

# Commentator

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Belkin pictured with late YU President Samuel Belkin in 1969

frustrates students with the need to begin checking in by 8:30 AM, because admitting new students will take time.

Prime Minister's two day visit, which will include a luncheon for VIP's in the Max Stern Athletic Center, create parking problems. According to Sommers, there are "No Parking" signs posted on all the streets surrounding the campus, and parking lots will be at maximum capacity because a number of VIP's are expected to attend. "Park your car in Brooklyn or Queens," Sommers said, "because there is no place to park here."

### Packed Program

Consequently, Cantor Joseph and any of the Belz School of Music is scheduled to perform the national anthems at the beginning of the program. YCSC President Avi Steinlauf will give greetings in Hebrew and YC President Adeeva Laya will greet the Prime Minister in English. "I think it's exciting being able to meet and introduce somebody of stature, especially since the other, who was SCWSC

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## Charlop to Appoint New Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva

### Mixed Reactions from Sephardic Community

by Eric M. Creizman

Next week, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of the Mazer Yeshiva Program, is expected to concurrently announce the creation of a new MYP shiur and the appointment of a new Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva. Though Rabbi Charlop refused to comment as to who will receive the appointment, it is widely believed that Persian Rabbi Eliahu BenHaim is the leading candidate. BenHaim is a renowned Torah scholar in religious circles, and has given several shiurim at YU in recent months.

#### Alleviating Crowding

The appointment of a new Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva will help alleviate overcrowding in YP shiurim and will satisfy the YU Sephardic community's request for a Rosh Yeshiva of Sephardic origin.

Rabbi Charlop has long been aware of the concerns of the Sephardic community. In response to various complaints by Sephardic students, Rabbi Charlop established a course in Sephardic halacha, and held meetings with Syrian and Persian students to discuss the possibility of appointing a Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva at YU. In light of these discussions and

suggestions made by Sephardic students, Rabbi Charlop has apparently settled on Rabbi BenHaim.

#### Syrians Upset

The selection of Rabbi BenHaim, who spent much of his life in Iran, has angered several Syrian students who view the choice as an indication of a bias toward YC Persians. "I'm not satisfied with the choice at all. I suggested several rabbis who are familiar with the Syrian community, and none of them were selected. It's a smokescreen; they appoint a Sephardi Rosh Yeshiva and tell everyone we're happy, but we're not," said one student who wished to remain anonymous. Sephardic Club president Daniel Hakimi declined to comment, except to urge YC students to wait for an announcement, and to say that Sephardic students are generally content with Rabbi Charlop's efforts so far. Another Sephardic student commented, "The rotten thing about all of this is that while Rabbi Charlop is sincere in what he is doing and thinks that he's done us a favor, he is really putting extra pressure on us to attend Rabbi BenHaim's shiur when I'd rather not."

## DEANS' SECRETARY CELEBRATES TENTH YEAR AT YESHIVA

by Jamin Koslowe

On March 11, 1963, a young woman began working part-time as secretary to the Dean of Yeshiva College Isaac Bacon. In ten years, three Deans, and a number of grandchildren later, Mrs. Ceil Levinson is still the friendly secretary meeting all those traipsing through the Dean's office.

For the years, Mrs. Levinson has garnered respect and admiration from students, faculty, and deans alike. She has spent the years have flown through the years she vividly recalls the



Ceil Levinson: Queen of the Deans

days before the library, Belfer Hall, and the Max Stern Athletic Center were built.

Ceil denied having a "favorite" dean among the four she worked for: "I enjoyed working with all of them," she said, "They were all good to me." When Dean Bacon retired in 1977, he was replaced by Daniel Kurtzer; Ceil actually remembered Kurtzer from his days as a YC student.

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photo: R. Saar

## MSAC: Less Ruach, More Noise

This year's Purim Chagiga, despite changing venues, still produced much lively dancing and maintained the festive spirit of years past. Unfortunately, this held true only for the men's chagiga in the cafeteria, not for the women's section in the MSAC.

According to many women, the sound system and tarpaulin-covered dance floor were sorely inadequate, preventing any substantial ruach on their side of the "mechitza." We hope that these problems can be rectified in coming years.

More distressingly, students' behavior prior to and during the shpiel was disgraceful. The organizers and performers of the shpiel worked long nights and countless hours; yet, students refused to accord them even minimal respect and courtesy, instead choosing to chatter and congregate in the back of the gym. While part of the problem is attributable to the poor sound system, students could have and should have maintained proper decorum. There is no excuse for this lack of *bain adam lachaveiro*, even on Purim.

## Don't Retreat Now

Rome was not built in a day; likewise, student-administration relations will not improve overnight. Like all negotiations, there will be give-and-take as well as a need to compromise in order to achieve results.

As Round II of the student-administration retreat approaches, we urge all parties to commit themselves to the continuity of the project. Student leadership will change at the end of the year, but the problems which led to the retreat will not go away without a commitment to confront them. It is incumbent upon the administration and next year's budding student leaders to formally dedicate themselves to the continuance of the already positive strides which have been made.

We commend those who worked diligently towards the creation of the retreat and the implementation of its proposals. We have made inroads with the imminent resuscitation of the Student Court and the formation of a Student Life Committee at YC. However, we cannot stop here and rest, satisfied with the progress which we have made. We must press forward to institute mechanisms for student-administration cooperation in other vitally important areas such as resource allocation, curriculum development, and academic quality control. We must redouble our efforts toward the execution of existing plans and search for more ways to perfect the system in which we live. Only then can we return to the *raison d'être* of a university, personal development through learning.

## P I C T O R I A L



To Mrs. Levinson; In recognition of 30 years of dedication.

# The Commentator

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## RESPONSA

### Ethics of Journalism

To the Editor:

Although I have never done so before, I have decided to write a letter at this time in order to express my feelings for and about *The Commentator*.

As a result of reading the paper, as well as speaking with a number of students and faculty members, I felt it was necessary to bring to light some general principles regarding the ethics of journalism.

The Torah expresses the value of investigative reporting in the well-known pasuk, "*ve-darashta ve-chakarta hetev*" (you must thoroughly investigate and inspect). Nevertheless, the Rabbinic dictum "*Hakhamim hizaharu be-diverekhem*" (Sages: Be cautious with your words) is especially applicable to this field. Caution (*zehirut*) in journalism entails objectivity and absolute avoidance of personal prejudice. Journalists must therefore carefully guard against anger and other emotions that may influence their writing. One must beware of overeagerness for a "scoop" and the tendency to pass judgment rather than report the facts.

Journalistic caution is required in the case of *The Commentator*, which is read by students, parents and alumni. Anything appearing in *The Commentator* is quickly relayed to the Jewish community at large, and if something inaccurate is reported, there can often be destructive results. This type of damage, which is quite often difficult to repair, entails a severe violation of "*Halbanat panim*" (embarrassing another person).

It is as if the pasuk "*Sof ma'aseh be-machshava techila*" (the end product depends on careful planning) was written specifically about newspapers: the quality of a reporter's final product depends on careful evaluation of its potential outcome for the individuals concerned as well as for the community at large.

My intention in this letter is not to dampen the enthusiasm of those who are involved with the student newspapers. I simply feel that certain basic principles of journalistic integrity are worth restating from time to time. In this connection, Chazal teach: "*Hit'orerut meviah liyedei zehirut*" ....careful attention to well-known principles enhances (journalistic) caution.

Rav Meir Goldwicht

### "Yeshiva University" "A Farce and A Lie"

Although I, too, oppose Dani Goldstein's "Modest Proposal," I feel that the responses which were printed in the last issue of *The Commentator* both misunderstood and misrepresented what Dani was trying to say.

YU has its problems. I don't think there is anybody in the school, from student to administrator, who would disagree with this. Dani successfully identified one of the major problems, the lack of a "Yeshiva atmosphere" which lasts all day. Unfortunately, Dani's solution of instituting a dress code would be the equivalent of only treating the symptoms of a deadly disease.

What, then, is my diagnosis? As I see it, the problem in YU is that we are

## From The Editor's Desk

United We Stand  
Divided We Fall

YU students are hard to pigeonhole. When the Administration hired a marketing firm to interview students and "locate YU's target audience" (*The Commentator*, Vol. LVII, No. 8), I laughed. How could anyone -- especially someone from outside YU and the Jewish community -- "locate" the typical YU student?

Face it, that term is a fiction. There is no "typical" student, nor is there any generic reason why people choose to come here. And this causes problems.

At every other college campus in America, Jews are in the minority. This forces them to turn to each other for support and search for the common ground which they share. We, being members of an all-Jewish campus, seem to Revel (no pun intended) in our divisiveness. "Beis Medrash guys" look down on "JSS guys." "Morg guys" look down on "Rubin guys," and both of them look down on "Muss guys." "Gush guys" look down on everyone, etc...

Why can't we get along? We don't have the tension between members of different sects within Judaism which overwhelms many campus Jewish groups. We don't have the various JSU's, Hillel's, and other Jewish organizations which jockey for position and members in most campus Jewish communities. We are so homogeneous as to be laughable, so why can't we get our acts together?

In my three years here, I have only seen one time when everyone, regardless of their respective groups or classifications, came together. Must there be a war in Israel to get us to act as a community?

Evidence of this problem is right in front of us every week. What happens on Shabbat? In colleges with comparatively little Jewish life, Shabbat is a time for Jews on campus to get together and observe the day. Even groups that agree on nothing will at

least join for meals, eat, and sing zemirot together, etc... But here, Shabbat is the occasion to find new and interesting ways to highlight our desire for disunity. It seems that every ten people here for Shabbat form their own *Tzibur*. The last time I was here for Shabbat, there were at least five minyanim for mincha that I noticed.

