

The Commentator

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Some of the Cafeteria's new and improved beverage dispensers

Cafeteria Discussions Yield Compromises

by Sender Cohen

Following extensive meetings between student leaders and the Food Services Administration (FSA), the cafeteria has instituted several changes in food service and prices for the new year. Despite vigorous student opposition, the cost of the mandatory meal plan rose to \$1,300 for the current academic year. However, the Administration acted in concert with student leaders to initiate positive changes in service. Additionally, the FSA is currently examining various options for improving cafeteria quality on Shabbat.

Upon entering the cafeteria this year, many students grumbled about longer lines, increased prices, a lack of soda machines, and a stripped down version of last year's sandwiches.

Director of Food Services, Jake Lieberman, explained his decision to discontinue use of the bulky styrofoam and plastic sandwich containers, claiming that they were "unnecessarily wasteful." Moreover, he said that by stripping sandwiches of the packaging and condiments, the cafeteria was able to reduce prices while adding to the size of the sandwich.

YCSC President Avi Steinlauf pointed out that the removal of the soda machines from the cafeteria is also for the benefit of the students. While a sixteen ounce bottle was one dollar last year, this year, a twenty-two ounce fountain beverage costs the same price. Furthermore, the cost of a sixteen ounce drink has been reduced to seventy-five cents.

Although a majority of food prices rose, Steinlauf pointed out that part of the increase is simply the result of inflation. In fact, the FSA had intended to raise prices to levels

significantly higher than what students are now paying, but their original proposal was rejected by the University's Executive Council Subcommittee on Food Services.

The FSA initially defended the proposed price increases with a formula which they used to determine the intended price hikes. They explained that only 30% of the price of an item represents the cost of the food used in that product; the remaining 70% covers the cafeteria's overhead. The resulting price, according to Food Services, is the selling price needed to keep the cafeteria out of the red. However, the Executive Council and student leaders found these prices excessive.

The Executive Council then authorized the Food Services Subcommittee to meet with student leaders and arrive at more reasonable prices. During a four hour meeting held two weeks ago, members of YCSC and the Student Food Services Committee negotiated prices down to their current levels. The student leaders were quite satisfied with the results of the meeting. Student Food Services Committee member Danny Faizakoff stated that he is "very pleased with the current relationship between Food Services and students, and that they are willing to work closely with us."

The FSA has also been working with students to resolve the seemingly insolvable problem of the shabbat meal plan. On the one hand, the cafeteria incurs a tremendous loss of money from Shabbat meals, while on the other hand, they endeavor to keep prices low enough to make Shabbat in Yeshiva an attractive alternative for local students.

Lieberman noted that additional monetary losses had been sustained by the cafeteria

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Consultant to Mediate Student-Administration Dialogue

by Michael Eisenberg

In an effort to improve student-administration relations, student leaders and administrators have taken steps to create a forum which will facilitate joint decision-making and discussion on matters affecting the YU community. Management Consultant Gene Bucchini of The Bucchini Group has been employed as a mediator to avoid any impasse in the negotiations.

The immediate goal of the preliminary meetings is to hammer out an agenda for a retreat at which student leaders and administrators will endeavor to forge mutual understanding of each other's positions and begin laying the foundation for a new decision making framework.

The process, which officially began at a meeting between student leaders and Bucchini on June 11, comes in the aftermath of the Revel crisis during which student-administration relations

reached a new low. Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, who first proposed the idea not long after tensions from the Revel situation subsided, stated, "The goal of the retreat is both to initiate and to create a dialogue, with the overall goal of enhancing communication between students and the Administration and to help with the resolution of students' role in the decision making process of the University."

Participants in the retreat hope to establish a detailed permanent framework to jointly address problems confronting the YU community. YCSC President Avi Steinlauf commented that "At the outset the prognosis is positive. We are trying to create a direct line of communication between students and the administration on an ongoing basis. By remedying communication problems in general, it will in and of itself take care of specific problems."

Initially, Bucchini met with students and administrators to

better understand the issues and to focus discussion on specific topics. Additionally, student leaders submitted a list of administrators they felt should attend the retreat. Included on the list were: YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, a number of Vice Presidents, Nulman and other Deans.

Deliberations continued throughout the summer, and today, four student leaders, including Avi Steinlauf and SCWSC President Adeeva Laya Graubard, will meet with Bucchini and four members of the Administration, including Nulman and Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, to set the agenda for the upcoming retreat.

Nechama Polin, SSSBSC President, offered, "I hope we can open the barriers of communication that we encountered last year. I believe this is a positive step but I am skeptical about the extent of the practical change that will take place."

Students Added to Executive Council

by Ari Rosenstein

For the first time in the history of Yeshiva University, students are to become active members in the governing and decision making process of the Yeshiva University Executive Council. In a decision reached two weeks ago, the Council has invited five students, three from Yeshiva University graduate schools and one each from YC and Stern, to join the Council.

The Executive Council, chaired by Executive Vice President Egon Brenner, consists of deans and faculty members from all YU graduate and undergraduate schools. The Council makes a majority of the decisions which affect our school, including teachers' benefits and cafeteria food prices. Meeting every few months to address the plethora of issues facing YU, the Council designates subcommittees of eight to twelve members to address specific concerns. The Food Services Committee, for example, deals with food prices,

cafeteria menus, and other related topics.

This summer, a subcommittee chaired by Dean of Students Efrem Nulman discussed the prospect of students joining the Executive Council. Nulman commented that the Council appointed his subcommittee after students expressed a desire to be involved with the University governing board.

A memo, prepared by Nulman, was distributed to members of the administration and student leaders, officially stating the procedure and policy regarding selection of students to the Council. After a brief meeting this past week between the four uptown undergraduate school presidents (YC, IBC, JSS, SSSB) and the SOY president, YCSC President Avi Steinlauf was chosen to represent the male undergraduate student body because he represents the largest number of students. SCWSC selected SSSBSC Treasurer Hadley Korzen and the graduate schools will hold meetings to choose their representatives.

Steinlauf remarked that

although students will not necessarily play a vital role in the decision making process, the Council's new makeup will increase the level of communication between the faculty and student body. "This is only one of many ideas we have to bridge the gap between the students and administration," Steinlauf stated. "I hope that this is the first of many agreements which we will arrive at with the Administration."

Nulman was quick to point out however, that the current plan to involve students in school government is not new. Similar to this summer's inclusion of four students on the Food Services Committee, in the 1960's, students and faculty formed a senate, enabling them to deal directly with each other and jointly address selected issues.

Nulman is pleased to finally have students on the Executive Council. "After all, the students are a part of this institution," he stated. "And this is indicative of YU's desire to have students represented in the decision making process."

