

# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

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## Tenure Revisions Proposed

Part 2 of a Series on Faculty -- Administration Relations

by Sender Cohen

One of the least well-known and least understood policies at our university is the one governing tenure. Most students have heard the term, but do not understand the serious implications it has for the faculty and for their educations. A university's tenure policy gives it the opportunity to foster academic excellence, reward outstanding professors, and protect academic freedom.

The University only awards tenure to full-time appointees with the academic rank of professor, associate professor or assistant professor. Seven years of teaching experience is required for tenure, including prior service at other universities with comparable standards.

Recently, Dr. Avery Horowitz, a professor of economics, was denied tenure by the University. The reasoning behind the denial is unclear. Dr. Joshua Bacon, a member of the division

committee that evaluated Dr. Horowitz, said that he "doesn't know specifically why he [Horowitz] was denied." Executive Vice President Dr. Egon Brenner declined to discuss the issue, stating that he "cannot discuss personnel matters." Dr. Horowitz stated that he too is unsure exactly why tenure was denied: "The division was kind enough to send me a copy of the letter they sent to the administration; that is the extent of my knowledge of the decision." YC Junior Eyal Feiler expressed amazement at the denial of tenure. "It seems silly that a teacher as good as he, is not rewarded for his efforts."

One professor, who requested anonymity, pointed out that due to YU's censure by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a faculty member who is denied tenure is unable to follow AAUP grievance procedures, as is an accepted option at most other universities.

YU was put under censure for not complying with AAUP rules, when it released a number

of tenured faculty members upon the closing of the Belfer Graduate School of Science.

At YU, tenure is granted on the basis of three criteria: publications, research and other creative achievements; teaching effectiveness; and service to the university and profession. To receive tenure, a professor must be outstanding in two categories and competent in the third. However, many faculty members noted that in reality, publication has been emphasized more than the other two criteria.

Despite the importance of publication, it is unofficially accepted that less quantity is expected at YU than in many other universities due to the unusually heavy teaching load placed on many professors. Because of time constraints, articles in scholarly journals are more commonplace than monographs and books. Other universities, such as Harvard, which impose lighter teaching loads on their professors, require publication of two books before a professor can even be appointed to the position of tenured associate professor.

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## Miller Obtains Reparations for WWII Victims

President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. When the U.S. initiated diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), he met with then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs David Hartman to discuss American indifference to East Germany's gross negligence regarding its post-war duties. Miller termed this oversight an "immoral act on the part of our country." Due to his intervention, a paragraph was added into the treaty, forcing the GDR to agree to conversations with the Jewish community on a non-governmental level.

Before becoming the Claims Conference Chairman (following the death of previous chairman Nachum Goldman eight years ago), Miller accepted, on behalf of the Conference, the responsibility of representing the survivor community in their talks with the Germans. Very little transpired in the following years until Miller met with President Hoenecker four years ago. Miller received an invitation to attend the

celebrations commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin. He accepted on the conditions that he be granted an audience with Hoenecker and be permitted to visit Buchenwald.

"I had qualms about going into Germany. I feel that Jews, if they don't have to go to Germany, should not go. But if you go... you ought to pay tribute to the kedoshim."

Little was accomplished in the negotiations with Hoenecker. Then, following the destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of the two Germanies, Miller again approached the State Department. He met with then Secretary of State James Baker and current Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who was then Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. They assured him that the U.S. would insist that East Germany honor their obligations to the survivor community. As a result, Article II was written into the German Unification Treaty, naming the Claims Conference as the "heirs" to any unclaimed communal Jewish property,

*continued on page 11*



Photo: M. Eisenberg

## Rosenbaum Urges Activism

by Jonathan Schloss

Calling the Crown Heights riots a pogrom, Norman Rosenbaum, the brother of murder victim Yankel Rosenbaum, addressed a capacity audience of over 600 students, alumni, faculty, and members of the press in the aftermath of the acquittal of murder suspect Lemrick Nelson. Crown Heights attorney Frank Snitow spoke prior to Rosenbaum at the Monday night lecture, focusing on the basis for the lawsuit which the Crown Heights Community has filed against New York City.

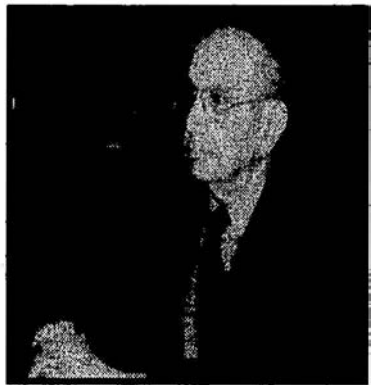
Snitow stressed that the purpose of the lawsuit filed last week against the City of New York, the New York Police Department, the Mayor, and the former Police Commissioner by the estate of Yankel Rosenbaum and the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council is to "strip away, to bare, so that all can see a double

standard that will come to destroy the city" if it is left unaddressed. The plaintiffs reiterated that they are not affiliated with any political party or candidate for mayor and that the suit has not been filed to affect next year's mayoral election.

To characterize the suit as a racist attack on an African-American Mayor is "inaccurate," claimed Snitow. He further remarked that the Crown Heights Community has repudiated a poster of Mayor Dinkins that reads "Wanted for murder." While Snitow agrees that Dinkins is not a murderer, he believes that it is a "damnable lie" to say that the NYPD could not react to the violence in Crown Heights for three days. "He [Dinkins] is accountable and it's not racist to call him accountable for his failure to act."

For his part, Rosenbaum called the riots the "most repugnant example of Anti-Semitism ever to confront us... notwithstanding the lessons of Hitler." He said that his outspokenness since Lemrick Nelson's acquittal is solely in the interest of justice. Asserting that the principles of justice are necessary for society to survive, he, therefore, claimed that the issue at hand is not Jewish-African American relations. "Every time the Mayor wants to divert [attention from the real issue] and is supported by self-interested, self-elected Jewish 'leaders', I'll drag 'em back to that issue [justice]. . . . If

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Commentator File Photo

by Joel Haber

Through the personal efforts of YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, the German government recently signed an agreement to compensate Jewish Holocaust victims from Russia and Eastern Europe.

Miller, acting as Chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, announced the accord on November 6th. Signed in Bonn, the arrangement will benefit those war victims from Communist countries who were previously unable to apply for reparations.

The West German government began restitution in 1952, and over 160,000 Jews still receive monthly payments. The East German government, while compensating the few Jewish and gentile war victims on their own territory, never paid its fair share in the worldwide reparations.

Miller's actions on behalf of Jewish Holocaust victims began 16 years ago when he was

## Dinner to Honor Powell and Herzog

by Eric M. Creizman

Following its tradition of securing high-profile, influential speakers, the YU Hanukkah Dinner will honor Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, and Israeli President Chaim Herzog at a December 20 dinner at the elegant Waldorf Astoria hotel in midtown Manhattan. The dinner, which costs \$500 per person/\$5000 per table, is "the culminating event of the year for the development of Yeshiva University," according to Mr. David Zysman, Vice President for Development.

The evening will begin with a convocation, at which



Photo: YU P.R. Dept.

honorary doctoral degrees will be granted to distinguished recipients. This will be followed by the banquet, which will feature an address from one of the honored guests. The purpose of the Hanukkah Dinner is to raise funds for the school, although Zysman explained that "most of the funds are raised in advance of the event."

Although some Administrators initially expressed concern that donations would decrease due to the recession, Zysman expressed his satisfaction with this year's returns. "We are running way ahead of last year in terms of fundraising. We would have done better without

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## Presidential Propaganda

Public relations is an important tool for any institution. Good P.R., even when it creatively reinterprets the truth, can significantly aid fundraising activities and augment the good name of an institution. However, the 1991-1992 YU President's Report prepared by President Lamm crosses the line.

Page 6 of the report details what is termed, "The Trial and Triumph of Bernard Revel Graduate School." President Lamm writes, "We, unlike other schools, could not afford...to 'rethink' who we are." He later proceeds to enumerate those responsible for the salvation of BRGS stating, "The School certainly would not have survived without YU's supporters, particularly those who now constitute what is the First Board of Directors of BRGS." He continues, "Revel's continuance also owes a debt of gratitude to the important recommendations of Prof. Marvin Fox and Prof Sid Leiman... [of] the special task force I (emphasis added) formed last winter."

It is time to tell the real truth. We have heard (PR releases, Alumni Reviews, President's Report) *ad nauseam* of everyone's heroics except for the real heroes, the students. Conspicuously absent from the Report are the true supporters and heroes, people like The Committee to Preserve Revel, the hundreds of student supporters, and The Commentator. The Administration was willing, in the words of Rabbi Lamm, "to rethink" who they were; It was the students who stood hard and fast on their principles.

In an editorial entitled "Anger Without Aggression" (11/12/92), The Commentator criticized Rabbi Avi Weiss for an alleged "attack" on the news crew of Lou Young of WNBC/New York, based on our understanding of an NBC news report of 10/29/92. While prior to publication The Commentator had attempted to verify the story, it has now become clear that Rabbi Weiss was not personally involved in the reported altercation, and that, on the contrary, he had served as a moderating force, preventing the outbreak of violence.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY APOLOGIZE TO RABBI WEISS FOR THIS GRIEVOUS ERROR AND THE INJUSTICE DONE TO HIM, AND ASSURE HIM THAT THERE WAS NO MALICE INTENDED IN OUR CHARGES.

We have withdrawn from further circulation all available copies of the 11/12/92 issue of The Commentator, and we request of all who have such copies not to circulate the editorial.

After our issue went to print we discovered that, on October 30, NBC News ran a new story on the incident indicating that Rabbi Weiss was a calming influence, and on November 9, formally "retracted" the original October 29 story. Following the publication of our editorial, The Commentator spoke with Lou Young, the reporter who covered the incident. Mr. Young said that NBC News had already issued a "clarification". According to Young, "the clarification indicated that he [Rabbi Weiss] was there, that he had tried to calm some people and that the other parties were involved in the violence, and we wanted to make that clear."

We deeply regret our unfortunate mistake.