What's going on here? Why can't we focus on our incredible number of similarities rather than remaining fixated on the petty differences between us? A good friend of mine once showed me how ridiculous this mindset is. "You have guys in YU," he pointed out, "who are frum. And they look down on the guy who went to Ramaz, but is now in YU. To the guy in Lakewood, one is just as bad as the other. And despite the fact that the Lakewoder considers himself light years from YU, someone not Jewish would look at them both and not notice a difference. Then, if some pagan looked at both the Christian and the Jew, he would think of them both as a couple of monotheists. So, if you look at our situation with some perspective, you see that in the larger scale of things, our differences are so minuscule as to be ridiculous.

What do we focus on? The size, color, and texture of our yarmulkes? The color of our pants? (Sorry, Dani) What Yeshiva we attended in Israel, if any? What ridiculous distinctions! We have an opportunity, as members of the largest American Jewish University, to present a unified front and show the rest of the Jewish world how to resolve their own differences. Following our examples, the American Jewish community could begin to heal their rifts and bring those on the extreme ends to more reasonable, realistic positions which, while not necessarily condoning each other's views, would, at least, tolerate them.

MZK

claiming--or rather, the administrations of both the Yeshiva and the University are claiming--to be something we are not. We have all heard the speeches on synthesis, read the *Torah U'madda Journal* (and book), lamented about the hardships of a "dual curriculum"; and always we pat ourselves on the back for having achieved the impossible, bringing the two worlds of Torah and secular studies together in one institution.

But let's take another look, a much closer look at this world we call Yeshiva University. It's a lie. A farce. A coverup. Call it what you like, but don't call it one school. We are, in fact, not one school, but rather two (perhaps more), whose campuses happen to be adjacent to each other. From 9-3 (except on Thursdays) the Yeshiva is opened. We go to shiurim where we learn the Gemara and the Rashi, and the problems of devoting time to secular studies (i.e. college). But at three, the lights in the Yeshiva close, and the college across the street opens its doors. In the college we study the New Testament, Art, Darwin's theory of Evolution; and

when classes are over, we catch a Broadway musical sponsored by the student council, except when there is an occasional Torah U'Madda lecture series, which is meant to perpetuate the lie. Rarely do the two schools meet.

What is needed is much more than a dress code. If we were truly to become one school, a real attempt at synthesis would be needed. We would have to have faculty which represented this synthesis of Torah U'madda. Every teacher, professor, dean, and yes, even rebbe, would have to be a product of and a believer in Torah U'madda. Every rebbe should be able to help a student with English, or math, or science. And, on the other hand, every teacher would have the difficult task of deciding what is necessary to study in a college, and what is appropriate to study in a yeshiva, and somehow balance the two.

If this were the case, Yeshiva wouldn't end at 3 but rather we would be involved in Judaic Studies from a different angle. Our secular studies would become, perhaps, "worldly studies," and we could

## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

## ANY TIME - MONEY

You're late for an interview, and you need cash for a car service. You're late for a date, and you need cash to pay for what will no doubt be your date's large dinner. It's late at night, and Morg Mart is closing in a few minutes - without the cash, and the subsequent caffeine boost, the all-nighter you're planning may not materialize. Do you trek down to 181st street and St. Nick, or do you value your life more than a few ounces of coke? Now please don't get me wrong, I don't wish to negate the importance of the Student Finances Office, but they just don't keep late hours. So where can you go? To whom can you turn?

Permit me to ask one last question, for those of you fond of riddles. What do all of these things have in common? Yeshiva University and Ross Perot; Belfer Hall and NCR; and the letters E, D, S, A, T, and M?

EDS is an acronym for a Texas based company named Electronic Data Systems. Many of you will recall that EDS used to belong to Ross Perot. NCR is an acronym for National Cash Register. That leaves our puzzle with one last acronym, no doubt known to us all. You guessed it, ATM, otherwise known as Automated Teller Machine. And for those of you who are astute readers, you will have figured out by now how Yeshiva University and Belfer Hall fit into the equation. You would be correct if it flitted through your head that YU (Joel Jablonski Campus (JJC) to be more specific) is getting an ATM, made by NCR, sponsored by EDS and housed in Belfer Hall.

Allow me to provide some of the background information necessary to understand the whole story. It all started with an idea and a subway token, but I quickly misplaced the token and was left with a lonely idea. It was April of last year, and little did I realize how difficult it would be to bring an idea, then constituting colorful rhetoric on my campaign posters, to its fruition, as it would turn out, in the lobby of Belfer Hall.

I made initial contacts (yes, during kiddush in shul) with a number of bankers, all of whom put me in touch with the Sales Executive from Chemical Bank in charge of our region. Miss X (her real name will be withheld due to its irrelevance) seemed enthusiastic about the idea of installing an ATM on our campus, and asked for a detailed proposal. At this point, Adam Anhang and I drafted an ATM feasibility study

apply it to what we learn in our traditional Jewish education. Only then could we be proud of ourselves for having combined two worlds which seemingly contradict each other; only then do we deserve the title Yeshiva University.

Dani Waxman  
YC '92  
BRGS '92

Responsa continued on page 13

summarizing the objectives of the ATM project and outlining the demographic makeup of the JJC. With the authorization of Jeffrey Rosengarten and Bernard Pittinsky, the Directors of Supporting Services and Finance, respectively, we sent the study to Chemical and received a shocking response - for the low, low price of only \$3,300 a month, we could have our very own, shiny, brand-new ATM! Yes, it would take almost \$40,000 a year to maintain an ATM. The ATM project seemed doomed!

T.S. Eliot once said, "We fight for lost causes... to keep something alive..." The plan was down, but most certainly not out. That ATM was going to become a reality!

The answer lay right under our noses, on YU's Einstein campus, where there had already been an EDS cash machine

for years. Why not piggy back on their deal? Funny you should ask, because that is exactly what we are currently negotiating. This deal, however, will be infinitely sweeter than the previous prospect, in that the cost to the University will be the equivalent of the electricity necessary to

run a personal computer - minimal. And the cost to the student body - gratis. As of a February 18th meeting consisting of Paul Mullaney, the client relations manager from EDS, Jeffreys Rosengarten, Socol and I, the groundwork has been laid, with numerous technicalities still in the works. The ATM will be an NCR 5070 full service cash withdrawal machine, capable of dispensing money and providing balance information. The bank card networks that the machine will accommodate include PLUS, CIRRUS, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, to name a few. Transaction charges will depend on your cash card's sponsoring institution. The tentative location for the ATM will be the lobby of Belfer Hall, next to the public telephones and across from the guard booth. This location was decided upon because it is the one location on campus that has constant year round traffic as well as sufficient security. The exact time of the ATM's arrival depends on the expected delivery date of the machine from NCR and the length of time it will take New York Telephone to install the two dedicated phone lines required. Both have already been ordered.

Avi Steinlauf

More details to follow  
in next issue

**Pesach is Coming!!  
Pesach is Coming!!**

Don't Forget to  
submit Your PPC  
Orders Soon.



# CAMPUS NEWS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 16, 1993:**

"Beat'achon" and the YU A Cappella Club  
A Cappella Concert  
Rubin Shul, 8:00 PM

**Wednesday, March 17, 1993:**

Torah U'Madda Project Lecture  
"The Interaction of Halakha and Society:  
Guidelines and Parameters"  
Rabbi Michael Rosensweig,  
Speaker  
Weissberg Commons, 8:00 PM

Men's Volleyball  
vs. Baruch College  
MSAC, 7:00 PM

**Thursday, March 18, 1993:**

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin,  
Speaker  
Lampert Auditorium, 11:00 AM

**Friday-Saturday, March 19-20, 1993:**

JJC Residence Halls Annual Yeshivat Har  
Etzion Reunion Shabbaton  
Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein,  
Speaker

**Saturday-Thursday, March 20-25, 1993:**

YCDS Production, "A Few Good Men"  
Schottenstein Theatre

**Sunday, March 21, 1993:**

Men's Tennis  
vs. New Jersey Tech  
Home, 5:00 PM

**Monday, March 22, 1993:**

Men's Volleyball  
vs. Stevens Tech  
Away, 7:00 PM

Aliyah Club Seminar

"Graduate Schools in Israel"  
Rubin Shul, 8:00 PM

**Monday, March 22, 1993:**

English Honor Society  
Movie Night: "La Strada"  
Furst 535, 7:45 PM

**Wednesday, March 24, 1993:**

Men's Volleyball  
vs. Queens College  
MSAC, 7:30 PM

English Honor Society

Reading Symposium: Alice Munro's "Boys  
and Girls"  
Furst 535, 7:45 PM

**Friday-Saturday, March 26-27, 1993:**

Sophomore Class Shabbaton  
Midtown Campus

JJC Residence Halls Shabbaton

"The Greatest Hero of the Holocaust: The  
Man Who Stopped the Trains from  
Budapest to Auschwitz"  
Dr. David Kranzler,  
Speaker

**Sunday, March 28, 1993:**

College Republicans  
Rudy Giuliani,  
Speaker  
Weissberg Commons, 8:00 PM

**Monday, March 29, 1993:**

Men's Tennis  
vs. SUNY Maritime  
Away, 3:00 PM

## Seforim Sale Eclipses Last Year's Sales Record

Boasting record sales this year and attracting thousands of people from the tri-state area, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, the annual SOY Seforim Sale concluded on February 21.

Seforim Sale Business Manager Dovid Kosowsky praised the hard working student volunteers, stating that "new innovative technology, and the large room, helped to make this the most successful sale in the history of the event." Not surprisingly, the two best selling Seforim were both authored by Yeshiva University Roshei Yeshiva--namely, "The Warmth and the Light," by Rav Aharon Soloveitchik, and "Reshimos Shiurim," by Rav Heshy Reichman.

