

# The Commentator

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Members of the Jesselson family at the service

## Memorial Service Held for Jesselson

by Avi Sussman

On Tuesday, April 22, hundreds of people packed the Nathan Lamport Auditorium to pay their respects to Ludwig Jesselson zt"l at a memorial service held in his memory. Prior to the service, the Jesselson family received friends, family, students, and business associates in the well of the Yeshiva University Museum (YUM).

### Presented Award to Rabin

YU Senior Vice-President Dr. Israel Miller opened the service, recounting how only a short time ago, Jesselson presented Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with the Yeshiva University Second Century Award. Miller also noted the appropriateness of the family receiving visitors at YUM, given that the Jesselson family had dedicated the museum.

### Favorite Mitzvah: Kiddush Levanah

Following Miller's greetings and Cantor Bernard Beer's chanting of Psalm 23, Mendy Jesselson, Jesselson's grandson and a student at TMSTA, spoke emotionally about his memories of his grandfather. Specifically mentioning his grandfather's "favorite mitzvah, Kiddush levanah,"

Jesselson related how his grandfather used to proudly recall all the different places he had *bentched* the new moon: across the United States, Europe, Israel, and even on a ship in the middle of the ocean. Said Jesselson, "Kiddush levanah represented a new beginning to him, a monthly reminder to do the things that we want to do and haven't yet done."

### Spousal Love, Graciousness

In speaking about her father-in-law, Jesselson's daughter-in-law Phylis Jesselson emphasized the deep love that Jesselson held for his wife, Erica. Although Jesselson was averse to public displays of affection, she said that their everlasting mutual love and commitment were always evident and privately expressed. Moreover, she said, Jesselson was a "merciful" and "gracious" man who always "treated every guest at his Friday night table with equal respect... and affection."

### Generosity

Michael Jesselson, one of Ludwig Jesselson's three sons, concluded the family's eulogies for Jesselson. He stressed the obvious and heartfelt love that Jesselson felt for his grandchildren,

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## YU Marches On - But Only After a Fight

by Gene Alperovich

On May 6th, after several weeks of often tenuous debate, senior YU Administrators confirmed the participation of YU marching delegations in May 9th's Salute to Israel parade. Paving the way for YU's participation was the revocation of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah's marching permit by the parade sponsor, the American Zionist Youth Federation (AZYF). Congregation Beth Simchat Torah is a synagogue whose membership is composed primarily of people with gay or

lesbian orientation, a lifestyle prohibited by the Torah.

The controversy over the inclusion of Beth Simchat Torah, pitting unified support of Israel against tolerance of a lifestyle forbidden and vilified by the Torah, occupied the minds of rabbis, educators and laymen from March 23rd, when Beth Simchat Torah announced its desire to march in the parade, until last Thursday.

### Compromise Struck

YU President Norman Lamm, perceived by many as bearing a key leadership role on

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Arthur Belfer, 1907-1993

## Arthur Belfer, Industrialist and Philanthropist, Dead at 86

by Eric Creizman

Arthur B. Belfer, successful industrialist, reknowned philanthropist, and longtime member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University and the Board of Overseers of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, died Sunday, April 2, of cancer at New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center. Belfer was 86 years old and a resident of New York City and Palm Beach, Florida. Funeral services were held on May 4 at Sutton Place Synagogue.

### A Self-Made Man

During his life, Belfer experienced a cycle of both wealth and poverty. Born in 1907 in Vodizislav, Poland, Belfer gradually established himself as the leading exporter of feathers and down in Europe, only to watch his successes uprooted. In 1939, on his way to New York, World War II broke out, leaving him a penniless immigrant in the United States, his possessions and Polish money worthless. A five dollar loan from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society sent Belfer on his way from Ellis Island; he was determined to regain his previous prosperity. Convincing a brokerage house to finance him in a venture to import feathers and down from Europe, Belfer once again became a successful

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## Bible Requirement Under Review

by Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

The Bible requirement, long a point of contention among YC/SSSB students, is currently undergoing serious review by the Bible faculty and administration. While the planned revisions are only in the formative stages, it is anticipated that change of some kind will be implemented for the 1994-1995 academic year.

The current eight-credit Bible requirement, part of the general Jewish Studies curriculum, stipulates that YC/SSSB students must take BIB 1015A - "Intro to Bible" - and 6 additional credits, including at least three text courses. Rabbi Michael Hecht, Associate Dean of YC, indicated that in the future there is a possibility that the Bible Department would offer fewer one-credit courses, and would move in the direction of offering more two-credit courses. This proposed course of action would enable students to fulfill their Bible requirement in a somewhat shorter timespan. However, Dean Hecht did assert that the discussions are still in their early stages, and that nothing has been finalized.

Rabbi S. Carmy, the Bible Department head, and other Bible faculty members involved in the talks, expressed the hope that any changes made will offer the students more academic substance and a more serious atmosphere than they may currently be experiencing in their various Bible courses. However, with regard to specific proposals, they refused to speculate on how the requirement would be altered. Dean Hecht did note, though, that the needs of the students will not be overlooked in the current talks and will certainly be taken into account in any resulting decision.

As of now, no formal proposals to revise the curriculum have been introduced for review by the College's Curriculum Committee. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached sometime during the next semester. Rabbi Carmy indicated that any revisions to the Bible requirement will likely take effect for the 1994-1995 academic year and that information will be made public throughout the course of next year.



YCSC President-Elect Danny Gurell at the Commentator sponsored Candidate Debate. For election coverage, please see page 7.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Exclusive Interview

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm discusses current issues relevant to the YU Community in an interview with Commentator Editors-in-Chief Sender Cohen and Robert Fagin.

