

The Commentator

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Food preparation areas: Are they safe?

Biology Students Find Unusual Bacteria in Cafeteria and Pool

by Ari Rosenstein

Towards the end of the fall semester, ten to twelve microbiology students participated in an experiment with the purpose of finding and identifying bacteria not found in the laboratory environment. Samples taken by some of the students from the swimming pool and cafeteria preparation surfaces indicated certain pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria which should not have been present had the areas in question been properly maintained.

Bacteria Found In Cafeteria

Sergei Levin, a second year biology major, tested various

precautions before serving the food. Another employee, Jimmy, stated that although he occasionally wears gloves "when handling meat," servers were not specifically told to wear them at all times. However, Jake Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, stated that gloves and bacterial soap are present throughout the cafeteria and employees are supposed to use them at all times. The only exception is "when handling hot foods, the gloves may melt or lose their grip, and are therefore not required." He strongly maintained that gloves are required whenever there is direct contact with food. "We cannot be policemen here," he stated, "and if an employee doesn't wash his hands or wear gloves all the time, there is nothing we can do about it." Lieberman asserted that while Levin found certain bacteria on the counter, this does not mean the counters are contaminated. "We have never been cited for health violations by the Health Department before," he stated, "and a single test done by a single student cannot be used to indicate anything." Standard scientific procedures require the area in question to be tested a second time, to determine the accuracy of the first test. While certain bacteria may have been found, the results cannot be confirmed without re-testing the counters. At present, there are no plans to re-test the counters.

Eric, a new employee in the cafeteria, stated that he began working behind the counter on February 4 and he was never told to take any specific sanitary

precautions before serving the food. Another employee, Jimmy, stated that although he occasionally wears gloves "when handling meat," servers were not specifically told to wear them at all times.

However, Jake Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, stated that gloves and bacterial soap are present throughout the cafeteria and employees are supposed to use them at all times. The only exception is "when handling hot foods, the gloves may melt or lose their grip, and are therefore not required." He strongly maintained that gloves are required whenever there is direct contact with food. "We cannot be policemen here," he stated, "and if an employee doesn't wash his hands or wear gloves all the time, there is nothing we can do about it."

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Administration Begins Search for Brenner's Successor

Head-Hunting Firm Hired to Look for New VP



Who will replace retiring Executive V.P. Egon Brenner?

by Jamin Koslowe

The YU Administration has secured the services of Heidrick & Struggles, a Washington based head-hunting firm, to identify qualified applicants to fill the position of Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, which will be vacated by Dr. Egon Brenner at the end of the academic year.

Brenner, who has held his current position for 12 years, announced his decision to retire last month. He is responsible for all of YU's academic divisions, except the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In his capacity as Executive Vice President, Brenner coordinates academic programs, makes decisions on course offerings, sets curricula, and makes the final recommendation to the President on faculty tenure decisions.

Describing the importance of finding a qualified successor, YU Director of Public Relations Sam Hartstein pointed to the "tremendous challenge to lead our institution into the 21st century." Hartstein explained that the firm of Heidrick & Struggles was hired because of their extensive resources and networks, attributes which are needed to secure the names of exceptional applicants.

Heidrick & Struggles associate Janet Greenwood explained that the firm will "work as the University's partner," trying to "match people's portfolios against the University's needs." To date, the firm has placed advertisements in many journals in an effort to solicit applicants. Additionally, the firm has begun talking to their

sources worldwide, to determine who might be available to fill the position.

A recent advertisement appearing in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* outlined the requirements for the position. According to the advertisement, the Vice President should "provide creative educational leadership [and] identify, attract and retain outstanding faculty in the University's continuing effort to further enrich the quality of its educational programs."

According to Greenwood, "the search is just beginning," and no applicant's names have been sent back to YU yet. She stated that within a month, the firm will probably gather a sampling and forward a list of applicants to YU.

Lamm Lauds Brenner

Reflecting on his years at YU, Brenner cited major improvements in YU's graduate schools, libraries, laboratories, and faculty appointments, stating, "I am very happy with what I accomplished." Brenner asserted that he is "not unhappy with Yeshiva, but the time has come to leave."

In a letter sent to colleagues, President Norman Lamm hailed Brenner for his "important contributions," adding that "As professor, dean, and deputy chancellor, Dr. Brenner distinguished himself in the service of higher education." Dr. Lamm concluded by stating that he is "confident that our efforts will prevail in the changing of the guard."

Marketing Firm Investigates YC Constituency

by Eric M. Creizman

As part of the University's attempt to augment enrollment, the task force on admissions, chaired by Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, has commissioned Martilla and Kiley Inc., a prominent marketing research firm, to conduct a study to locate YU's target audience and the most effective and efficient way to reach them.

During the study, which began in early December and will continue for the next few months, Martilla and Kiley will consult with different groups to obtain their impressions of the strengths and weaknesses of YU's academic, social, and religious environment.

Natalie Wigotsky, Martilla and Kiley's representative directing the study, stated that the first objective of the study is to get a feel for YU life. "We have been here since before Christmas,

and we are attempting to learn everything about the institution," she explained. While Wigotsky insisted that they have not entirely accomplished this goal, Nulman was impressed by their "remarkably clear understanding of who we are." Martilla and Kiley representatives have met frequently with administrators, faculty and student leaders, and have attended administrative conferences where experts on YU admissions were present.

In addition to the conferences with student leaders, Wigotsky, along with John Martilla, intends to speak with other students as well. They hope to determine why students choose to attend YU so that the marketing strategy can focus on a target audience. Martilla and Kiley is also considering a survey of the entire student body, interviewing potential applicants, and students who have been accepted in the past but declined to attend.

Nulman indicated that he has been devising a method to involve the entire YC student body in a survey. "We regard this as very important, but we just don't know how we're going to do it yet," he said.

Although Wigotsky refused to discuss any impressions Martilla and Kiley have developed to date, she asserts that they have covered much ground. "We have some ideas, but we're just not going to jump to any conclusions until we have interviewed more students, talked in greater depth to faculty and administration officials, and learned more about Yeshiva University."

Nulman indicated that while administration officials and teachers have been offering their suggestions, "We are more than willing to keep them quiet and view the study's findings with an open mind."

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A Recurring Problem

Time and again, *The Commentator* has addressed a persistent problem which plagues our university. Unfortunately, there is no reprieve in sight, and we are forced to highlight once again the deleterious effect Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol has on our campus.

In yet another rash act, Socol closed Muss room 581, changing the lock to ensure that not even the dorm counselor could enter. Do we not trust our dorm counselors? Would Director of Residence Halls Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz appoint untrustworthy men to these positions? Additionally, Socol confiscated *The Commentator's* Belfer Hall newsstand after the newspaper had obtained permission from Assistant to the Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff to place it in the building's lobby.

Further, Socol's relationship with the maintenance staff and security has deteriorated to such an extent that 1199 workers openly called for Socol's dismissal at their protest outside the University chanuka dinner. Security guards and maintenance workers constantly besiege *The Commentator* with complaints about Socol's behavior and policies.

The root of the problem is obvious. As long as only students and university employees protest, Socol remains untouchable and his dismissal is a virtual impossibility. The usual chain of command is blocked somewhere along the line. However, we are sure that together with improved cooperation between students and administrators, a way can be found to further improve the general campus atmosphere by removing *this* problematic Mr. Socol.

Failing to Find Faculty

Last issue, *The Commentator* concluded a four-part series of investigative articles which analyzed the strained relations between the YU Administration and its faculty members. Our articles and polls indicated severe faculty discontent regarding YU salary and tenure policies, in addition to a general lack of communication between the two groups.

In the current search for a new Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Administration has placed advertisements to procure someone who will "identify, attract, and retain outstanding faculty." What caliber of professors does the Administration think they can draw to a university where 86% of the faculty perceive their salaries as being below the national average?

We are not blind to financial considerations; in these recessionary times, all universities are economizing. But if our university continues to target faculty in its penny-pinching policies, Dr. Brenner's successor will not live up to the Administration's expectations. No Vice President, regardless of qualifications, will be able to secure outstanding faculty if the state of faculty-administration relations fails to improve on campus.

P I C T O R I A L



"It seems that special agent 019 has successfully completed her assignment."

The Commentator

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RESPONSA

The "Tanned Member" Responds

To the Editor:

I am the tanned member of the audience of Mr. Samuel Katz, and incidentally I am a bit tanner since I spent the intersession in Acapulco. Several weeks have passed from the time we heard Mr. Katz speak, and since then, the letters in *The Commentator* have mentioned the "ego-saving" of the "hyper-sensitive" Mr. Berkowitz, "his true colors," and my external ones. Well now, I figure it's time I had a say, since I have been the impetus for this ruckus.

My outspoken reprimand of Seth Berkowitz was initiated by the implications of his comments and questions of the evening. They were indicative of a weakness among our people that surfaces when the going gets tough. And that is the need to alleviate pressures at practically any cost without objectively weighing the potential dangers. Seth implied that since the Likud tactics did not change the status quo, then we obviously had to try something new (Territorial Compromise). The goal of this approach innocently intends to reach a peace, but more accurately means to rectify a supposed wrong done unto the Arabs in Judea and Samaria.

It is this approach, that lacks a sense of objectivity and foresight, that troubles me. We have seen one devastating Holocaust and four attempted holocausts in this century alone (the wars of '48, '56, '67, '73). This blurred vision, coupled with a thirst to rid the Jews and Israel of pressures from the world community as soon as possible and at almost any cost, is what is dangerous. (I shall not detail the strategic proofs for maintaining the current borders of Israel

here, but if any reader is seeking clarification, I am in the Guide). These lands were paid for with lives of our boys preventing an attempted holocaust (The Six-Day War). And, the gains of this short war must not be treated as an "easy buck," and spent. In this war Israel had more proportional losses than the United States had during its eight-year stint in Vietnam. Moreover, before any conclusion is reached to spend the "gains" conservatively, shouldn't a more reliable track record be proven by the Arabs?

I knew that Meretz did not actually send Seth, but the influences of such parties did. Those who identify with the approaches of such parties should keep in mind that we have a very precious inheritance: Israel. Furthermore, we must grasp what Mr. Katz implored, "We have nowhere else to go." If Seth and others are completely convinced that the Arabs are truly seeking peace and that the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria will settle for a part of Israel, then I believe that these words will fall on blind eyes and deaf ears. If any doubt exists, then these folks should not be so impatient about reaching perceived goals that would bring on deadly disadvantages. There is just no room for error when it comes to survival.