From The Editor's Desk



Venturing to Capitalize On A Good Name

Working in Israel for the summer in an academic/business atmosphere, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet people from various walks of life. I sat at meetings and receptions with businessmen, government officials, academics and individuals involved in volunteer organizations.

Inevitably, after meandering discussions about business and politics, the hallmarks of every good Israeli tete-a-tete, the conversation turned to my background, in an attempt to answer the burning question: what was this twenty-one year old pisher doing here? "Where do you go to school?" they would ask. "Yeshiva University," I would proudly respond.

The unilateral reaction to the statement that I attend YU was startling. Without fail, every one of these individuals uttered the same rejoinder. "YU, they have terrific students. The best thing about YU is its students." The first couple of times I heard it, I brushed it off as a nice compliment. However, after the sixth and seventh time I decided that there must be an underlying truth in this seemingly innocent remark.

I probed further and discovered that this was no mere patronizing comment but rather a thought-provoking observation. "The comment" indicates an interesting impression of YU in general and its students in particular.

First, YU students really are distinguished. Our students are intelligent, innovative, imaginative and idealistic.

This is evident in our strong commitment to the Jewish Community, a steadfast commitment which earns us accolades world-wide.

It manifests itself in our unparalleled record of volunteerism in multifarious activities in Israel, the former Soviet Union and the U.S.A. through organizations such as Achi, MSDCS, Techiya, YUSSR, and N.C.S.Y. The astounding number of youths and adults touched by YU students bears witness to this legacy. Walk the streets of Tallin, Estonia, Nazareth, Israel or Perth, Australia and those who have come in contact with our students enthusiastically recount their experiences.

Our staunch Zionist commitment and dedication to the State of Israel confirms our role as the emissaries of American Zionist Orthodoxy. While our aliya rate could always be higher, the general commitment of the institution and the students is unquestionable and unequivocal.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly in today's hard times, YU students perform admirably in job interviews, and in business and political settings. Whether your experience was

in a summer internship in Washington, a summer job in Israel or America, a job interview with a major New York law firm or one of the big six accounting firms, you have made an impression.

Second, by consistently and emphatically singling out YU's students, the eminently clear undertone of this impression of YU students was: despite the institution as a whole, the students are still terrific. It often feels that student life at YU is an epic struggle, pitting students against a seemingly uncaring administration. Maybe that is the secret of our students' success. After out-maneuvering the administration for two/three/four years, we can tackle any task or job the world throws our way.

So what's the upshot?

As we embark on a new academic year, here are a few things for all of us to bear in mind.

1) First and foremost, speak proudly of YU students. We have a positive image, one that we should strive to maintain, capitalize and build on. In these depressed economic times, the stale job market renders it difficult to find a job. Recommend your friends for jobs if you have any contacts; they have a good name and you will not regret your efforts.

2) Maintaining a good name requires hard work and an abundance of integrity. We must continue to stand up for what we believe in, both within and without our YU incubator. One cannot espouse values without standing steadfastly behind them and acting on them himself. Improper behavior and actions are inexcusable under all circumstances, and we owe it to ourselves not to look the other way. Don't worry about taking a stand.

3) Take advantage of what YU has to offer, you will not get a second chance. The quality chevra here is without peer; friends you make at YU can last a lifetime. Additionally, YU is YU because of its Jewish Studies. There are rebbeim and scholars here who have a wealth of knowledge to offer. Don't miss the opportunity.

4) Finally, get involved in chesed. There are so many opportunities around YU to enrich the lives of others and you have only so many years that you will have the energy and will to realize them. In addition to your responsibility to give something back to the Jewish community, you will find it a rewarding experience.

Celebrate yourselves, act the part and highlight your positive attributes. Beat your drums, for your march to success has commenced.

M.A.E.

Message From the YCSC President

Think back . . . way back to the first day of third grade. Remember the mood hanging over the auditorium as we all shuffled nervously to find our seats? Our friends were whispering to one another in great anticipation of what the school year would have in store. Would the principals instill fear in the students by means of reproachful warnings and threatening speeches, or would they cheerfully welcome back all of the returning students? Would our class be the lucky one to receive the super nice teacher who everybody loved, Miss Ami Cable, or the degenerative (so it seemed to us) Mr. DeBauchery? Which class would have the best tables in the cafeteria? And most importantly, how long would recess be?

Well, we've come a long way since elementary school (haven't we?) but certain similarities remain. Our administrators do not customarily take the opportunity to deliver austere speeches. Nonetheless, their actions have a tendency to reveal their motives louder than their words. So, after a 1991-1992 year filled with friction between the students and the administration, it is not hard to understand why student trust has been left wanting. But try not to despair, the signs on the horizon appear most positive! It would appear as if "the powers that be" have been making a concerted effort to reinitiate a

positive relationship with the Student Body, reminiscent of the blissful "days of yesteryear".

The inherited communication barrier between students and the Administration must be surmounted. One proposal, already in the process of implementation, involves the representation by two undergraduate students (one male, one female) on the University's Executive Council. The Council is the highest committee which exists within Yeshiva University's administrative framework. Such a move should not be judged as a bid for equal representation, but rather as an attempt to establish an ongoing dialogue previously nonexistent in our institution. The second proposal involves the gathering of a sizable contingent of student leaders and administrators to confer on neutral ground. This conference will attempt to facilitate a direct line of communication between the students and the administrators and will include an outside intermediary to insure that both sides "play fair."

As for this year's immediate objectives, we have already gained substantial ground. On the ever popular "Caf" front, a group of student representatives met with the *culinarians* from the Food Services Department to work out this year's meal prices. The

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From The Editor's Desk



Jewish Inreach

It sometimes seems that everyone in YU is involved in Kiruv in one way or another. Across the globe and throughout the year, YU students give of their time and energy to spread the word to fellow Jews about our common culture. Why, therefore, do these same great champions of Jewish outreach not apply their talents to our own campus?

We have in our midst, in YU's own James Striar School of General Jewish Studies, a group of committed Jewish men who, feeling a lack in their Jewish education, have chosen to further their knowledge of Judaism. Rather than receiving our unilateral and unequivocal acclaim and support, they are treated like second class citizens while their program is disparaged by those in the other two Jewish studies programs.

"They're taking the easy way out. It's not a serious school," criticize those from the supposedly more "Yeshivish" programs. But what makes these people less worthy of our welcoming embrace than Jews lacking a proper background from anywhere else in the world? Must one be a foreigner to be worthy of our attentions?

Clearly, the answer should be a resounding NO!

Options exist to help welcome these searchers to the fold. Join the chavruta program; learn with someone less knowledgeable in Jewish studies than yourself; share your accumulated knowledge with others. Snubbing those who you deem less "frum" only highlights the hypocrisy of your actions.