--Yisroel Holczer

## College Republicans Revisit Rush

On March 3, the College Republicans hosted a trip to the Rush Limbaugh television show. The Limbaugh show designated the week of March 1-4 as New York college week. YU was provided with 20 tickets, which were given to 18 YC students and 2 SCW students. The participants arrived approximately one hour before the 5:30 pm taping of the show. Jon Greenspun, who planned the excursion, commented, "Hopefully this event will clear up the myth that Rush Limbaugh is nothing more than an egomaniac." The College Republicans attempted to use the event to enlist student volunteers for the upcoming New York City mayoral election.

--Lavi Greenspan

## New Video Games a "Roaring" Success

YCSC's video games, located in the Morgenstern and Rubin dormitories, have been doing a "roaring" business, according to a YCSC official. Because the machines were donated to YCSC by the Sage Automatic Company, a local video games distributor, all revenues from the machines are pure profit. Under an arrangement with Sage, YCSC receives 55% of the revenues, and Sage receives the other 45%.

Every few months, the games are rotated between the two dormitories; after several rotations, Sage replaces the machines with new games. At the end of every week, YC senior Dov Schreier collects and counts the quarters gobbled by the machines, and distributes the money according to the terms of the Sage/YCSC agreement.

YCSC Treasurer Bruce Tager declined to release exact video game revenue figures, saying only that the games were



Two NYFD firemen arrive at Morg

## Burns Guards Extinguish Morg Roof Fire

On Tuesday, February 23rd, at about 1:30 PM, the New York City Fire Department responded to a fire burning on the roof of the Morgenstern Dormitory Hall. The call was placed by a Burns Security guard who, while walking in Belfer Hall, saw smoke on top of the Morg Dorm building. The fire was put out by two other security guards before the fire department arrived on the scene.

According to Chief of Security Don Sommers, the fire was caused by roofing work being done to prevent leaks in the dorm building. An outside contracting firm had been hired to do the roof work, and apparently some tar overflowed from a machine causing a "small, contained fire."

The two guards, who put out the fire with extinguishers from the dorm building, suffered minor smoke inhalation and received oxygen to help them breathe. Both recovered in time to work at that night's basketball game in the MSAC.

--Joel Haber

## Bombing Prompts Tighter Security

In response to last month's World Trade Center bombing, YU's Office of Safety and Security has implemented extra security measures on the uptown campus. As part of this effort, Burns security guards now routinely check ID's of students and faculty at building entrances. In addition, Don Sommers, Chief of Security, recently circulated a memo to students requesting their cooperation in this effort. Among other measures, the memo urges students to "call the Safety/Security Office if you observe anything or anyone out of the ordinary in any of our buildings or in the vicinity of our campuses."

--Eyal Feiler



YC Sophomore Stephen Unterberg hard at work on the Morg video games

"very, very popular." According to Schreier, some of the more popular games are currently "Air Hockey" and "Super Off Road" in Morgenstern, and "Street Fighter 2" and "Hat Trick Hockey" in Rubin.

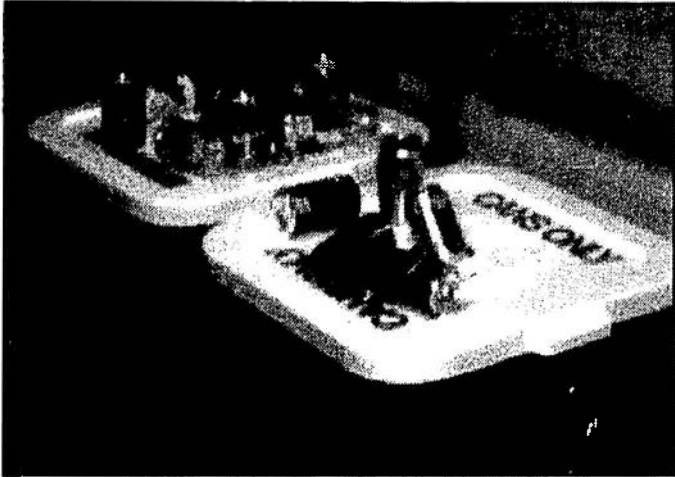
--Joshua Normand

## Brody Lecturer Explains U.S.'s Economic Woes

Attributing America's current economic woes to slow economic growth, an increasingly sizable inequality between rich and poor American citizens, and the budget deficit, Dr. N. Gregory Mankiw, renowned Harvard economics professor, delivered The Alexander Brody Distinguished Service Lecture in Economics on Wednesday, February 24. Mankiw emphasized that the blame falls on a mixture of policies enacted by Democrats and Republicans as well as natural economic shifts, and not, as the current wisdom suggests, on the Reagan-Bush administrations.

Introduced by Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller, Dr. Mankiw proceeded to fascinate his 60-strong audience of YC students and faculty with an hour-and-a-half long expert analysis of the U.S. economic situation. After concluding his lecture, Mankiw fielded a barrage of questions from the enthusiastic audience on issues ranging from the intricacies of the Clinton economic plan to health care. While the audience was clearly impressed with Mankiw's scholarship, Dr. Mankiw was equally encouraged by the intrigue in economics expressed by YU students. "It was a pleasure speaking here, and I was pleased to see the interest displayed by Yeshiva University students," Mankiw said.

--Eric Creizman



At left: New recycling bins for cans and bottles which have been placed in all the dorms and in Schottenstein.

Photo: M. Eisenberg

## Joint Effort and New Law Prompt Recycling Program

by Moshe Kinderlehrer

As part of a joint effort by the Philanthropy Society, the Chemistry Club, the Housekeeping Department, and the YU Administration to develop a comprehensive recycling plan for its cans, bottles, and paper products, oddly shaped blue recycling receptacles have been placed in dormitory hallways and in the Schottenstein Student Center. Additionally, bulletins from Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten have been stuffed in all the students' mailboxes, informing them of the new recycling program.

For the past five years, the Philanthropy Society has been recycling soda cans to raise funds for their varied activities, such as outreach and Tomchei Shabbos programs, which provide food for Jews in Washington Heights. However, this year, with the passage of New York Local Law 19, which specifies that all non-profit institutions receiving sanitation service have to institute recycling programs, YU began recycling in earnest.

In a series of meetings with student groups such as the Philanthropy Society and the Chemistry Club, arrangements were made to begin the initial phases of a comprehensive recycling program. Rosengarten agreed to provide new receptacles for can and bottle collection, as well as to provide specially constructed receptacles for newspaper collection. In turn, the student groups agreed to take responsibility for the collection of the sorted empty containers from each dorm floor. The recycling program, which is being implemented at SCW as well, will be extended to include Furst Hall and Belfer Hall.

Eventually, it is hoped that the University will recycle white paper as well.

Jason Schwartz, President of the Philanthropy Society, explained that Philanthropy Society volunteers would pick up the cans and bottles twice a week and student volunteers would sort them on Thursdays. He added that the administration was extremely helpful in the Society's efforts to procure new receptacles and enhance the recycling program. He specifically praised Rosengarten, Head of Housekeeping Jose Pujols, Assistant to the Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, and Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol for their help.

Meanwhile, the Chemistry Club will handle the recycling of newspapers. Daniel Hakimi, President of the Chemistry Club, explained the primary reason for his club's involvement: "All this paper being wasted is a matter of violating the prohibition of *Baal Tashchis* -wasting perfectly good material -- and something had to be done about it." Hakimi did extensive research, and presented his findings to Rosengarten.

Hakimi stressed that responsibility for the success of the recycling efforts lay in students' hands: "The whole student body has to be cooperative, and will also need to be educated on the importance of recycling," Hakimi commented. He promised that the Chemistry Club would post flyers and other bulletins in order to maintain student awareness of the project.

The first phase of the recycling plan was implemented on February 22, when newspaper recycling bins were placed on all floors in the dorms. A definite timetable for later stages of the program has not yet been determined.

## Student Court Soon to Be Back in Session

Will Assume Student Advocacy Role in Grievances

by Moshe Kinderlehrer

After years of serving the YU student body as a resume write-up, the previously inert judicial branch of the student government, the Student Court, is being revitalized. The re-establishment of the Student Court is a result of decisions reached at the Student-Administration Retreat held in late November.

Avi Greenbaum, an active member of the Student Court Committee appointed by YCSC President Avi Steinlauf, heralded the ongoing revitalization process, stating emphatically, "The Student Court is coming back to life." Greenbaum has been working with the Administration and participating in discussions with the office of the Dean of the Students to produce a plan which is to be submitted to the Steering Committee at the next Student-Administration Retreat, scheduled for March 19. The plan, if approved, will establish the specific parameters of the Student Court's role in student affairs and determine its jurisdiction.

Currently, Article XI, Section 5 of the YCSC Constitution states, "The Student Court shall have jurisdiction over the following matters: (1) All student activities sponsored by Student Council and its subsidiaries. (2) All students of Yeshiva College as spectators at all Yeshiva College athletic events, both home and away. (3) All students violating rules and/or regulations established by the Administration concerning extracurricular activities, as listed in the Yeshiva College catalogue and dormitory handbook."

Greenbaum qualified Section 5 and explained that some cases involving "student-to-student issues" would be

referred to the Student Court by the Dean of Students. Other cases, however, such as those dealing with psychological problems, illegal actions, and confidential issues, would not lay within the Court's jurisdiction.

Greenbaum asserted that as part of the revitalization process, the Student Court should assume a "student advocacy component," in which students with grievances against administrators could appear before the Court and air their grievances. If the grievance is valid, the Student Court would then attempt to "advocate" on behalf of the student. If Greenbaum's plan is approved and ratified, new language will be put into the Constitution defining the new student advocacy role of the Court.

According to Assistant to the Dean of Students, Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, "The Dean of Student Affairs will continue to be the central core of student advocacy, and with the help of the Student Court, our role will be more publicized on campus." Chaitoff was very optimistic regarding the proposal that the Student Court adopt a role as student advocate, and emphasized that on matters such as these, the Court will be working in tandem with the Dean.

Both Greenbaum and Chaitoff acknowledged the need to create an awareness of the Court among the student body and that steps will be taken to familiarize students with the Court and its procedures. However, both cautioned, the planned revitalization is only in the preliminary stages, and all recommendations to the Steering Committee must be approved and then incorporated into the student constitution, a process which could take another month or so.