Raoul Isaac
SSSB '93

Thank You, Sylvia

To the Editor,

We would like to complete the *Commentator's* attempt at "hakarot hatov" for the Chanuka Concert.

Guest at the Desk

Joshua D. Goldberg



photo: Thornton Studios

Communication: The Key to a Good Relationship

Dean Hecht loves to cite statistics on the number of YU graduates at prestigious law schools. I once heard him claim that there were more Yeshiva alumni in one class of Harvard Law than Harvard graduates (*im yirtze hashem* by me) implying that YU is on par with the most renowned college in North America. If our student-faculty poll was accurate, only 18% of faculty members can concur to any degree. And there's no need to poll the students. Why do so many of us disagree with him?

Now, this isn't going to be one of those "This School Stinks" tirades heard so often in our halls. I am convinced I made the right choice in selecting Yeshiva as my source of post-high school education. Nonetheless, it is impossible for me to ignore the complaints shared by every peer I respect, that invade every conversation I overhear. Over meals at the Caf, students grumble disapprovingly about their latest grievances instead of collegiately debating the mysteries of life. And most complaints are legitimate and chronic.

The validity of these complaints is only half the problem, however. Students and Administrators are in a relationship, and in a relationship, as my fiance has taught me, one must always recognize when the other side has a problem. The real difficulty arises when a perceived problem is rejected by the other as insignificant or imagined. Such a rejection causes a sense of futility and resentment.

Resisted every time improvement is sought, disregarded even when

the entire campus demonstrates and protests, we begin to see a pattern: The powers-that-be don't make obviously needed changes. Deans make decisions randomly and against logic. Our ideas are worthless and our education subordinate to some higher, withheld idea. We wonder what we are here for, and come up with the best answer in such a setting: a diploma.

And so, we scam instead of learn (unjustified but understandable), getting out as quickly as possible. High grades become almost everyone's goal. The quality of our education plummets as class participation becomes synonymous with kissing up. We talk to friends, neighbors and relatives and tell them what we think of YU. Quality students turn to Columbia and Penn for a "real" education. And the University needs a marketing firm to tell them why enrollment is down!

The truth is, we would all like to learn. We're not stupid. We know the outside world has high demands, and the skills we could obtain here would help. But we also have ideas how we would like to learn, and what we would like to learn. If the President, Vice Presidents, Deans, and Faculty would only listen to our suggestions, forged from our unique personal contact with the tools and structures designed to facilitate education, we could really improve a great deal. And, they would prove to us that education truly is the goal.

JDG

Op Ed: Ari Mosenkis Party Politics

Rosh Chodesh Adar will soon arrive, bringing with it an annual problem: the location of the Purim chagiga. Last year, the location was not determined until a day before the chagiga, and this year I foresee similar difficulties.

For as long as I can remember, the Purim chagiga has been held in the Beit Midrash. The most serious problem in holding it there is that it is overcrowded. First, the overcrowding results in cramped dancing, especially for the women, which is both uncomfortable as well as dangerous. Second, and more important, is the resulting fire hazard. Officially, the Beit Midrash can safely hold 450 people; last year's chagiga hosted over 1500 attendees. Facilities management is especially sensitive to this danger, particularly in light of last year's fatal tragedy at City College. Another, yet separate problem involves the Purim shpiel which often results in *bizui beit midrash*.

Perhaps, the most commonly suggested solution is to move the chagiga to Weissberg Commons. The Commons' advantage is that it has more room and numerous exits that lead directly to Tenzer Gardens and the pedestrian mall. Furthermore, holding the chagiga in Belfer Hall eliminates the problem of *bizui beit midrash*. There are, however, a number of problems with this solution. First, the chagiga should ideally be held in the same room where Torah is studied. Moreover, the layout of Weissberg Commons lends itself to extensive mixing of the sexes, both indoors and outside. This mixing could spoil the dancing and could also lead to some halachic problems. Finally, both the acoustics and sight-lines in Weissberg Commons pose problems for the shpiel. After discussing the issue with Jeff Socol and others last year, we concluded that the best location for a shpiel stage in Weissberg Commons would be the front right corner (with Tenzer Gardens on the left side). The women would be forced to view the shpiel from around the pillars, cutting down on the sight-lines.

Banning any attenders without a valid YU i.d. card is another common

The writer was the Chairman of last year's Chanukah and Purim chagigot, and is currently vice-president of SOY.

suggestion. This suggestion presumes that the exclusion of high school students, post-grads and students from other universities would create substantial additional room in the Beit Midrash. In fact, it would exclude only a small percentage of people and the Beit Midrash would still be overcrowded.

A third solution would restrict the Purim chagiga to men only. This would allow the men ample room to dance, and would also lessen the impropriety of the shpiel. This proposal, however, deprives the rights of the women to partake in a truly inspiring and uplifting chagiga and to hear and enjoy the shpiel (which would not even be funny in their absence -- but that is beside the point.)

Perhaps the solution is a combination of several of the above-mentioned suggestions, with some modifications. The men could have their own chagiga in the Beit Midrash, while TAC could simultaneously sponsor their annual chagiga in Weissberg Commons. The men's shpiel would be at a set time, midnight perhaps, in Lamport Auditorium -- on stage. The women would be welcome to come and enjoy the shpiel. There would be plenty of room for both parties (pun intended) and the safety hazards would be alleviated, as would the *bizui beit midrash*. The audience would be more content in seats than on the floor, and everyone would be able to see and hear because of the auditorium's sloped floor and sound system.

Admittedly, my proposal is not without its own faults. Specifically, paying for two separate, simultaneously playing bands, seems wasteful. Moreover, some girls will, inevitably, still feel excluded from the main action. Furthermore, there are countless logistical problems: how exactly will the auditorium be divided, how will the processions to and from the auditorium take place, etc... Certainly my proposition is incomplete, but perhaps it contains the rudiments of a feasible solution. Additionally, maybe this article will stir conversations and future correspondence and eventually we can arrive at the best solution and enjoy Purim properly and fully.

Op Ed: Dani Goldstein

My Modest Proposal: A Dress Code for YU

I have a good friend who would love nothing more than to see me wearing wool pants. My friend, who does not learn in our yeshiva, comes from a more "yeshivish" background and thinks my Dockers are unbecoming of a semicha student. (Let's not even talk about white tube socks).

Needless to say, I rejected this suggestion out of hand, as any good YU boy would do. "Why are you so interested in outward expression, when

the essence of Judaism is *p'nimius*, not *chitzonius*?" I argued. Perhaps, I feel personally scared by this issue, having once attended one of New York's "real" yeshivas, where I was labeled an outsider, an untouchable, merely because I wore a suede yarmulke and it was known that I would someday return to YU. Upon thinking of my experiences, I would then subject my friend to the same impassioned plea: "Do I not daven three times a day? Do I not learn the same Torah? Do I question God's omnipotence? Do I not believe in Revelation?...?" And so it would go. My friend would push wool pants and I would reject them on the high grounds of my theology.

However, I am now beginning to reconsider.

I believe, despite the criticisms which are directed at YU from the yeshiva world, we have a lot to be proud of, and that is an understatement. In YU, we are

given the keys to lead us on the road to a life of *avodas hashem* on the highest level. The ability to think critically and question only develops us as true *yirei shamaim* instead of leaving us as mindless robots who only do and never think. We believe that it is our minds that will bring us closer to God, and this should never be underestimated. This is the jewel in our crown at YU.

We do, however, pay a heavy price for our jewel. And I am now beginning to question if we can afford to pay that price.

There are several issues that force me to write; some are issues known to all, some are more private. The first issue is the now infamous "Dybbuk" controversy. The last issue of *The Commentator* featured a letter by a student named Sid Singer which stated, "Just as some think the Dybbuk poster is unbecoming of a yeshiva, others may

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Although her name was not mentioned at the concert and was omitted from *The Commentator* article "Chanukah Concert Showcases Talented Students and Alumni" (Jan. 5, 1993), we would like to recognize Sylvia Haber (Vice President, SCWSC) who significantly contributed to the success of the concert.

Adeeva Laya Graubard
President, SCWSC
SCW '93

Adeena Braun
Treasurer, SCWSC
SCW '94

Shani Falk
Recording Secretary, SCWSC
SCW '94

Ilana Dessau
Corresponding Secretary, SCWSC
SCW '94

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Sunday-Sunday, February 7-21, 1993:
S.O.Y. Sefarim Sale
Belfer 502, Varied Hours

Thursday, February 11, 1993:
SSSB Resume Workshop
Belfer 411, 2:45 PM

Men's Wrestling
vs. Brooklyn College
Away, 7:30 PM

Macs Basketball
vs. NY Poly Tech
MSAC, 8:00 PM

Friday-Saturday, February 12-13, 1993:
JJC Residence Halls Shabbat Program
Dr. Norman Lamm, YU President,
Speaker

Sunday, February 14, 1993:
Men's Fencing
vs. Lafayette & Stevens Tech
MSAC, 1:00 PM

Men's Volleyball
IAC Tournament
Away (New Jersey Tech), 10:00 AM

Macs Basketball
vs. Kings Point
Away, 2:00 PM

Monday, February 15, 1993:
Men's Wrestling
vs. Rutgers (Newark)
Away, 7:40 PM

English Honors Society
Movie Night: "Rashomon"
Furst 535, 7:45 PM

Tuesday, February 16, 1993:
Macs Basketball
vs. St. Joseph's
MSAC, 8:00 PM

Wednesday, February 17, 1993:
Men's Fencing
vs. Baruch & CCNY
MSAC, 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 18, 1993:
Men's Volleyball
vs. Fordham University
Away, 7:30 PM

Friday-Saturday, February 19-20, 1993:
JJC Residence Halls Shabbat Program
4th Annual Camp HASC Reunion
Shabbaton

Sunday, February 21, 1993:
Men's Volleyball
vs. Bridgeport University & Bard
College
Away (Bridgeport), 2:00 PM

Monday, February 22, 1993:
SSSB Trustees' Forum
Chaired by Mr. Josh Weston
Belfer 430, 8:00 PM



Mystery Cat Sneaks into Aron Kodesh

Students davening at the 7:40 am minyan in Morgenstern Hall's basement shul were shocked to find a cat inside the Aron Kodesh this past Thursday morning. The cat was not discovered until the Ark was opened to take out a Torah for *lairning*. YC Senior Steven Penn, who opened the Aron said, "I was astonished to see a gray kitten sitting on the Torah covers." Students immediately summoned a maintenance worker who removed the cat from the Aron, and threw it out the window.