In Ki Teze, the parsha which we read last week, G-d commands us not to turn aside when we find any of our neighbors' possessions, but instead to return them to him. While this is the source of the mitzvah of *hashavat aveidah*, the returning of lost articles, we can also learn other important lessons from it.

Metaphorically, this injunction can be read as a commandment not to ignore our brothers in their time of need. When something requires our involvement, we often pretend not to see it, and turn away from it; here the Torah enjoins us not to neglect our duties.

Similarly, we cannot turn our backs on our fellow students as they strive for Jewish knowledge. Healing our own house should be first priority. We must learn to translate what we espouse outside of YU into a new respect for those who live next door to us, instead of slamming that door in their faces.

MZK

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Monday, September 14 -
Private & Management Accounting
Careers Seminar
Belfer 411, 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 16 -
Y.U. Symposium: Anatomy of a
Blood Libel
Gottesman Library, 7:45 pm

Thursday, September 17 -
Resume Workshop
Belfer 411, Club Hour

Thursday, September 17 -
Full Senate Meeting - Open to the
public
Furst 535, Club Hour

Thursday, September 17 -
Trip to Sports World -- sponsored
by Junior Class Council
Buses leave from bookstore at 7:30
pm

Friday, September 18 -
Ernst & Young Field Trip
Ernst & Young Offices, 10:00 - 12:00

**Friday and Saturday, September
18 and 19 -**
Israel Club Shabbaton
Stern College
S.O.Y. Shabbos in Yeshiva--Rav
Hershel Schachter, Rav Meir
Goldwicht

Sunday, September 20 -
Young Democrats, Congressman
Charles E. Schumer (D-
Brooklyn); Topic: Clinton-Gore '92
Rubin Shul, 9:00 pm

Monday, September 21 -
Rabbi Yechiel Leiter, head of Council
of Judea, Samaria and Gaza
Rubin Shul, 8:00 pm

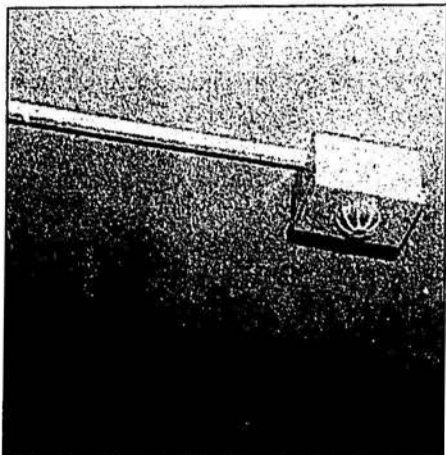
Wednesday, September 23 -
Israel Club trip to hear Shimon Peres
Columbia University, 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 24 -
Careers in Business Seminar
Belfer 411, Club Hour

Thursday, September 24 -
Dr. Carl Feit, Halacha and Science
Club Hour

Friday, September 25 -
J.J.C. Residence Halls Shabbos
Program -- Rav Herschel Reichman

**Friday, October 2 - J.J.C. Residence
Halls Shabbos Program -- Rav
Meyer Twersky**



New electronic light sensor

Sensors Among Us

It knows if you're in class - it knows if you're not. It knows when you're talking - it knows when you're not. It's the new electronic light sensory device affixed to the ceilings of many classrooms. Known as Passive Infrared Occupancy (PIO), the PIO is a small white box which emits a beam to sense heat and sound. If six minutes elapse without the beam being triggered, the PIO turns the classroom's lights off. Designed to conserve both energy and money, these PIO's have been installed in some classrooms in Furst Hall and Belfer Hall, as well as in the Schottenstein Student Center. YU hopes to complete installation of PIO's in all classrooms this year, but will not install them in the dorms to avoid problems with Shabbat observance.

--Jeff Waldman

Senior Class "Pockets" the Money

Approximately 250 students attended Thursday night's mixer at Pockets Billiards and Cafe. The event, sponsored by the Senior Classes of Yeshiva College and Stern College, together with the Yeshiva College Student Council, was billed as "An evening of social bliss." Participants spent the night playing pool and table tennis and socializing. "It worked out well," commented YCSC Senior Class President and event organizer, David Perl. Profits from the event will help subsidize Senior Dinner.

--Gary Elbaum

Elul Shiurim Begin

On Wednesday night, September 10th, Rav Hershel Schachter delivered the first in a series of Elul shiurim sponsored by SOY. The topics of the hour-long shiur ranged from blowing shofar to answering amen to tefillot.

Additionally, Rav Schachter suggested that during the ten days of repentance one should follow the stricter law when possible, in the hope that these actions will influence one's behavior throughout the year.

Hillel Scheinfeld, President of SOY, announced that there will be a shiur every Wednesday night throughout the month of Elul to help prepare talmidim for the high holidays.

--Lavi Greenspan

Russian Program Restructured

by Jamin Koslowe

Responding to complaints from many Russian students last year, the Administration has enacted several changes in the JSS Freshman-B program. To better accommodate this year's new Russian students, Administration and faculty members have sought to ease the academic, financial, and social pressures the students face.

Rabbi Michael Shmidman, Dean of JSS and IBC, explained that an "extensive orientation" was given to this year's incoming Russians in order to "help them adjust to all facets of life at YU." Shmidman noted that Judaic courses in the Freshman-B program have been restructured, adjusting the curriculum to more of an introductory level and easing the testing burden. He added that an increase in personal counseling has helped alleviate social pressures.

Rabbi Shmuel Goldin has been appointed Director of Guidance for the new Russians. Goldin, who will serve as liaison to the students, explained that "last year, we weren't focussing on personal needs."

In addition to helping the Russians with their social problems, Goldin has committed himself to raising sufficient funds to keep the Russians at YU. He maintained that "no foreign student who is unable to make a financial commitment should be turned away from YU." Goldin is currently attempting to obtain pledges from his congregation in Englewood, NJ to help students with financial constraints.

YC Senior David Rozenson has helped implement new programs for the Russian students through the Philanthropy Society. A "Russian Kollel" will be paying Russian students to learn with a chavrusa on Sundays. Additionally, subsidies will be available for Shabbat meals and a "Big Brother" program will be started.

Rozenson praised the Administration for the recent improvements. "The Russians are not as intimidated by the Administration as they were last year. They finally realize that [Director of Admissions Michael] Kranzler, Shmidman, and Goldin are there to help."

First Annual JSS Seforim Sale

The JSS Student Council held its first annual Seforim sale during the first two weeks of school, selling over \$2000 worth of Gemaras, Chumashim, and various other Sifrei Kodesh. The money will go towards JSS student council programming.