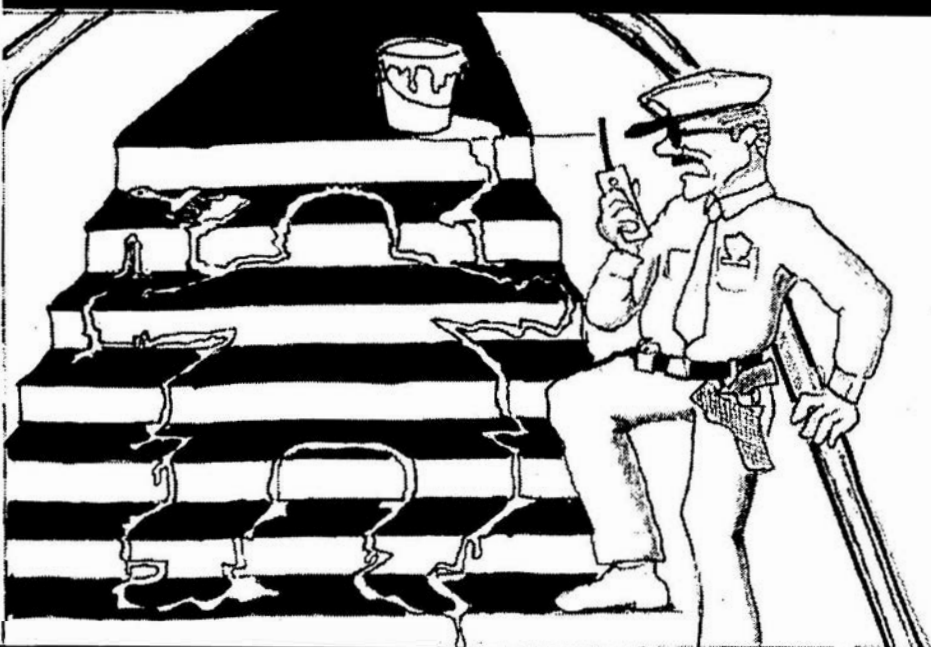
## Senate Under Siege

The Yeshiva College Uptown Senate is possibly the most maligned body on campus. While it is far from perfect, it is also the only opportunity for students, faculty and administrators to interact in discussion of university policy.

However, despite the incredible potential for positive change which this organ represents, the Senate finds itself hindered at every turn by, ironically, its own members. Some Senators are known for constantly denigrating the Senate and its usefulness, while others do not even deign to attend meetings. Under conditions like these, the Senate can hardly be expected to accomplish anything.

If people consider the recommendations of the Senate worthless, it is because Senators from the administration have conveyed that impression in word and action (or inaction). If we want an active, powerful Senate which has a chance to make a difference, then we must appoint people to its seats who believe in its mission and its ability to accomplish its goals.

## PICTORIAL



"I don't think Facilities Management is going to be too happy about this paint job."

# The Commentator

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## RESPONSA

### Free Press Takes Precedence

To the Editor,  
There have been two recent "happenings" that have saddened me greatly.

One was the apparent confiscation of the November 12 issue of this newspaper. The second was the initiation of lawsuits against one or more students on the part of a professor here at Yeshiva University.

Commitment to safeguarding freedom of the press far outweighs any consideration of possible damage to a reputation. I know from personal experience how vexing it can be to bear the brunt of outrageous and untrue allegations. But I can assure you that personal reputations are sturdier on the one hand, and less significant on the other, than is the institution of a free press.

I also feel it is dangerous to the fragile fabric of an academic community for a professor to engage in any enterprise that pits the considerable power of the professoriat against that of a few individual students. Any hint of intimidation is extremely corrosive to the pursuit of truth and collegiality that

are the hallmarks of a great university. I hope by the time this note reaches you (perhaps even sooner) more felicitous arrangements will have been made and this whole episode can be mutually forgiven and forgotten.

Dr. Blanche Davis Blank  
Professor, Political Science

*While the possibility of a lawsuit was discussed, none was ever actually filed against any members of the Commentator staff or the paper itself. Accommodations were made before that step became necessary -- ed.*

### Free Press II

To the Editor,  
As a student of Political Science, I would like to express how immensely bothered I am by the fact that the rights ensured to me by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution have been violated here at Yeshiva University.

The issue of the editorial on Avi Weiss is now secondary to me. It scares me that in 1992, in the United States of America, the Democracy of Democracies, on the campus of a University, where individuals should be encouraged to express themselves, that a few have chosen to deny me of my

*The Commentator wishes  
Mazal Tov to Features Editor  
Robert Fagin on his  
engagement to Miriam Baumel*

# From The Editor's Desk

## Just Someone to Talk To...

Year: 2003

Place: Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall

Occasion: Tenth reunion of the 1993 graduating class

Mark: David, so good to see you. It's been a long time.

David: Likewise. I miss those days of late night dorm room shmoozes, scampering around Israel together while we were at the same yeshiva, and sitting next to you on the couch at the 8:10 minyan on a daily basis.

M: So, are you married yet?

D: Yep! five years. In fact, I have two kids already. How 'bout you?

M: Married seven years and I also have two kids. Where are you living?

D: Queens. We really like it there. Say, Mark, didn't you wear your tzitzit out of your pants, that is, after we came back from Israel (chuckle)?

M: Well, yes.

D: So, are you learning in one of the batei medrash in Queens?

M: Well, not really.

D: What do you mean not really? You were one of the more serious guys in Jewish Studies when we were at YU.

M: Um, you see Dave, I'm not sure how to say... it but I'm not really religious anymore.

D: When did this happen?

M: Almost immediately after leaving YU.

D: But why Mark? I don't understand?

M: You see, after returning from Israel, I had a lot of questions; you know about religion, halacha, and God, but there was never anyone to answer them.

D: What do you mean? What about the rebbeim? The Guidance office? and forums like "dorm talks" and others?

M: No, you see, none of this talked to me. The rebbeim weren't around or easily accessible for the most part; sure, they were there during shiur or class but otherwise, during "down time,"

they weren't. You know how we were in college, we took advantage of what was convenient, but if we had to really search, we never did anything. And dorm talks, that's the point: they simply talk to the dorm walls. Many of the topics were impractical or irrelevant, and the important ones, I always emerged feeling that I had been talked at, not to. I mean, there was a serious communication gap between the rabbis and most of us. They just didn't get it. We weren't like the *haredim*, "act now, and don't ask." We had questions. And the guidance office, I didn't have enough problems for them. I was a normal guy and consequently they weren't interested.

D: But all you had to do was exert a little effort to seek out some advice from the mashgiach, the dean of Jewish studies or the rebbeim.

M: You remember, very few students have the character to take the initiative to search for the rabbi, the mashgiach, or the dean. Sure they're around sometimes and somewhere, but they are not readily available. Furthermore, the mashgiach is only one man, he can't possibly talk to everyone. Additionally, people perceive that he is only responsible for MYP. And others, they are just not really around.

D: I found answers and guidance from rabbis. Sure, I looked, but the results speak for themselves. It is there if you want it enough.

M: You say that in retrospect. At the time though, who had that drive or energy? The Rabbis have a responsibility to see that I avail myself of their experience and their perspective. There were very few who were like you and actively sought answers. The rest of us were allowed to deteriorate religiously and waste away.

D: But Mark, you need to dig to find gold.

F: Sorry Dave, not all of us have the necessary heavy equipment.

MAE

constitutional rights and have confiscated the Commentator.

Those people who have confiscated copies of the Commentator should be strongly condemned, and realize that there are greater ramifications.

Yehuda Poupko  
YC '93

The first amendment only guarantees that the rights of free press cannot be threatened by the federal and/or state governments and does not apply to private institutions such as a private college. —ed.

## Editorial Irresponsibility

To the Editor,

The editorial page of a newspaper is just that - an editorial. However, those who

commit their opinions to writing must bear the responsibility of their actions when false accusations are made. Any good journalist will tell you that you cannot rely - on a single source of information before going to press with a story that will do irreparable damage to those specifically mentioned. To condemn a person in writing without confirming the facts is irresponsible journalism. The integrity of the editors and the newspapers is called into question: Has The Commentator become one of the "tabloids"?

Rabbi Avraham Weiss is a prominent member of the Jewish community who has always promoted non-violent demonstrations for worthy causes. Didn't it appear incongruous to the editors that one who preaches non-violence would himself resort to that mode of expression? As we are all aware, WNBC News/New York retracted their

original report of any violent disturbances caused by Rabbi Weiss.

The editors of the Commentator accused Rabbi Weiss of behaving in an aggressive, rash manner "unbefitting a God-fearing Jew" which "caused a chillul Hashem." Indeed it is they who are guilty of such charges. They reacted to the NBC report too quickly, too eager for a hot story, and fired off an editorial in the heat of the moment. We are all aware of the terrible punishment for public embarrassment of a friend - how much more so for publicly embarrassing a prominent Orthodox Jewish Rabbi.

I hope the printing of a retraction will be sufficient to atone for the injustices done, but at present the damage seems irreparable. Perhaps the resignation of the editors would be more appropriate.

Yitzchak Weiss  
SSSB '88

To correct some of the factual inaccuracies of the above letter: The Commentator did not rely on "a single source" when writing our editorial and a week of research is hardly quick or overly eager. —ed.

## Dinkins: More Friend Than Foe

To the Editor,

The accusations are flying and the Commentator has joined the fray. I am extraordinarily disappointed with the editorial "Graceless at Gracie." The charges that David Dinkins has "antisemitic leanings" and is a "rascal" are pernicious and irresponsible, as was Councilman Noach Dear's charge that Mary Pinkett is an antisemite for blocking a resolution condemning the Crown Heights verdict.

The anger against Dinkins is probably a result of the belief that Dinkins held back the police in Crown Heights. Yet there is no evidence that any such restraint occurred. In fact, most agree that the acquittal came about as a result of the bungled police handling of the case, such as the murder weapon being passed around by officers (thereby eliminating fingerprints) and conflicting police testimony. In addition, the confusion of the riot scene certainly did not help in the gathering of evidence. All of these things need to be looked into quite seriously, and the celebration by jury at the invitation of Nelson's lawyer the night after acquittal is a damn outrage that should bear the brunt of our criticism.

Dinkins, in fact, has been one of the few African American allies of Jews in all of New York. Moderate voices such as his are needed to counteract such men as Louis Farrakhan, Sonny Carson, and Al Sharpton. If Jews reject Dinkins based on his handling of Jewish issues, and not based on a critical examination of his record as mayor, then we are only fooling ourselves. Whoever takes his place in the position of leader of the African Americans in New York might be a real antisemite.

Jason Muss  
YC '93

## Multi-custom Education

To the Editor,

Your article "Sephardic Students Allege Bias" notes that there are no courses in Sephardic customs or halakha. To my mind, that is not the problem with regard to teaching "Sephardic Halakha."

The question of teaching Ashkenazic and Sephardic Halakhot separately was settled centuries ago by the Ramo and endorsed by centuries of Torah scholars. Ashkenazic and Sephardic rulings appear on the same page of the Shulhan Aruch and should be studied by all students of halakha.

At our school (the Yeshiva of Flatbush), we have carefully mapped out our halakha curriculum so that every discussion in every class encompasses Ashkenazic and Sephardic halakhot and minhagim. Every student must know the customs of both communities, lest one group think that they are normative and the other a second-best alternative.

In a high school without a central curriculum or a yeshiva where every rebbe is an independent teacher, the emphasis must be placed on educating every teacher that every shiur in halakha encompasses Ashkenazic and Sephardic minhagim and halakhot. Any other presentation is unauthentic and damaging to the social fabric of our Torah community. It should make no difference if the majority of the shiur is from one community or the other.

Rabbi Raymond Harari  
Chairman, Halakhah Department,  
Yeshiva of Flatbush

## Actively Sephardic

To the Editor,

I read the article entitled "Sephardic Students Allege Bias", and as president of the Sephardic Club, I feel an obligation to express my personal view on how I view the happenings in our Yeshiva.

Firstly, I would like to start by saying that I have a lot of respect for Adam Anhang, the author of the article. Through several talks we've had together, I found him to be a fine person who possesses excellent character traits. I fully understand that the article submitted was not a reflection of his personal view. It is important to keep in mind that the piece was not an Op-Ed. It was an article based on several interviews.

