes are non-binding on the administration, they are usually closely adhered to. Other calendar options which have been debated include a rescheduling of the Spring 1993 final schedule to allow vacation on Memorial Day, an earlier graduation date, and the completion of Spring finals before Shavuot.

Another issue which has been discussed by the Senate is the improvement of student/faculty interaction. A Task Force has been established to investigate the issue, and they have drafted letters to YCSC clubs and YU faculty urging closer faculty involvement with student events. Possible options for the future include dinners, meetings of all students and faculty within a given major, and the establishment of faculty

interaction with students as a precondition for tenure.

This year's Senate has made a number of major changes which will hopefully bode well for the future. In the past, the Senate has spent two to four meetings planning an agenda for the year. This year, however, the Senate has voted on a rolling agenda. In simple terms, this year's agenda will carry over to next year. A number of Task Forces have been established which will continue to function into next year. These include task forces on: the English composition requirement; a reevaluation of the number of credits granted for APs, CLEPs, Israel and transfer credits; the SSSB curriculum.

In an effort to achieve greater recognition on campus, the Senate has made attempts to advertise its meetings. Joshua Pollack, secretary of the Senate, has posted minutes on every floor of the dorms within a week after the most recent meeting. Additionally, he has established a space on the Yeshiva College bulletin board specifically reserved for the Senate. A list of all senators, as well as the minutes of the most recent meeting, has been posted in this space. Says Pollack, "It is extremely important for students to know what is going on at YU. The Senate is a critical forum for debate, and students must know what is discussed in its meetings."

YESHIVA SPORTS



YU Invites Eight High Schools to Basketball Tourney

by Eric Melzer

Yeshiva University hosted its first annual Bernard "Red" Sarachek Basketball Tournament last weekend from Thursday March 26th through Monday March 30th. The tournament was run by the YU Office of Admissions and the YU Athletic Department. Three teams from the Metropolitan area and five teams from other parts of the country participated in the weekend festivities. From New York, MTA, HAFTR, and Ramaz attended, while the out of town schools included YULA, Valley Torah of Los Angeles, Hillel of North Miami Beach, Hebrew Academy of Montreal, and Block Yeshiva High School of St. Louis.

Most of the tournament was sponsored by a majority owner of the New Jersey Nets, who is a parent of an MTA student. At the conclusion of the tournament, the players and coaches on all eight teams were given complementary tickets for the New Jersey Nets versus the San Antonio Spurs at the Meadowlands Arena. "It's a really

special thing because we don't even have a professional team in St. Louis," remarked Aaron Topper, a forward from Block Yeshiva High School of St. Louis.

Each of the eight teams played four games in the Max Stern Athletic Center in the five tournament days. MTA defeated HAFTR in the tournament finals, 45-43 as MTA Captain Barry Aranoff connected from eight feet with two seconds remaining in the game.

Sunday March 29th marked the tournament's real high point. After the second basketball game, Macs Basketball Coach and Tournament Coordinator Jonathan Halperth held a basketball clinic together with Red Sarachek for the members of all eight teams. In the evening, the tournament held a banquet. The keynote speakers were Lou Carneseca, Men's Basketball Coach of the St. John's Redmen, and Willis Reed, Hall of Famer and General Manager of the New Jersey Nets.

The tournament was named for Bernard "Red" Sarachek, former coach of the Yeshiva Macs who were then known as the Mighty Mites. Sarachek was recently inducted into the New York Basketball Hall of Fame.

Volleyball Macs Try a New Approach: Winning

The 1992 Volleyball Macs did something that no previous YU volleyball team had been able to do: win matches. With a strong starting lineup and a solid bench, the Macs were able to tie the school record for team victories with six.

The Macs' success this season can be attributed to many factors. First, the Macs changed their defensive strategy. They had only two players returning serves, as opposed to the usual six. This enabled Coach Omar Vargas to utilize his strongest defensive players, Jeremy Bandler and Avi Steinlauf more frequently. Also, the team as a whole had a lot of playing experience. Many of

the players were second or third year veterans. Finally, the Macs were dedicated. They played each game with all of their heart and gave 100% effort in whatever they did.