Ben Menashe, JSS Student Council President, and Dave Steiner organized the sale over the summer. According to Menashe, the sale's success was largely due to the lack of a Sefarim store on

campus. JSS Dean Rabbi Michael Shmidman enthusiastically asserted, "All the credit belongs to the students. It was a wonderful idea because the students could have their books on the first day of classes."

Although the sale targeted JSS students, many MYP and IBC students purchased Sefarim there. A similar sale is planned for the beginning of next year.

--Eyal Z. Feiler

Women in YC, Historically Speaking

Acting on students' requests, YC is offering for the first time a course entitled "The History of American Women". Dr. Ellen W. Schrecker, Associate Professor of History, will teach the course, which has been offered at SCW for some time.

Nine students registered for the course, which will cover the history of American women from colonial times until the present. Topics to be discussed include: woman's economy, the origins of feminism, women at work, and the modern women's movement.

Schrecker, who received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harvard University, stresses the importance of teaching this aspect of American history to an all-male class. She noted that the class "is a useful way to see how assumptions about human nature have changed." She joked that those taking the class will also become better husbands.

--Michael Dyckman

Gearing Up for The Guide

The Editors of this year's Guide to the Perplexed are diligently working on the upcoming edition of the student directory. With constant queries as to when the publication will arrive, the editorial board has begun working overnight in an attempt to speed up production.

This year's edition is rumored to have several new innovations, but so far the Editors have refused to release details. According to Editor-In-Chief Aharon Fischman, "This year's Guide will be a far better production than ever before, but you'll have to wait to see how." Art Editor Judi Goodman commented that there will be several unique original artworks in the Guide in order to liven things up.

--Joshua D. Goldberg



"Do I take 'The Microbiology of Potentially Pathogenic Beta-Hemolytic Streptococci.' Or 'The Evolution of the Situation Comedy.' Do I really want to live with Judy the neat freak again. I can't believe I've got until Monday to decide if I'm a Biology or a Theatre major. Have I completely lost it? Will I ever be able to make a decision, again? Wait a minute, just yesterday, I was able to pick a phone company with absolutely no problem... Yes, there is hope."

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A False Sense of Security ?

The Campus Security Act of 1990 requires Yeshiva University to publish statistics on crimes occurring on University property. The latest Joel Jablonski Campus (JC) crime report released by the University cites three burglaries as the only on-campus crimes during all of 1991. For a campus located in the heart of Washington Heights, an area near or at the top of New York City's homicide charts for many years, such statistics appear most impressive. However, these numbers are slightly misleading. Chief of Security Don Sommers explains that the law only requires YU to report crimes occurring directly on YU property. However, a crime taking place on Laurel Hill Terrace, Audobon, or even on the sidewalks of Amsterdam Avenue need not be recorded. The University keeps these statistics, but The Commentator was denied access to those files. In an attempt to portray the state of security in our area more accurately, we have compiled the following list of incidents occurring on or in the vicinity of our campus over the last ten years. This list is not all-inclusive. It is merely a sampling of major incidents which have had an impact on campus life and security.

January 23, 1982 - \$2000 of equipment is stolen from the WYUR office.

June 6, 1983 - The first of four sniper incidents on YU campus. The windows of what is now Time Out Pizza (formerly Heshy's) are fired upon.

October 18, 1988 - Officer Michael Buczek of the 34th Precinct is murdered. A remembrance service is held near YU.

November 3, 1988 - A group of local youths harass a number of YU students, and follow two YC students, Doni Greenblatt and Chaim Hagler, to their car on Laurel Hill Terrace. Greenblatt is assaulted, robbed, and finally stabbed in the thigh.

November 9, 1989 - At 1:30 a.m., while on their way to a local bodega, a group of YU students are mugged by two men brandishing a shotgun.

Opening night of the new Schottenstein Theater - Two local residents are shot directly outside the building, minutes before the theater crowd exits.

January 1990 - Washington Heights resident Pablo Pedromo is killed at 186th and Audobon Avenue.

February 25 - March 3, 1991 - Rocks are thrown at the back windows of Morgenstern Residence Hall.

March 8, 1991 - Two armed thieves enter the lobby of Morgenstern Hall, run downstairs, and escape through a back exit.

December 5, 1991 - An automobile pursued by police at high speeds crashes through a potted plant and

a fire hydrant directly in front of the van pick-up site.

January 16 - February 19, 1992 - Muss Hall is plagued by a number of burglaries. Ramon Rivera, reportedly a former

Opening night of YCDS Spring, 1992 production - Police apprehend a suspect on the corner of 185th and Audobon after he fled a shooting on St. Nicholas Ave.



Burns security guard, is ultimately apprehended and charged with the crimes.

February 24, 1992 - A man driving a stolen vehicle crashes into the pedestrian mall across from the library.

March, 1992 - Over three different weekends, residents of the third and fourth floors of Morgenstern Hall are victimized by a thief claiming to be the guest of a YU student.

March 16, 1992 - A drive by shooting wounds a local resident in the arm and shoulder while he is stopped on the corner of 185th street and Audobon Avenue.

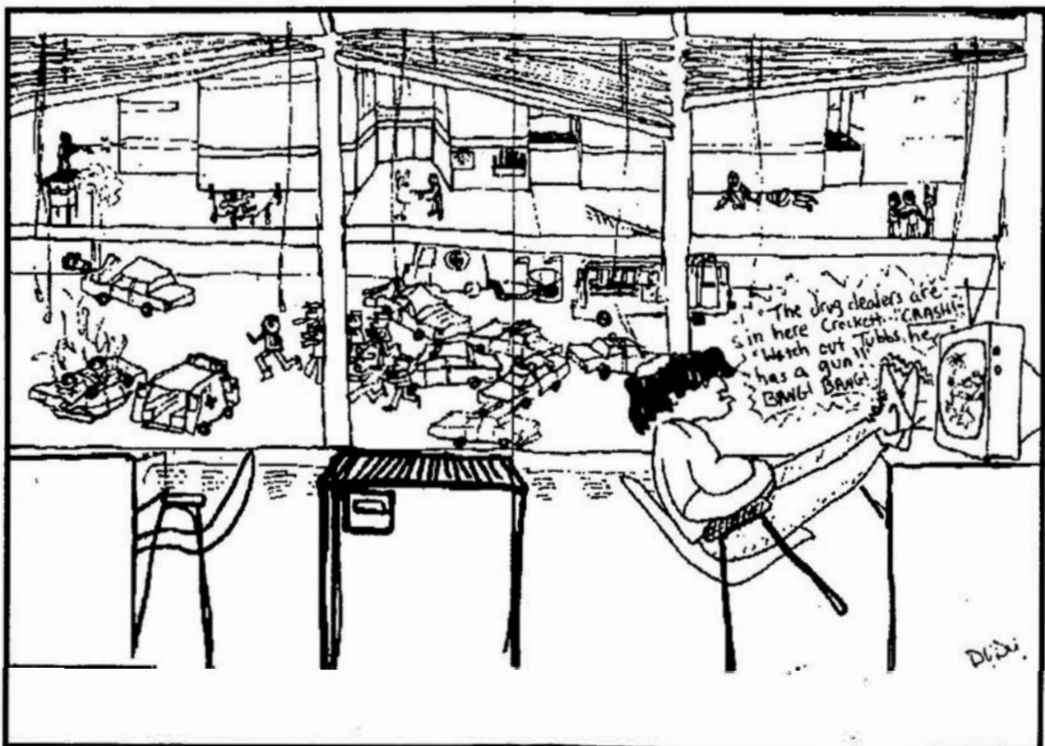
March 31, 1992 - The police successfully raid a drug den at 505 W. 187th street, directly opposite the north entrance to Tannenbaum Hall, resulting in 8 arrests.