## Giuliani to Speak at YU

Town Meeting is Planned

Former U.S. Attorney and probable Mayoral candidate Rudy Giuliani, will hold a town meeting in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons on Sunday, March 28. Giuliani plans to deliver a short talk about his ideas for helping New York City before answering questions from the audience. The speech is being co-sponsored by Students For Giuliani, TAGAR, and College Republicans.

YC Senior and Political Director of Students For Giuliani, Jeff Stier, called the event "an excellent opportunity for students to get involved in Students For Giuliani." Student activists will be registering voters, recruiting volunteers,



and speaking with prospective interns.

In 1989, Giuliani lost his first bid for Mayor as the candidate of the Republican, Liberal and Independent-Fusion parties. He then resumed his law practice at the firm of Anderson, Kill, Olick and Oshinsky. Although he has not yet declared himself a candidate for this year's Mayoral election, the most recent Daily News poll showed Giuliani leading Mayor David Dinkins by two percent, 47% to 45%.

Giuliani's upcoming visit will mark the second time he has appeared at YU in just two months; he spoke at Cardozo Law School in February.

—Jamin Koslowe

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## PURIM AT YU: A PHOTO ESSAY



Avrumi Sacks, Jon Kroll, and Josh Lookstein (l to r) provide their rendition of the Burns Security I.D. song to the tune of "Prince Ali" from Alladin.

Lev Stark demonstrates his juggling prowess during the Chagiga



(below) YU Senior Vice President Israel Miller dances with SOY President Hillel Scheinfeld under a kafiahed students' gaze



Rav Goldvicht leads crowd of students down Amsterdam Ave.



YCSC President Avi Steinlauf disguised as the Court Jester



"Rav Goldvicht or MBD?" Students were heard to ask.

# Dancing the Night Away

by Ari Listowsky

More than 1,000 men and women attended the restructured SOY Purim Chagiga in the Furman Dining Hall (the cafeteria) and the Max Stern Athletic Center, this past Saturday night. The Neshoma Orchestra provided live music in the cafeteria and, using extra speakers, the sound was piped into the gym for the women.

The spirited singing and dancing continued until shortly after midnight, when everyone proceeded to the gym for the shpiel. The shpiel was delayed when Rav Meir Goldvicht and Rav Abba Bronspigel were danced on to the tarpaulin covered gym floor with much

ruach and enthusiasm. Rav Goldvicht was then hoisted up on a chair, and captivated the entire crowd with his rendition of "Anoh avdah d'kudisha b'richu."

After a few fruitless attempts to silence the crowd, the Shpiel, organized by Jonathan Kroll, David Saltzman and Avrum Sacks, finally began with "Norm Talks," satirizing the YC "Dorm Talks" and its panelists. Other skits poked fun

at "The Guide", ID Cards, and assorted YU eccentricities. The final skit, a twist on last year's shpiel, portrayed a YC "pig" meeting his shidduch date in Brookdale Hall. The shpiel was forced to cut a few skits due to difficulties with the sound equipment.

Most of the men returned to the cafeteria after the shpiel for more dancing, which continued until 2:30 am, when the lights were turned off.

SOY president Hillel Scheinfeld said that overall, the Chagiga went "very well." Still, he admitted that there were "a few minor mistakes to be adjusted [for next year]." YC Junior Barry Boyarsky commented that "the dancing was better this year mainly because there was more space." Chairman of the Chagiga Lavi Greenspan expressed similar satisfaction with the event, adding that he was "pleased to see that

many Rebbeim attended." Greenspan also noted that there were a few problems that had to be ironed out, including working on a better sound system for the shpiel.

In sharp contrast to the men's overall positive assessment of the Chagiga, many of the women present did not enjoy the dancing in the gym. SCW Senior Yaffa Knecht maintained that "the general spirit didn't compare to when [the Chagiga] was in the Beis Medrash. A gym doesn't lend itself to spirit." She further criticized the poor lighting and inadequate sound system in the gym. Another SCW student complained that the piped-in music "could have been a Mordechai Ben-David CD, and it would have been the same."

Chief of Security Don Sommers estimated the crowd at about 1,100, and explained that the local 34th precinct was very cooperative and sent a number of police officers to YU to help with security.

With the exception of a few sprained ankles, there were no major incidents on campus during the Chagiga.

Associate Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten stated that although he was happy with the arrangements of this year's Chagiga, the location of next year's celebration will be determined based on future meetings with student leadership.

According to Greenspan all leftover food from the Chagiga was donated to feed homeless Jewish families.



Commentator Executive Editor Joshua Goldberg Celebrates Purim with SOY President Hillel Scheinfeld



Rav Meir Goldvicht exults, surrounded by dancing talmidim in the Caf

## WYUR Sponsors Racial Harmony Trip to Apollo

by Gene Alperovich

On March 2nd, 75 YC and SCW students attended a multi-media event sponsored by MTV's "Free Your Mind" Tolerance Campaign at Harlem's Apollo Theater. The program, which included a speech by New York City Mayor David Dinkins and a performance by the popular rap group Run-DMC, featured the premier screening of "Straight From the Hood," an MTV News documentary about the residents of South Central, one of Los Angeles's most impoverished and ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

WYUR, YU's official radio station, was one of many college radio stations co-sponsoring the event with MTV. According to station manager Mark Weissman, the program was created in response to the rioting which engulfed the city of Los Angeles in the spring of 1992, after the Rodney King trial. By bringing together high school and college students of all races and religions, MTV News, according to Weissman, intended to promote "racial harmony within our cities." The program, said Weissman, was part of MTV's recent campaign to "change its image" and "get involved in society." MTV further encouraged YU student participation by giving WYUR over 75 tickets to distribute; MTV also provided buses to the theater from

both the Uptown and Midtown campuses.

While YU students were impressed by the quality and excitement of the documentary, which featured candid interviews about racism with former gang members, community leaders, and celebrities who live or grew up in South Central, some were disappointed by the content of Mayor Dinkins' speech. YC junior Scott Goldberg commented, "I was quite disturbed by the omission of anti-Semitism as a problem by both Mayor Dinkins and the organizers of the program as a whole." David Steiner, WYUR's YC coordinator, suggested that MTV News should have offered possible solutions to the recurring problem of racial hatred in America, explaining, "They said that we should try not to hate people that are different than you. But that is fairly self-evident." Yet, both Goldberg and Steiner agreed with the sentiments of YU placement coordinator and WYUR faculty advisor Hal Tannenbaum: "The film expose(d) the YU population to problems that can only be solved by young people."

According to station manager Weissman, the enthusiasm generated by this event is an indication of the increased respect and recognition that the radio station is earning throughout the YU community. Key to WYUR's success this year, says Weissman, is its "strong programming schedule" with a

variety of music balanced by shows which focus on current events. Other innovations include the purchase of new equipment by WYUR and promotional giveaways, which offer listeners free meals at local restaurants. The smoother functioning of the radio station, according to Weissman, has been facilitated by, among other factors, a new governing board, a reworked constitution, and a stronger adherence to rules and regulations. Particularly heartening, Weissman adds, has been the "overwhelming response" of the student body itself, both in the number of people who auditioned for dee-jay positions, and in the volume of song requests and dedications that dee-jays constantly field. While Weissman, who has previously worked for two other radio stations, will be graduating at the end of this year, he anticipates that his successors will build on his accomplishments, stating, "People have begun to take YUR seriously... We have good programming, we've made tremendous progress, and we hope we'll have more programs in the future."

## Schottenstein Student Center Chosen as Site for Retreat II

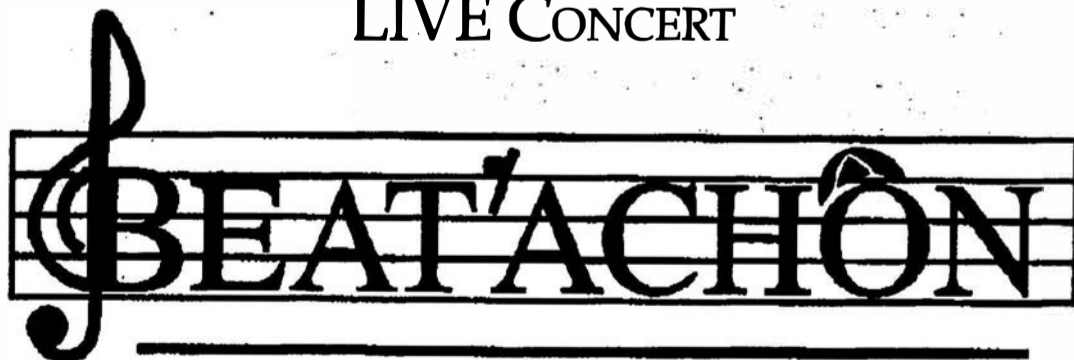
The second round of the student administration retreat will be held on the third floor of the Schottenstein Student Center. The first series was held off-campus at the Clinton Hotel in Tenafly, New Jersey. The Friday, March 19th gathering, scheduled for 8:00-1:00, will utilize the offices of YCSC, Hamevaser, JSSSC, and IBCSC as well as the lounge area. Dean of Students Efrem Nulman explained that "he wanted to run this event, which is truly a student event, in the Student Center. That's the appropriate place."

--Michael Eisenberg

*The Commentator is looking for News and Features writers. If you are interested, please contact Senior Editor Jamin Koslowe at 923-6388*

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## Pizmon Sings a New Song

Pizmon is the Hebrew word meaning the chorus of a song. It is also the name of a student a cappella ensemble in the community of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Called by some "a professional quality singing group," its members are all full-time students. On March 11, 1993, Pizmon will take its unique blend of music to the Jews of Eastern Europe. Pizmon will perform concerts several cities in Poland, Prague, and Budapest. For many in Pizmon this is a return trip to Eastern Europe, as Pizmon spent the 1992 spring break there. Last year, the group was given warm welcomes wherever it went, and this year, the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe are eagerly awaiting Pizmon's return.