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### Alumni Reflections

In a new feature, YU Alumni reflect on their careers and the influence that YU has had on them. This issue - Dr. Fred Rosner, M.D.

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### McQueen Leaves SSSB

In an unexpected development, popular accounting professor McQueen leaves YU for a position at Baruch, and SSSB scrambles to replace her.

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**EDITORIALS** New Leaders, New Challenges

Kudos are due to outgoing YCSC President Avi Steinlauf and his highly successful administration. They have paved the way for a successful transition and an effective student leadership. Yet, the process by which our leaders are elected leaves much to be desired. First, the amount spent on campaigning is quite excessive. The YC Board of Elections would do well to institute a spending cap or a similar type of spending restriction. The amount spent on campaign paraphernalia could easily be directed to more noble pursuits. Perhaps the initiation of more programs like YUSSR's, in which candidates donated money to the organization in return for campaign flyers, would help encourage candidates to spend their money usefully, rather than squander it on pens, pads and buttons.

In addition, as in the past, there were several rumors this year - albeit unfounded ones - that there was "ballot stuffing" at the polls. Such rumors could easily be avoided by numbering or coding ballots so that they could not be duplicated.

We trust that the Board of Elections will work to make the election process a more honest and less wasteful one.

**EDITORIALS** We All Need Improvement

This academic year, perhaps more than ever, issues concerning both students and the Administration have been highlighted and brought forward in open forums such as *The Commentator* and the Student-Administration Retreats. The year has certainly ended on a high note; for the first time in recent history, YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm agreed to a candid interview with *The Commentator* (please see page 6), indicating his willingness to work with students to resolve points of contention. In the interview, Rabbi Lamm emphasized the responsibility of the newly elected student leadership to keep the Administration's finger on the pulse of student life, as well as his own willingness to work towards fostering understanding between the student body and the Administration.

At the same time, it is obvious that the students of YC have an obligation to work hard to improve themselves and meet the Administration halfway. A recent *Commentator* poll indicates that many aspects of *The Commentator*, the Student Senate and the Student Council are deficient, or at least perceived to be that way by the student body. It is incumbent upon the student body to help overcome these deficiencies and work with their representative bodies to, in the words of Rabbi Lamm, "mold a better school insofar as student life is concerned."

Over the course of the coming year, we will continue to conduct self-studies and examine areas in which we need improvement; we hope that other student groups do the same so that we can effectively serve as the voice of the student body to the Administration, and to the outside world.

**The Commentator**

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**RESPONSA**

**Mad at Kadden**

To the Editor,

"Controversy is important, stimulating otherwise somnolent students to think about issues they otherwise would not," says Yoni Kadden in his Op Ed "Take Your Heads Out of the Sand" (*The Commentator*, March 31, 1993). Kadden appears to have concluded that the provocation of controversy is a pursuit so noble as to merit the use of erroneous assertions on its behalf. I refer specifically to his highly inaccurate rendering of the contents of Rav Tendler's lecture on AIDS.

Kadden accuses Rav Tendler of making dangerous remarks which made "light of AIDS issues," and for reeling off "successive jokes about the disease's prey." On the contrary, the only impression I had when I came out of the lecture was that AIDS is nothing but a

serious issue. Rav Tendler shared with the audience his insights from the medical field, shocking people and warning them that the disease is everyone's enemy. In addition, Rav Tendler related the tremendous pain and suffering that an AIDS patient must undergo until his death. In his lecture, Rav Tendler made a clear distinction between the many AIDS patients who received the virus by sharing needles or through sexual misconduct, and those who contracted the virus due to circumstances beyond their control. On the other hand, he emphasized that doctors should treat AIDS patients *no matter how they have contracted the virus*.

Rav Tendler succeeded in conveying the effects of AIDS to a community which has little personal experience with the epidemic. He quoted the *halakhic* sources forbidding homosexual relations, which are deeply grounded in our religious imperative, and he explained that, at the same time, our religious obligation is to treat all patients - no matter how they got AIDS. In

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**P I C T O R I A L**



**CORRECTIONS**

In an article entitled "Food Services Evaluating Outside Bids for Caf Operations," (*The Commentator*, Volume 57, Issue 12, page 1), we inadvertently omitted the following paragraph from the end of the article:

"Rosengarten is currently evaluating the responses to the RFP, and will be presenting the bids, along with a personal recommendation, to the Executive Council. The Executive Council hopes to make a decision on the matter within the next few months in order to have the decision implemented by the Fall, 1993 semester."

In an article entitled "Students Outraged at Irresponsible CLEP Scheduling," (*The Commentator*, Volume 57, Issue 12, page 8), we stated that YC senior Chaim Guggenheim did not take a CLEP test that he needed to complete graduation requirements. Mr. Guggenheim did, in fact, take the CLEP test.



## Zeitgeist for the 90's: Fresh Blood

by Michael A. Eisenberg

Well, what can I say? My last two years on the paper were certainly interesting... to say the least. Steamrolling (I prefer navigating or finessing) through the labyrinthine network, those lofty and removed smoke-filled rooms known colloquially as the YU Administration, I absorbed and observed many characteristics, attitudes, and atmospheric *mazikim*, which define, beset, and bedevil this yeshiva university.

First and foremost, let us establish that this institution is unique. We are not merely an academic garden, charged with nurturing undeveloped and underdeveloped cerebral seedlings into intellectual oaks. We are the last bastion, or alternatively the preeminent bastion, of an ideology, and we are looked upon to produce leaders and laymen who will perpetuate our brand of orthodoxy, which tolerantly embraces the whole of *Am Yisroel* and the general society in which we live, while maintaining our unswerving commitment to the dictates of halacha. Both elements are crucial but the latter must be primary.