According to YC senior Dov Schreier, gabbai of the morning minyan, the cat has been sneaking into the shul on a continual basis. Schreier first saw the cat hiding behind the Aron on the previous Sunday. He said that he took no action at that point because the cat "wasn't bothering anybody; and besides, I didn't know what to do about it."

Despite having been thrown out the window on Thursday, the cat was once again hiding behind the Aron this past Sunday morning, and began meowing loudly in the middle of davening.

The cat, which has been nicknamed "Toonces the Mitzvah Cat" by Morg residents, was unavailable for comment.

--Jamin Koslowe

Socol Locks Out Muss Residents From Study Hall

by David Kelsey

Residents of Muss Hall were dismayed to find room 581 - an unoccupied dorm room which had been used all year as a makeshift study hall and shul - closed without explanation during finals week. On January 7, Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeff Socol ordered the installation of a new lock on the room so that fifth floor dorm counselor Adam Miller would be unable to open the room.

In response to this action, Muss resident Ira Piltz asked "If Jeff Socol's job is to make facilities usable, why is he making facilities unusable for students?" This limiting of the dorm counselor has been interpreted by some as an expression of Facilities Management's authority. One Muss dorm counselor

"Whirlpool Wind Effect" Explained

Due to the recurring winter problem of high speed wind gusts, students are once again experiencing great difficulty opening the double doors at the entrance

to Belfer Hall. Occasionally, they have literally been blown away trying to close them. On a number of days, security has posted signs asking students and faculty to use only one door of the building, for fear that the glass doors will shatter. According to Dr. A. Komar, a physics professor at YC, this phenomenon is caused by a "whirlpool wind effect."

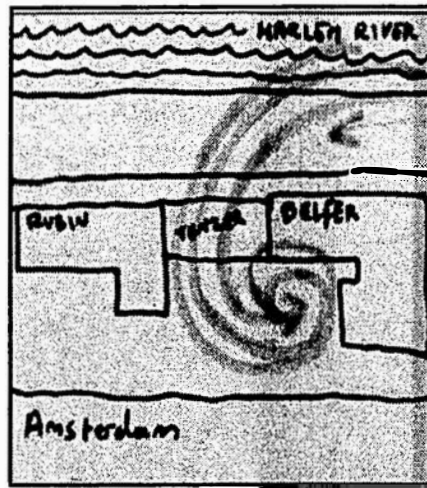
Yeshiva University is situated upon a crest directly overlooking the Harlem River. Because we are located in such an elevated position, there are no obstructions slowing down the winds which regularly whip across the channel in front of Belfer and occasionally cause the entrance doors to shatter. Komar added that the combination of Belfer, an L-shaped building, with the rectangular Ruben Hall directly across from it, causes "the wind to be trapped in that vacuum, thus creating, in effect, a whirlpool."

Komar also cites the Bernoulli Theorem, the property of fluid flow, in explaining the inconveniences students and faculty members encounter upon attempting to enter the building. When opening Belfer's doors, the air pressure inside comes in contact with the swirling

whirlpool effect outside. The net result is a tremendous pressure change and a struggle to enter the building.

Additionally, Komar commented that the two sets of doors "actually help the situation." If the inner set of double doors are closed when the outer ones are open, the whirlpool effect isn't as powerful; the problems occur when both sets of doors are opened simultaneously. Therefore Komar advises students to "exhibit some patience and wait until the first set of doors is fully closed before opening the second set." (However, he doubts such action will ever occur at YC.) This effort will help alleviate an already difficult situation.

--Chaim Rose



Commentator- Observer Staffs Join for Shabbaton

The Commentator and The Observer sponsored a joint Shabbaton this past weekend at the Midtown campus. According to Observer Editor-in-Chief Chavie Levine, the purpose of the Shabbaton was to "foster a better working relationship between the two papers and to open up doors of communication for future cooperation and mutual respect."

Members of The Commentator's Executive Board stayed at the Bedford Hotel, joining The Observer's Executive Board for davening, meals, an oneg, and a shiur over the course of the Shabbaton. At the Friday night oneg, Levine and Commentator co-Editor-in-Chief Kellman led a group discussion on different ways to improve both newspapers. Board members of the newspapers related pieces of advice to their counterparts. The participants also discussed some of the problems frequently encountered by the respective newspapers, such as: conflicts with the Administration, moral dilemmas, possible violations of *lashon hara* prohibitions, and a lack of enthusiasm within the student body at large towards the newspapers.

--Jamin Koslowe

Purim Chagiga to be Separated?

by Ami Hordes

Unlike previous years, the SOY Purim chagiga for this year will not be a co-ed event in the Beit Midrash. According to Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, the chagiga is now so well attended that the Beit Midrash is an unsafe place to hold the annual event. In fact, he added, a decision to move the entire chagiga to Belfer Commons had already been made in December 1991 at a meeting between Facilities Management, SOY, and Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau. However, the meeting took place too late to change the site of last year's chagiga.

Rosengarten pointed out that Belfer Hall has a number of safety advantages. He noted that because of its layout, "access and egress there are much, much better. There are many doors available for going outside and coming in [six, as opposed to none in the Beit Midrash]. . . Also, for those who prefer socializing, we need a relatively safe environment outside." He stressed that while there is very little sidewalk space outside Tannenbaum Hall, Belfer has a large area in front of the building, as well as Tenzer Gardens, "which people can also spill into." Rosengarten went on to say that "last year's chagiga underscored the need for a change. We worked very hard to keep the accesses clear, [yet] some people were forced to wait outside on the street."

Rosengarten also mentioned that at the meeting, administrators recalled the incident which occurred at a City College of New York basketball game last year where overcrowding led to riots and several fatalities.

SOY President Hillel Scheinfeld agreed that in its present form, the chagiga is too big for the Beit Midrash. On the other hand, he said that he, as well as most of the students he spoke to, feel that moving out of the Beit Midrash would severely detract from the ruach of the chagiga. "The atmosphere of the Beit Midrash grabs you and brings you into it. You're not going to get that [feeling] in Belfer." Because this ruach is

a priority, Scheinfeld has proposed to keep the men's chagiga in the Beit Midrash while the women's chagiga would move to Belfer. Under this plan, the shpiel would be held in Lamport Auditorium, and would be open to all. Scheinfeld met with Dean of Students Efreim Nulman on February 8th, and will meet with Rosengarten on February 11th, to discuss this option.

In addition to his concerns about ruach, Scheinfeld also mentioned that in Belfer Commons "the acoustics are terrible," and if they were to have a co-ed chagiga in Belfer, it would be difficult to pump quality sound throughout the room.

Because a final decision on the location has yet to be made, TAC President Nomi Dworken preferred to withhold comment, except to say that because the chagiga is officially an SOY event, "it's really up to SOY. When a decision is made, we will take the necessary steps to serve everyone as best as we can." Dworken noted, however, that if the boys did stay in the Beit Midrash, TAC—based on student interest—would agree to run a parallel chagiga in Belfer.

Dworken would have to factor money into the equation. In years past, TAC only had to pay for buses to and from JJC. If the chagiga is split, however, there will be the additional cost of renting Belfer Commons, a greater charge from Housekeeping and Security, and the major expense—a second band. Scheinfeld maintained that he would help share the cost with TAC in some way, although he and Dworken had not yet discussed exact figures. In addition to that extra cost, Scheinfeld would also have to pay to rent Lamport Auditorium for the shpiel. Despite the extra costs, as well as the threat that less people will come if the Chagiga is not co-ed, Scheinfeld stands by his proposal: "The spiritual benefit gained from having the chagiga in the Beit Midrash outweighs any extra costs accrued because of it. As for a potential decrease in attendance, that will only come from people who attend for social purposes, and SOY is not catering to that crowd."



Col. Levy answers questions while Dean Shmidman looks on.

Jerusalem Post Publisher Speaks on Mideast

Approximately 200 students turned out to hear Col. Yehuda Levy, President and Publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*, address a wide range of issues including middle eastern political, economic, and security topics. Thursday's address was followed by a question and answer period chaired by JSS Dean Michael Shmidman.

Levy attacked the hypocrisy of Rabin's Labor government, noting that during his campaign, Rabin had promised to make the economy his government's most pressing priority; in fact, said Levy, Rabin's government has provided little or no stimulus to the economy. In particular, Levy pointed out that "Russian scientists will only sweep the streets for so long"; once they move to the US or Europe, stated Levy, Israel will have lost a golden opportunity.

Student council presidents and editors of *The Commentator* and *The Observer* were invited to a closed door luncheon in the President's Suite following the speech. During the luncheon, hosted by YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, Levy discussed some of his plans for revitalizing *The Jerusalem Post*. Aside from restructuring the business operations of the *Post*, in order to increase readership, Levy has instructed writers to move their personal biases out of news articles and on to the editorial pages.

—Adam J. Anhang

Masmid '92 Finally Arrives

by Eyal Feiler

The 1992 edition of Masmid, the annual YC yearbook, was distributed last week, after a seven month delay in production. In previous years, the yearbook was distributed in June, within several weeks of graduation.

Uri Cohen, a 1992 YC graduate who contributed to Masmid '92, stated, "Until we received the yearbook, my parents were concerned since they had no idea what happened to the Masmid and they had paid a lot of money for it."

Another 1992 graduate, who requested anonymity, felt that the Masmid was put together sloppily. The student asserted that "most of the student clubs were omitted, and of those that did appear, the names of the students were incorrect. Additionally, on many pages, there was only one enlarged picture, when there could have been several pictures instead."

According to Masmid '92 Editor-in-Chief Ronnie Aranoff, the delay was caused by weak sales of yearbook ads, which are the primary source of income for the yearbook. Aranoff attributed the weak sales to the "poor state of the economy in the Northeast." As a result of the cash crunch, the staff was forced to publish a yearbook for about \$22,500, half the budget of Masmid 1991.

Although Masmid receives limited funding from YCSC, the yearbook still was not able to come up with the funds necessary to order a rush publication by the Thornton Publishing Company, Masmid's publisher.