Although there are always a few narrow-minded individuals who do not possess ideal character traits, *Baruch Hashem* in Yeshiva's community there are many positive things happening that we can never disregard. During the period that I have been president of the Sephardic Club, I have come to realize more and more that Yeshiva and its administrators have done a marvelous job helping the Sephardic culture flourish on our campus. I am personally aware of Dr. Lamm's sincere concern for the needs of our new Sephardic immigrants. I can proudly announce that he is well-respected in the different Sephardic communities in New York and outside the Metropolitan area. I can tell you

continued on page 9

# CAMPUS NEWS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**Monday, November 30:**  
Men's Basketball  
vs. New Jersey Tech  
Away, 8:00 p.m.

AT&T Investment Challenge  
Late Registration Deadline  
1-800-5455-1975 ext. 12

**Wednesday, December 2:**  
Movie Night - "Citizen Kane"  
Sponsored by English Honors Society  
Morg Lounge, 8:00 p.m.

SSSB Speaker  
The Honorable Joseph Goldstein  
"From the Other Side of the Bench"  
Belfer 411, 8:00 p.m.

Men's Fencing  
vs. Hunter College  
Away, 7:00 p.m.

Men's Wrestling Meet  
vs. St. John's University  
MSAC, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball  
vs. Bard College  
Away, 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 3:**  
Play - "Othello"  
Sponsored by English Honors Society  
Pearl Theater, 8:00 p.m.

Turkish Night  
Sponsored by Sephardic Club  
SCW Koch Auditorium  
8:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 6:**  
Men's Basketball  
vs. City College  
MSAC, 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 7:**

SSSB Workshop  
"Careers in Entrepreneurship and  
Family Business"  
Belfer 411, 8:00 p.m.

Men's Wrestling Meet  
vs. John Jay College  
Away, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 8:**  
Men's Fencing  
vs. Drew University  
Fencing Room,  
Furst Basement, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 9:**  
Men's Basketball  
vs. SUNY Maritime  
Away, 8:00 p.m.

Shiur HaTorah II  
The Haham Baruch Ben Hayim,  
Speaker  
Sponsored by Sephardic Club  
Rubin Shul, 8:30 p.m.

## Easier way to Get an "A"

Addressing a classroom of mostly freshman and sophomore students during club hour on Thursday, November 12, Rabbi Yehuda Fine, highlighted the value of certain scholastic strategies found in the popular academic self-help videotape "Where There's A Will, There's An 'A'".

Rabbi Fine, a YC guidance counselor, noted the importance of budgeting one's time and studying actively. He explained that people usually remember with greater clarity the first and last pieces of data studied. Therefore, according to Fine, studying in smaller time units with frequent breaks often results in more efficient memory absorption than if one were to engage in two or three hour stretches of nonstop studying.

Urging students to maximize their time, Fine explained that the amount of time an average person spends waiting in line throughout one's life equals five years. By disciplining oneself to employ such otherwise wasted time for memorizing data, students can prepare for exams more productively.

"Treat exams like athletic events," Fine remarked, emphasizing the importance of entering an exam well-rested. Positive affirmation is another critical aspect of successful test-taking, according to Fine. He commented, "What you think about in your mind, manifests out in reality."

-- Marty Goldberg

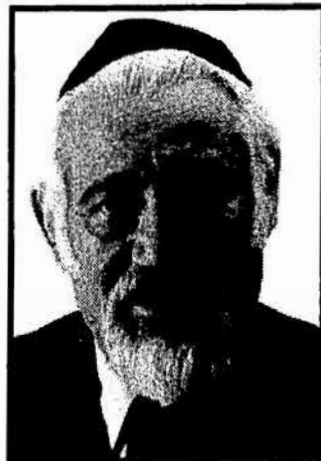


Photo: Y.U.P.R. Dept.

## YU Remembers Rabbi Paretzky

A memorial ceremony for Rabbi Shraga Fievel Paretzky z"l was held on Wednesday morning, November 18, before approximately 250 students, faculty members, and Roshei Yeshiva in the main Beit Medrash. President Norman Lamm, Mazer Yeshiva Program Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik, and Rabbi Israel Paretzky all eulogized the late rav and bochen, who passed away in October.

The speakers told of Rabbi Paretzky's difficult life in Europe and his subsequent adjustment to life in America. Rabbi Lamm stated that Rabbi Paretzky's greatness was his ability "to bridge the lomdish world of Europe with the lomdish world of America." Rabbi Paretzky's son, Rabbi Israel Meir Paretzky, spoke of his father's "fiery Torah dynamic presence."

Rabbi Paretzky's former chavruta, Rav Aaron Soloveitchik, expressed the feelings of all the speakers, simply stating, "I miss him."

-- Lavi Greenspan

## Spirits, Sparks, and Soups

Approximately 30 YC students gathered on Monday, November 9 to hear Dr. Dominick Pupura, Dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, deliver a lecture on the development and diversity of Neuroscience. Slides and diagrams accompanied the Sigma Delta Rho sponsored lecture, entitled "Problems and Perspectives in Neuroscience".

Dr. Purpura traced the development of the field of Neuroscience, dividing it into three time periods. The first period, the Era of Spirits, spanned from classical times to the mid-18th century. The study of neurology then focused upon trying to remove evil spirits from the body by extracting the portion of the brain where the evil was concentrated.

The Era of Sparks, which ended in 1952, centered on the study of muscle stimulation. During that period, scientists extensively researched electrical stimulation and nerve function.

The final period, labeled the Period of Soups, researched chemical transmissions. These transmissions involve, among other things, the release of chemical reagents in synaptic clefts.

Dr. Purpura devoted the second half of his talk to his 10 Principles of Neuroscience. These include nerve impulses, sensory information, homeostatic mechanisms, emotions, and behavior.

-- Avigdor Butler

## Pesak, the Sephardic Way

The Sephardic Club kicked off its evening cultural and educational programs with "Darke Pesak," a lecture by Rabbi Eliahu Benhaim, a prominent Rav in the New York Sephardic Community and around the world. Speaking to a mixed crowd of SCW and YC undergraduates about the process of reaching Halachic decisions, Rabbi Benhaim delivered his lecture in Hebrew, a language he remarked, "that all YU students understand."

Daniel Hakimi, President of the Sephardic Club, explained that the purpose of the event was "to have a different type of Talmid Chacham speak at the Yeshiva and to increase interaction among students from all different backgrounds." Gene Alperovich, a sophomore from Brookline, Massachusetts, attended "Darke Pesak" to hear a Sephardi perspective on Halachic matters, and was not disappointed. "I thought it was pretty interesting," he remarked.

Although the crowd filled more than two thirds of the Rubin Shul, Hakimi was not entirely satisfied with the turnout. "It was good, but I expected more people to show for such a great Rabbi." Hakimi looks forward to upcoming programs, however, and expects audiences to grow as the year progresses.

-- Eric Creizman

## Applications To Law School May Reach Record High

by Ryan S. Karben

Following a ten-percent drop in the 1991-92 academic year, the number of YC students applying to law school this year may hit a record high, according to a report issued by Pre-Law Advisor, Associate Dean Michael Hecht.

Fifty-five YC men applied to law school last year, down from sixty-one the preceding year. Hecht attributes this year's supsurge to "a lousy economy in which people who know they won't be able to find work say 'Hey, why not go to law school?'" Furthermore, Hecht claimed that the downturn in the legal profession appears to have plateaued as "very resourceful lawyers seek out new areas like environmental law."

YC students continue to score extraordinarily high on the Law School Admission Test and gain acceptance at the most prestigious law schools, according to Hecht. In 1992, one-fifth of the YC applicants scored above the 97th percentile on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), according to a report prepared by Hecht for YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller. In fact, two YC seniors achieved perfect

scores of 180 on the recent October LSAT. Hecht attributes YC students' high scores to "the time many law school applicants spend thinking critically and analyzing texts in the Beit Medrash. Our education is not that much better than Princeton's or Yale's, but our students spend time in the Beit Medrash."

Ten of last year's law school applicants were accepted to NYU, eight to Columbia, and thirty-four to YU's Cardozo School of Law. Hecht noted in his memo, however, that only fifty out of the fifty-five applicants gained acceptance to at least one ABA accredited law school. "[a] disappointing [statistic] when compared to the almost one-hundred percent acceptance rate we have come to expect."

Despite the continued interest of so many YC students in law, Hecht vows to continue to discourage the meek from entering the "brutal" field. "I am not a shill for the legal profession," Hecht insists. "Just because the job is good on pay day does not necessarily mean it is worth the long hours and the stress."



Glen Mones maps out problems with "land for peace"

## Tagar Trio Stress: No Land For Peace

by Ari Rosenstein

On Tuesday night, November 17, the TAGAR Club presented a group of speakers and a visual demonstration on the topic, "Can Israel Survive Peace?" The three speakers addressed approximately 50 students regarding the importance of the occupied territories to Israeli security.

Graphically illustrating the importance of the Gaza strip through a video and a model of the Middle East, Glen Mones, the representative of Likud to World Zionist Congress, discussed the strategic importance of Gaza to Israeli security.

The second speaker, David Wiliger, the National Coordinator of TAGAR, addressed the issue of Israeli captives and missing prisoners of war.

Finally, Mordechai Levy, President of the Jewish Defense League, discussed the importance of Jews in galut and the necessity to protect oneself from foreign peoples through the use of force, if need be.

Jerald Darvishzadeh, President of the YU TAGAR club, was pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm displayed by the students, despite the event's limited publicity.

TAGAR is planning several more events in the future. The next event is a rally which will be held in front of the United Nations on December 10 protesting the detention of Israeli soldiers in foreign countries. Israeli flags and Ron Arad name tags will be sold.

## Torah U'Politics

by Lavi Greenspan

On Monday night, November 23, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein addressed a crowd of YC and SCW students on the role of torah in politics. The crowd gathered in Furst 501 to hear the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion deliver an hour-long speech on topics ranging from Jewish involvement in politics to the Jewish tendency to cast a vote based on a single issue.

Rav Lichtenstein pointed out the contrasts between politics and religion, stating that politics is secular and mundane and deals with the here and now, while religion is concerned with the next world and spirituality. The Rosh Yeshiva cited proofs such as the

## SSSB To Offer Business Minor

by Adam J. Anhang

Citing student demand and a SSSB Senate sub-committee report released last spring, SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg recently announced that effective immediately, SSSB will offer a business minor to YC and SCW students.

The minor requires completion of 18 credits of a 24 credit modified business core. To amass the 18 credits, students will choose at least four and at maximum six three-credit courses from: Accounting Principles I and II (ACC 1001, 1002), Management Information Systems (INF 1020), Principles of Finance (FIN 1001), Principles of Management (MAN 1020), Principles of Marketing (MAR 1020), and a maximum of two three-credit elective courses in accounting, business law, finance, marketing, management, and management information systems. Upon completion of the program, "Business Minor" will be noted on the student's transcript. Under the new program, students taking business courses toward their liberal arts major can use only six of these credits toward the business minor. However, students who declare a minor and fail to complete the program may use the courses as electives in their liberal arts program.