With that in mind, we must note that the Centrist Orthodox leaders and laymen of tomorrow are today growing in Tenzer Gardens, the symbolic nursery of the bais medrash, and the classrooms of Furst Hall. Growing that seedling requires a suitable greenhouse, or, in real terms, an environment of "*Gadol shimusho yoser milimudo*", loosely translated, proper role models which will help you more than learning.

As opposed to most yeshivos or universities where rabbeim or faculty play a dominant role in shaping student attitudes, for some reason, at YU, intrusive and sometimes inscrutable administrators, through their actions or lack of same, thrust themselves into prominence. Hence, we must ask ourselves, are these administrators proper role models and are they suited to personally guide and represent YU to the students, our leaders of tomorrow? After much research and months of soul-

Michael Eisenberg is the outgoing Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Commentator*

searching, I believe the answer is a resounding NO!

First, YU's administrators are out of touch with the needs and attitudes of the student body. This problem is partly due to the age and generation gap, but alarmingly it owes in part to the character and personality of many of these directors of our institution. YU administrators simply do not have their finger on the students' pulses. They constantly miss warning signs (at least five examples come to mind immediately. If you do not remember, simply take out the issues of *The Commentator* from the last two years) and have not learned to co-exist, much less cater, to students.

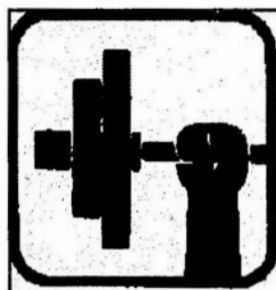
Second, and this really scares me, a number of administrators have told me, and it is readily apparent with regard to almost all the others, that they simply do not believe in the viability of Torah U'madda. For years we have heard that there are a number of rabbeim who do not subscribe to Torah U'madda. Fortunately, they do not set policy on a regular basis. However, if the administrators, who unfortunately have tight control of the reins of power, do not believe in it, our ideology will crumble and with it, this hallowed and worthy institution.

Therefore, as I complete my academic years here but do not end my commitment to this institution and what it stands for, I plead with students and whoever else feels the call of Torah U'madda tugging at their sad heart: it is time for fresh blood. We need a new, refreshing outlook. Let us replenish ourselves with people devoted to our sacred cause. (Incidentally, the board has begun stocking itself with younger and fresher bodies and minds.) Presently, good people shy away from YU, either because of the old-boys-network gripping the reins of this institution or because of the perpetual politicking, jockeying, and back-stabbing which plagues us. We can still survive and thrive but only with a renewed commitment to values, a fresh outlook, some young blood, and some truly committed administrators.

lecture was scheduled for 9:15 PM. At 9:05 the Beis Medrash was packed; at 9:10, not a seat was empty. After that, guys brought in chairs from across the hall. Finally, a few stood on the sides of the Beis Medrash, listening attentively to Rabbi Schachter's every word.

This describes the experience of approximately 85% of those attending the lecture. The remaining 15% were significantly more crowded in a small area in the rear section of the Beis Medrash -- behind the *mehizot*. When the women entered the *ezrat nashim*, almost all of the chairs had been taken by men who required seats. As a result, many stood for the first half hour, until the maintenance crew brought folding chairs. However, since only a few chairs fit within the *mehizot*, about half of the women stood for the entire lecture.

Despite this inequity, I have heard absolutely no complaints from the women who attended, many of whom are my students. On the contrary, they appreciated their inclusion in this series



# No Pain, No Gain



by Joshua D. Goldberg

Some guys like living in Morg, dorm of the upperclassmen. Others prefer Rubin, since it's above the Caf and the gym. A few even elect to live in Muss, choosing quiet living near the Beit Midrash. Me, I chose to live in Schottenstein, third floor, home of the Commie, Masmid (Seniors, [italics] please [italics] get your ads to Morg 429), WYUR, and the quietest study location on campus.

It was there that I spent hours in front of a once state-of-the-art 33 Mhz. 386 Leading Edge computer, laying out the newspaper, YUSSR newsletter, and yearbook. It was there I banged out countless history papers as the sun came up over the East River. It was there I read *Paradise Lost* out loud, trying to grasp the subtleties of Milton's poetry. It was there I argued political philosophy, defending my version of true capitalism against a socialist infidel masquerading as a yeshiva student. And it was there I found the silence that led a desperately needed afternoon nap.

I also spent some time in Furst and Belfer. I took upper-level Philosophy classes, sitting among Max Stern scholars. I stayed after class to discuss Hobbes and Locke with my PoliSci professor. I stayed in a tougher section of Intro to Bible even though my friends begged me to switch, and took the B+ along with an extra bit of knowledge. And inevitably there were those classes in which I found the monotonous harmony of a boring teacher, mixed with the drone of traffic, which led to a desperately needed afternoon nap.

Joshua D. Goldberg is the outgoing Executive Editor of *The Commentator*

Once, I even went into the library and did more than copy out of books for an English Lit paper. I tried to think on my own.

In a nutshell, I tried to pursue both extra-curricular and "curricular" activities, doing what a college student does, even if I was in YU. And I pray I'm now ready for law school and real life. But I'm worried. Worried that I was never forced to read thousands of pages in a couple of nights, worried that I was never pushed to the limit like my Ivy-League educated law school competition was. Worried that I picked up too many bad habits from classes in which I got superficial A's on mediocre papers.

It's not that I did badly, though I never sacrificed my desire to learn for my GPA. But grading was so easy sometimes, and there was only so far that I could push myself, regardless of how well trained I was from Sha'alvim and a little night seder. High grades are valuable and rewarding, but why push for a great A, when a second-rate A counts just as much? I'm only human.