Masmid '93 Editor-in-Chief Dov Kesselman expressed confidence that this year's yearbook will be delivered soon after graduation. Commenting on the upcoming yearbook, Kesselman stated, "We have a great staff that is working on new layouts and implementing new ideas. We hope to portray many aspects of student life, including humorous ones, and we hope to represent the entire student body and the range of activities at YU."

Sefarim Sale '93: Innovations and Old Favorites

by Ari Listowsky

This year's annual SOY Sefarim Sale, which began last Sunday, is offering its traditional inventory of sefarim and other Judaica as well as innovations in the checkout system and organization of the event.

According to Ari Mosenkis, Vice President of SOY and executive director of the Sefarim Sale, the types of sefarim available at the sale include Tanach, Gemara and their classical commentaries, books on halacha, responsa, and many others, including a large selection of English books. In addition to sefarim, there are also children's books, tapes, cd's, Judaica, and videos of Jewish interest.

Mosenkis explained that the titles include most of the classics from previous years and some new and notable additions, including Rav Aaron Soloveitchik's new sefer "The Warmth and the Light", and the classic linear English-Hebrew Chumash, which is being offered for the first time in recent years.

One of the modernizations at this year's sale is the introduction of electronic light pens which read bar-codes. Each of the six

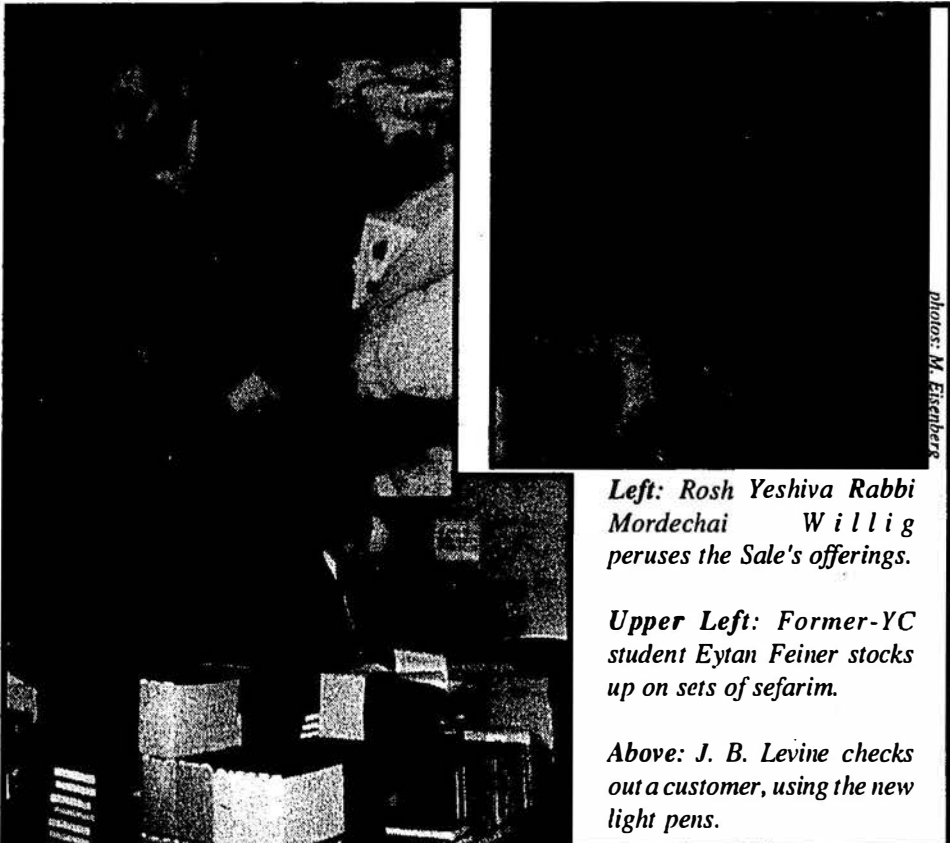
registers is equipped with one, and according to Sefarim Sale computer consultant Josh Guedalia, the pens will help speed up the checkout process by eliminating the extra time spent typing in the number codes by hand.

Additionally, this year, a special table has been dedicated to "Brisker" sefarim. Other noteworthy sefarim on sale include the Da'as Mikra set, Toras Chaim, and the Kahati Mishnayos, all of which are being sold at very low prices, according to Mosenkis.

He explained that SOY is able to sell sefarim for low prices because of bulk purchasing, special deals from distributors, and low overhead. He added that without the help of the approximately forty students who volunteered—some of whom even came in during vacation—he "would have never been able to get it done."

All profits from the sale go to SOY, which will use the money for its Torah publications, sponsored events, and general Tzedaka funds.

The Sefarim Sale will run until 10 pm on February 21.



Left: Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Mordechai Willig peruses the Sale's offerings.

Upper Left: Former-YC student Eytan Feiner stocks up on sets of sefarim.

Above: J. B. Levine checks out a customer, using the new light pens.

WKRP's in Cincinnati: Why Aren't You?

by Sender Cohen and Robert Fagin (Honorary Cincinnati)

Are you having trouble figuring out where Cincinnati fits in to the master scheme of the United States? This short compilation may help to clarify things.

Cincinnati has only 500,000 people - it's a big city with small features - and a small-town mentality. Mark Twain once quipped that we are probably ten years behind everybody else. But hey, that was a long time ago.

The Cincinnati road system has no tolls. We don't have any traffic. We don't have a subway system. Then again, we have nowhere to go.

New Yorkers have no conception of where the fifty states are. Cincinnati is next to Kentucky. We're also in the same time zone as New York. Now you're really confused. Ha Ha Ha.

Cincinnati talk is different than New York lingo. A short anecdote will illustrate this point marvelously. In

Cincinnati, when you ask someone "do you have a watch on?" it means that you want to know what time it is. Yet, I discovered that this same question takes on a new meaning when posed by a New Yorker: give me your timepiece, or I'll cut off a limb.

At least when we discipline our baseball owners, we do so for a good reason. Marge Schott was fined for being racist; George Steinbrenner was fined for being George Steinbrenner.

We don't have crick. In Cincinnati, no person would ever think of installing a car alarm. Cincinnatians think that "the club" is the group of guys who leave *mussaf* early to go drink. Parking in an indoor garage costs about three dollars-a-day, not three-dollars-a-minute.

We have no kosher restaurants. This is not because there are no Jews in Cincinnati, but because our parents love us, and want to make sure that we have good, nourishing meals.

We have no NBA team, but we have morals. Remember, we made the papers for the first time since the Civil War when the Cincinnati powers-that-be refused to allow Robert Mapplethorpe's smutty photo exhibition to be displayed.

Oh, by the way, there really is no WKRP in Cincinnati.

Stinkin' New Yorkers: Chill Out!

by the L.A. Dudes

What exactly is it about stinkin' New Yorkers? Is it that they are always in a perpetual rush? No, forget that, I would prefer that you enlighten me as to why there is a surfeit of those silly little convenience stores all over the city all providing the same items but varying in name depending on the neighborhood. Oh, I know why they exist - to serve the myriad of wacko nut jobs pacing the streets at all hours of the day or night.

When I first arrived at YU from L.A., I had to make several adjustments to keep up with the quick pace of the people in New York City, especially our YU brethren. In fact, one of the great attributes I've picked up during my tenure here is the "quick paced attitude," so when I get back to L.A., I'm always about five minutes ahead of everybody else.

However, life just has to slow down at a certain point in the day, otherwise we still-unblemished out-of-towners run the risk of turning into the much feared "stinkin' New Yorker." This syndrome, a seeming characteristic of nearly every (stinkin') New Yorker, is what makes this city one big rat hole. Why not just chill out a little bit? I guarantee that you will live an easier life, get more relaxed, and maybe even a little civilized.

A further enigma facing those Newyorkocentric individuals is their need to revel in the fact that they "don't" really study. "I don't know how I got the 'A'?" they say. Or, "Everyone passes the Sociology CLEP test, you don't even need to buy the study guide." Meanwhile, they crawl into their corner of the library and study for hours at a time, and make it seem as if they don't know how they did so well. And why is it that New Yorkers always seem to complain about their 1340 score on the SAT? "I had an off day," they say, "and that's why I only got the Belkin!"

Why does everyone here feel that they need to be the best? I used to think that all Jews were like that. Now I realize that not only is it true, but here at YU, it is brought to ridiculous extremes. Why? Because other people think you're worthless unless you score with monster success on your graduate school tests and at least make Dean's List, (I mean what's a 3.5 GPA anyhow!?!).

In the worst case, you could just whine to your teacher, (oops, I forgot, that's how you usually talk). Not only can you blame your bad grades on them, but you can even try to get them to change a grade from an A- to an A just to be perfect. Do you think that anything like this occurs at any normal university? It makes one look childish.

Maybe you'll get the better grade because your family is friendly with the teacher or because you are so annoying that the teacher just wants you out of his/her face. But come on, was it worth it? O.K., you got the higher grade, but what about a little self respect? Oh, that's right, I forgot, you come from New York: "What's self-respect?"

The out-of-town student. Far from home, out of his element, often misunderstood.

Perhaps one of the most difficult parts about being an out-of-town student is having to deal with New Yorkers who feel that they know it all and have a problem relating other cities on the map. Isolation of these outlanders led to the creation of YC clubs such as the ROTCC (Rest of the Country Club) and RONAC (Rest of North America Club, a.k.a. Club Canada) earlier in the decade and the Chicago Club more recently. Yet, much to many students' surprise, there is life outside of the Big Apple. Here is a sampling of what the hometowns of our students have to offer and some of the often eye-opening perspectives that out-of-town students receive from the Big Apple.

I HATE NEW YORK: Some Out-of-Towners' Perspectives

What's with the Yarmulkes, too? First of all, why are they slapped right on the front of your heads like pancakes? Also, what's with the teeny black velvet yarmulkes with the fluorescent English name transliterated into Hebrew and the varsity number printed next to it? Hey, what about those Girbaud jeans and Tommy Hilfiger shirts? A little originality PLEASE!

Most people here, think that they need to act the way that other people think they should. There is rarely any individuality among New Yorkers; so, it's easy to find the out-of-towners in a crowd.

My high school principal told me a couple of interesting points when I graduated. The first was that everyone should dare to disturb the universe. If everyone followed this advice, they would break out of their shells and actually be themselves for once. He also told me that being great doesn't come from being an 'A' student, rather, it comes from being an 'A' person. So, the next time you cut somebody off while driving, start whining for anything, or start thinking that anything that comes from New York is number one, think again. Maybe a change of attitude would do this place some good.