A new course, Finance 1001, will be introduced next semester. Replacing

Corporate Finance 1408 as the survey finance course, it will cover the fundamentals of financial management, financial analysis, and the securities markets without the intensive focus on the mathematics of 1408. Students working towards a finance degree will then continue with Corporate Finance 1408 and Advanced Corporate Finance 2409.

Nierenberg is quick to point out that students working towards a business minor "will be taking the same courses as SSSB majors; the courses are not 'watered down' for liberal arts majors." The introduction of a business minor, according to Nierenberg, enjoys the support of SSSB faculty in that it allows liberal arts majors to get a taste of business. In addition, Nierenberg believes that a business minor will be an effective recruiting tool for both SSSB and YC: "The more options we can offer undergraduate students, both men and women," said Nierenberg, "the better it is for the students and the university."

Concurrently, SSSB announced that effective immediately, all students enrolled in SSSB may elect to take a minor in YC or SCW. In fact, according to an internal memo sent from Dean Nierenberg to YC Registrar Pinchas Friedenberg, SSSB "encourages [students to take a liberal arts minor] to enhance their educational experience."

## President's Personal Shiur

In an effort to acquaint himself with a select group of students, and in order for students to learn more about their President, Dr. Norman Lamm has instituted an honors seminar on the theme of *Ahavas Hashem*. Sixteen students, eight from MYP and four each from IBC and JSS attend the monthly seminar. The initial shiur took place about three weeks ago.

MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, who chose the MYP students participating in the seminar, asserted that "the benefits of the shiur are two-fold. It gives students the opportunity to be exposed to Dr. Lamm's learning and insights, and it helps Dr. Lamm get a feel for some of the excellence in the student body." Explaining the

criteria for the selection of the students, Rabbi Charlop explained that "the students chosen were among the best students of MYP. Additionally, it was perceived that these students would be especially appreciative of the shiur."

The students in the seminar were extremely optimistic about the shiur. JSS president Ben Menasha pointed out that "the shiur is a great opportunity to get closer to Dr. Lamm." MYP senior David Flatto was equally impressed, commenting that "it's nice to partake in a seminar in which all three Jewish Studies Programs are represented." IBC president Assaf Tzur found the seminar "intellectually challenging, especially Dr. Lamm's unique approach of leading the student to achieve a more complex and comprehensive understanding of the text."

—Yisroel Holczer



Photo: M. Eisenberg

Gemara in Shabbat which states that one must protest against moral injustice. He said we need to bring Torah thinking into the world of politics. Commenting on the speech, Mark Bleiweiss remarked that the Rav pointed out "a valuable" point which is "often forgotten."

## Open House Hosts Prospective Students

The Office of Admissions hosted the annual Yeshiva College, Sy Syms School of Business Open House on Sunday, November 15. From 8:30 a.m. until late afternoon, prospective students and their parents participated in a series of activities designed to showcase life at Yeshiva University.

Once on Campus, families were greeted by a horde of Yeshiva University sweatshirt adorned student hosts.

Among the many speakers was Michael Kranzler, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, and Deans Rosenfeld and Nierenberg of Yeshiva College and the Sy Syms School of Business

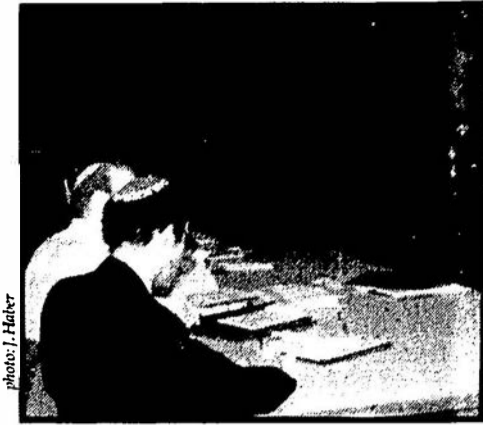


Photo: J. Haber

## Educating Jewish Educators

by Michael A. Dyckman

A group of Jewish educators representing day schools from across the country met in YU's Belfer Hall on Monday, November 16, for a "leadership mission" geared towards improving the current status of Jewish education. Rabbi Morton J. Summer, Coordinator of YU's Office of Professional Services, stated that the focus of the program was to "provide many different kinds of information about running a school to those starting a school or in the process of starting one."

The program, which was the brainchild of Dr. Rita Shloush, current principal of Baltimore's Yeshivat Rambam, attracted approximately thirty-five participants from cities such as: Albany, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Dayton, Ohio. Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Hershel Schachter delivered a D'var Torah on the holiness of Eretz Yisrael. Later, Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, Vice-President for Administration at RIETS, spoke on the "educational vision and mission of Torah U-Madda."

Dr. Noam Shudovsky of Ramaz High School and Dr. Richard Geldard, Director of General Studies at Yeshiva University High School (YUHS), addressed the participants on fundraising. In addition, Dr. Geldard discussed the academic expectations for incoming high school students, specifically, their below-average math and English skills. Dr. Shloush remarked afterwards that "our goal was to keep everyone [the participants] excited and involved; otherwise, they don't stay focused." She expressed satisfaction with the mission's success and pledged to continue the program on an annual basis.

respectively. Between the presentations, the Admissions Department premiered its new promotional video.

Rabbi Michael Schmidman, Dean of JSS and IBC, and Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of MYP, provided Judaic Studies information.

Students then split into three information groups in different rooms to discuss liberal arts, sciences, and business options.

Many YC students volunteered to assist the Admissions Department, both by giving guided tours of the Main Center, and in answering student questions.

--Commentator Staff

# The History of Sephardic Programs at YU

by Rabbi M. Serels

## The Origins

This year, Sephardim around the world mark a most significant milestone in their history - the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

Sephardic Jews take great pride in the fact that they survived that terrible period and have since thrived and prospered, all the while preserving the rich traditions which comprise their glorious heritage.

Yeshiva University has been a prime force in the development of educational and service programs to preserve and foster these wondrous traditions. Just as the growth of Yeshiva University epitomizes the postwar resurgence of the Jewish people, the growth of Sephardic programming at the University represents a reascent Sephardic Jewry as a historic and vital component of the Jewish community.

Joseph M. Papo, the noted authority on the Sephardic Jewish Community in America, reports that the early vision for the founding of the Sephardic Studies programs at Yeshiva came from the Sephardim themselves who expressed their deep concern for the need to ensure the survival of Sephardic culture and the Sephardic religious heritage through the training of Sephardic rabbinic leaders. This had been expressed in the 1950's and early 1960's by the leadership of The Central Sephardic Community of America. It took some time for the impact of these needs to be effectively communicated and understood. Ultimately, it was Yeshiva University that responded in a direct and dramatic manner to fulfill these noble needs.

The University's Sephardic programs were founded in 1964 through the visionary wisdom and leadership of The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, then Chief Rabbi of Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth, and the stalwart efforts of Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, now Vice President for University Affairs and Consultant to the Sephardic programs.

## Professional Leadership

It was in 1964 that The Haham, Dr. Gaon, was invited as Visiting Professor of Practical Rabbinics at RIETS. The Haham was to undertake the establishment of a program to help preserve and perpetuate the Sephardic heritage, train Sephardic rabbis and educators, and develop a learned lay leadership committed to the propagation of Sephardic life. Dr. Gaon agreed to visit the University for one or two months a year to oversee the formulation of the academic program.

Dobrinsky was then appointed Director of the Sephardic programs. He began to develop a program of service, cultural events, and educational and informational activities for the Sephardic community, and to coordinate the courses on Sephardic history, culture, and traditions which were to be integrated into the curricula of the various schools.

Rabbi Mitchell Serels is Director of Sephardic Community Programs

Dobrinsky and Dr. Gaon then traveled throughout North America to meet with Sephardic communal leaders to promote the program and to involve these leaders in advancing their distinctive heritage.

Dobrinsky then enlisted Hyman J. Campeas in launching *The American Sephardi*, a publication of the University's Sephardic Studies Program, of which Mr. Campeas was Founding Editor. The publication gradually developed into a major scholarly journal under the brilliant editorship of Professor Herman P. Salomon. The Sephardic Program itself gained equal recognition in the community-at-large.

Rabbi Marc D. Angel and I were its first two graduates. He received an

Under the enthusiastic and munificent leadership of the late Col. J.S. Elyachar, the late Mr. Salvo Arias, and Dr. Joseph Ades, the world's first Professorial Chair in Sephardic Studies was established at Yeshiva University. Prof. Hayyim Cohen of the Hebrew University in Israel was the inaugural occupant. The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, also occupied the chair until his retirement this past May. Thanks to the participation of many generous leaders of the Sephardic community, the chair is fully funded.

The magnanimous efforts of Edmond J. Safra enhanced the University's ability to sustain Sephardic programming through his gift to endow the Sephardic Studies Program as the Jacob E. Safra



Photo: YU P.R. Dept.

appointment as Assistant Minister of Congregation Shearith Israel, The "Spanish-Portugese Synagogue", in New York. Rabbi Angel is also a prolific author and a distinguished rabbinic and communal leader. He was recently elected as the first Sephardi President of The Rabbinical Council of America.

I became the Rabbi of Congregation Bet-El in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Later, I became spiritual leader of Congregation Petah Tikvah Anshe Castila in Toronto, Ontario, before being invited by Yeshiva University to become Assistant Director of the Sephardic Community Program at the University. In 1980, I was named Director of the program and have since worked to build the program as well as to serve as Associate Director of The Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies. I am also the spiritual leader of Magen David Sephardic Congregation of Scarsdale, N.Y.

Institute of Sephardic Studies, in memory of his revered father.

Now, as we begin our second quarter century, builder, developer, and philanthropist, Ebrahim Eshaghian, continues this eminent legacy of leadership through his visionary investment in the future. Mr. Eshaghian has bestowed a Benefactor's gift of scholarships for Sephardic students to the undergraduate divisions of the University and to the Semicha program of RIETS.

In the last year and a half, Dr. Lamm has empowered the Sephardic Council of Overseers (SCO) to review, strengthen, and maintain the Sephardic programs at Yeshiva University. Mr. David Eshaghian is chairman of the SCO and Mr. Norman Belmonte serves as Co-Chairman; the SCO meets regularly with the Administration. At the founding of the SCO, Dobrinsky insisted on including the Presidents of the

Sephardic Clubs at Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women as regular Council members.

When I first entered Yeshiva University, there were only six Sephardic students throughout the University. Now there are 145 at Yeshiva College and 86 at Stern College, with others throughout the University. Additionally, there are now 478 Sephardic Alumni. In my days as a student, we did not have enough Sephardic students to make a minyan. Today, students meet regularly for learning and tefilot in the beautiful Sephardic Bet Midrash.

The Sephardim Reference Room on the fourth floor of Gottesman Library is a preeminent resource. It houses the largest Ladino collection outside the State of Israel. Thirty-seven different professors have taught Sephardic courses at the various schools. While more courses are offered now than ever before, there is still room for improvement.

While a student at RIETS, I was one of two Sephardim. Today there are fourteen students. Our rabbinic alumni serve major communities in Seattle, Los Angeles, Washington, Deal, Brooklyn and elsewhere.