September 12, 1992 - Shooting outside of Tannenbaum Hall startles students who remained in Yeshiva University for the second Shabbat of the semester.

September 14, 1992 - A high speed car chase involving 23 police vehicles and a fleeing murder suspect raced up Amsterdam Avenue at 2 A.M. The chase reversed direction at 193rd Street and ended at 125th.

Are We Safe?

This past summer's events have highlighted our precarious foothold in the Washington Heights community. Our island of relative safety, located in what is arguably New York's most dangerous neighborhood, boldly resists the looming dangers. Defended on all sides by security guards and New York's Finest, our brazen brick facade defies the elements which surround us. Nevertheless, these provisions only slightly alleviate the palpable tensions which cruise the neighborhood asphalt. Our fears find justification in fact, but they often prevent healthy interaction with the local community. Vibrant Washington Heights has a lot to offer, but through cracks in the wall students regularly see only the negatives. Past the obvious obstacles to local harmony, there lies great potential for intergroup relations.



day of classes that he would not be surprised if there were more disturbances in the area this month. On the morning of September 9, 1992, several hours before the grand jury exonerated Police Officer O'Keefe, Elizabeth Wurzbarger, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights, told The Commentator that "the Jewish community is cautiously observing the situation, and hopefully it will pass without further disturbance." Wurzbarger noted that the safety of Jewish institutions in Washington Heights is not a real concern. "This is not a Jewish issue," she said. "It is an issue facing the Dominican community." Wurzbarger also echoed Leichter's sentiments: that dialogue between various Washington Heights residents has, and will continue to insure tranquility. "We have laid the

groundwork for excellent community relations." "We are safe," said Sommers. "There is talk of thousands of cops" being placed in the Washington Heights area in time for the grand jury decision. Yet Sommers noted that the verdict would definitely cause some violence in the area. "There will be something," he predicted. "There is a certain element that wants to create havoc." This element showed itself late Wednesday night, when a few dozen protesters took to the streets, presumably in reaction to the Grand Jury's decision which had been leaked earlier in the day by the New York Post. On Thursday, September 10, the day the Grand Jury decision was announced, the few demonstrators who emerged during the day attracted little support, a stark contrast to the violence which erupted following the death of Jose

YU and the Heights: Working for a Better Community

by Dov Chelst

When a YC student focuses only on his studies, he sacrifices a larger view of the world around him. Unless he patronizes local stores, he hardly notices the community in which he lives. A student who limits his Washington Heights experience to the Joel Jablonski Campus can not possibly appreciate the full flavor and diversity of the neighborhood. However, Yeshiva University as a unit is quite aware of its surroundings and actively involves itself in the community at large.

The Yeshiva University Pedestrian Mall offers a safe and sheltered area where community members can enjoy a brief respite from their daily stress. The Mall is a place where anyone (who can dodge Daihatsus) can enjoy the outdoors free of hazard. Neighborhood mothers frequent the Mall with their children, while local kids learn gymnastics and try skateboard stunts there.

Across from the Mall, Yeshiva University works to enhance the education of children in Washington Heights. For the last seven years, the Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) has sponsored art programs in the spring for neighborhood elementary school students. Peggy Sunshine, the curator in charge of education at YUM, explains that when the neighborhood school system cut back funding for itinerant teachers, and local schools eliminated their art programs, the museum moved in to fill the gap. YUM began a community art program, and employed a bilingual teacher to address the students in their native language.

Yeshiva University also lends its space for community events. Every year, P.S.

189 and I.S. 143 conduct their graduation ceremonies in Tannenbaum Hall's Lampert Auditorium. Further, during the Dominican Week Celebration last May, YU loaned Weissberg Commons to the community for a conference featuring the Dominican Republic's Ambassador to the United Nations, Virgilio Alcantara. YU also provided classroom space to the Board of Education to offer ESL (English as a Second Language).

Yeshiva University's involvement with the Washington Heights community extends beyond the confines of its campus. YU helped refurbish a neighborhood playground, and sponsors a local Little League team. Moreover, according to Professor Louis Levitt of Wurzelweiler School of Social Work (WSSW), YU employs over 300 Washington Heights residents.

YU's dedication to the community is not limited to its role as an economic base. At the request of community leaders, staff members from WSSW are currently evaluating a local drug prevention program; similarly, two years ago, they determined the viability of a homelessness prevention program. Furthermore, from time to time, WSSW places students in local social agencies. According to Levitt, WSSW is now hoping to establish a student unit to provide social services to newly-opened local schools.

However, one part of the YU family, the undergraduates, is conspicuously absent from community involvement. Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President of Yeshiva University, underscores the fact that he purposely runs community activities quietly so as not to tax the undergraduates' already busy schedule. Nonetheless, Professor Levitt said that

he would like to see more undergraduate involvement on a community level. "It's also very important for students to be very sensitive to the community as they walk...[and] interact in the community...In order to maintain the respect of the community, we have to offer our respect and we do that through the attitudes of the students."

Ms. Sunshine emphasized that she would like students to recognize the positive side of Washington Heights life. "These people have a beautiful sense of community," she noted.

Both Professor Levitt and Ms. Sunshine pointed out some similarities and links between the Dominican and the Jewish communities. In a YUM exhibit last summer, Ms. Sunshine highlighted the Spanish roots of Sephardic Jewry and the similarities between Ladino and Spanish. Professor Levitt points out that the Dominican Republic was quick to recognize the State of Israel in the 1940's and accepted many refugees from Nazism.