The group was founded six years ago by Jewish students on the Columbia campus who enjoyed singing together.

The group is run solely by students; conducting, arranging, and much of the composing of music and group administration is all done by Pizmon members. Pizmon's eclectic repertoire

through music. To that end, Pizmon performs in a variety of settings such as senior citizen centers and centers for new Soviet immigrants, Hebrew schools and synagogues and campus performances.



brings together the musical styles of the Eastern European Shtetl, the State of Israel, and the contemporary American Jewish scene. Some of the lyrics are from sacred texts, while others are modern songs about love and peace. Members of the group remain committed to creating and sharing Jewish culture.

From the beginning, the group defined their goal as Jewish outreach

This year, in addition to Pizmon's time in Eastern Europe, the group has performances at Rutgers University, at the Jewish Collegiate Festival of the Performing Arts in New York, in Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore.

The sound of Pizmon can also now be heard on their audio tape entitled "Shira Chadasha". Pizmon may be singing old sacred words, but their's really is a new song.

## Beat'achon: They've Got the Beat (and the Harmony, too)

A hush falls over the festive Lamport Auditorium crowd as the six casually dressed young men take their places on stage, adjust their microphones, and delay an extra moment to get their note. "Who are these guys?" the audience wonders. On cue, three warm crisp chords pierce the silence as the group launches into the first verse of its opening number: "You picked me up when I was down..."

The song, *Hafachta*, is familiar, but the sound is new. As the group, Beat'achon, performs its own original arrangement of the tune popularized by the Diaspora Yeshiva Band, even without the drums and the electric guitars, the song rocks the auditorium.

The scene described is this year's YU Chanuka Concert, but with minor changes in setting and detail, it could just as easily be either of two recent performances at the Miami Experience Concerts, or any one of Beat'achon's dozen or so performances to date.

After every concert, friends and strangers alike approach group members to ask where they'll be performing next, and when their tape will be coming out.

"I'm truly amazed by the response we've been getting," said Beat'achon member Avy Schreiber. "After one of the Miami Boys concerts, a couple of girls from Central asked us for our autograph." Chuckling, he added, "I guess that's how you know you've arrived -- when teenage girls want your autograph."

Whether or not Beat'achon has "arrived", their early success is

remarkable for a group that has been performing together for less than a year-and-a-half. In addition to their well-received performances and the recording of their upcoming first album (due to be released after *Shavuos*), Beat'achon's demo tape has been receiving substantial airtime on Nachum Segal's popular JMin the AM radio program (WFMU 91.1 FM). They will be performing this spring at YU and Columbia, and have tentatively scheduled other shows.

The six friends from grade school, high school and college initially formed a group to sing at last year's Ohab Zedek talent show. Then going by the name The Alto Kockers, the group sang two songs, and was immediately invited by Rabbi Schwartz to be the entertainment at the synagogue's annual formal dinner last spring. The only catch was that they had to wear tuxedos, and that they had to use a different name for the shul's dinner program.

Therefore, The Alto Kockers became Kol Ish, which stuck with them until late this past fall, when they finally settled on Beat'achon. According to Adam Fishman, who thought up the name, "Truth be told, we just wanted something witty. The name Beat'achon combines both our Jewish aspect and our never ending desire to be clever." It was just at that time that the YU Chanuka Concert

offer came through, and the group, whose members include three YU alumni, started to gain wider recognition.

"We're very glad that people are starting to notice us, and that they like what they hear," said Jordan B. Gorfinkel. "We'd still be singing and writing songs without the publicity, because we all love this kind of music. But it's great to see so many other people enjoying it too."

"Our best publicity is word of mouth - or in our case, song of mouth," quipped David Matkowsky. "When you tell people you sing a cappella, nobody knows what you mean. But when they actually hear you sing, they want to hear more."

This was the case with Yerachmiel Begun, who heard Beat'achon for the first time at the Chanuka Concert. He was so impressed by their unique, vibrant sound that he approached the group backstage and asked for their phone number.

"Almost all the offers we've received so far have come spontaneously when people hear us sing," commented Ezra Galler. "It's like a chain reaction, only exponential. With each performance, several new chains are created."

Often, a formal performance isn't necessary to spark interest; several

## Jewish A Cappella Music

TRADITIONAL VERSES AND PRAYERS ARE REVITALIZED WITH THE LATEST RHYTHMS

What is Jewish a cappella? And for that matter, just what is "a cappella"? A group of islands? A rapid succession of the notes in a chord? Chinese needle therapy? A cappella means none of these things, although its pronunciation is often confused with "archipelago", "arpeggio", and "acupuncture." Perhaps we'd best begin with a dictionary definition:

**a cappella** (e' ke pel' e). Music. 1. without instrumental accompaniment. 2. in the style of church or chapel music. [It: according to chapel]. Also, a cap-pel'la, a'ca-pel'la.

In this country, a cappella singing groups have long been a mainstay of the college music scene. Groups like the Columbia Kingsmen and Clefhangers, the Beezebubs of Tufts, and the SUNY Binghamton Crosbys have entertained college audiences with their catchy names, raucous collegiate antics, and inspiring blends of creative vocal harmonies and rhythms. Lately, even as the popularity of such groups increases on campuses across the country, the appeal of a cappella has begun to reach mainstream popular music circles as well. Professional a cappella groups such as the Nylons, Take 6, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and Rockappella are gaining ever wider recognition, while noted rock/pop stars, including Yes, En Vogue, Boyz II Men, the Bangles, and Tod Rundgren, have released a cappella versions of their hit songs.

Like many of the finer phenomena of secular culture, a cappella music is at long last wending its way into Jewish cultural awareness. Ironically, the very notion of a distinctly Jewish a cappella reinfuses the medium with the religious-devotional significance it had lost over the years (albeit a different religion's devotional significance).

Attendees of this year's YU Chanuka Concert were introduced to two exciting new Jewish singing groups, Beat'achon and the YU a cappella Club, devoted exclusively to a cappella music. If the audience's enthusiastic response is any indication, Jewish a cappella has not only arrived, and it is here to stay.

And let us not fail to mention Pizmon, the Jewish Student Choral/a cappella group of Columbia University (down the block from YU), who, as we go to press, are embarking on a whirlwind tour of Eastern Europe, to bring the latest in Jewish music to the Jewish communities of Poland, Czechia, and Hungary.

Beat'achon appearances were initiated during zemirot at the Shabbat table. Wherever the group sings, they tend to ignite excited interest. Offers to perform have been coming in so quickly, in fact, that the group hasn't had time to respond to them all.

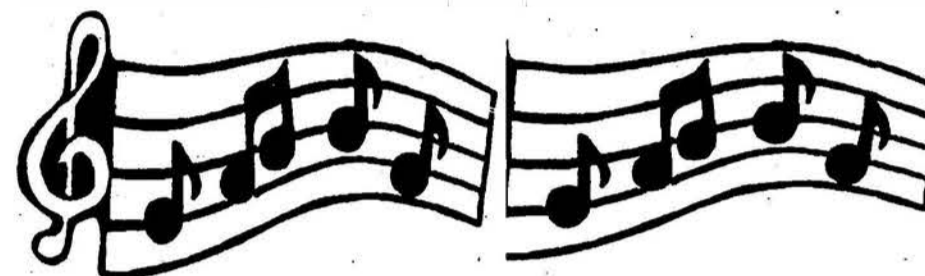
"We all have full-time jobs or school besides singing," explained Yuri Shoshan. "It's fantastic that Beat'achon is taking off, but we have to keep things in perspective."

Beat'achon currently meets twice a week for three hour rehearsals

(songwriting and arranging gets done whenever time can be found), and has no plans to slow down. After their present round of performances, which includes a show here at YU (Tues. Mar. 16, 8:15 pm, Ruben Lounge), the group intends to devote its energy towards its recording project, following which they will pause to assess their priorities as a group and plan the future of Beat'achon. If past performance is any indication, it is sure to be a bright one.



The Yeshiva University A cappella group. Pictured left to right are: Avi Morgan, Raffi Levinson, Rafi Saar, Ruby Spolter, Noam Koenigsberg. Seated: Joey Selesny. Not pictured: Yechiel Levin and Oren Meyers.



## Jewish A Cappella At YU? Y Not!

In the last few years, the music world has seen the unlikely revival of a musical form that has been lying dormant for a few decades. A cappella, literally "in chapel style", refers to singing without musical accompaniment. Today's iteration of a cappella music can be traced most directly back to the 1950s and early 1960s when doo-wop street groups were very popular and barber-shop quartets were in their heyday. The doo-wop influence has been felt in many of today's mainstream musical genres such as rock and roll, rhythm and blues, and others. The growth of rock during the early '60s probably had something to do with the decline of a cappella, as rock replaced it as the most popular genre with the younger segment of the population. A cappella can probably credit popular new groups such as Color Me Badd, Boyz II Men, and others for its recent upsurge in popularity and its gradual move back towards the mainstream.

The last ten years or so has also seen some stylistic innovations in Jewish music. More and more, Jewish music artists are leaving behind the more traditional styles in favor of harder, more upbeat rhythms (in some cases), more complex chords, and (gasp!) more English lyrics. The Diaspora Yeshiva Band is just one example. Mordechai Ben David's and Avraham Fried's more recent offerings also lean in this direction, as do those of the Miami Boys Choir.

The obvious question, then, is "Why not Jewish a cappella music?" Well, why not indeed. That was the question asked by a few young men from Manhattan's Upper West Side who loved singing together, and Beat'achon was born. That question was also asked by some Jewish students at Columbia University, and the group Pizmon came together (see accompanying articles).