So, I would like to offer some advice to our professors. Push. Start giving fewer A's, and make your students work for them. Assign the volume of work that becomes routine for non-yeshiva universities, and wreak havoc when the work is not complete. Stop taking the drivel that is offered so often by so many students.

And to the students I sat next to in class, don't complain when you get pushed, and stop trying to avoid the pressure at all costs. In real life, you won't have 'dual curriculum' as an excuse for laziness, and then it might be too late. For real growth, pursue learning with the same enthusiasm some pursue exercise, and with the same motto: "No Pain, No Gain."

## Op Ed: Rabbi Mordechai Cohen Let's Be Gentlemen

We are all familiar with Rambam's ruling (*Yesode Hatorah* 5:11) that a *talmid hakham* must manifest exemplary behavior traits. I would like to direct attention to an often neglected aspect of this *halakhah*. Since no Torah student would intentionally violate this ideal, I am confident that awareness of the deficiency itself will rectify the problem.

Rav Schachter, the first Rebbet to speak about the Rav zt"l in the Beis Medrash, drew an extremely large crowd. His

Rabbi Mordechai Cohen is a member of the Bible faculty at YC and SCW, and is a graduate of RIETS (1989) and YC (1987).

of *shiurim* by the *Roshei Yeshiva* in memory of the Rav. Credit must be given to the MYP administration, who had the insight to invite all students of the Yeshiva community, including SCW.

Yet I believe that the seating situation in the Beis Medrash was not optimal, and reflects a larger problem. Let me clarify that my intention is not to point a finger of accusation, even at those who took seats from the women's section. The normal seating rule in the Beis Medrash is, in fact, "first come first serve." Yet, when women are invited, I believe that this rule should be modified.

Women, especially SCW students, are aware that the Main Beis Medrash is, under normal circumstances, the domain of men. (When my wife tries to contact me in the Beis Medrash, she never enters herself; she always stands outside and asks a fellow to call me.) Therefore, when women are invited to the Beis Medrash, every effort should be made to make them feel welcome; otherwise, they will feel uncomfortable, barely

"tolerated." I do not believe that any of the YU fellows have that intention.

A guy who does not find a seat knows how to adapt: he can get a chair or desk from a side room, he knows where he can stand; in short, a guy knows "how to get around" in the Beis Medrash. When women come into this Beis Medrash, which is not their own, and cannot find seats, they will simply stand and accept the situation, perhaps feeling that their invitation was not wholehearted.

Someone suggested that this event reflected a feeling that this is "our" Beis Medrash: people who spend hours learning here should have "first crack" at seats. I do not believe that anyone seriously maintains that view, certainly not *talmidim* who devote so much time and energy to Torah. The right to "first crack" is the law of the jungle, not the law of the Beis Medrash! If a guest, an elderly man unaffiliated with YU, walked in during a shiur, fifteen guys would immediately give up their seats;

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# CAMPUS NEWS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**Tuesday-Monday,  
May 11-17, 1993:**  
Reading Period

**Wednesday,  
May 12, 1993:**  
Faculty Recognition Day  
Dr. Donald J. Nolan,  
Deputy Commissioner for Higher  
Education, Speaker  
Weissberg Commons, 1:00 PM

**Wednesday,  
May 12, 1993:**  
Last Day of Lectures/Shiurim in  
JSS/IBC/MYP

**Wednesday,  
May 12, 1993:**  
YU Athletic Awards Banquet  
Weissberg Commons, 6:30 PM

**Thursday-Friday,  
May 13-14, 1993:**  
JSS/IBC Finals

**Sunday,  
May 16, 1993:**  
YU Museum Opening:  
Exhibition of "Aishet Hayil: Woman  
of Valor"  
YUM, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

**Monday,  
May 17, 1993:**  
MYP Finals

**Tuesday-Sunday,  
May 18-23, 1993:**  
YC/SSSB Finals

**Tuesday,  
May 18, 1993:**  
Second Annual Sephardic Council  
of Overseers Dinner  
New York Hilton, 6:00 PM

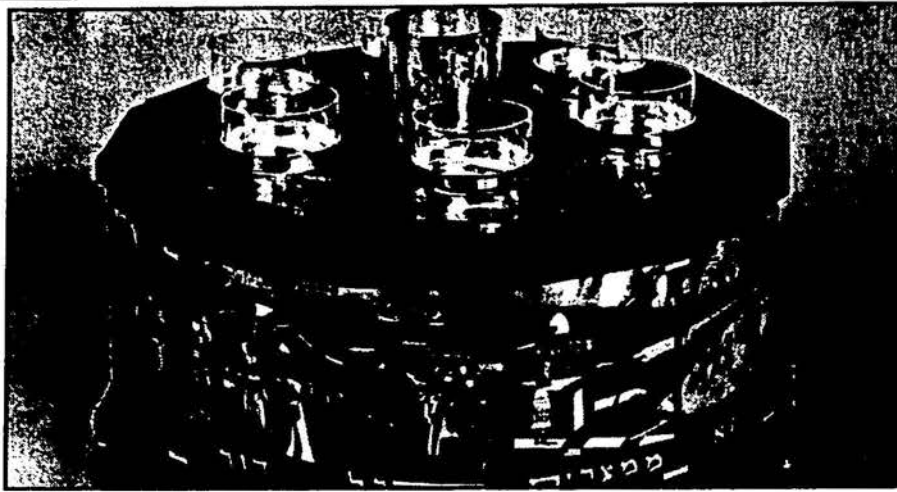
**Friday-Saturday,  
May 21-22, 1993:**  
JJC Residence Halls Shabbat  
Program  
Rabbi Moshe Taragin, Speaker