Sephardic Rabbinical Conferences, Academic Conferences, and "Semana Sepharad" have made Yeshiva University a focal point of the Sephardic Community. The series of lectures on "The Sephardim and the Holocaust," originally published as a paperback, is being expanded into enlarged, hardcover volumes.

Furthermore, funds were raised to provide additional scholarships to enable students to attend Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women.

But the programs need to be reviewed, criticized, and improved upon in order to meet the greater demands of today's sophisticated Sephardic students and to meet the criteria of interested Ashkenazi students. The greatest pleasure for all of us is to see the many Sephardic students learning, studying, and developing at Yeshiva University. To see Sephardic students assume leadership roles throughout campus life makes me think of the leadership role they will assume after they graduate. These Sephardic men and women of Yeshiva University, dedicated to their heritage and proud of their institution, are our future, and they ensure our continuity.

## YU Museum's Sephardic Journey Exhibit To End Soon

by Bencion Schlager

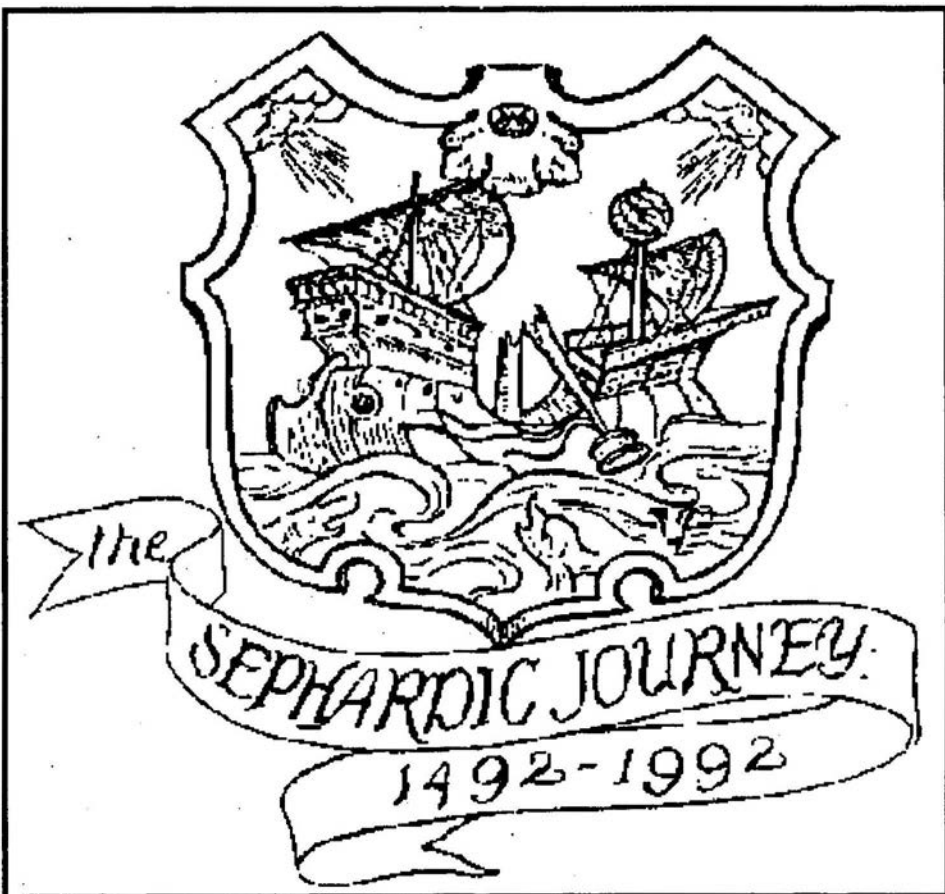
For the past two years the Yeshiva University Museum located on the Uptown Campus has been featuring an exhibition entitled "The Sephardic Journey: 1492-1992." The motivation for the presentation about Sephardic Jewry was the result of the spirited public response to the previous exhibition, "The German Jewish Heritage". The goal of the exhibition,

due to end this December, is to educate people of all ages about the proud history of Sephardic Jewry and the significant impact its leaders have had on all facets of Judaism.

Students studying for exams on the fourth floor of the library have probably already taken the opportunity to view the detailed model of the 12th century La Blanca synagogue located outside the actual museum compound. The real treasures, however, are located inside

the museum. The displays are designed, not only to highlight Sephardic Jewish life in various regions of the world, but also to feature the regions where Sephardic Jewry had flourished historically. For example, one exhibit features a scene from a Moroccan wedding with a bride, a groom, and an officiating Rabbi in full ceremonial costume. Another depicts the sitting room of a Sephardic Jewish family living in the U.S. during the Civil War era.

Aside from the displays there is a wealth of valuable artifacts. Exquisitely designed Ketuboth from 19th century Tunisia, Morocco, and Yugoslavia decorate the walls. Hand printed halachic literature and piyutim are in full array alongside snuff boxes from



## Sephardic Club: Always Active

by Joey Nussbaum

Boasting approximately 150 members, the Sephardic Club is the largest on-campus club at Yeshiva College. On a day to day basis, they are extremely active around YU, scheduling two daily minyanim, one for Shacharit and one for Arvit, held at the Sephardic shul. Taking advantage of the shul's dual role as a Beit Midrash, every night after Arvit a number of students sit and learn in the shul. Also, every Tuesday night after Maariv, one of YU's many Roshei Yeshiva delivers fifteen minutes of Mussar related to the week's Parasha.

Surprisingly enough, despite their large membership and busy schedule, the Sephardic Club does not request an abundance of funds from YCSC. However, Hakimi was quick to add that he enjoys an excellent working relationship with the YCSC officers, and he is grateful for their generous support.

In many ways, the most important service that the Sephardic Club provides is its assistance to new immigrants that have joined the YU community. For years, students just arriving from locations such as Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Israel, Egypt, Spain, Turkey, Syria,

Lebanon, and South America (just to name a few) have looked to the Sephardic Club to aid them in their social and educational transition to life in America. Hakimi explained that "it is our job to acculturate them, to provide a warm community, and to help teach them English." This year, four new Syrian immigrants have come to YU (thanks in part to the efforts of many individuals around YU who fought for the freedom of Syrian Jews), and every effort is being made to make them feel comfortable here. In fact, Hakimi is working closely with Admissions to get more foreign students to YU.

However, the Sephardic Club is not nearly finished. In a recent interview, Hakimi stressed the fact that despite what the name might indicate, the club is not only open to Sephardim. "The purpose of the Sephardic Club is to promote Achdut and interaction among all students," Hakimi stated. Hakimi expressed the hope that in the future many more students will attend Sephardic Club events and thereby expose themselves to a rich culture they may presently know little about. This, he believes, will help all students interact better.

Egypt and cutlery from Syria. Silver Torah mantles from Izmir weighing several pounds are displayed with Torah shields in the shape of the crescent moon. Most prominently displayed is a priceless ark cover rescued from a Sephardic synagogue in Vienna during Kristallnacht. There is also a replica of the seal of Rav Moshe ben Nachman and a handwritten account of a fifteenth century Auto de Fe. Perhaps most fascinating is a series of photographs depicting everyday life in the Jewish quarter of Fez, Morocco.

In order to teach young audiences about Sephardic Jewish history, the museum uses a set of puppets based on historic characters. Through participatory puppet shows and

discussion, children learn how these personalities shaped Jewish history, and how they made monumental contributions to religious life, the arts, and scholarship. A movie titled "The Sephardic Journey Begins," which traces the Jewish presence in Spain from the first century to the Inquisition, is also available for viewing.

As previously mentioned, "The Sephardic Journey: 1492-1992" is due to end this December. It may be years before a collection of artifacts such as this one will be open to the public. Anyone interested in a cultural experience that the whole family can enjoy is advised to come and share the Sephardic experience.

## Sephardic Programming Abounds at YU

by Robert Fagin

Today, there are approximately 200 Sephardic students in the undergraduate division of Yeshiva University, about 16% of the total undergraduate student body. YU statistics show that one of four entering freshman last year was Sephardic. Accordingly, there are a variety of programs designed to highlight Sephardic culture and enrich the life of Sephardic students on campus.

Most of the Sephardic programs at Yeshiva University fall under the aegis of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), a Yeshiva University affiliate founded in March, 1896.

RIETS sponsors the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies, founded 28 years ago. According to the RIETS catalog, the Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies is "designed to educate Sephardic youth in their traditions and serve the needs of Sephardic communities; the Institute also enables Ashkenazic students to study this venerable component of Jewish tradition." Course offerings this past year consisted of 20 courses, including Sephardic philosophy, Halakhah, music, jurisprudence, history, and languages. Thirteen of these courses were offered through the Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music. The remaining seven courses are given at the James Striar School of General Studies (JSS - two courses), the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP - one course), Stern College for Women (two courses) and RIETS (two courses).

The Safra Institute maintains a Sephardic Reference Room in the Mendel Gottesman Library, which is the largest collection of Sephardic Judaica in North America.

The Institute has also sponsored a lecture series, "Sephardim and the Holocaust," which culminated with the publication of a book on the impact of the Holocaust on various Sephardic communities. Most recently, the Safra Institute, in cooperation with the International Symposium on Jews and Judeo-Converts of Spain, sponsored a series of presentations held at Yeshiva University and at several other locations throughout New York City. The lectures were delivered by experts in the field of Sephardic Studies.

RIETS established the Maxwell R. Maybaum Memorial Chair in Talmud and Sephardic Codes, held by the Haham (Chief Rabbi), Dr. Solomon Gaon, Chief Rabbi of the World Sephardic Federation and Director of the Safra Institute. The Haham has also held the Yeshiva College Professorial Chair in Sephardic Studies since 1976. Dr. Gaon served as the Haham of the Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth from 1949



The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon

to 1982, and has been associated with Yeshiva University since 1964, when the Safra Institute was founded. In the spring of this year, Rabbi Gaon was honored at the Inaugural Dinner of the newly-formed Sephardic Council of Overseers.

In 1991, Dr. Gaon made an emotional return to his ancestral homeland, five hundred years after the Jews were expelled from the Spanish region of Aragon. At Cortes, in El Jeferia, the former palace of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (which now houses the Aragonese Parliament), Dr. Gaon received an award and addressed a special session convened to mark the 507th anniversary of the first execution of Marranos.

In 1990, Dr. Gaon was honored by the Spanish Royal Family on behalf of the world's Sephardic Jews. He received the equivalent of the Spanish Nobel Prize - the five million peseta (about \$50,000 American Dollar) Prince of Asturias Concord Prize - from Prince Don-Felipe in Oviedo, Spain.

The Institute of Yemenite Studies, a branch of the Safra Institute, was established several years ago to offer courses on Yemenite history, culture and tradition. The Maybaum Sephardic Fellowship Program provides financial assistance to RIETS students of Sephardic heritage who plan to serve as rabbinic leaders in Sephardic communal life. This and other programs provide a total of over one million dollars in financial aid to Sephardic students each year.