That question had also been on the minds of a few Yeshiva University students as early as Fall Semester 1991. But, YU guys being YU guys, could find neither the time nor the patience to actualize their wishes. Enter Ari Pinchot, then a YC sophomore, fishing around the campus among his friends, looking for a few guys who enjoyed singing, looking to form a (not necessarily Jewish music) a cappella group. About ten people showed up at the first meeting, which was held a couple of weeks into the Spring 1992 semester. An attempt was made to have the group earn one credit by fulfilling the course requirement of one of the courses in the Belz School of Jewish Music or the YC music department, but that proved futile, so it ended up being just for fun, which was the original intention. The group learned a couple of songs from different a cappella recordings from various artists such as The Nylons and the King's Singers. After a while, schedules got tight as "crunch time" approached, and most of the group, including Pinchot, found themselves with negligible amounts of free time. The result was the disintegration of the group.

However, in the beginning of this year, YC senior Rafi Saar, a member of the group whom "Pinch" had appointed to assume the group leadership, began putting up signs around the JJC proclaiming "a new serious [Jewish] a cappella group." The first meeting yielded a turnout of about fifteen people, and although auditions were considered, they were put aside. Saar obtained official YCSC club status for the group (it's in the Guide) and rehearsals began immediately. The YU A Cappella Club, as it is now known, met once a week for an hour, and by the end of the term it had a song ready for presentation at the annual YU Chanuka Concert, which featured the Miami Boys Choir, Kol Achai, and Beat'achon. The YUers' rendition of "Baruch Ata

(Shehecheyanu)" - arranged and conducted by Saar - delighted the capacity crowd in Lamport Auditorium.

For the Spring '93 term, Saar made some adjustments. Top priority was making the group smaller, as its large size made it difficult to learn new songs quickly. Saar also took advantage of the group's exposure at the concert to do some more recruiting, and more people showed up. This time auditions were held, and eight people made up the new, streamlined a cappella group, with those who remained forming a choir -- a larger group with a slightly different musical style. Those in the a cappella group are Saar, Noam Koenigsberg, Yechiel Levin, Raffi Levinson, Oren Meyers, Avi Morgan, Joey Selesny, and Ruby Spolter. The group is learning both existing songs, which Saar arranges for a cappella in his studio in his 189th St. apartment, and Saar's original compositions.

Saar has a fairly extensive musical background. He sang in the Bnei Akiva of Belgium choir, and later conducted it for two years. He is also a prolific composer. Koenigsberg and Selesny sang a lot together while growing up in greater Detroit, from second grade in the school choir to a quartet in the tenth and eleventh grades. Koenigsberg is also an avid keyboard player and composer, and he currently plays and sings in The Nameless Band ("Now Playing in Morg Lounge," The Commentator, Dec. 15). During his first year in Yeshivat Sha'alvim, he also played in a band called "The Rockin' Refet," along with Saar and Ruby Spolter. Levin also sang in his school choir while growing up in Seattle, and has appeared in musical theater productions. Morgan sang in the Miami Boys Choir when he was younger, as well as in his school choir in Florida. Meyers also sang in his school choir in Washington, where Spolter also hails from.

While some people think that Jewish music should stay more traditional, Saar claims that it has always been tempered by outside cultural influences. "There's no reason why it shouldn't progress into more modern styles. Jewish music shouldn't just be limited to chazzanut, dance tunes and shalosh seudos music," he says. Although he says he will always be involved with music and composing in some fashion, he doesn't think he'll have time for the group next year, as his computer science major is already keeping him fairly busy. There are no likely candidates yet to succeed Saar, although he hopes someone will emerge. "Now that we've got something started," he says, "it shouldn't just die." One thing the group still needs, however, is a name. Anyone who has any ideas should please submit them to any of the members of the group. You will be able to see the YU A Cappella Group when they open for Beat'achon's YU concert in Ruben Lounge Tuesday evening, March 16 at 8:15 pm.



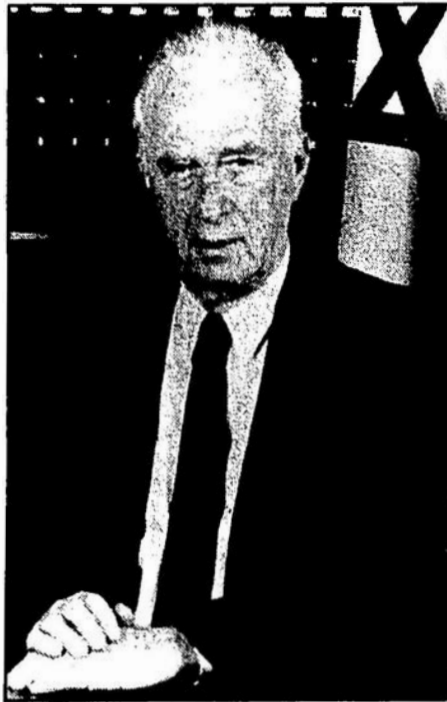


## Zysman: Rabin's Address a Compliment to YU

continued from page 1

President 26 years ago, introduced Ben Gurion when he spoke at Stern," Graubard stated. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ludwig Jesselson, Chairman of the University's Executive Committee Burton Resnick, Senior Vice President Israel Miller, and Zysman will also participate in the program, which will be chaired by Morry Weiss, a member of the University's Board of Trustees and CEO of American Greetings Corp.

Zysman, who is chiefly responsible for the Prime Minister's visit to YU, stated, "I think it [the address] is a tremendous recognition of YU as the preeminent university under Jewish auspices in the Western world. The fact that he is delivering a major address at



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

YU and not any other university is a compliment to what we stand for and what the Prime Minister and the government of Israel think YU stands for in terms of the future of the Jewish people."

## YCPS and TAC Spread Purim Spirit to Immigrants

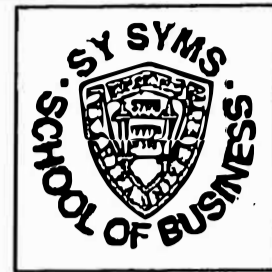
by Yisroel Holczer

In the true spirit of Purim, the Yeshiva College Philanthropy Society (YCPS), in conjunction with Stern College's Torah Activities Council (TAC), delivered 500 mishloach manot packages to Jewish Russian immigrant families in the Washington Heights community.

YCPS President Jason Schwartz noted that "each package contained several food items, as well as a Hebrew/English Megillah. We hoped that this would encourage them to attend the Megillah reading, and use the Megillah." The packages, which cost over \$1,200, were put together by several TAC volunteers, and were delivered the Wednesday before Purim. David Rozenson, who is the Chairman of Russian Activities for YCPS, coordinated the distribution, along with the Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights, and Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol,

who arranged for vans to bring the mishloach manot from Midtown to Washington Heights.

The decision to distribute mishloach manot this Purim was made when the pre-Purim Chagiga, held the last three years in YU's Weissberg Commons, was postponed, due to what Schwartz called "logistic and technical problems." Similar to the pre-Chanuka Chagiga, the pre-Purim extravaganza hosts the area's Russian Jews, and provides kiruv through speakers and music. When the Chagiga was put off, organizers felt that a program for outreach was needed - hence the mishloach manot. TAC President Nomi Dworken said that "we're glad to help YCPS spread Purim in Washington Heights, and it's great to see that, as usual, Stern College students volunteered to help, and came through for the Greater Jewish Community." Plans are currently underway for a pre-Pesach Chagiga, which will also be sponsored by YCPS and TAC.



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## New York Times Columnist Leads Journalism Workshop

by Jamin Koslowe

Richard Bernstein of the *New York Times* addressed 30 staff members of *The Commentator* and *The Observer* at a symposium on journalism this past Tuesday, March 10. Bernstein, a former bureau chief in Paris and Peking, was invited to speak to the University's newspaper staffs by YCSC President Avi Steinlauf. Steinlauf sent Bernstein recent copies of *The Commentator* and *The Observer* to familiarize him with campus issues.

He offered constructive criticism to the staffs. Bernstein prefaced his remarks by stating that he found both newspapers were "good in general." However, in

one of his more pointed criticisms, he maintained that *The Commentator* should never have printed its mistaken editorial which criticized Rabbi Avi Weiss earlier this year, explaining that a newspaper should never rely on another media source for its facts. He warned, "that's the way mistakes get repeated," often leading to a "multiplier effect of error."

Bernstein noted that too much of the news writing in *The Commentator* and *The Observer* is written in the "passive voice." Instead, he suggested using the "active voice," which produces clearer and more logical articles. He also warned against using "fancy locutions and words" to make weak writing sound impressive. Bernstein also fielded 45 minutes of questions.

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## SSSB Hosts Semi-Annual Trustees Forum

### Speakers Describe Careers And Offer Personal Advice For Success

by Eyal Feiler

On Monday February 22, the Sy Syms School of Business held the first of two Trustees Forums scheduled for this year. The Forum featured Vice President of Prudential Insurance Company Anne Bossi, Senior Vice President of Merrill Lynch Howard Sorgen, and Senior Executive Vice President of Chemical Bank William H. Turner. The three Senior Business Executives spoke about their own industries and related their perspectives on the qualities they look for when hiring new employees. The event was hosted by Chairman of the SSSB Board of Directors Mr. Josh S. Weston who is also Chairman and CEO of Automatic Data Processing.

While each of the executives briefly described the role and significance of their respective companies, they also provided some practical advice. Bossi asserted that irrespective of which industry one chooses, new employees should "possess strong oral and written skills," since employees rely heavily on

written memos to communicate with their co-workers. Bossi also emphasized the importance of being computer literate.

Sorgen and Turner spoke about the need to work well with other people and to be a "team player" in order to be successful in the banking industry. Additionally, Sorgen maintained that the success of Merrill Lynch is due to the quality of its people, adding that Merrill Lynch's goal is "putting the customer first," rather than focusing on selling a financial product.