**Monday,  
May 24, 1993:**  
YU 62nd Annual Commencement  
The Paramount at Madison Square  
Garden, 11:00 AM

**Tuesday-Saturday,  
May 25-29, 1993:**  
Special *Shavuot* Learning Program

**Wednesday-Thursday,  
May 26-27, 1993:**  
*Shavuot*

**Tuesday-Wednesday,  
June 1-30, 1993:**  
MYP Shiurim Resume



"From Slavery to Freedom": three tiered seder plate, part of a new display at YUM

## New Exhibition on Display at YUM

On Sunday, May 2nd, the Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) began a new exhibition of contemporary Judaica. The exhibit, entitled "Lorelei and Alex Gruss: First Works 1988 - 1993," is a collection of functional ceremonial items, ranging from Shabbat candlesticks to challah boards, from seder plates to Torah arks.

The artists, Lorelei and Alex Gruss, a married couple now residing in Brooklyn, New York, are reknowned in the Judaica world for their usage of exotic woods and their innovative use of inlay to create marvelously textured and colorful, yet wholly functional, works of Judaica. Their wood pieces

have been exhibited at the Jewish Museum (New York), the Israel Museum (Jerusalem), the Skirball Museum (Los Angeles) and Christie's (London).

The couple regards the Yeshiva University exhibit as a significant one. The artists explained, "For us, this show is very significant, for it not only represents the culmination of our six years of collaborative effort, but it also traces what we believe is the evolution of wood inlay from a decorative craft into a form of intellectual artistic expression."

The exhibit will be on display at the Museum through July 29, 1993.

— Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

## Prognosis Good For Stern Women Hit By Cab

The prognosis is good for Cheryl Berman, Alisa Sarf, and Daniella Shloush, the three SCW students who were struck by an out-of-control taxi cab off the corner of 34th Street and Park Avenue on April 26. All three received cuts and bruises, and it is expected that they will recover fully.

The three were walking from their class to Brookdale Hall at about 1:40 PM, when, according to Shloush, "there was a head-on collision involving two cabs. One lost control and came straight at us." Sarf recalled that "after the cab knocked us down, I got up and saw [Cheryl and Daniella] on the floor. People came immediately to help, and an ambulance arrived quickly." All three women were taken to Bellevue Hospital; Shloush and Sarf were released after minor treatment. Berman, on the other hand, suffered more serious cuts that necessitated skin grafting on her leg. She is expected to be released from the hospital shortly.

After the accident occurred, several Stern College students recited *Tehillim* in the Beit Midrash. Sarf and Shloush both acknowledged the gesture and expressed their gratitude to the student body.

— Yisroel Holczer

## YU Moves to Repair Sidewalks

In response to a citation issued to YU for sidewalk decay, Facilities Management plans to repair several sections of sidewalk on the Joel Jablonski Campus. Among other violations, YU was cited for the Tannenbaum Hall sidewalk on 186th Street, and has already contacted several companies in the hope of getting the damage repaired before the next semester begins.

According to Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration, the violation was served about a year ago, but the city granted YU a grace period to repair the damage before a fine was assessed. Sidewalks in a serious state of disrepair, however, were repaired immediately. Other sidewalks that are slated to be fixed include those in front of Tannenbaum Hall (on Amsterdam Avenue), and the sidewalk from the front of Morgenstern Hall to the Burns Security base. Although these areas are quite safe for walking, improvements are needed to bring them up to city standards. Work has already commenced at several locations including the sidewalks in front of Belfer and Furst Halls, and in front of the Gottesman Library.

— Reuben Levy



Police search the vehicle of suspected drug buyer on Amsterdam Avenue

## In Local Bust, Police Come Up Empty

On April 28 at approximately 5 PM, the New York City Police stopped and searched a suspected drug buyer's car in front of the Gottesman Library. The operation was part of an ongoing narcotics investigation targeting out-of-town residents who come to Washington Heights to purchase drugs. The woman driving the car, which was pulled over by a sudden swarm of undercover police officers, was not arrested. Police

speculated that she had either dumped the drugs prior to having been stopped, or had never actually completed a purchase. When asked why some of the vehicles being used by the police had Connecticut plates when all of the officers involved in the operation were from New York State, a Sergeant who declined to give his name responded, "We have our reasons."

— Sender Cohen





Dr. Blanche Blank, retiring after 16 years of service

## Dr. Blank Retires

After sixteen years of devoted service to YU, Dr. Blanche Blank, a longtime Political Science Faculty member, is retiring from teaching. There will be a formal reception in the well of the YU Museum this Thursday at 4 PM in her honor, sponsored and planned by the students and faculty of the Political Science department.

In 1977, Dr. Blank left her post as Dean of Social Sciences at Hunter College to become the Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Yeshiva University. She is the first woman in YU history to hold this position. Additionally, Dr. Blank serves on the YU Museum Board.

All political science majors and minors have received written invitations to the affair, but Dr. Bevan, head of the Political Science department emphasized that, "Everyone is invited to attend. We hold Dr. Blank in great esteem and love and wish her well. We all hope to see her around our corridors in the future."

-- Jonathan Schloss

## Annual Sy Syms Dinner Held In Mid-Town

The annual Sy Syms School of Business Dinner was held on Monday, May 10, at 6:30 PM at the American Craft Museum in Manhattan. The well-attended dinner, open to all YU students, Trustees, Administrators, Board members, and Sy Syms faculty and alumni, honored the graduating senior class from both campuses, and succeeded in attracting a healthy amount of corporate recruiters.