Hot Air from the Windy City

By David Saltzman and Jonathan Kroll

It wasn't what they said, but how they said it. "Why don't you get off the van" is quite an innocent request. However, that person turned an innocent request into a sinister threat. Such is the state of the New York attitude. The question we pose is: Is the attitude an inherent part of the New Yorker, or is the attitude merely a reflection of the New Yorker's environment.

The practical implications of this quandary are manifold. If one was to remove a New Yorker to a more holy-city, either Jerusalem or, say, Chicago, would that New Yorker continue to manifest his New Yorkness? Conversely, if one was to permanently transplant a Chicagoan in New York soil, *rachmana litzlan*, would the hostile environment affect his pristine character? Some may argue that this question is unfair, due to the fact that Chicagoans are the nicest, most sensitive, generous, best dates in the whole world, and would not be adversely affected by external forces, even New York. However, for the sake of argument, we shall entertain this far-fetched assumption.

We shall explore scientifically how the environment adversely affects New Yorkers. Perhaps, an honest, impartial comparison of the New York environment with that of a nice city, like say, Chicago, will provide us with some clues in our search for the underpinnings of the stated situation, in hopes of perhaps curing the problem and making eight million angry people nice.

The New York area has a plethora of sports teams. Two hockey teams, two basketball teams, two football teams

and two baseball teams. One may argue that a double representation in each sport provides an economic boost to a troubled city. However, our research indicates otherwise. Year-long competition among teams representing the same city only serves as a stimulus for the citizens of the city which they represent to fight and compete among themselves. One may argue that other cities, like say, Chicago, also have two teams in one sport. Let us stress that the comparison is not justified. First of all, the Cubs and Sox both stink. Second of all, the Cubs haven't won the Pennant since 1945. Third of all, Harry Carey is the Cubs announcer.

In another area, our research has indicated that if a resident of Staten Island was to pick up his date in Queens, travel to Manhattan to sit in the Marriot Marquis, bring her to Brooklyn to meet his grandparents, and then go to the Bronx to catch a Yankees game, ending the night by dropping his date back in Queens, and finally returning to Staten Island, his expenditures for tolls alone would cost more than the total cost of Dave's first date. Keep in mind that these figures do not include money spent on gas, food, replacement of stolen wallet from mugging, stolen radio, stolen hood ornament, parking fees, car towing fees, card, flowers and a bag of taco chips for his grandmother. In contrast, we wish to cite that a can of cold pop at Phar Mor in Chicago costs only thirty five cents. We ask you, after experiencing a common date such as we have described, can anyone argue that New York does not stifle the kindness and generosity of an individual?

Our psychological research has also yielded evidence that the geographical situation of New York may have significant deleterious effects on its citizens. The island location of four of New York's boroughs (not counting the Bronx, but who does?) serves only to fuel the feelings of isolation from and negativity towards the rest of the United States. If God wanted people to live in New York, he would not have separated it from the mainland, nor would he have surrounded it with a fierce ocean. By building bridges and tunnels, New Yorkers have effectively transgressed the *ratzon haboreh*. *Acharei hapealos nimshachim halevavos*. One's physical activities affect his inner character. Would anybody argue that each New Yorker is not metaphysically harmed by rebelling against God by their very existential situation? We think not.

To further validate our position we shall cite certain well known attitudes of our rabbinic leaders.

Many of us are familiar with the trend of spending a year or two learning in Israel entrenched in Torah studies. We are aware of the fact that many students find their years in Israel to be a foundation of strength referred to constantly upon return to America while attempting to withstand negative influences. However, many of us are not aware of what the situation was like before access to yeshivas in Israel was as



The authors display their regional loyalty

easy as it is today. For example, before becoming *masghiach ruchani* of YU, Rabbi Yosef Blau spent some time as the principal of Skokie Yeshiva. Additionally, Another YU Rebbe also spent some time in Chicago. One may infer that the quality time spent in Chicago served as a source of strength for our leaders while they continued their work in New York. We would be remiss if we did not cite the formulation of Rav Aharon Soloveitchik, who is the most strict in this issue. While devoted to the shiur he gives at YU, Rav Soloveitchik refuses to formally reside in New York, instead opting for the grueling schedule of flying back and forth between his home in Chicago and the shiur that he gives at YU. We believe that this is a classic example of the *Brisker* tradition of *chumra* with regard to matters pertaining to life and death.

The astute New Yorker may ask the following question: "If yah don't like New Yahwk, dehn why ah you heyk?" To answer that most important question and to dispel those critics of our criticisms, we refer back to the editorial of *The Commentator's* distinguished co-Editor Michael Z. Kellman. "Across the globe and throughout the year, YU students give of their time and energy to spread the word to fellow Jews about our common culture. Why, therefore, do these same great champions of Jewish outreach not apply their talents to our campus?" (*The Commentator*, Issue 2). Michael, that's exactly why we are here. *Dochin Bi'smol u'mikarvan Bi'yamin (Yerushalmi Sanhedrin 10:2)*. One should push them with his left hand while drawing them close with the right. We seek not to distance the New Yorker from the rest of the country, but rather, to reach out to our unfortunate brethren and sisteren.

Our scientific analysis of the data regarding the condition of New York leads us to conclude that the root (rhymes with foot) of the problem lies not in the *gavra* of the New Yorker but rather in the *cheftza* of the environmental forces. We are here to mitigate, these forces and help all New Yorkers either distance themselves physically from New York or rise spiritually above New York. The Midrash states that Jerusalem, as the center of the world, serves to spread its influence throughout the world at large (*Pesikta Rabbasi and Midrash Rabba 55:7*). To inform New Yorkers unaware of the cartographical situation of the rest of America, and Chicago in particular, Chicago is in the center of our country (more or less). Mere coincidence? We think not. In concert with our goals stated above, we step forward at YU, learning, growing and aiming to improve the State of New York.

The Great White North vs. The Big Apple

by Ephy Gopin and Danny Spodek

*Bang Bang, you're dead
Someone got shot in the head
Just keep walking, go on your way
This type of thing happens every day*

New York. The Big Apple. More like the Big Insane Asylum. The sounds of gunshots ringing in your ear. The flashing lights of police cars and ambulances. The smell of urine floating up from the sewers. The melodious sound of rap music turned up to decibel eleven. A subway system so complicated that it's quicker to walk. Graffiti you can't read. Dirty streets, etc. ad infinitum.

Canada, The Great White North. Clean streets. Easy-to-get-where-you-want subway system. Government-run medical system. Home of the world champion Blue Jays. Home of the winningest hockey team in history - de Habs. Home of the song "Life is a Highway". Home of the letter zed.

Maybe the only similarity between Canada and New York is that they both speak a second language - Canada has French, New York has Spanish. But that's where it ends. Leaving the tranquility of your partner in free trade to the north and coming to the get-out-of-my-way-or-I'll-run-you-over attitude of New York makes one begin to realize the difference between heaven and hell. Let's expound on this.

Let's talk tall buildings. The tallest free standing structure in the world is the CN Tower in Toronto. NOT the Empire State Building, NOT the Twin Towers, not even Belfer Hall.

Question: In Canada, when someone has a baby, we take it home, clothe it, feed it and give the baby what he/she

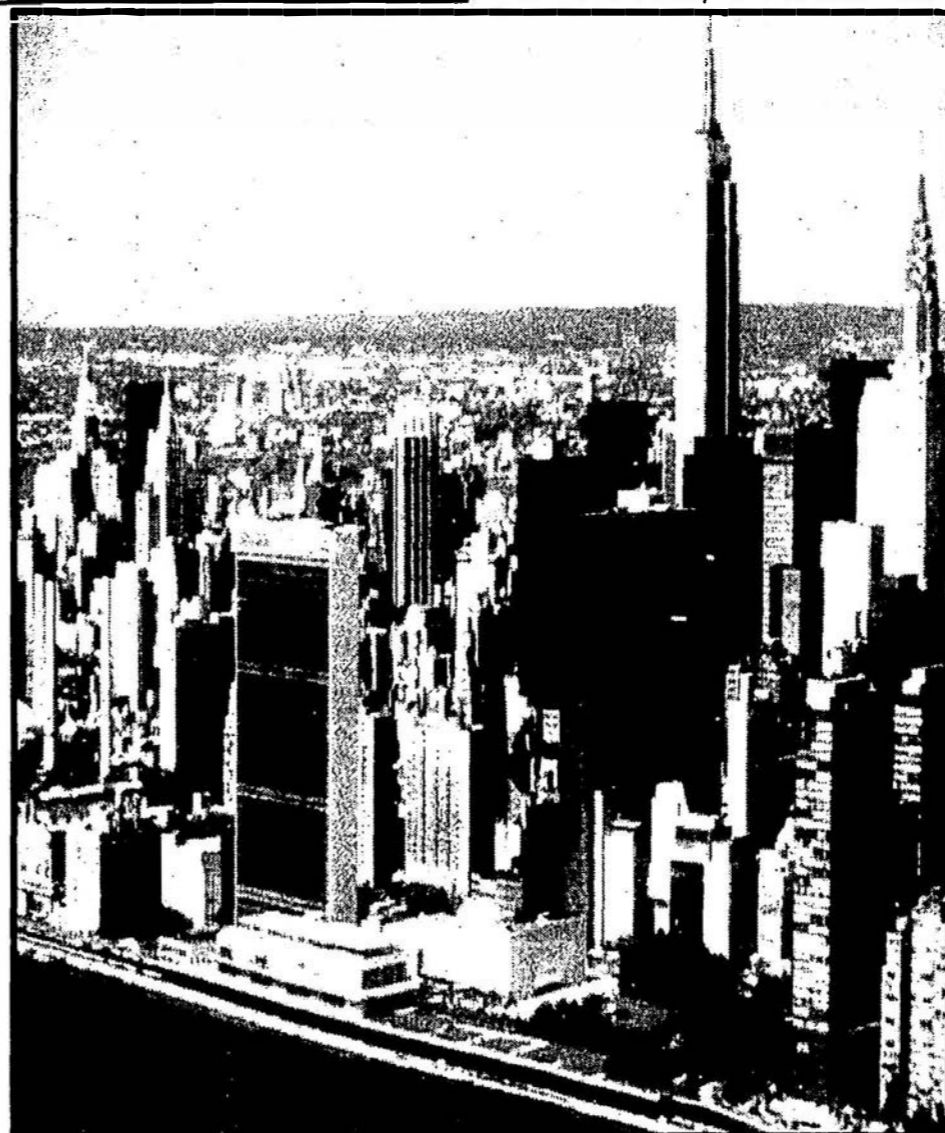
needs to grow. New York, though, seems to have a different trend. Have a baby, take it out of the hospital, then leave the baby in a gym bag and say good-bye! Excuse us for doing things backwards.