The YU administration also maintains strong political ties to the community. It belongs to various community organizations and committees, and is a member of the Washington Heights Chamber of Commerce. It is also represented on the local Community Board, which granted it permission to build the temporary pedestrian mall. It participates in the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC) as well as the Washington Heights Inwood Coalition, whose stated goal is to "improve the quality of life of our historic and racially diverse Upper Manhattan neighborhood."

Suddenly This Summer

by Robert B. Fagin

The shooting of Washington Heights resident Jose "Kiko" Garcia who was involved in drug crimes, set off a progression of protests and disturbances, and created what authorities called a "crisis situation" in Northern Manhattan this past summer. Garcia was shot and killed by undercover Police Officer Michael O'Keefe on July 3, in what the Garcia family maintains was an unprovoked attack. Among other things, the ensuing riots called into question the safety of Washington Heights community institutions such as Yeshiva University.

Since the disturbances were not close to the campus, YU Chief of Security Don J. Sommers confirmed that YU did not have to take any extra precautions over the summer. Sommers said that he was "asked not to comment" on what would happen if disturbances would come to YU but added that "extensive steps have been taken to insure the security of the students," and that "every precaution is being taken."

"A number of things insure the safety of the students of Yeshiva University," State Senator Franz S. Leichter said in a telephone interview. "There is a strong unified effort, of which YU has been a part, to avoid a repeat [of the summer disturbances]." Leichter, whose senate district includes Yeshiva University, pointed to several educational forums designed to prevent further disturbances, as well as a statement of unity signed by over 50 community leaders, including Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice President of YU. "None of this is a guarantee," Leichter admitted, "but we aren't wringing our hands. We responded strongly."

Leichter claimed that the disturbances in Washington Heights were not an aftershock of the Los Angeles riots of several months ago. He remarked that "the protest [in Washington Heights] had no anti-Black or anti-White overtones - it was a protest against the police."

In a August, 1992 "Legislative Report" sent to his constituents, Leichter noted that he supported establishing independent civilian review boards to act on complaints of police misconduct involving civilians. The report stated that setting up such review boards would improve relations between police and minority communities by "assuring people that allegations of police misconduct would be fairly and impartially acted on." Leichter concluded his report by commenting that "if these boards were in existence, the likelihood of disorders, such as occurred in Washington Heights, would be far less likely to happen."

Others were less optimistic. One police officer whose beat includes the YU campus told a student on the first

Noose Flash

by Dov Chelst

"Well, I'll be hanged," I thought while crossing St. Nicholas on my way to YU. There it hung, unavoidably, above the northeast corner of the intersection with 185th Street—a noose. Everyone walked heedlessly by; only I was disturbed.

No, there were no police markings to indicate a violent crime; nonetheless, this icon of violence struck my consciousness and launched my imagination. My neck itched with the thought that this lariat hung at just the right height. My feet tested for solid ground below them. My eyes merely stared in disbelief.

I saw that this was no quick prank. The noose had been craftily knotted. No hasty slipknot adorned this sickly yellow rope. Someone, with a purpose, had left this unsettling warning for the neighborhood to mark and heed.

How the culprit instinctively chose a symbol from the Wild West, I fully understand. Perhaps he or she easily identified with that lawless, savage era. There, the hangman plied his trade, and many who had not killed were "finally brought to justice." In his/her modern savage surroundings, the

prankster points to another criminal who was unfairly murdered. This very noose reeks of that official injustice masquerading as its opposite.

Early the next day, I wondered why it still remained. Even now, days later, while the loop is gone, the knotted rope still adorns the intersection. Apparently, this cord, with its complex knot of problems, will not unravel so easily. As the Old West's gallows, it is entrenched in Washington Heights' society. If anything, it tightens imperceptibly around us.

On the Tuesday before school, I asked fellow students about the noose. "Did you notice that noose? What's it doing there?" To my surprise, students were completely unaware of it. Had no one visited such a prominent intersection? Actually, even the worker in the store directly in front of the noose had no idea what I wanted from him.

Perhaps, Washington Heights residents, including YC students, enjoy this affected ignorance. Unfortunately, I cannot avoid this noose which has intimately camped inside my mind; for, if this dangling mirror truly reflects Washington Heights, all that we await is a final push to knock us off our feet and leave us hanging.

Garcia. Mayor David N. Dinkins toured several blocks of 181st Street to survey the situation firsthand.

Early Thursday evening, approximately 150 protesters marched to the 34th Precinct station at 183rd Street and Broadway, where they held a brief rally. The group headed toward 162nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue, where eight people were arrested after minor scuffles with the police. Six of those arrested did not have New York City addresses, supporting the contention held by many City officials that the riots in July were fueled by outside elements. Sources in the police department confirm that close to two thousand police officers were on alert by Thursday evening.

At about 6:30 P.M., a commotion on 181st Street and St. Nicholas involving approximately 25 youths led YU Security to warn students not to venture past Audobon Avenue. Additionally, they promised that van service would continue to transport students to their destinations. Police were quickly dispatched to the location, and the disturbance was quelled.

The disorder ended by the weekend, primarily due to the overwhelming police presence, which included a temporary outpost located in the indoor garage adjacent to Belfer Hall.

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New Additions to Placement Office

by Jonathan Schloss

Answering student pleas for increased career and academic guidance, The Yeshiva University Career and Academic Guidance Offices have expanded their hours to include evenings and have added two new members to their staff.

Three years ago, the Board of Directors' Student Life Committee met with student leaders to discuss the quality of the University's guidance department. The students complained that the daytime office hours were insufficient and that the Guidance Office itself looked unprofessional and shoddy. With a grant from former Chairman of the Board Marvin Bienenfeld, Student Life Committee Chairman Leon Wildes made the necessary arrangements for key changes in different areas of the Guidance Department. A portion of the money was used to fund the refurbishing of the office in Furst Hall while the remainder was allocated to cover the expense of keeping longer hours.

As part of the new improvements, Hal Tannenbaum of the SSSB Placement Office has joined the Career Guidance Department to help Liberal Arts and Science majors actualize their career goals. Tannenbaum is familiar with the

different job markets through his extensive experience as a job recruiter or "head-hunter". However, because he is not a career counselor by profession, he will leave the administering of job searching tests to Career Counselor Naomi Kapp.

Last year's retiring of Dr. Brayer, a consulting psychologist, underscored the need for additional guidance counselors as well. To alleviate this problem, the Academic Office rehired David Hember as an advisor. Citing the urgent needs of freshmen and students on probation to seek guidance, Dean of Students Efreim Nulman pointed out the importance and luxury of having another counselor with a "proven track record" of student approval. Additionally, Nulman proudly mentioned that career or academic advisement is now available three evenings per week.

Appointments with either the Academic or Career Advisement Offices can be made through Dean Nulman's office. The offices are primarily for undergraduate students but are also open to YU Alumni and Smich students.