The dinner aimed to showcase the achievements of SSSB over the past year and to introduce the attending SSSB and YC students to the corporate recruiters in attendance. Recruiters were invited to the dinner, explained SSSB Placement Officer Adrienne Wolf, to allow them to meet with students in a semi-formal, non-interview setting.

Among the dinner's highlights, the valedictorians from each campus, Saul Erlbaum and Shelley Klein, delivered speeches, and awards were conferred upon the outstanding students in each business concentration. Additionally, the dinner was honored by the presence of Marcy Syms, President of the Syms Corporation, and daughter of SSSB founder Sy Syms.

-- Joshua Normand

## Perlin Leaving Admissions For Or Torah Post

YU Assistant Director of Admissions Yishai Perlin, a two year veteran of the Admissions department, will be leaving the University at the end of the 1993 school year. Perlin, a familiar face to many students who have passed through his office, has accepted a position, effective June 1, as the American Director of Mosdot Or Torah, an Israel-based group of institutions that includes Yeshivat Hamivtar in Efrat and the "Brovender's" women's seminary (Midreshet Lindenbaum).

Though Perlin is looking forward to his new job, he explained that he will miss many aspects of his job at YU.

One of Perlin's fondest memories of YU is coordinating the annual Red Sarachek High School Basketball Tournament, initiated two years ago.

Perlin, who will be getting married this Lag Ba'Omer, hopes to eventually move to Israel, where he would like to involve himself in some kind of administrative work, or perhaps pursue an agricultural career.

-- Yechiel Levin



Joel Haber, Editor of KOL

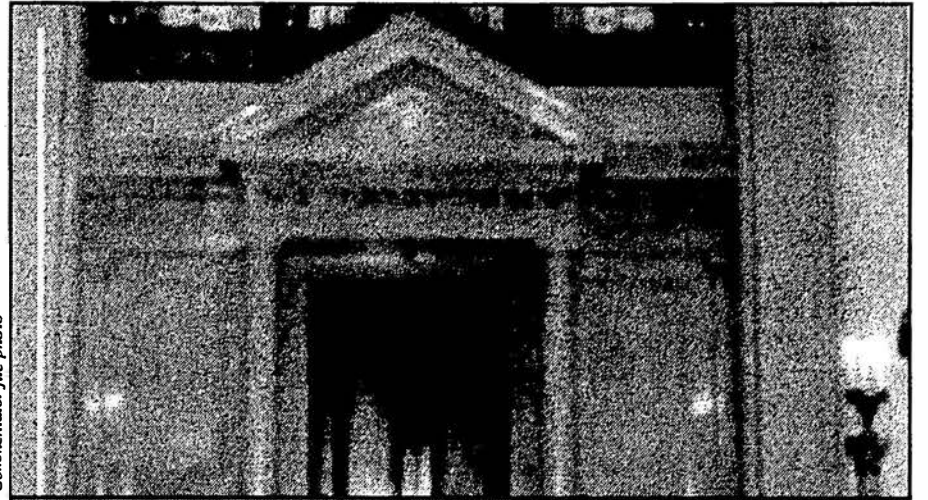
## After Two Years, KOL is Revived

After a six semester hiatus, KOL, YC's literary journal, will be published this year. The journal, which is a compilation of original poetry, prose, creative writing, photographs, and drawings by YC students, is being edited by senior Joel Haber, who is double majoring in English and economics. Among the journal's highlights are the winning submissions to the Yeshiva College English Department's short story and poetry writing competitions.

"Since the fall of 1990 [the last time KOL was published], several people have tried to put out KOL," said Haber, "but for various reasons, no one has succeeded. A great debt is owed to [faculty advisors] Drs. Jacobson and Lee, the editorial board [Ari Blech and David Flatto], and English Honor Society President Avigdor Butler, as well as to all the students who submitted material for publication."

Approximately 1000 copies of the 32 page journal will be printed, at a total cost of roughly \$2200. YCSC is publishing the journal, which Haber plans to distribute to students, faculty, and some alumni before commencement.

-- Adam J. Anhang



The Shenk Shul, located in Schottenstein Center

## Shenk Shul To Be Re-Renovated

by Ephy Gopin

After its restoration and dedication in 1989, the Shenk Synagogue in Schottenstein Center was utilized for various school functions, including a lecture series and a Parent's Day program. Today, the shul is unused due to an accident; within the last eighteen months, a section of the ceiling plaster in the synagogue de-laminated. The roof, which is made up of layers of plaster, was no longer able to support its weight, and a large chunk fell into the balcony. Nobody was inside the shul at the time of the accident.

### Flaw Found In Ceiling

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, explained that after the ceiling's collapse, concern arose that other parts of the roof might also collapse. As a result, the University brought in engineers to check the ceiling structure. A flaw was found in the composition of the ceiling plaster which dated back to when the building was originally built. It was determined that the de-lamination process could occur again, so the University forbade activities within the shul until the situation could be rectified. Work to demolish and replace the old plaster ceiling will likely begin this summer.

In addition to fixing the roof, a major cleanup job will also be necessary.

Pigeons now roost in the blue-domed ceiling and on the stained glass above the aron kodesh. Bird droppings and feathers from the pigeons virtually cover the floor in front of the aron kodesh. Rosengarten speculated that the pigeons may have entered while the front doors of the building were open for renovations. To prevent the entrance of additional animals, openings in the stained glass windows in the balcony have been boarded up.

### Shul To Be Used Extensively

Once the ceiling is fixed, the shul could serve many purposes. Rosengarten explained that its possible uses include holding Torah lectures, becoming an auxiliary beit midrash, or accommodating the minyan now being held across the street (popularly known as the "Soloveitchik minyan"). The final decision regarding the shul's fate will involve Rabbi Charlop (Dean of MYP and RIETS), Dr. Israel Miller (Senior Vice-President) and Dr. Efreim Nulman (Dean of Students).