Let's talk about the weather. Folks, winter, as defined by the rest of the world, should include: snow, ice, frost, blizzards, wearing earmuffs, gloves, boots, etc. It's NOT supposed to be 50 degrees. During winter, skiing, ice skating, and tackle football in the snow are popular activities. Here the ponds don't freeze and it's warm enough to go fishing.

Walking or jogging through the park is supposed to be a nice, pleasant experience. Central Park should be the perfect place to do this at anytime of the day or night. But having to worry about being mugged, shot, or worse, the victim of "wilding" makes jogging around your apartment much safer.

One last point. Believe it or not, and this may be hard for some to fathom, there are more than ten people living in Canada. Countless times we've been asked, "Oh, you come from Canada? Say hi to Pat for me." Our answer? Sure, he comes to our igloo every Tuesday night to play poker with the polar bears.

Of course, many natives will send in letters saying we're off our ice block. Truth is, we've seen both places and until you come to Canada and see a really nice place, you can't criticize. If you wish to come, S'il tu plait. We'll be happy to have you. And if you come back and still think New York is better, we have one thing to tell you: FLACON DU MAISI!



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47st. Photo Expo Canceled Temporarily

Misunderstandings and Technical Difficulties Cited

by Yisroel Holczer

The 47st. Photo Computer and Business Machine Expo, sponsored by the Sy Syms School of Business, which was scheduled for the evenings of February 2 and 3, has been postponed indefinitely, and possibly canceled. The event, which was arranged through the efforts of SSSB VP Aharon Fischman, was to be held in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons, but was shelved by SSSB student leaders and University administrators just days before the extravaganza because of misunderstandings and technical problems.

From SSSB's perspective, the expo's objective was to exhibit and demonstrate hardware and software, as well as to issue discount coupons to attending students and faculty members for use at 47st. Photo. Additionally, 47st. Photo had agreed to give away a prize at the annual SSSB dinner. However, many YU administrators perceived that 47st. Photo's primary interests were commercial, rather than educational.

A key factor that led to this perception was a 47st. Photo advertisement mailed to students' homes during the midwinter break. Students' home addresses were apparently obtained from *The Guide to the Perplexed*, the student phone directory. SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll maintained that 47st. Photo had no right to send advertisements to students' homes since "The Guide" can only be used through the expressed consent of YU." 47st. Photo later apologized to Jaskoll for the mailing.

Although Fischman would not reveal how 47st. Photo obtained a copy of "The Guide," he contended that anyone can procure a copy. SSSB President Ofer Naor concurred, stating, "The Guide" is for sale, so it should be considered public information."

The contents of the advertisement best indicated the discrepancies between the perceptions of the expo's purpose. SSSB's involvement was not cited, nor was it mentioned that students could learn about advances in various technologies. Rather, the advertisement underscored specific prices on hardware systems. Jaskoll claimed that "the goal of the expo was not to sell systems, just to have the ability to see computers and get discounts. Their flyer should have been approved by the Administration. We wanted 47st. Photo to primarily help students, not make profits. The advertisement sent us mixed signals about 47st. Photo's intentions, and, due to this misunderstanding, we are postponing the expo until we believe it can be done right."

47st. Photo Vice President Stuart Held, who oversaw the plans for the expo, asserted that their intentions were

perfectly rational. In a telephone interview, Held said that because 47st. Photo was sponsoring the entire expo, they were allowed to determine the contents of the flyer. He added, "we have done [expos] at many colleges, including Bronx Community College, and it has worked great, as well as being a good opportunity for faculty and students." Held denied that 47st. Photo intended to sell on campus; only coupons were to be distributed.

Jaskoll confessed that he had the impression that 47st. Photo was going to vend on campus, which could have led to technical problems. Assistant to the Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff pointed out the legal ramifications of the expo, noting that "we have never had vendors here before. Legal issues have to be worked out, such as a contract and signed agreements." Additionally, Chaitoff maintained that the "technical aspects of 47st. Photo occupying Weissberg Commons had not been arranged with Facilities Management."

Responding to questions concerning the IBM Expo held at YU three months ago, where sales did take place on campus, Jaskoll asserted that "IBM was low key, and did not emphasize sales, whereas 47st. Photo appeared much more commercial." Chaitoff added that IBM had been dealing directly with YU for a long period of time before their expo.

Paperwork Not Filed

Apparently, the expo was doomed from the start, as plans for the event did not reach the Office of the Dean of Students until five days before its scheduled commencement. Chaitoff noted that "for every student event, a meeting takes place between [myself], Security, Facilities Management, and Housekeeping. In this case, the paperwork [to rent Weissberg Commons] had not been filed, and no arrangements had been made." Jaskoll agreed, stating, "it has to be clear what they will or will not do...and the paperwork must be filed on time." Jaskoll did concede that the paperwork could have been filed during intercession, but the relevant parties were not present to process it.

Despite the miscommunications between 47st. Photo and SSSB, both sides are confident that the expo can still take place once the differences are settled. Fischman affirmed that there were merely "different visions about what the event was to be...which could not be reconciled before the event itself. Neither side had malicious intent toward the students, school, or anyone else." Fischman and Jaskoll both professed that there is much student interest in rescheduling the expo, but declined to comment as to if and when it would happen.

"It's A Mistake," Claims Lifeguard

continued from page 1

182 Bacteria Colonies in Pool

Another member of the class, Adam Splaver, a pre-med Yeshiva College senior, and a life guard at the pool, explained that the goal of the experiment was "to find and isolate a unique bacteria not found in the lab, and to identify it." Splaver took water samples from the swimming pool and whirlpool at both the Yeshiva University uptown campus and the Einstein campus. The 100 ml samples were collected in sterile test tubes, and with the assistance of Dr. Barry Potvin—the Biology department's supervising professor—the water was filtered and then grown in sterile culture plates. According to Potvin, the number of individual colonies represents the "number of bacteria colonies found per 100 ml of water."

Results indicated that both pools at Einstein, as well as the whirlpool on the uptown campus, were perfectly clean. However, Splaver was shocked to find 182 bacteria colonies in the uptown swimming pool sample, a number which greatly exceeded the expected amount. Bacteria discovered in the pool included: *Streptococcus pyrogenes*, *Staphylococcus hominis*, and *Neisseria sicca*, which are found in humans in the upper respiratory

tract, on the skin, and in saliva, respectively.

Splaver presented his findings to head lifeguard Hal Klugerman, who was skeptical about the accuracy of the test. "I have been dealing with pools for years," Klugerman stated, "and 182 colonies is a ridiculous number. The first time an experiment is performed there is always a high margin of error. There must have been a mistake." Klugerman also claims that with a level of 182 colonies per 100 ml, the water should have been cloudy, which it was not.

Splaver re-tested the pool a week later and found no bacteria in the second sample. Klugerman maintains that between the two tests, "no treatments of the pool were made above the regular maintenance." This further assured Klugerman that there was contamination or some other error in the first test.

However, Dr. Potvin accompanied Splaver on the initial experiment and confirmed the sterility of the procedure. Dr. Potvin explained that had there been contamination, the types of bacteria isolated would not have been of these particular strains. Clarified Splaver, "...the bacteria we found were not typical for a laboratory environment. They are characteristic of bacteria found in a swimming pool."

While some sources believe that large amounts of chlorine may have been

Modest Proposal

continued from page 3

feel that the Middah of the Month does not have a place in an university." Before I comment on this line, I would like to make it perfectly clear to Sid Singer, whom I do not know, and to all those who may be reading this, that I do not, God forbid, question Sid Singer's values or beliefs. I do not know what they are or if he was merely expressing a pluralistic point of view. Further, I do not find any flaw in his reasoning. His letter was logical. Having said that, what exactly is my criticism? My objection is simply this! Sid Singer's statement is simply wrong. It is true to no line of Jewish thinking that I can even imagine. The rule of thumb is a simple one: *Safek* looking at *erva* is *l'chumra*, and *safek* perfecting *middos* is *l'kula*. Regardless of what you think of the overblown "Are we a university or are we a yeshiva?" question, or whether you take a particular stance on the "Mada Le'Shema" issue, you should not need Dani Goldstein to formulate this: "*Safek*

erva l'chumra, safek perfecting *middos l'kula*." This is simple and undebatable.

However, it is debated, and this is the price we have paid. This issue typifies the paradox of life in YU. The fact that a statement is logical does not make it correct. I think if we look at ourselves, we will find that we take our minds too seriously. Our thinking overruns the boundaries. There is a trait called "submissiveness to God" (maybe that should be the Middah of the Month), but we fail to recognize this as valid. I have felt this lacking in the air of Washington Heights, but Sid Singer's innocent line made me realize the sad fact that there is little submissiveness in YU.

A public display of nudity is offensive to a *ba'al neshoma*; *mussar* is not. There is no room for debate. I believe in pluralism, but to a point: *safek* looking at *erva* is *l'chumra*, and *safek* perfecting *middos* is *l'kula*. No debate.

YU is blessed with a thriving Beit Midrash. The *kol Torah* heard in that room is just as real as anywhere else in

KOSHER-D



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added to the pool in an attempt to eliminate the excess bacteria, Associate Director of Plant Operations Doug Rogers said that he heard nothing about the tests or about the high level of bacteria supposedly found in the pool. "We...always maintain extremely high levels of chlorine, bromine, and oxidizers in both the whirlpool and swimming pool," he said, "but I have never dumped any excess of chemicals into the pool. We don't run that kind of operation around here."

Klugerman believes that levels of bacteria that were slightly higher than normal can be attributed to students not showering before entering the pool. In fact, both Rogers and Stan Watson, Head of the Physical Education Department, agreed with Klugerman. "Students often run directly from the gym to the pool without showering," Watson stated. "I'm not surprised they found high levels of bacteria in the pool."

Shortly after Splaver approached Klugerman with the test results, Klugerman called a meeting with the lifeguards to stress the importance of requiring students to shower before entering the pool. Klugerman, Rogers, and Watson all maintain that most bacterial problems can be averted if students shower properly before entering, while Potvin also stressed the use of soap in the showers.