Under the direction of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, the service arm of RIETS, the Sephardic Community Activities Program sponsors about 20 conferences and seminars a year, promotes Spanish-language Jewish material, and helps develop Sephardic congregations and communities worldwide. The Sephardic Community Program may best be known for its "Semana Sepharad" cultural festivals, usually attended by one to two thousand people. These seminars have been held throughout the United States, including New York, California and Rhode Island, and as far away as Spain. The Sephardic Community programs are directed by Rabbi Mitchell Serels.

The most recent addition to Sephardic interests at Yeshiva University was the formation of the Sephardic Council of Overseers (SCO), a group of more than 80 lay leaders (most of whom are Sephardic) whose function it is "to assist in the planning of Sephardic academic, cultural and service programs at YU." The Chairman of the Sephardic Council is David Eshaghian, who is also the Treasurer of Yeshiva College's Board of Directors.

# Weiss Editorial Stirs Protest

by Jamin Koslowe

An editorial in the last issue of *The Commentator* mistakenly criticizing Rabbi Avi Weiss, Professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, for an alleged "attack" on WNBC News/New York reporter Lou Young precipitated a flurry of student and faculty protest. *The Commentator's* claim that Weiss caused a "Chillul Hashem" by protesting the Yankel Rosenbaum killing in a violent manner, spurred the outburst.

Within hours of publication on November 12, *The Commentator* began receiving calls from students protesting the Weiss editorial. Several students disputed the facts cited in the editorial, while others criticized *The Commentator* for publicly criticizing Rabbi Weiss even if he had attacked Mr. Young.

On Monday, November 16, Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Saul Berman, Professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, summoned SCW students for an assembly in the sixth floor Beit Medrash. According to SCWSC President Adeeva Laya Graubard, approximately 80 women attended the assembly, during which Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Berman strongly condemned *The Commentator* for falsely accusing Rabbi Weiss. At the assembly, Rabbi Weiss reiterated his commitment to non-violence and claimed that *The Commentator* had violated many halachot by printing the editorial. Rabbi Berman

then confiscated all issues of *The Commentator* in the midtown school building.

Rabbi Berman, an associate and friend of Rabbi Weiss for over 20 years, stated that he was "outraged" when he first read the editorial, claiming that "to accuse Rabbi Weiss of such an attack is incomprehensible given his past record." Rabbi Berman explained his decision to confiscate the newspapers at SCW by likening the editorial to a piece of pornography, which is "[forbidden] to read, and [forbidden] to distribute." Rabbi Berman later returned the confiscated newspapers to *The Observer*, which is responsible for distributing *The Commentator* on the SCW campus. He stressed, however, that he remains opposed to further distribution of that issue of *The Commentator*.

*The Commentator* maintains that they only chastised Rabbi Weiss for the attack, which occurred during a protest on the night of the Crown Heights verdict, after the initial news report by Lou Young, and after corroborating the story with several sources. According to the newspaper, they attempted to contact Rabbi Weiss before going to press, but calls to his office were not returned and they were unaware that Mr. Young had later retracted his initial story.

*Commentator* Co-Editor-in-Chief Michael Z. Kellman stated, "While I recognize Rabbi Berman's concern

regarding the ramifications of further distribution of our editorial, I feel that once the retraction/apology has been issued, the merit of the rest of that edition of *The Commentator* should outweigh the possible harm of the misleading editorial." Kellman added that he "hopes we can put this incident behind us as soon as possible."

Although Rabbi Weiss would not comment directly about the editorial, he expressed desire for a personal meeting with *Commentator* editors: "I am hopeful, in the spirit of Teshuva, that those involved sit down with me, so they understand how deeply pained I am."

Even before the assembly, petitions demanding that *The Commentator* print a retraction and apology to Rabbi Weiss for the editorial were circulated among SCW students. 175 women signed the petitions before rumors that *The Commentator* planned to print a letter of retraction and apology began to spread prompting the recall of the petitions.

On the Uptown campus, second year Semicha student Nosson Leiter, one of the most outspoken critics of *The Commentator*, reprimanded those responsible for the editorial for "intolerably gross negligence." Because of halachic considerations, Leiter maintained that even had the facts been true, the editorial should not have been printed "unless a reliable and objective rabbinic authority would have allowed it." He further suggested that "those responsible [for the editorial] should do the honorable thing, and step down."

After confirming that the editorial was based on false information, *The Commentator* posted letters on Monday night acknowledging its mistake, and apologizing to Rabbi Weiss for the "grievous error and injustice done to him." Later that night, *The Commentator* received a letter from Rabbi Weiss' lawyer, Stanley Langer, outlining Rabbi Weiss' demands for: a mutually agreed upon letter of retraction and apology; the impounding and destruction of all issues of *The Commentator* not yet distributed; and the printing of the retraction and apology on the editorial page of the next issue of *The Commentator*. *The Commentator* subsequently removed the initial letters of retraction and apology, and solicited the legal services of attorney Charles Sims of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelsohn to represent its interests in negotiations with Rabbi Weiss' lawyer.

The next day, *The Commentator* posted a letter to its readers stating its intention to print retractions as soon as lawyers for the two sides could agree upon a text for a retraction.

Later in the week, anonymous open letters to the Editorial Board of *The Commentator* appeared on the uptown campus. These letters contained a new demand -- that the Editors-in-Chief and Executive Editor of *The Commentator* resign. Another unidentified protester shredded issues of *The Commentator* for use as toilet paper on the second floor of Muss Hall.

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## RESPONSA

continued from page 3

## Reynolds Defended

about our Senior Vice President, Dr. Israel Miller. He deserves a lot of credit for bringing the Syrian Jews to this country, not to mention his sincere effort to help new students once they come to YU. Everybody knows that despite the fact that Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky is the Vice President for University Affairs, he spends most of his time dealing with Sephardic communities and students. The list keeps going, and I haven't mentioned every single person's contributions. But my question to all of the students, whether Ashkenazi or Sephardi, is: don't these people all deserve a big *hazak u'baruch* for being so wonderful to all of us? Why not talk about the wonderful things constantly happening around us? Maybe this way we can encourage the few negative individuals among us to appreciate these good incidents rather than dwell on the bad.

Reviewing my club membership list, which is the longest club list on the campus, I find that a good number of Sephardim hold high positions in Yeshiva's student council. The V.P. of YCSC, President of JSS Student Council, President of IBC Student Council are all Sephardim. Well, what does this tell us? Aren't these people elected by the student body of Yeshiva? Isn't this the best proof that our students are interacting very well with each other?

I emphasize this to the readers outside the YC community. We are happy to be in such a friendly respectful Yeshiva, simply because of the many dedicated people that make it possible.

For those very few individual students who only think about themselves and don't respect other students from a different background, I would like to ask why Rav Moshe Zt"l became the gadol and the biggest posek in America and nobody else? No one can deny the greatness of a Rabbi like the previous Satmar Rav, but nonetheless the pesak of Rav Moshe was much more widely accepted. The answer is very simple. Rav Moshe respected everybody. He did not start his own chasidic movement or a Feinsteinic sect; he respected all Jews equally. The Satmar Rav on the other hand, belonged to his own sect and mostly associated with only that sect. Yes, if you respect everybody regardless of who they are, then everybody will respect you too, and accept your pesak, like Rav Moshe's. But, if you want to fence yourself in and only respect your own circles and claim that what you have is the only acceptable thing, then nobody will accept you either. Mutual respect is very important, and it is the main way to strengthen *achdut* among the *Yehudim*.

I therefore request native students to help their fellow Jewish immigrants adjust to this country. They need a lot of help with language which can be best provided by caring friends.

May the importance of *Achdut* and *Ahavat Israel* bring the *Geula Bimhera Beyameynu. Amen.*

Daniel Hakimi  
Sephardic Club President  
Chemistry Club President  
YC '93

To the Editor,

I was very dismayed to read the report of Dr. Reynolds' departure from the Psychology Department (*The Commentator* 10/5/92). No, I don't mean I'm sorry he left; I knew he was planning to leave and he made a wise decision. What dismayed me was the report itself. The perfunctory style of the article indicates both a shortage of thought and a lack of investigation -- two things that no journalistic article should be without. Moreover, it is cowardly and unfair to portray someone negatively when he isn't given an opportunity to defend himself. Certainly, the writer should have spoken with Dr. Reynolds and at least given his opinions the same cursory attention that was given to his detractors.

Journalistic methodology aside, the claims of the article are, at best, one sided and at worst, wrong. I took two of Dr. Reynolds' advanced courses during his first and my last semester at YU. They were among the best courses I ever took. After a year of graduate study at one of the best Psychology Departments in the country, I can say unhesitatingly that Dr. Reynolds is up to par. The disappointment of unnamed "faculty members and Administrators" is certainly out of place given their own uninspiring performances. Did they honestly expect Dr. Reynolds' breath of life to singlehandedly revive the moribund Psychology Department? The fact that they allowed a man who became one of the stronger arguments for mandatory retirement, to head the department for forty years clearly demonstrates their desire for a dynamic educational environment. Anyone who has no-dozed through a semester of Dr. Adler and his crumbling yellow notes (and psychology majors are practically forced to, given the impoverished smorgasbord of professors they face) should be outraged that criticism is leveled at Dr. Reynolds. To Ephy Gopin who complained that "[Dr. Reynolds] did not seem at all interested in the students" I can only say that I managed to develop a terrific relationship with Dr. Reynolds in only one semester. How did I do this? Well, who can be sure about anything these days, but I suspect it had something to do with showing up to class, reading the material, involving myself in class discussions and other sorts of things that seem to only get in the way of the sprint towards a rewarding accounting position.

As a final note, I should say that Dr. Reynolds is one of the most interesting people I have ever met. He has a fascinating life story and is an excellent source of information and discussion on a wide variety of subjects. My relationship with him has proved to be very enriching. A school whose student body consists almost exclusively of sheltered American Orthodox Jews could have benefited greatly from someone like Dr. Reynolds. Instead of denigrating him, YU students, faculty, and administrators should try to understand why he was turned off so quickly and how such an unfortunate occurrence can be avoided in the future.

Adam J. Schorr  
YC '91

## Board Member Meets MYP Students

by Ari Listowsky

Seven Mazer Yeshiva Program (MYP) students recently met with Mr. Nahum Gordon, Chairman of the Jewish Studies Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the YC Board of Directors, to discuss what invitations to the meeting termed "[the students] perception of the [MYP] program."

According to Gordon, a YU alumnus, the AAC was formed by President Norman Lamm approximately seven years ago. The committee deals on a rotating basis with the MYP, IBC, and JSS programs. Gordon explained that the first step is a series of informal meetings between board members and students which allow the students to bring to the committee's attention their concerns about the school. The committee then meets with administration and faculty, produces a report, and makes recommendations for improvement. Programs such as the Torah U'Madda project were created in part as a result of these recommendations.