Tannenbaum's office hours in Furst Hall are on Monday and Thursday evenings 5:30-9:30.

Hember's office hours are on Tuesdays from 1-9 PM.

Freshmen Oriented

By Eric Creizman

Freshman Orientation began Sunday, August 30, with a mandatory mathematics test for all newly arrived students, and ended Tuesday night with a "Night at the Theater", providing YC and Stern students with an opportunity to mingle at a Broadway play.

Orientation programs included the standard familiarization with academic programs and registration procedures for both the secular and Jewish studies departments, workshops on "How to Succeed in College," impressions of SSSB ("An Insider's View"), a career advisement workshop, and a barbecue designed to enhance relationships between students, faculty and administration. "I enjoyed the programs, especially the one on 'How to Succeed in College,'" explained Bostonian Gene Alperovich, "but they could have done something more fun, like take us to a Yankees game or something."

Similar sentiments were expressed by other students. "To be honest, I really didn't attend too many programs because none were interesting enough to encourage me to go," remarked Daniel, a sophomore who spent his freshman year in Israel. "Columbia has

boat rides, Brandeis has parties, why couldn't YU do anything fun?" queried another frustrated freshman.

Jeremy Bandler, co-director of orientation, agreed that the majority of the programs were geared toward success at YU, but felt that the more "scholastic approach" would be infinitely more helpful to YU students in the long run. "If the administration wanted Stern and YC students to get together, they would have made YU a co-ed campus," offered Bandler, "and besides, there was a barbecue, free time, and athletic activities."

Bandler also explained that this year, upperclassmen played a more active role in familiarizing incoming students with the YU lifestyle. "The thrust of this orientation was new in the sense that sophomores, juniors, and seniors became more involved in adjusting incoming students to YU's academic environment."

Although many students were dissatisfied with the "entertainment" portion of orientation, organizers are confident that this series of activities was successful, and that the information students acquired will play an integral role in their adjustment to YU's stressful environment.

The Commentator wishes the
entire student body a k'tiva
v'chatima tova.

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Cafeteria

Continued from page 1

as a result of students failing to sign up for Shabbat meals by the deadline. The cafeteria is committed to having sufficient food available to cover all latecomers, but is forced to absorb tremendous losses from the preparation of extra food.

At a recent meeting, the Food Services Committee undertook to find a way of encouraging students to sign up on time to avoid financial losses for all involved. Proposals included: creating a student committee to determine on a weekly

basis the number of students staying for Shabbat, and having students sign up for Shabbat through their dorm counselors.

Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten criticized students who have been signing up late for Shabbat meals, calling them "irresponsible." However, Rosengarten expressed his willingness to support methods of making the signing up process more convenient.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1992

"A Divine Hand or Just a Lucky Deal:
Random Events in Judaism and Science"

Dr. Carl Feit, Associate Professor of
Biology, Yeshiva University
Joel Jablonski Campus, Rubin Shul, 2:45 P.M.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1992

"Halakhic Man Goes to Wall Street"

Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger, Rosh Yeshiva, MYP, RIETS
and Mr. Jay L. Pomrenze, Vice Chairman, Yeshiva College
Board of Directors; Vice President, Bankers Trust
Joel Jablonski Campus, Rubin Shul, 2:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1992

"How Forthrightly Should Jewish History be Taught?
Musings of an Orthodox Jewish Historian"

Mrs. Miriam Weilgus, Instructor, Touro College;
President's Fellowship, Columbia University
Stern College for Women, Room 718, 2:40 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992

"Tanakh in its Ancient Historical Context:
The Case of Biblical Law"

Dr. Barry Eichler, Visiting Professor of
Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies,
Yeshiva University; Associate Professor of Oriental
Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Stern College for Women, Room 718, 2:40 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1992

"Freedom of Inquiry: A Student Discussion and
Symposium"

Joel Jablonski Campus, Rubin Shul, 8:00 P.M.

Co-Sponsored by YCSC, SCWSC, SSSBYC, SSSBSC,
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"My Mom, she thinks all I ever do is go through 'phases.' 'You changed your major again? Now it's Ethnic Dance Forms? When are you going to come to your senses and pick something sensible? (Sigh) Well, I guess it's just another phase.' So I told her, 'Give me a break Ma. I mean I kept the same phone company all four years'... She was impressed."

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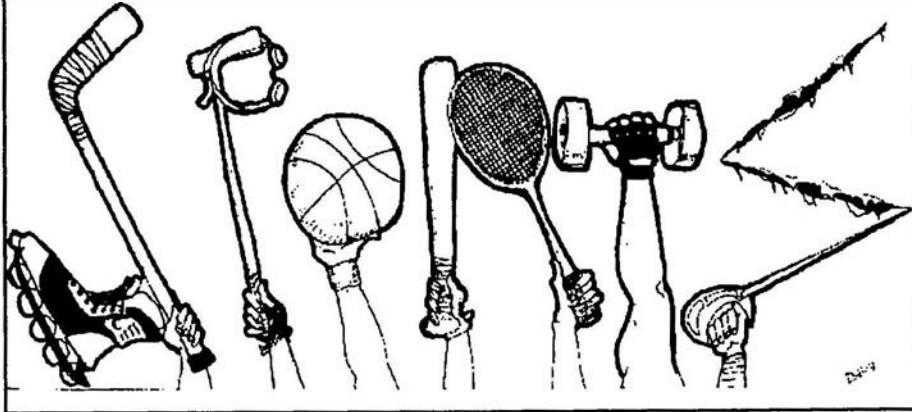
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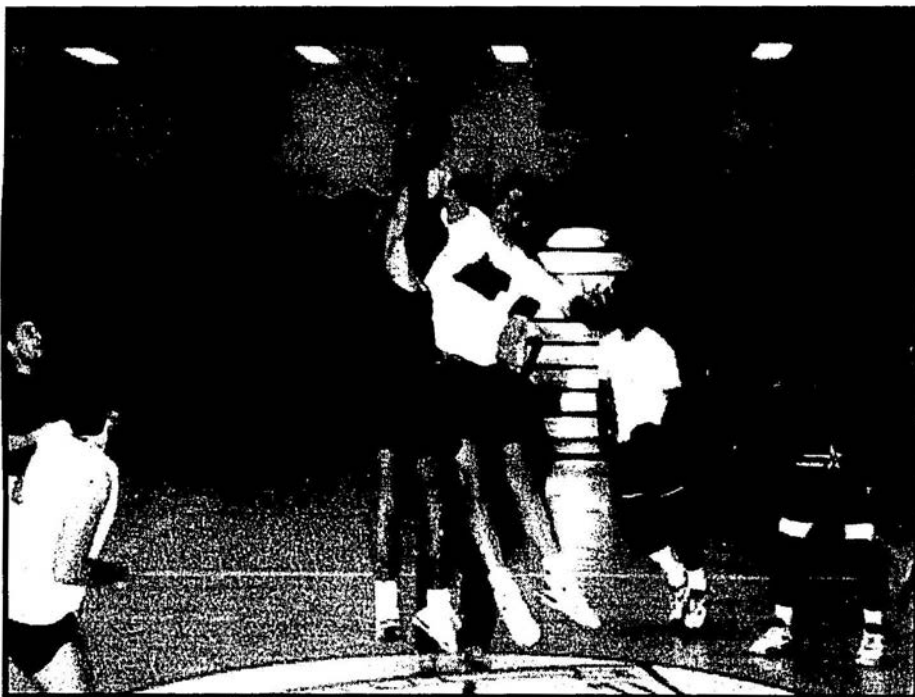