According to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, even assuming the validity of the tests, there is no reason for concern. The section of the Department of Health's handbook dealing with bacteria levels in pools states, "There must exceed 200 colonies of bacteria in 100 mls of water for two consecutive samples to be deemed unacceptable water quality." In this case, only one test indicated high levels of bacteria, and even that figure was within the Department of Health's tolerance level.

the world. But let's face it. The YU Beit Midrash veterans get a big kick looking at the fresh Israel returnees, wondering if their enthusiasm will make it past their first round of midterms. Why is it taken for granted that after one or two years of intense striving in yeshivot abroad, one will come to YU and lose it? But who can help but slide? The intensity of fervor which comes from *regesh* and submissiveness to Hashem is simply not here to the extent that it should be, and, tragically, we cannot maintain that level. We rely on ourselves for too much, and, unfortunately, we, as individuals, do not seem to be strong enough.

There are some who make it through YU retaining the proper fervor and intensity. But how do we view them? We view them in a way which made a certain mock editorial in last year's Purim issue humorous to all of the YU family, save a handful of people. I once heard an interesting criticism of YU guys. Someone outside of YU said that good guys in YU have no personality. This is a good point. It seems our choice is: keep your personality and slide down the ladder, or exhaust your personality on keeping the intensity.

This is a pact we all recognize and joke about. We have all gone from *Halacha chaburot* on Thursday night to the Simpsons' *chabura* on Thursday night (sorry, guys), or its equivalent. We all shrug, but I have a suggestion.

Let us throw away our Dockers and polo shirts. The multitude of legitimate approaches to Judaism found in the YU Beit Midrash is equaled only by the colors of shirts in the YU Beit Midrash. This is a beautiful fact. This is our jewel. But

let's take one small and insignificant step. Let us come with our white shirts and black pants. Let us come with our Shabbos shoes, jackets and hats (black, blue or gray, your choice). Let us create the intensity, the fervor and *hachana* that we need in order to get closer to Hashem, and simply survive.

By this point, I am sure many of you disagree with my modest proposal, but allow me to conclude with the following. A professional once explained to me why some tough schools used dress codes. The theory is the dress codes keep people in line. When a dress code is enforced, problematic children will be spotted and dealt with as they break the dress code. The dress code in and of itself is nothing, but breaking it shows a great deal. We have been blessed in YU with the sense of ourselves, our minds, and our self worth. But sometimes we step over the line. We need to be submissive before Hashem and we need to do something to help us attain that submissiveness.

Only in this environment, can we truly use our "jewels," our minds, and become the Jews we think we should be. I make this suggestion in complete earnest. Wool pants, white shirts, jackets and hats. We will still be individuals. We will still have distinct personalities. We will also gain a great deal. We will create from among the individuals a cohesive group of intense B'nei Torah. Our dress code will enable us to add to what we have and be true B'nei Torah who know that *safek* looking at *erva* is a bad thing, but trying to perfect *middos* is a good thing. This is what we all really want. I hope and pray that it is.

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Officials Debate Enrollment Numbers

continued from page 1

Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler suggests that the study concentrate particularly on two issues that he feels impede larger enrollment. The first is the mistaken perception that many students have that YU is too expensive for them. "I feel that we should emphasize our willingness and capability to give students financial aid when they need it," said Kranzler. The second is the students who can afford it, but are not convinced of YU's academic quality. "We have to figure out the best way to demonstrate our successes in academic achievement and the disproportionate number of students admitted to quality graduate schools."

Nulman guesses that the project should conclude by late March or early April. Until then, students can expect to be requested to express their opinions on the positives and negatives of YU life. "The objective is to find out what makes the student tick, what it is that attracts him to YU. Students may be able to tell a market survey what they won't tell me," said Kranzler.

As for Martilla and Kiley, Wigotsky stresses that rather than instruct administrators and admissions directors on what to do, they intend to provide them with material to reach their own conclusions: "The goal is to make the key decision-makers aware of and thoroughly understand the values of students at Yeshiva University. These values will help focus the recruitment campaign on specific groups of students and how to attract them."

Dispute Over Enrollment Numbers

The admissions task force was created by YU President Dr. Norman Lamm to study the significant drop in enrollment for the 1992-1993 academic year and to design a blueprint to raise enrollment over the next decade.

However, some administration officials maintain that the low figures do not indicate a drastic decrease in enrollment. According to Kranzler, the low figure is deceptive because it only covers students on the YC campus while the number of YU students enrolled in Israeli Yeshivot, which is greater than in previous academic years, was ignored. "While Yeshiva College enrollment technically went down, it was an artificial bubble. The enrollment numbers were basically the same," said Kranzler.

However, Kranzler welcomed the market survey. "I always encourage a study that gives us greater awareness of the reasons why students enroll here. I believe the study will help us target which type of students we are most effective in reaching and where we have to improve."

Nulman concurred, "It was not a drastic decrease [in enrollment] and Dr. Lamm did not act out of hysteria. It is Dr. Lamm's intent to evaluate resources and academic enrollment. He wants to know what our population is and what's marketable to attract more students." While Nulman expressed confidence in

Martilla and Kiley's ability to help his task force better understand YU's environment, he insisted that the task force would not act blindly on the marketing firm's suggestions. "It would be foolish to act without hard data, but once we determine our consumer base, we will work together with Martilla and Kiley on a plan, comparing our own conclusions and assumptions with the study's findings."

YU's public relations department, under Sam Hartstein, has been in charge of marketing Yeshiva University and attracting students for fifty years. Although Martilla and Kiley is expected to design an advertising campaign for YU, the department welcomes the opportunity to change its marketing focus, if necessary. In fact, Mr. Hartstein has been in close contact with Martilla and Kiley, and is impressed with their insight and dexterity in ascertaining the sentiments of YU students and faculty. "This is a necessary and inevitable development," Mr. Hartstein asserted. "Everyone who works at this institution has ideas about the types of students enrolling and why they do so; [Martilla and Kiley] is here to flush out the misconceptions."

Dean Nulman concurred that the public relations department would benefit significantly from the study's findings. "Once they're given the necessary information, the public relations department will be better able to act on the increased knowledge."

The last time a similar study was commissioned to determine the characteristics of YU students was in 1984, noted sociologist Egon Mayer. Despite this, and although the current recession has affected YU, the task force felt it necessary to expend funds on the new study.

Although Wigotsky declined to release the price figure for the study, Nulman stated that "Martilla and Kiley came highly recommended by those close to Yeshiva and we have negotiated a very reasonable cost." Zev Furst, an alumnus of Yeshiva University who consults with the administration frequently on marketing matters, recommended the firm because of its reputation. For her part, Wigotsky is confident that the study "will be very successful."

Some administration officials asserted that a marketing survey is likely to be beneficial to the task force's mission, and some insisted that a periodic study is crucial to the university's continued success. "It's not like we've done it every year. It has been almost a decade since the last survey, and it is very likely that situations and conditions have changed," said Kranzler. Hartstein agrees, "I believe it's an investment. The findings will help us increase enrollment."

Although this is Martilla and Kiley's first experience in researching a university, the Boston-based firm has vast experience with Jewish organizations. In fact, the recent Anti-Defamation League study on racism and anti-semitism in America was under Martilla and Kiley's direction.

An Update From the Retreat Steering Committee

To: The Members of the Yeshiva University Community

Often, an effort is undertaken with a great deal of excitement and activity only to lose momentum once the initial enthusiasm diminishes. We are pleased to report that such is not the case regarding the student-administration retreat of November 30, which was convened to examine the ways and means of improving communication between the various on-campus constituencies.

At the retreat, all of the participants agreed on the necessity of prompt follow-up on the issues that were addressed. As a result, committees have been formed, meetings have been held and programs have been initiated, all of which are intended to reinforce the commitment of all concerned.

In recent weeks, the following activities have resulted: The Student Calendar and Events Committee, chaired by Mrs. Zeldia Braun, Director of Student Services, Midtown Center, has formulated a more concise and effective system for scheduling events sponsored by the student councils and other University groups.

The Student Court and Grievance Committee, chaired by Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, Assistant to the Dean of Students, has met several times with various students and administrators, including members of the staff of the Office of the General Counsel, to clarify the exact function of the Undergraduate Male Student Court and to consider the feasibility of a similar body for Undergraduate females.

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Academic Assistant to the President, is chairing a student, faculty and administration committee, now in formation, whose charge is to study the role of the undergraduate student senates and their relationship to the Deans' Offices and the faculty curriculum committee. This group will also discuss the formulation of a mechanism for designing parameters for quality control and evaluation of courses.

An Undergraduate Male Student Life Committee, including administration and student representatives to be selected by student leadership, is being established to look into the non-academic aspects of student life on the Joel Jablonski Campus.

Mr. Hillel Scheinfeld, SOY President, is forming a Beit Midrash Committee at the Jablonski Campus and we look forward to receiving his written report.

Mr. Abraham Cohen, Vice-President of YCSC, is revamping and reformulating the Parking Committee and we await his report as well.

Dean Rosenfeld asked Mr. Avi Steinlauf to assist with the selection of student representatives to serve on faculty search committees. These search committees, which are being constituted, will have YC and SCW student representation.

A follow up for the retreat has been scheduled for Friday, March 19, 1993. Details will follow.

Several suggestions introduced at the retreat have already been implemented. There is now an enhanced public relations presence at the Midtown Center. Mr. Michael Kranzler has agreed to include faculty members on the Orientation Committees for Undergraduate Men and Women. Dr. Egon Brenner has requested that students assume a more active role on the University Executive Council, and he asked student members to join the various Executive Council subcommittees.

We are greatly encouraged by the progress achieved in the weeks since the retreat, and are confident that the new semester will bring further achievements. All members of the University community are invited to contact us directly with any questions or suggestions at 960-5330.

Pearl Berger, Dean of Libraries
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Intramural Spring Season Gets Underway

Cohen Picked First in Supplemental Draft

by Daniel Gelbtuch

The Spring Intramural Basketball season commenced last Monday night with the Supplemental Draft. The Heat, captained by David Wagner, shrewdly traded Burton Katz and their late first round pick to the Pistons for the #1 pick overall - former Macstar, Baruchi Cohen. Avi Lyons, a high scoring swingman, and speedy point guard Arkady Igbrahim, were picked 2nd and 3rd, respectively, by the Knicks and the Clippers.