The student representatives attending the meeting were: SOY president Hillel Scheinfeld, Gedalyah Berger, Eitan Mayer, Ari Pinchot, Tzvi Shiloni, Jason Schwartz, and David Flatto. Gordon had asked for ten students who would constitute a representative cross-section of students in the MYP program and include student leaders as well. The seven who attended were from a list of ten students submitted to Dean of MYP Rabbi Zevulun Charlop's office by Scheinfeld. Two students were unable to attend and one did not receive an invitation because of an oversight. Scheinfeld explained that he attempted to gather a group of students who would "reflect the spectrum of philosophies and Yiddishkeit in YP" and "show an interest in improving the YP program." During the meeting, students discussed what they felt were deficiencies in the YP program. Gordon did not wish to reveal the specifics of the topics discussed because he felt that it might hamper his efforts on behalf of the students. He did state, however, that the goal of the meeting was to improve the "quality of life" for YP students.

Among the issues discussed was a letter written by Scheinfeld to Rabbi Charlop before the school year. In the letter, Scheinfeld expressed his concern that "the absence of rebbeim in the Beis Medrash during seder may contribute

to talmidim feeling distanced from [them]." Scheinfeld asked Rabbi Charlop to "urge all rebbeim to be present."

The students also discussed the lack of attendance in certain shiurim. Rabbi Charlop explained that the present system puts certain students with low attendance on a probation list. These students are monitored carefully and disciplined if the need arises. He pointed out that a student was recently expelled for failing to attend shiurim. He did admit, however, that an enforceable rule regarding grade or credit requirements would be helpful.

Turning to space constraints, the student representatives claimed that the Beis Medrash is too small for all of the students and some may stop attending seder because of the lack of seats. Additionally, the students maintained that tests should be taken more seriously and given with more structure. As Flatto explained, "students should not be able to take asylum in shiurim with easy or non-existent testing methods."

Although the students admitted that they entered the meeting filled with skepticism, most said that they came away with a positive feeling. Mr. Gordon stated that after the committee has met with the Administration and faculty and prepares a report, he will make the report's details known to the student body. This past Thursday night, Mr. Gordon delivered a preliminary report on the discussion at a regular meeting of the Yeshiva College Board of Directors.

## Rosenbaum

continued from page 1

it's not politically expedient, that's too bad," he added emphatically.

Both Rosenbaum and Snitow highlighted the fact that the Crown Heights community has worked within the law. Citing recent editorials in the *New York Times*, they pointed out that while most minority groups are lauded by the press when they exercise their constitutional right to combat racism, Jews are seen as compkiners. Rosenbaum urged the audience to turn this negative stereotype into something positive by writing to government officials to raise public awareness. The loudest comment after the Holocaust was "if only we had have," concluded Rosenbaum. "We all stand together; when I lost a brother you lost a brother."

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## Altercation at Stern College

by Commentator Staff

On Thursday, November 19, Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeff Socol and another supervisor were reportedly punched by a maintenance employee during a heated dispute at the SCW school building.

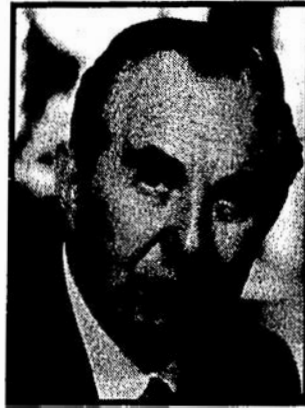
According to sources requesting anonymity, sometime in the late afternoon Socol began yelling at Patrick Agron for painting the wrong wall. Socol allegedly then proceeded to call Agron a "crack-head" and a "dope addict", during the heated argument which ensued. According to Agron, Socol then reached for his gun, at which point Agron, feeling threatened, punched Socol in the face. Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten categorically denied all of the charges and asserted that the painters were found in a part of the building different from where they were supposed to be and that they were simply asked why they were not in their assigned place.

Rosengarten stated that "No statements taken at the time of the incident have mention of a gun. There was no evidence that a gun was in any way involved." He added that it was an "unprovoked and unexpected attack which took place as they [the supervisors] were leaving."

Rosengarten maintains that Socol's attacker, whom he refused to name, was a second time offender. He insisted that, according to witnesses, the attacker "acted weirdly and aggressively...lunged at the two supervisors with his fist and hit both men."

Agron, who has been suspended indefinitely pending an investigation of the incident and a hearing, claimed that Socol is a "nasty man who is disrespectful to a lot of people and workers." However, Agron was unwilling to discuss the event in detail before speaking to his union leadership.

Socol refused to comment on the incident.



## Dinner

*continued from page 1*

the recession, but because of major gifts we are in a very desirable position."

Powell and Herzog join a stellar list of past speakers at the Hanukkah Dinner which has, in past years, featured Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, President George Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, and former Secretary of State George Shultz. According to Zysman, Powell and Herzog were chosen because, "YU has always tried to present

people of significance in both the American and the Israeli community." Remarkably, both General Powell and President Herzog are attending the event without a speaker's charge. They are coming, according to Zysman, "because they are honored to receive degrees and speak at Yeshiva University." Zysman explained that the prestige of Yeshiva University, as well as its leadership's familiarity with influential figures throughout the world, entices high-quality speakers to attend YU functions.

Others slated to receive honorary doctoral degrees at this year's Hanukkah Dinner are Nobel Prize nominee Dr. Jack Fishman, Earl Mack, Phil Rosen, and Anita Solies. President Herzog will not receive an honorary degree because he has received one from Yeshiva University in the past. However, he will be granted the first "Second Century Award".

Approximately 1000 guests will be invited to the dinner, including: major donors to the University, famous Jewish personalities, Board members, YU leadership, and a select group of students.

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# Tenure

continued from page 1

The second criterion, teaching effectiveness, is measured in a number of ways. A portfolio containing recommendations by students, statistical summaries of student evaluations, and information on courses introduced and taught by the particular professor is submitted to the tenure committee.

Dr. Will Lee, professor of English, feels that Dr. Brenner has modified this evaluation procedure for the better; "[Dr. Brenner] has already changed the tenure procedures. . . by asking for a teaching portfolio for undergraduate appointments which automatically places more emphasis on teaching. I agree that teaching should be the first consideration in an undergraduate tenure decision."

The Student recommendations are essentially the same as those written by faculty for students applying to graduate school. Usually, junior and senior majors in a particular professor's discipline are asked by him to write these letters. With regard to student evaluations, data is compiled that shows where a professor stands vis-a-vis the statistical average of the college on a question by question basis.

Peer reviews are also conducted in which deans or fellow faculty members observe classes and submit a report to the evaluation committee.

Information regarding the three criteria is compiled and evaluated by a committee composed of colleagues

# Reparations

continued from page 1

such as shuls, cemeteries, schools, and old age homes.

Miller then requested a meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and was received in June 1991. After their meeting in Bonn, Kohl appointed his Finance Minister as the German representative to the talks, while Miller established a five member committee to negotiate for the Claims Conference.

Miller felt that it would be preferable if the negotiators reported back to him. "In any negotiation it is better if they don't have to make the decision right there. . . It gives you a little more leeway

within the professor's division. Their recommendation is then passed on to the deans and the Executive Vice President who make their own recommendations. These are all then forwarded to the President. In cases where the division committee and the deans/Executive Vice President both recommend the granting of tenure, the President virtually never disagrees. When the reports are split, with one recommending tenure and the other recommending denial, the President will at times override the negative recommendation and grant tenure.

The uptown Senate is currently debating how much weight should be placed on teaching and general interaction with students. Many Senators would like to encourage professors to help the clubs, be more involved in extracurricular activities,

in order to get the maximum you can."

The two sides held seven meetings which led to the final agreement concluded three weeks ago.

"I consider this an historic event," commented Miller, "because it's forty years after the last [treaty]. . . In the present climate in Germany, and with the problems that they are having, even economically, in the integration of East Germany, they don't have as a priority taking care of the victims of Nazism."

Miller said that there are still thousands of Jews who haven't received any compensation. Because of this agreement, an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 are expected to receive some assistance.

Under the terms of the agreement, to be eligible for restitution, one must have been held in a concentration camp for at least 6 months or forced to live in hiding or in a ghetto for 18 months or more.

and play a more prominent role in guiding students. Moreover, the Senate would like to place more emphasis on teaching in the tenure criteria. According to Rabbi Shalom Carmy, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Faculty-Student Interaction, the goal is to foster greater faculty involvement in student matters without teachers having to worry about hurting their tenure chances because they will have less time to devote to scholarship. However, Carmy emphasized that "no matter what the Senate recommends, if the people making the decisions don't believe in these suggestions, they won't be factors in the tenure decision."

In addition to tenure, there are other areas where Yeshiva does not meet AAUP standards. The AAUP advocates the establishment of salary scales at universities, something which does not

Individuals will receive monthly payments of 500 German Marks (about \$315) beginning in 1995. Additionally, \$18 million will be set aside for nursing homes to help elderly survivors. Miller pointed out that, while according to the previous agreement, claimants had to prove physical disability and were remunerated in proportion to the severity of their injuries, no such qualification will be necessary for current applicants. Therefore, the value of the old payments varied while the present ones are fixed. Miller, however, stressed that such payments must be viewed only as "supplemental income."

The Claims Conference, made up of members of 24 international organizations, intends to issue applications for reparations within the next three weeks and will advertise them widely.

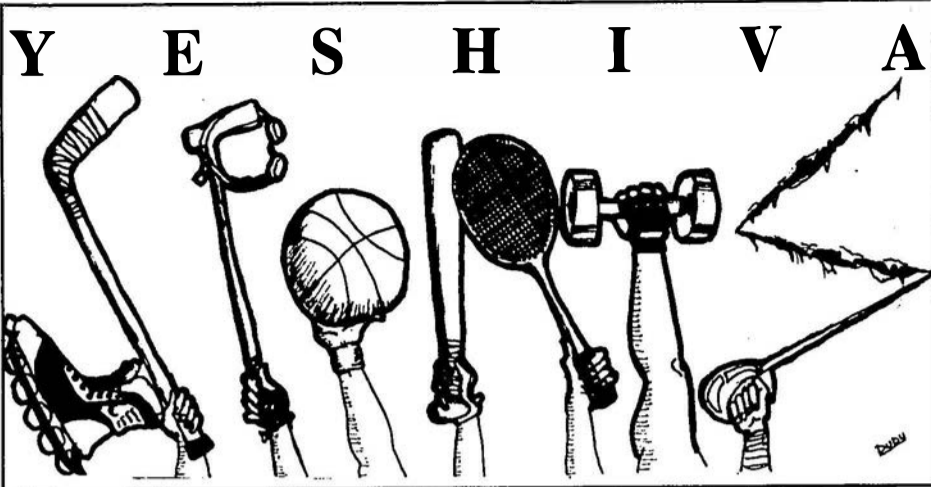
exist here. As a result, in the words of one professor, "since YU has no salary scale, no one is supposed to know what anyone makes, it is not a matter of public record, so YU makes the decisions about who gets what."

Many professors expressed regrets that YU does not adhere to AAUP standards. One faculty member commented that "a private university willing to undergo AAUP sanctions and suffer the consequences has a great deal of power over tenure." Another faculty member commented that YU has been hurt academically as a result of the censure. He said that YU has less prestige nationwide, and quality professors "may be turned off from coming to YU as a result of the censure." This professor emphasized that "YU is a high quality [college], but it could be better."