Intramural Draft -- First Round

by Dan Gelbtuch

The intramural basketball draft took place Wednesday night under the supervision of newly appointed commissioner Johnny Shore. Here are the first round draft picks:

Captain	Team	Selection
1. Daniel Lerer	Clippers	Moshe Benarroch
2. Doni Davis	Sonics	Jeremy Bandler
3. Saul Fiedler	Suns	Matt Klein
4. Johnny Shore	Bulls	Yoav Citron
5. David Wagner	Heat	Burton Katz
6. Mark Levy	Knicks	Yoni Epstein
7. David Rudnitsky	Lakers	Robert Appel
8. Abie Cohen	Pistons	Craig Kornbluth
9. David Saffra	Jazz	Ari Silbiger
10. Jerry Rozenberg	Celtics	Brian Kardon



Lakers top pick Yehuda Appel tips off against Josh Purow of the Suns to start the 1992-'93 Intermural Season.

President's Message

continued from page 3

outcome of those meetings appears positive, allowing for a small absolute increase in food prices, while maintaining minimal relative price increases. To the cost conscious consumer, this year's price for the ever-popular scallops meal will be \$4.25 instead of the proposed \$5.50. The new negotiation process with the "Caf" represents a noted improvement over the strong arm tactics used last year to force a mandatory meal plan increase upon us. In addition, the office of Food Services has been amenable to the reopening of the Caf Store at night, with the help of the Accounting Society.

Other domestic issues facing the student council at the present time

include: the reintroduction of video games into the dormitories, and the fashioning of Schottenstein into the student center for which it was originally intended. Clubs and societies have submitted their budget proposals which are now under consideration, and after having perused just a few, it would appear that our clubs and societies will have one of the most active - if not the most active - years ever. So rest assured, the state of our Union is in great shape.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a K'tiva V'Chatima Tova.

Avi Steinlauf

REFLECTIONS:

Don't Even Think of Parking Here

by Jamin Koslowe

Having a car at your disposal gives you the freedom to go wherever you want, whenever you want.

However, to my chagrin, I discovered that keeping a car at YU entitles you to more than just freedom. Here are a few pointers for the new drivers on campus.

PARKING

For those who do not feel like paying YU the "extremely reasonable" fee of \$500 per semester for full time parking, learning how to work the streets is essential. As those familiar with New York City know, there are more cars in the City than available parking spaces on the street. This leads to a game of "musical chairs" whereby drivers circle city streets in search of the ever-elusive spots.

Because of the parking space shortage, many New York drivers would just as soon never vacate their spots. Accordingly, the New York City Government, in the spirit of fair competition, enacted ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING RULES. These rules require drivers to leave their precious spots for a few hours, and then race to reclaim them. Unfortunately, nobody explained this exciting game to me, and it wasn't until a week after my arrival at school that I returned to my car to find three parking tickets and an unremovable sticker affixed to it. The sticker was especially painful because it informed the entire city of New York that reckless parkers such as myself are responsible for the filthy City streets.

To avoid being stigmatized by one of these embarrassing stickers, just follow these simple rules:

- 1) On Mondays and Thursdays and/or Tuesdays and Fridays, depending upon which side of the street your car is located, you must double park on the other side of the street before 11:00 AM.
- 2) Double parking is illegal.
- 3) You will usually not be ticketed for double parking if you double park on an alternate side parking day on a one-way street after 10:17 AM.
- 4) It is illegal to reclaim your spot before 2:00 PM.
- 5) If you wait till 2:00 your spot will be taken.
- 6) You will usually not be ticketed, stickered, or towed if you reclaim your spot after 12:23 PM.
- 7) If the parking police have not filled their quota of tickets for the month, you may be ticketed for double parking and/or returning early on alternate sidedays.

SAFETY

There are no truly safe parking spots in Washington Heights. However, some spots are less dangerous than others.

I vividly recall the conversation I had with a friend, a far more seasoned NY driver than I, after the first time my car was broken into. "Well, where did you park?" he asked. When I told him that I had parked on 186th St. between Amsterdam and Audobon Avenues, he inquired if I had parked before or after the fire hydrant. After I told him that I had no idea what he was talking about, he explained to me that the hydrant was exactly in the middle of the block. When I admitted to parking the car on the Audobon side of the hydrant, he threw up his hands in disbelief. "Well, what did you expect," he screamed, "everyone knows that if you park past the hydrant your car is fair game!"

If you've ever taken the Amsterdam Ave. exit off the Cross Bronx Expressway, and looked at what's left of the cars on the side of the road, you know that the Washington Heights locals are extremely adept at automotive disassembly. By that standard, my car fared pretty well for the year. I only had my trunk broken into a couple of times, my spare tire stolen, my antifreeze stolen, my glove compartment ripped open, my battery stolen, my window smashed, my radio stolen, and the drivers side of the car completely smashed in by a hit-and-run driver.

You may be thinking that I'm not the person who should be advising others where to park. Remember, THERE ARE NO SAFE PARKING SPOTS IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS. Most of the damage to my car occurred in "safe" spots.

LUCK

As you may have guessed, a large factor in determining whether your car will survive the year is how lucky (or unlucky) you are. Just remember to always think positively (gamzu letovah) no matter what happens to your car. I'll admit that even I was thinking a little bit negatively after I walked to my car on Purim morning to discover that another car had skidded through the snow and smashed into its side. Apparently, the driver had, in his haste, forgotten to leave a note.

But like the Jews of Shushan, my sadness turned to joy that Purim morning when upon looking through the snow for car parts, I discovered a piece of the perpetrator's car -- his license plate. Following a threatened lawsuit, I recently received a very generous settlement from his insurance company.

So I wish all you new drivers, Good Luck! -- You'll need it.

The Commentator
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033