Turner enthusiastically described some of the career opportunities at Chemical Bank. He explained that he expected prospective employees to "have good grades, outside activities and ask tough questions at the interview if they want to work at Chemical Bank." However, he also stated that once a person becomes an employee at Chemical, the college he or she attended or even their major, is unimportant. Rather, job performance becomes much more crucial.

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**RESPONSA**

To the Editor,

In the last issue of *The Commentator* there appeared a letter by a Mr. Gopin, asserting that his choice to wear a sweater to shul on the sabbath in no way lessens "his intensity towards Avodas Hashem."

This being the case, I would like to pose the following question: As he is currently a senior, he undoubtedly is faced with his prospective entry to the job market or graduate school. I wonder if he showed up to prospective job/graduate school interviews clad in the sartorial splendor of his "shabbos sweater" and Bugle Boy pants, replete with white athletic socks and Docksiders. Did he tell the interviewer, "Al tistakail bakankan ela bima sheyesh bo?"

If this was not the case, I would be very curious to know why Mr. Gopin has no qualms appearing before the King of Kings in an outfit he would dare not wear before a mere mortal. Is the Sabbath not deserving of the same respect accorded to the interviewer? Is the Torah not entitled to the same reverence he accords to his potential employer?

I do not mean to pontificate from a position of superiority; however, I would like to know if Mr. Gopin uniformly applies his philosophy to all aspects of his life or instead manipulates Jewish ideals for his own convenience?

Samson M. Frankel  
YC '95

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**Celebrating  
30 Years of Ceil**  
*continued from page 1*

Frequently, Mrs. Levinson, recognizes a current student whose father she knew as a student, including this reporter's father. She has witnessed the evolution of faculty members and Administrators as well, specifically remembering Professor of Political Science Bernard Firestone and Assistant Dean of SSSB Ira Jaskoll as students. Ceil claims to especially enjoy keeping in touch with former students, noting that "they often call just to let me know how they're doing."

**Honored by YCDS**

During her 30 years at YU, Ceil has only missed two or three of the YCDS semi-annual productions. As a token of YCDS' appreciation, she was inducted into the YCDS Honor Society. Students once again expressed their gratitude in 1981, when the graduating class dedicated Masmid '81 to Ceil. The inscription in the yearbook states that "This remarkable woman has the unique ability to combine absolute efficiency with perpetual cheerfulness and plain down-home friendliness. She is, and has been, an invaluable helper and assistant to the four deans under whom she has served."

Current Dean of YC Norman Rosenfeld summed his praise for Ceil: "Over the years, Ceil has endeared herself to students and faculty alike with her cheerful demeanor and warmth. Such total dedication to her job and the college is indeed rare."

At present, Ceil has no plans to retire.

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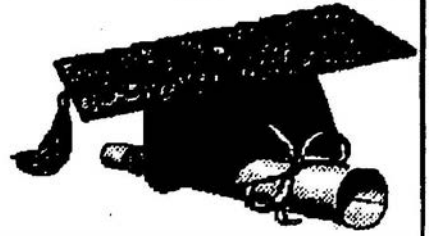
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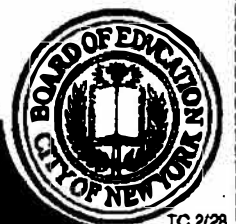
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**Political Perspective** Jamin Koslowe

**"Terrorists? -- Not in My Back Yard"**

While most Americans have been quick to praise law enforcement officials for their swift arrests of two prime suspects in the World Trade Center bombing, *The New York Times* recently questioned whether the tragedy might have been avoided altogether.

In an editorial last week ("More Twin Tower Mysteries," 3/11/93), *The Times* noted that Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a New Jersey Muslim spiritual leader with ties to the bombing suspects, has been on a Federal list of suspected terrorists for some time. In fact, the Government has tried, unsuccessfully, to deport Rahman in the past, leading *The Times* to question "the diligence of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the F.B.I."

Ironically, the same newspaper which now hints that the deportation of suspected terrorists might have prevented the World Trade Center bombing took a markedly different editorial stance towards the Israeli government's use of deportations only three months ago. Immediately following Israel's deportation of 400 members of the terrorist group Hamas, *The Times* condemned "the indiscriminate deportations by Israel," editorializing that "Mass Punishment is no answer to the crimes of individuals" ("Don't Orphan the Peace Process," 12/18/92).

Not all of the Palestinians deported by Israel actually committed acts of terrorism, rather, like Sheik Rahman, they were suspected of promoting terrorist activity. So why is it that *The Times* would approve of Rahman's deportation by the U.S. government, while condemning Israel's deportations?

It seems that *The Times'* liberal stance towards deportations ends when the suspected promoter of terrorism resides in our own back yard. It's easy to criticize deportations 6,000 miles away as a form of collective punishment. But

when terrorists strike in the heart of New York City, Americans are quick to chant "throw the bums out!"

Unfortunately, America has learned the hard way that the deportation of suspected advocates of terrorism is not a matter of "mass punishment"; it is a matter of survival. Israel did not deport the members of Hamas as a means of vengeance; it did so to prevent further terrorist activity. The severe action taken by the Israeli government rose out of the unprecedented increase in the number of terrorist attacks on Israeli soil. No country can survive while living in a state of constant fear.

The World Trade Center bombing was simply a wakeup call to complacent Americans. Hopefully, it will prove to be an isolated incident, in which case Americans will probably slip back into their slumber, ignoring the dangers of terrorism. But if investigators prove the existence of a conspiracy, and terrorists begin to strike regularly on American soil, American reaction will be swift. The people will chant, the papers will editorialize, and the politicians will pledge. Before anyone can say the words "U.N. Security Council Resolution," a plane full of suspected terrorists will be on its way out of the country.



Under enormous pressure to offer compromises, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will arrive in America this week. American politicians will probably ask the Prime Minister to make conciliatory gestures, such as the immediate return of all the Palestinian deportees. Rabin would do well to ride the new wave of American awareness of the dangers of terrorism. By highlighting the World Trade Center bombing, he will hopefully strike a chord with an American people now keenly aware of terrorism's threat to security and sanity.

**YUNMUN Attracts Over 350 H.S. Students**

*Quayle's Chief of Staff Addresses Convention*

by Sender Cohen

The third annual Yeshiva University Network Model United Nations (YUNMUN) was held two weeks ago at the Meadowlands Hilton. The conference drew over 350 High School students from 21 schools across North America; a tremendous increase over last year's conference, which drew approximately 280 students.

The model U.N. affords students the opportunity to simulate actual United Nations proceedings. Delegates from the schools represent the views of their assigned countries in debates on various issues. Sarit Elkayam, a delegate from Ramaz, noted that "The conference was a great educational experience. We learned a lot about parliamentary procedure and formal debate, and as a result I also learned why nothing gets done in the UN."

This year the number of committees increased from seven to ten, with the addition of the Political and Security committee, the United Nations Environment Program, and the Council on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Among the innovations at this year's YUNMUN were the tailormade shiurim which addressed issues directly relevant to each committee. For example, Rabbi Nethaniel Helfgot, a rebbi at Frisch, gave a shiur in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on terrorism; the ICJ was deliberating the Pan Am explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland. The shiurim were given by faculty advisors, semicha/YC students and Stern students.

Before YU initiated its model U.N. two years ago, many yeshiva high schools had participated in conferences sponsored by other universities. However, because some of these

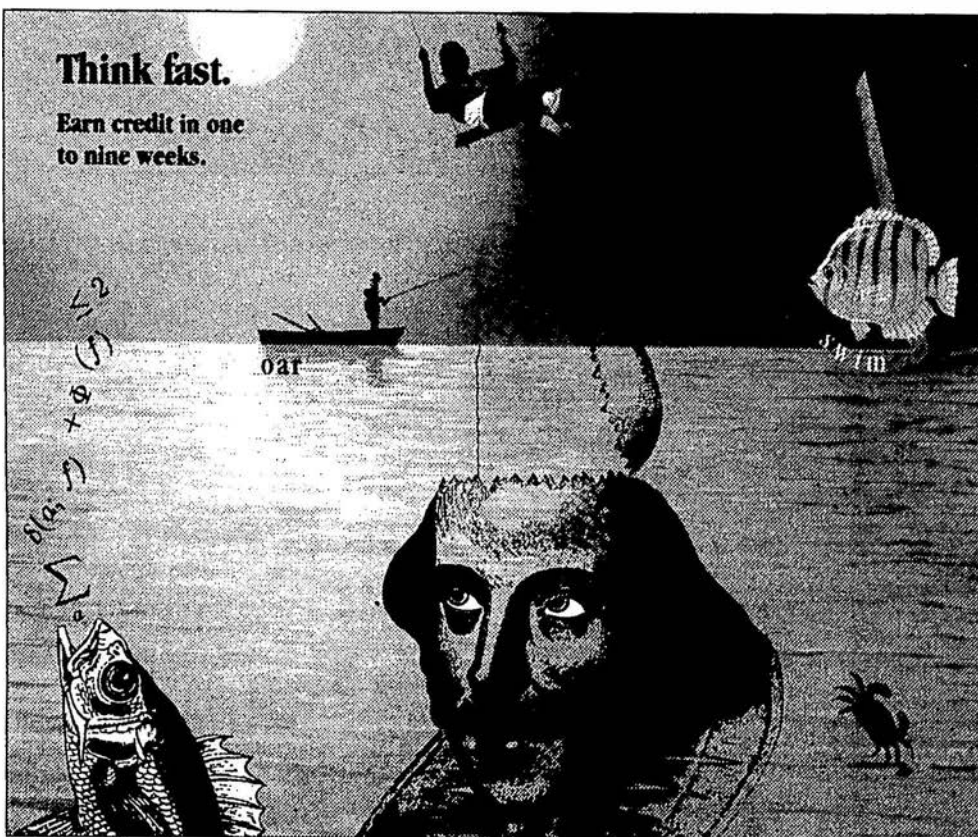
conferences ran through Shabbat, observant Jewish students were notable to participate in all of the sessions. With the creation of YUNMUN, Jewish students were given the opportunity to fully participate in a kosher, Shabbat observing model U.N.