# Maccabees 1992-'93 -- The Players

compiled by Michael Glass and Yoni Epstein

NAME	#	POS.	HT.	WT.	HOME	KEY COMMENTS
Aaron, Daniel	42	Center	6' 4"	200 lbs.	Monsey, NY	Despite missing much of last season, still won I.A.C. rookie of the year honors. Led Macs with 26 ppg. and is a monster in the middle. A healthy Aaron is essential for team to be successful. As Aaron goes, so do the Macs.
Ben Ami, Erez	23	Guard	6' 0"	155 lbs.	Los Angeles, CA	Strengths lie in his quickness and pure athleticism. Excellent defensive ability makes him an integral part of the Maccabee's defensively oriented system.
Cohen, Dovid	11	Point Guard	6' 0"	170 lbs.	Lawrence, NY	A point guard with good court sense and leadership qualities. Team Co-Captain. Needs to establish himself as a consistent offensive threat.
Danan, Miko	32	Forward	6' 4"	200 lbs.	Ramla, Israel	Second on team in scoring last year with 20 ppg. Deadly shooter when on, when not, needs to be more selective, especially from behind the three point line.
Dobin, Josh	24	Guard	6' 1"	190 lbs.	Miami Beach, FL	Excellent outside touch. Co-Captain. Improving all facets of his game. Can provide instant offensive spark when needed.
Dube, Michael	34	Forward	6' 1"	175 lbs.	Philadelphia, PA	Intense player and crowd favorite. Capable of giving support from off the bench.
Furst, Donny	22	Point Guard	6' 0"	170 lbs.	Englewood, NJ	Talented point guard capable of playing either the one or two spot. Needs to look for shot more often. Excellent penetrator with exceptional defensive ability.
Jayinsky, Jose	14	Guard	6' 0"	180 lbs.	Givataim, Israel	The X factor. Word on the street in Israel is that this guy can play. We are waiting to see.
Levy, Alan	35	Forward/Center	6' 5"	190 lbs.	Brooklyn, NY	At 6' 5" is an excellent compliment to Aaron. Tough inside with soft touch. Solid defensively -- can play either forward or center. A newcomer who should have an immediate impact.
Melul, Igal	40	Forward/Center	6' 5"	200 lbs.	Ramla, Israel	The third of our Israeli imports. Brings a physical presence, but must adapt to the American style of play.
Neumann, Issac	31	Guard	6' 2"	145 lbs.	Brooklyn, NY	Freshman. In the process of being transformed into a point guard. Brings a level of intensity to the team and possesses good natural ability. A project.
Rose, Or	25	Forward	6' 0"	185 lbs.	Winnipeg, Can.	Most fundamentally sound player on the Macs. Good rebounder and tough physically. Must take the open jumper to be effective.
Stepner, Saul	33	Forward/Center	6' 4"	200 lbs.	Hollywood, FL	One of the most popular Maccabees. Solid contributor off the pine. Newcomers may cut into his minutes.
Wallach, Israel	30	Guard	5' 10"	155 lbs.	Brooklyn, NY	A rookie with a potent outside shot and superb ability to take the ball to the hole. Tough on defense. Should help add quickness and scoring to the guard spot.



## Veteran Volleyball Macs Look For More

by Commentator Sports Staff

Following last year's average Macs Volleyball performance, a newer, younger team is seeking to improve on the 7-7 record of the 1992 season. With the departure of veteran players like Zevi Adler and Aaron Katzman, the Macs find themselves vulnerable at many positions, most notably at setter. Macs Volleyball coach Omar Vargas remarked, "A good setter is important. . . training for a new setter has already begun." Team players were hesitant to comment on the situation, but inside sources say that rookie sensation Noah Lindenberg has been endlessly setting a ball against the walls of his Rubin dorm room.

Veteran players such as Jeremy Bandler and Avi Steinlauf are returning for their third and fourth seasons respectively and seem optimistic about this year's team. With the departure of four 1992 starters, the 1993 Macs find themselves with six team spots still available. However, the present practice team abounds with talent with many former high school athletes joining the club. Among the newcomers are Noah Weisberger, a skilled player out of Silver Spring, Maryland and Noah Lindenberg.

The veteran picture shapes up as follows:

Jeremy Bandler -- Bandler is a third year player from Silver Spring. As 1992's floor captain, Bandler brings an unmatched intensity to the court, while this year he looks to maintain consistency

in his already solid game.

Neil Bromberg -- Also a third year player, the Macs hope Bromberg will play a major role in their offensive attack. Although he has not been utilized in a starting role for the past two seasons, arduous practice should raise him to the level of a starter.

Avi Marocco -- Marocco, playing his second season, hopes to see a good deal of playing time during the 1993 season. He has become a fearsome spiker and intends to put an abundance of kills down this year. With additional game experience, Marocco will be a fierce competitor for the team.

Ari Pinchot -- Although Pinchot is not sure if he will fully participate this season, he continues to practice with the team and has shown vast improvement in his game. If he does decide to resolve his tennis team conflict, Pinchot can be a definite force at middle hitter.

Avi Steinlauf -- "Laufer", the zeide of this youthful ball club, returns for his fourth and final season of Macs Volleyball. In the past three seasons, Steinlauf has won every possible team award and has served adeptly as team captain. The Macs need Steinlauf's sturdy and consistent play at the outside hitting spot if they want to improve on last seasons .500 winning percentage.

With the newly painted, fan conducive, center court, the Macs hope that the Yeshiva fans will back them in their quest for a triumphant season.

## Intramural Recap

by Daniel Gelbtuch

CELTICS 36 JAZZ 29

The Celtics were finally defeated on Monday night, November 16, partly due to the hectic midterm schedule which permitted only 5 Celts to attend. The Jazz, sparked by the frontcourt of Silbiger, Bromberg, and rookie star Daniel Gibber, dominated the weary Celtics down the stretch. The Celtics kept it close until halftime but were unable to keep up with the Jazz and their deep bench despite solid efforts from Jason Horowitz (12 points) and Brian Kardon (14 pts.).

SUPERSONICS 55 CLIPPERS 53

The first game of Tuesday night's doubleheader provided spectators with the most dramatic and exciting game of the season. The Sonics, despite their undersized frontcourt (who had the unenviable task of defending Moshe Bennaroch), were able to hold their own down low. Meanwhile, the Sonics'

backcourt of Jeremy Bandler (23 pts.) and Donny Davis (3 Tri-fectas) were able to build a 30-21 halftime lead. However, with 6:25 remaining in the game and the Sonics up by 17, the Clippers went on a 16-2 run. Despite the spirited play of Assaf Tzur (18 pts.) and Moshe Bennaroch, Bandler was able to thwart the incredible Clipper comeback with clutch free throw shooting down the stretch.

HEAT 61 PISTONS 48

The winless Pistons, struggling despite their plethora of talent, were unable to contain the Heat, the best outside shooting team in the league. The emergence of former MTA star, point guard Mitch Weiser, was the key factor in the Heat victory. Weiser, who scored 9 points, balanced the Heat attack with excellent ball distribution to shooters Sam Maryles (8), Avi Greenbaum (11), and Noam Cohen (16). Kenneth Weider led the Piston effort with 13 points.

## Macs Show Promise

By Michael Glass and Yoni Epstein

With the eagerly anticipated Yeshiva Maccabees basketball season only two weeks away, we wish to take a final pre-season look at the team and its prospects. Coach Jonathan Halpert (21st season) and his squad are looking to improve on last year's 13-10 record. Despite getting off to a quick 11-2 start, the '91-'92 Macs faltered down the stretch because of injuries to key players. Significantly, ten out of the fourteen Macs have returned from last year. With that extra year of experience under their belts, and their familiarity with Halpert's style of play,

the team should be able to cut-down on sloppy plays and improve their communication. Barring any major injuries, the combination of experienced veterans and promising newcomers should add some more victories to their record.

The loss of multi-talented guard Elisha Rothman, combined with a tough schedule that has the Maccabees playing 11 out of 19 games on the road, may prove to be difficult obstacles for the Macs to overcome. However, should all the pieces fall into place, and if the team can stay healthy, look for the 1992-93 Yeshiva Maccabees to make a return to the I.A.C. playoffs.

The season kicks off against the New Jersey Institute of Technology, on November 30th. Let's go Macs!

**This year's roster appears on page 11**

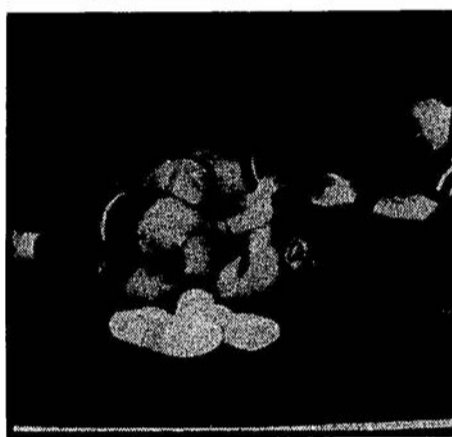


Photo: J. Haber

ankle pick. He continued his assaults and pinned him with a "chicken wing" combination. Against Farmingdale, Bessler again dominated, executing a series of tilts and arm-bars and winning his match 9-5.

Seth Gerszberg (150 lbs.) started an impressive season with pins against both Fordham University and SUNY Farmingdale. He controlled his opponents with sheer will and determination. Gerszberg's trademark is lifting his opponents into the air before slamming them into the mat and he overpowered his foes with "half nelsons" from both sides and worked his way to a pin.

Josh Bernheim (158 lbs.) rendered his first opponent helpless. He immediately took him down with a "double-leg" takedown. Despite his tremendous power, Bernheim confounded his opponent by utilizing finesse and skill. He executed a picture perfect "arm-bar", setting him up for the pin early in the second period. In his second match, Bernheim fought hard to defend against the relentless attacks of his opponent but was unable to extract a victory against the former state champion.

Teddy Pearlman (Hwt) is undefeated this season. After accepting a forfeit versus Fordham, Pearlman used his unbounded energy to force a "single leg" takedown against his Farmingdale opponent. He rebutted his opponent's attacks and eventually pinned him with :01 left to the first period.

As a team, the wrestlers fought admirably. They beat Fordham University with a team score of 33-24 and, despite a valiant effort, lost 21-28 to Farmingdale. "They were one of the toughest teams we will face this year," commented Zinkin.

The Wrestling Macs next meet is December 2, against St. Johns University.

## Wrestlers Split First Two

by Commentator Sports Staff

The wrestling season is off to an exhilarating start with two matches which have highlighted the team's strengths. The Macs have performed impressively, both on the road against Fordham University and at home versus SUNY Farmingdale.

Co-Captain Effy Zinkin (134 lbs.) jump started the Macs in their season opener with an intense, hard fought 6-0 shutout. He countered his opponents first attack and proceeded to take control. For the rest of the match, Zinkin dominated his opponent with arm-bar series and other upper body moves. In Zinkin's second match, against Farmingdale, he fought a tough battle that went the distance. He ran out of time and lost on points at the buzzer.

Co-Captain Barry Bessler (142 lbs.) started the season with a second period pin against Fordham. From the beginning, Bessler overwhelmed his opponent, taking him down with an

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