Here is the recap of this week's Intramural competition:

HEAT: 52 CLIPPERS: 45

The Heat, behind the most talented and feared frontcourt in the league, jumped out to a 26 - 21 halftime lead. First pick Baruchi Cohen (14 pts.), Noam Cohen (16

pts.), and Sam Maryles (8 pts.), led a balanced Heat attack, while holding Moshe Bennaroch, of the Clippers, to 3 points. The Clippers were led by Arkady Igbrahim and Greg "Sky" Haber, two supplemental draft picks, who combined for 28 points in a losing effort.

KNICKS: 58 SONICS: 53

The Supersonics, led by the dynamic duo of Avi Roth (14 pts.) and Jeremy Bandler (22 pts.), pulled out to a 28 - 20 halftime lead. However, the Knicks bounced back in the second half behind rookie scoring sensation Avi Lyons, who led all scorers with 23 points, including 4 treys. Lyons, along with the solid play of Chanoch Harow (14 pts.), Matt "Grandpa" Harris (13 pts.), and Yoni Epstein (8 pts., 8 assists, & 11 boards) helped the Knicks pull away from the Sonics down the stretch.

Miscommunication Costs Macs Victory

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were too consistent. Had Maritime been a better team, YU would not have been able to recover from their disastrous first half.

The game ended with a miscommunication that cost the Macs a

potential victory. With six seconds left, and YU down by one point, the Macs inbounded the ball from under Maritime's basket. Instead of immediately calling a timeout (which would have given YU the ball at half court with five seconds left) or running a play, the Macs did neither. After inbounding the ball, they dribbled the ball over half court, and only then called a timeout. The game clock showed only two seconds and the Macs were unable to convert.

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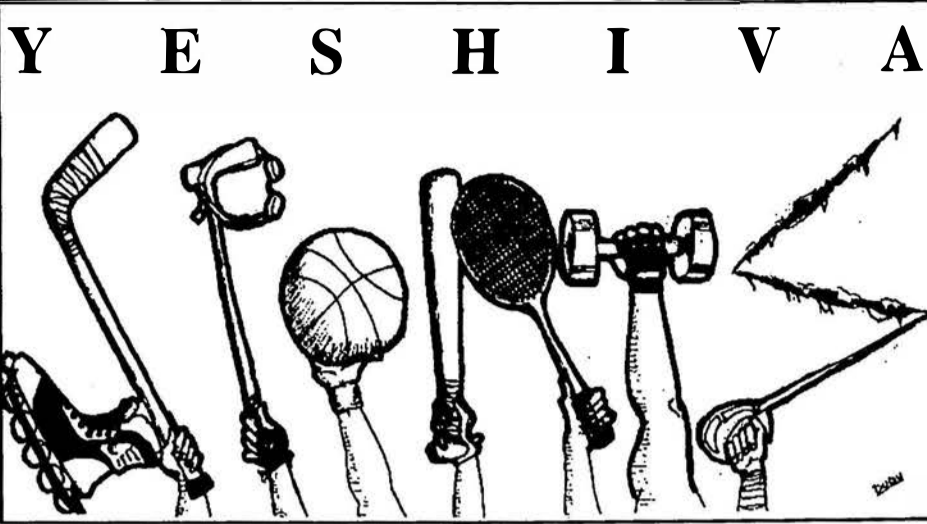
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IN THE BALL

by Neil Bromberg

In a rare moment, YU, the institution that utilizes a registration computer system that can't indicate deficient prerequisites, has finally moved into the modern era -- the age of fitness. Torah, Madda, U' Sport. YU has been participating in the IAC for years, but never has such a diverse athletic fervor emerged from the student body.

The night after Coach Mittelman worked arduously to embarrass the volleyball team in a scrimmage against his seasonal sports class, the Volleyball Macs recovered and battled furiously against the red-shirted York College squad. Although York College defeated Yeshiva handily in the first two games, YU managed to play consistent defense despite their inexperience at two positions. In the match's third and final game, the Macs held a 14-8 lead only to let the experienced York College team chisel away at their lead and eventually win. Commenting on the match, Coach Omar Vargas said, "For the most part, I liked what I saw...It's a good place to start." With the help of new Albanian recruit, Ralph Jakoel, the team hopes to use this match as a springboard for the IAC tournament next week at New Jersey Tech.

Touch football intramurals began at 3PM this past Sunday afternoon. Over 30 students braved the bone-chilling cold to run slippery crossing patterns on a slick, snow covered field. In the latter of the two games, the team led by super-athlete Jeremy Bandler suffered a gut

Macs Upset by Maritime in Poor Defensive Effort

by Yoni Epstein

The first Macs home game after their paid vacation to Florida resulted in a lackluster victory over John Jay. However, in their next home game, the Macs were not as lucky. Against a weak Maritime team, questionable defensive strategies and inconsistent offensive production enabled Maritime to emerge with a 49-48 upset. The Maritime team opened the game with a tough man-to-man press. Y.U. experimented with a trap of their own, but it was executed with a marked lack of hustle, as illustrated by their inability to cover the weak side shooter after the ball had been reversed. As a result, they quickly gave up three uncontested 3-pointers and fell behind 10-2. Rather than revert back to their patented man-to-man defense, the

wrenching 13-6 defeat. Moshe Benarroch had the stand out play of the game as he dove face first into the muddy snow to convert the only point-after attempt of the game. Surprisingly, the games were both well played and well officiated.

While on the topic of officials, it is definitely necessary to address an evident problem on the Yeshiva sports circuit. Intramural basketball games serve as the breeding ground for poor tempered arguments against sports officials. While players are willing to cry and bicker over every individual call, participation in the pool of referees has dropped sharply since the end of Commissioner Melzer's reign. Commissioner Jon Shore spends hours on a daily basis searching the cellar for quality referees; however, quantity is often substituted for quality. The moment has arrived for participation from the whiners themselves. (If you want something done right...)

Although the fencing team was thwarted by Vassar College, it was a match of personal victories. Rookie Ron Levy, substituting for veteran Josh Dyckman, scored his first victory in his first bout, and sabreman Avi Greenbaum won 2 matches. A record number of students have joined the fencing program this year, and hope to participate in actual competition next year. This week, the team travelled to Boston (at the expense of the University) to draw swords with MIT and Boston College.

coaches elected to remain with the half court pressure against this weaker team. However, the pressure defense was consistently exploited by back-door cutting and weak side shooting.

The offense, which took a number of poor long range shots was equally bad. Luckily, Maritime made enough unforced errors to keep it from being a complete blowout. After twelve minutes, the score was an embarrassing 22-8, and at the half, it was 33-19.

After the first half trap experiment failed, the Macs returned to a man-to-man defense in the second half, and went on a 21-6 run. The reasons for the trap's failure are unclear. Perhaps Maritime's big man was too tall under the basket for it to work effectively, or maybe Maritime's long-range shooters

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YU foil team member battling his opponent on the team's recent trip to Boston

Fencers Drop Two On Boston Road Trip

by Nossional Kleinfeldt

Yeshiva's fencing schedule expanded exponentially this past weekend as the Taubermen travelled to Boston to take on Boston College and MIT. Similar to the Macs' annual basketball trip to Florida, the fencing team travelled to Boston on Friday and stayed with families in the Brookline Jewish community for Shabbat; after fencing the two matches on Sunday afternoon, the team returned to New York by bus on Sunday evening.

The event was the brainstorm of sabreman Elliott Cohen, who wanted "to give the team some more experience, and put Yeshiva on the East Coast fencing map." Cohen approached Athletics Director Dr. Gil Shevlin, who enthusiastically embraced the idea as a way to expand Yeshiva's fencing program. Naty Katz, a member of the Brookline Jewish community and uncle of sabreman Dani Davis, arranged the Shabbat home hospitality, while Coach Arnold Messing arranged to have Boston College and MIT placed on the schedule. Davis was especially appreciative of the Lupatkin, Palefski, Liebowitz, Harow, and Katz families, "who made the team members feel comfortable and well rested for the meets...the Young Israel of Brookline [where team members davened on Shabbat] even announced the time of the meets after davening!"

A Heartbreaking Loss

Both matches were held in Boston College's frigid Flynn Athletic Center. Due to a malfunctioning heating system, the gym was a cool 58 degrees, prompting the fencers to wear winter jackets between bouts. In these adverse conditions, Yeshiva lost a heartbreaking 14-13 decision to Boston College. Epee lead the charge with a 6-3 record as epee weapon leader Adam Anhang, Josh Dyckman, and rookie Ron Levy each went 2-1. Cohen lead the sabre team to a 4-5 effort as he slashed his way to a 3-0 record, and team captain Adam Balkany finished with a 2-1 record as the foil team lost 3-6. Danny Faizakoff added the third foil victory.

Loss To MIT

MIT, an IFA/ECAC school, easily beat Yeshiva 23-4, prompting Messing to "chalk the meet up to a learning experience." Of particular note was foil rookie Shaun Azari's sharp performance, as he defeated a tough opponent with patience and quick remiezes.

Assistant coach Peter Rosas believes "that the team benefits immeasurably from fencing other colleges...you don't gain anything from fencing your teammates in practice." Rosas hopes that the trip becomes an annual event, with Messing confident that Brandeis and Harvard can be added to the schedule next year.

Rematch: Macs Rout Mount St. Vincent

by Daniel Gelbtuch

The Yeshiva Macs pulled off their biggest and most crucial road victory of theseason by trouncing the Mt. St. Vincent Dolphins in Riverdale two weeks ago by a score of 72-51. The Macs, who earlier in the season lost a last second thriller to the Dolphins in the MSAC, were able to ignore the rancorous and intimidating Mt. St. Vincent crowd, and played their best ball of the season.

The Macs, behind Miko Danan's 18 first half points, held on to a tenuous 3-point halftime lead. Daniel Aaron, despite

being held to two first half points, turned it up a notch in the second, scoring 18 points and grabbing 19 rebounds. Dovid "Cappy" Cohen (8 pts, 9 rebounds) and Donny Furst provided the Macs with superb ball-handling and stellar defense. Meanwhile, Aaron, Allan Levy, and Dananably contained the athletic Dolphin frontcourt and hit key buckets down the stretch.

Because their earlier loss to Mt. St. Vincent was a non-league contest, this victory vaulted the Macs into second place in the I.A.C. behind New Jersey Tech and gave them a 5-1 league record.

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