Graduating seniors who will be sorely missed next year include Zevi Adler, Shimon Blumenfeld, Steven Dyckman, and Yitz Fixler. All four of these players were an integral part in the success of the team. The future still looks bright as Jeremy Bandler, Neil Bromberg, Avi Steinlauf, and Bruce Tager will all be returning. With this solid nucleus, and with the improvement of this year's rookies, the team should be able to continue its new-found success.

Tennis Team Holds its Own

by Andrew Sicklick

Behind the leadership of Coach Robert Wind and Captains David Boim and Brian Kalb, the YC tennis team opened the season with an exciting victory over Pratt Institute. After Victor Boletsky, Avi Baumol, and Ari Pinchot won their singles matches, YU won two doubles matches, tying the meet at four games apiece. The tie-breaking match ended with a resounding doubles victory by Ari Zaionz and Victor Boletsky.

The following week, Yeshiva played N.Y. Polytech without two of their top players. Unfortunately, these players were greatly missed and Boim handed YU its only singles win. The overall score was an upsetting 6-3 loss.

Yeshiva's match against New Jersey Tech was postponed due to inclement

weather. On March 30th, Yeshiva trounced SUNY Maritime by a score of 8-1. The "Captain Duo" asserted themselves as the elite players in the league and easily won their doubles match. Kalb also posted a dominating straight set victory. Rookie sensation Jordan "Bam Bam" Sudberg cruised through his debut match in straight sets.

On April 1st, Yeshiva made Mt. St. Vincent into April Fools and shut them out in six quick games before rain suspended play.

To date, YU Tennis has a respectable 3-1 record. Captain Kalb feels that "This team has much talent and potential. Unfortunately, our most difficult competition has been beating the LSAT's and YU midterms." Yeshiva hopes to continue its success against Bard College on April 5.

Without a Golf Course, Golf Team Not Quite Up to Par

The YU Golf Team opened its season on March 31st. After several months of occasional practices at the Midtown Golf Center, the team finally played outdoors. N.Y.U. hosted Mercy College and Yeshiva at the Passaic Public Golf Course in Rivervale, New Jersey.

Eight members of the Yeshiva team competed in the tournament and the four best scores counted. Unfortunately, Yeshiva was the only team that had not practiced on a golf course, and the team was extremely rusty. Mercy did not live up to its name and snatched a victory, generating a modest third place finish for Yeshiva. All three teams played very poorly due to the horrid conditions of

the course. Yeshiva shrugged off the inflated scores as an aberration and the players hope to perform up to par in future tournaments. Team member Josh Aaron instructed the team to "forget about the loss and show up for real golf next Tuesday." YU will play Wagner on April 7th and 9th, and Merchant Marine on April 14th.

The four best scores for YU were posted by Captain Craig Kornbluth, Ari Forinan, Andrew Sicklick, and Josh Aaron. The other four participants were Brian Kardon, Donny Frenkel, Joseph Selesny, and Jerry Rozenberg. Kornbluth had the third best score of all golfers with a 91.

Sabermen Lead Fencers

by Avi Golden

With a paltry 2-9 record, the YU Taubermen did not appear to have a tremendous year. However, after examining their individual scores it is evident that this season produced many outstanding fencers.

David J. Kay led all sabermen, ending his final season on the team with a 23-9 record. Second saberman Gershom Kutleroff joined Kay in not only being invited to the Northeast Regional NCAA Fencing Championships, but also in being named to the 1992 Independent Athletic Conference All-Star Fencing Team. Completing the saber squad is rookie Elliot Cohen. Never having fenced before, Cohen finished with a strong 16-16 record, in spite of fencing the second half of the season with a

broken hand. Together, the Saber Squad went 9-2, one of the best records in the entire region.

Although the foil squad started the year out strongly, they ended on a fairly weak note. After losing their top fencer, Jason Bernath, midway through the season, the squad faced an uphill battle. Co-Captains Adam Balkany and Lee Hamer were assisted by Shai Canaan and Danny Faizakoff, who won the last bout of the season.

Epee, while ending the season with a weak record, promises great achievements for next season from its all-rookie squad. Adam Anhang and Evan Pokroy both started slowly, but finished with respectable meet records. Contributing to the squad, Jason Lacher should perform well in next year's meets.

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