Rabbi Charlop said that he had yet to be asked to help with any decision. However, he did mention that using the Shenk shul to alleviate overcrowding in YU's two other batei midrash would not be a wise idea, saying that this would "further fragmentize the Yeshiva by geographically distancing the batei midrash."

## Blank to be Published

Soon to be gracing bookshelves is *The Not So Grand Jury* by Dr. Blanche Blank, retiring Professor of Political Science. As the title implies, the book discusses the Federal grand jury system, and details its problems.

Blank served on a Federal grand jury for two years and the time it took for the process to conclude motivated her to write about her experiences on the grand jury. In describing her overall experience, she explained, "The general mythology of the American people is that they [Federal grand juries] serve as a sword and a shield [for the citizen]. I found that they are neither a sword nor a shield, but simply, another arrow in the quiver of the prosecuting attorney."

Aside from the time-consuming procedure, the grand jury process's excessive secrecy and wastefulness also

motivated her to write. While the amount of money which could be saved may seem insignificant when viewed in relation to a trillion dollar budget, she explained, "If you measure it in terms of a project for the homeless we can't mount, or aid to education we can't run such as a Head Start program...then why waste, however modest the amount?"

According to Blank, the work stops short of calling for an eradication of the Federal grand jury system. The book includes an analysis of the many reforms that have been suggested over the years, including those of the American Bar Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

*The Not So Grand Jury* will be published by University Press of America and is due to hit bookstores this summer.

-- Sid Singer

# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

## On Student Leadership

Q: As you know, last week, the student body elected new leaders. What do you think the mandate of these new student leaders should be?

A: You know, when we're young, we always think the world was created when we were born. We're young, so we re-create industry, we re-create science, we re-create student life, we re-create sex, we re-create hunger, we re-create style - it's been going on for a long time. The mandate for student life is the same as the mandate for the president of a university; there are certain things you have to do, and you have to do them to the best of your ability. I see no revolutionary changes... like the Editors of *The Commentator*, student leaders have to be aggressive, interesting, but responsible - a very heavy emphasis on responsibility. A leader... can either be indifferent, and student life becomes apathetic, the leader can look upon [his tenure] as an opportunity to promote his own ego, in which case he can become utterly destructive. Or, he can be a responsible person, and everyone enjoys it and benefits from it. He can leave the school in a better state than he found it, the same way that you fellows have a responsibility to *The Commentator*.

Q: Are there any specific ideas that you would like the student leaders to implement?

A: No. Their job is not to create a different financial structure for the University, it's not to create a new

## "The student leaders have to... mold a better school insofar as student life is concerned."

curriculum for the University. I'll be very undemocratic and... say that they don't know enough about curriculum to create it. What they do have to be interested in is the quality of student life. It's not a "power thing." It's simply giving a perspective that others [don't have], even though we've been through this... a long time ago. We may no longer recognize the needs, the wants, the rights of the student body. The student leaders have to represent these things, and to try to mold a better school insofar as student life is concerned. That's really their department. And if they stick to it, and do it intelligently, they'll be listened to.

Q: Do you plan to meet with the student leaders next year?

A: I meet with them almost every year, in fact every year since I'm here, except this year because I met with them in a more formal setting, so they said that they were not interested in a more informal setting. I always meet with them. Otherwise, how would I know how to run this place? [laughter].

## On A New Executive Vice President

Q: As the next academic year nears, has YU come any closer to hiring a new Executive Vice President?

A: I'm involved in it right now.

Q: Do you see the role of the Executive Vice President changing in any way?

A: It's one of those positions where certain things have to be done, and everything else depends on the "gavra" of the person - his personality, his experience, his wisdom. But there is a lot to do as an Academic Vice President, even within the confines of his own job description. It simply means pulling together all of the academic programs, it means improving them, reorganizing them where reorganization is necessary, doing good faculty recruitment, making sure that student recruitment proceeds at pace... making it a better place to come to. It's a tall order. I'm not necessarily calling him "Executive Vice President." I'm calling him "Academic Vice President." Not that there is any difference at all. But I want to get back into the normal nomenclature in the field. We are, right now [points to stack of folders], actively involved in it.

## The Board of Trustees

Q: With the passing of Mr. Jesselson, Mr. Tenzer and Mr. Belfer, do you anticipate any problems in terms of fundraising and leadership on the part of the Board? Are there any outstanding candidates for the position of Chairman of the Board?

A: I have to tell them first. We are obviously all stunned. Has anything been done yet? No. Has anything been thought about? Of course. We're human... of course there will be changes. The Chairman of the Board died, we have to get new officers, a new chairman, anyway. So of course there will be a new constellation of leadership; some old, some new, and the question is who... I can't possibly tell you names at this point... I mean, I myself don't know their names. I haven't made up my mind.

## The MYP Program

Q: As you may know, several students have initiated a poll to analyze the effectiveness of the Yeshiva Program. Do you feel that the Yeshiva Program needs to be remolded, or is it effective as it is?