YUNMUN is sponsored by the Admissions office, which views it as an opportunity to reach out to Jewish high school students from around the country, and expose them to YU students. Jeff Neugroschl and Deena Cohen, both assistant directors of admissions, oversaw the conference; YC senior Stephen Davidson and SCW senior Jennifer Cutler were the Director General and Secretary General, respectively.

The conference was preceded by a shabbaton in Englewood, N.J. organized by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services and featuring SCW Professor Rabbi Saul Berman. At the conference itself, William Kristol, Former Vice President Dan Quayle's chief of staff, spoke about the United Nations' role in the changing world.

Davidson commented that "We feel that we did an excellent job representing YU to these prospective students and all the feedback we've gotten from faculty advisors and students who attended has been overwhelmingly positive."

Anyone interested in drawing Pictorials and other Artwork for *The Commentator* for next year, please contact Robert Fagin, 568-5798 Mo 420 or Sender Cohen 568-8071 Mo 603 or drop us a note in *The Commentator* box in Furst Hall.



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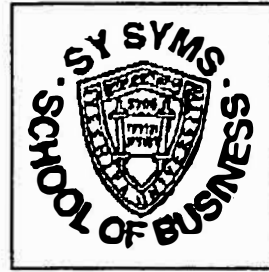
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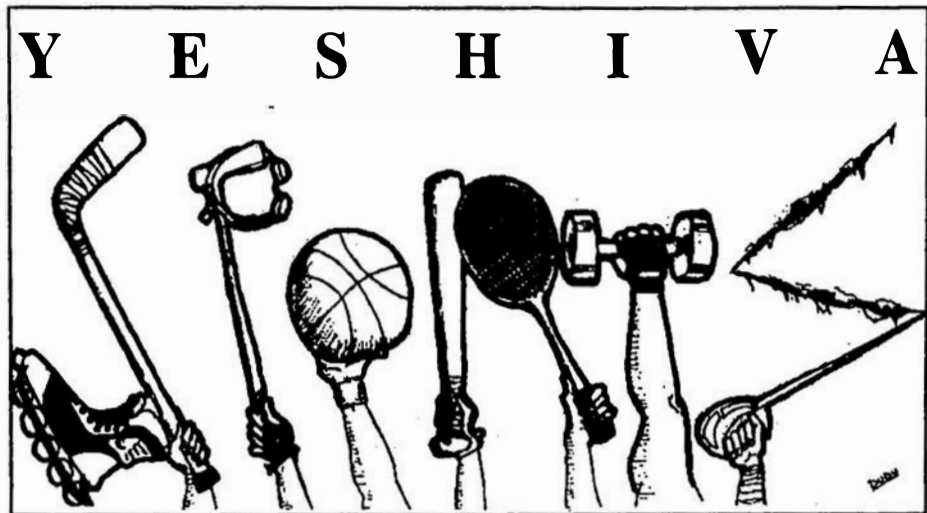
*The Commentator wishes  
Ceil Levinson, Deans' office  
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for many more years  
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## Chem Club Visits Indian Point II Nuclear Facility

By Doni Stern

On Friday, March 5, 25YC and 3SCW students trekked to the Indian Point II nuclear facility in New Jersey. There, under the Chemistry Club banner, students were given a tour of the premises, shown a film detailing nuclear production techniques, and offered the

opportunity to ask several questions regarding the nuclear plant's operating procedures. Chemistry Club president Daniel Hakimi explained that the purpose of the trip was to inform the participants of the workings of nuclear power as well as to initiate social contact between Stern and YC chemistry students.



## Volleyball MACS Split Tri-match

### *Squish Fish But Lose to Fordham*

by Commentator staff

The Volleyball Macs played a tri-match last Thursday night against the Mt. St. Vincent Dolphins and Fordham University. The Macs took down Mt. St. Vincent 3-1 in the first match, but were later defeated by Fordham 3-0. In the first game against Fordham, the Macs went up 14-10. But after the Macs served the ball into the net 5 times, Fordham took the lead and held it to win the game. In the third game against Fordham, the Macs were down 10-5, but caught a sudden surge to take the lead at 12-10. Unfortunately, YU was unable to prevail and Fordham regained the lead, taking the game and the match.

With the absence of outside hitter Avi Steinlauf, Jeremy Bandler, who usually sets, moved to replace him. Noah Lindenbaum was assigned the position of setter on a day's notice, but he played the position well and the team adjusted smoothly to the shuffle.

Neil Bromberg displayed his strong defense skills, and Ralf Jakoel played exceptionally well, stunning the crowd with his impressive spikes. After the match Bandler commented, "I was pleased with the way we played tonight, because we've improved as the season has progressed. But our lack of focused concentration contributed to our losses, despite our strong defensive game."

## YU Teams Trounced In Superhoops Regionals

by Adam J. Anhang

The Schick Super Hoops 3-on-3 regional tournament, held March 7 at Columbia University, saw both the YC and SCW teams go winless against stiff competition. The two YU teams had advanced to the regional tournament after winning their respective 3-on-3 campus tournaments.

The YC team, composed of Noam Cohen, Sam Maryles, Avi Savitsky, and

injured player Moshe Benaroch, suffered three consecutive defeats at the hands of Manhattan College, Utica, and CCNY. The SCW team, featuring Rebecca Bienenstock, Judith Kelsen, Tamara Lehman, and Tamar Parness, finished with an 0-2 record.

Overall, Iona College was victorious in the regional men's tournament, and will advance to the divisional championship to be held at one of four NBA arenas.

## Two YU Fencers Receive NCAA Invitations

### *Post Record YU Finish*

by Nossional Kleinfeldt

Two YU fencers - Adam Anhang (epee) and Elliott Cohen (sabre) - posted YU's best finishes ever at the NCAA's Northeast Regional Fencing Championships, held this year on March 7th at St. John's University. The invitational tournament, which is the culmination of the college fencing season, brings together the northeast's top twenty-four college fencers in sabre, foil, and epee.

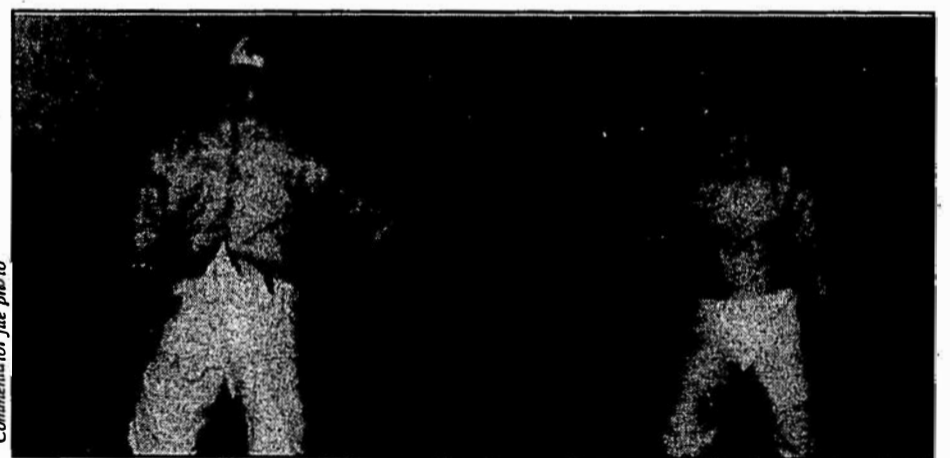
Anhang, who was seeded 24th, shocked observers with a 16th place finish in the epee competition - YU's best showing ever at the NCAA championships. Though he was not expected to win a single bout, and in fact, said that he "didn't even expect to qualify for the tournament," Anhang defeated opponents from Harvard and Yale en route to a 2-3 record. Despite losses to Columbia's Ben Atkins and Brandeis's Steve Most (who finished first and second overall, respectively), Anhang displayed a strong command of distance and good point control.

In fact, point control proved to be the decisive factor in Anhang's victory against Yale fencer Mark Learned, as Anhang scored four quick straight attacks to Learned's underhand before finishing him off with an opposition flesh. Coach Arnold Messing noted that "Anhang's fencing has improved several hundred percent this season....Whereas last year, he just impaled himself on opponents' blades, this year, he has a sense of just how close he can safely fence an opponent."

Rising to the occasion, Cohen scored a 1-3 record, placing 18th in the sabre competition - another record finish for YU. In a match he especially wanted to win "because of four [YU's] poor showing against St. John's during the regular season," Cohen used several devastating parry-ripostes in defeating sabreman Frank Gomez of St. John's. Though he did not regularly use stop cuts and parry-ripostes throughout the season, Cohen promises that he'll be using these moves much more often next year, claiming that he "now feels much more comfortable using them after seeing how effective they are in close competition."

Against all his opponents, Cohen used the full length of the strip, luring his opponents into his own territory, and then charging hard to force them to beat a hasty retreat. Sabre coach Peter Rosas was especially proud of Cohen, noting that he "fought hard, even when down. He did not lose to his opponents. He made them beat him."

Both coaches were extremely proud of Anhang and Cohen. Rosas claimed that the YU fencers "deserved to compete at the NCAA's and acquitted themselves well....Schools that we fenced during the regular season, like CCNY, Drew, and Lafayette, were unable even to qualify fencers for the tournament. Meanwhile, [at the NCAA's] we were competing against powerhouses like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, NYU, and Brown." Said Messing, "Both fencers worked hard to make the NCAA's....They serve as role models for the team. Next year, with hard work and dedication, I expect to see more YU fencers receiving NCAA invitations."



## Attention Sports Junkies!!

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If you are interested in writing for the Commentator please contact Sports Editor Michael Glass at 927-4928 or drop a note in our mailbox, located to the left of the Furst Hall elevators.

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