A: There are two aphorisms. One of them is, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The other one is, keep on changing, no matter what. I believe in both. There are certain aspects of a program that are not broken. Good. But look at it again. I always want to look at programs, always want to reinvestigate. It doesn't mean I'm always going to change them... Look, try to pull yourselves out of your present positions. Students are always complaining. That is the nature of the student - to complain. I was a student, I complained. I loved the place, but I complained. As a faculty member, I complained. As a president, I complain but no one listens to me [laughter]... And complaining has many positive features to it; without complaining you don't repair. But complaining sometimes becomes a style... but you have to analyze it carefully. Some things that you complain about are simply the nature of existence, the nature of bureaucracy, the nature of organizations. Other things

you complain about, but the alternatives may be worse. Other things you complain about which darn well ought to be changed. So, I'm always in favor of looking at things, but not looking at them savagely. Sometimes, in my experience with students, they've undertaken surveys, whatever it is, honestly looking to help improve things. But other times it's... I don't like this dean, I don't like that director, I don't like this vice-president; this is a way to get at them. That's destructive. It may make you feel good for a while, but you leave in your wake, as a student and as

## "Let's see what we can do to help change in a good direction."

a student leader, you leave negatives - nothing to be remembered by that's positive. If you do it with a different attitude, namely, "let's see what we can do to help change in a good direction" it can serve a purpose. So it all depends on how you word [the question]. You know, I can ask you the same question one way or another way. And the answer I get would all depend on whether the words, the questions, are phrased so as to elicit positive change, or they're done so as to elicit more groaning and complaining... I'm not going to look at the individual questions, I just can't get down to that level of detail. But as a general principle, it could be good, it could be bad... It all depends [on] what attitude informs it.

## In The Footsteps of the Rav

Q: With the tragic passing of the Rav, z"tl, do you plan on appointing someone to fill the Leib Merkin Chair in Talmudic Studies in the near future?

A: I'm now in discussions about the Leib Merkin chair, but the Leib Merkin chair will not determine... there's no one... the Rav may be able to be succeeded, [but] he cannot be replaced. You're dealing now with a phenomenon, a historic phenomenon. I don't think there's been anyone in centuries who has combined his particular talents and areas and wisdom. There just is no one around. But don't forget that he's been dysfunctional now for eighty years. We've been living for eight years without him, and you know, we've gone on, we've continued. And what I'm hoping is that his *gestalt*, his teachings, will not be distorted, but will be continued and will continue to guide the Yeshiva. So the question of the chair is fairly irrelevant.

Q: Will there be a successor?

A: There hasn't been for seven years, eight years. In other words, people think 'well the Rav died, now who's going to take his place?' That question should have been asked eight years ago. The answer is [that] there is no one to take his place. So what we're doing is carrying on the best we can after him. Look, there are historic... after the Rambam who is going to take his place? No one, but life continued and we had other Gedolim later, nothing like the Rambam but that's the way it is. I mean, we've carried on now for close to a decade, so we'll carry

on further. That's the best I can give you. I wish, I wish I knew where I could find another Rav. I would spare no effort, no effort in any way, to get him here. There's no one around... I know that there is no one who reaches his level, there is no one in the same ballpark. And therefore we have to do the best we can and we will *im yirzesh HaShem*.

We have some very, very talented faculty in many ways. No one who has everything that he had, nor in individual areas the degree that he had. But that's the problem of living in the presence of greatness; that when greatness leaves, you feel a terrible void. But we've gotten acclimated to that void in the last eight years. Unfortunately we had to, it's the nature of life.

Q: Are there plans at least to, in terms of a figurehead as the Rav was...

A: That can only be filled by people who rise of their own... that's not an official [title - Rosh Yeshiva]... I don't think, I'm not quite sure, I don't think the Rav was ever appointed Rosh Yeshiva; there was no such decision. Dr. Belkin was the Rosh Yeshiva. The Rav never had a contract... He came, he gave the highest shiur. That's all. Officially, look, the Vilna Gaon had no position in Vilna. He was a Rav who had his own little... he lived on the outskirts of town in a little dark room which he thought was too light. He used to pull

## "I wish, I wish I knew where I could find another Rav. I would spare no effort, no effort in any way, to get him here."

the shutters down during the day [so as] not to be distracted, had absolutely no public function. But he was the Vilna Gaon, so people came to him. The Rav didn't have any official position. He was the Rav, so they flocked to him. [His] charisma, his learning, his wisdom, his humor, his talent. I mean, he made the position, the position didn't make him. So, there's no such thing as appointing someone to [be] another Rav. Can you appoint genius? It's either there or it isn't there. But as I say, you have a combination of a great deal of talent, and great rebbeim, and great faculty... I would say that they could have been distinguished in any other field. In their devotion to learning, their commitment to learning. The analytic skills required to be a *talmid chacham* are easily the match, and superior, to several dozen other disciplines. You have a great deal of talent there. Enough for us to work. Maybe not enough for us to get as conscious of greatness as we once had, but we'll carry on with his [the Rav's] influence for several generations.

Rabbi Lamm declined to comment on the controversy surrounding the Israel Day Parade.

The above interview, designed to explore issues of vital concern to the entire YU community, was conducted by Commentator Editors-in-Chief Sender Cohen and Robert Fagin.



## YC Students Elect New Leaders

by Howie Beigelman

On Thursday, April 29, 1993, over six-hundred students turned out to elect next year's student government. A fast vote tally ensured that the results were available by Thursday evening. Students beginning year-long terms on May 24 include Danny Gurell, Yeshiva College Student Council (YCSC) President, and Eric Zimmerman, Sy Syms School of Business Student Association President (SSSBSA). In addition, Lavi Greenspan will head the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY), Reuven Fallik will lead Isaac Breuer College Student Council, and Adam Balkany, who ran unopposed, will assume the James Striar School Student Council Presidential post. Other members of next year's YCSC Executive Board include Vice-President Yoni Epstein, Treasurer Ari Bernstein, and Secretary Daniel Billig. Also, Ziv Mendelsohn and Tzvi Kahn were elected as SSSBSA Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively.

### Nomination Process "Meaningless"

Many students asserted that the nomination process was inefficient and meaningless. YC junior Elie Hecht complained that "I found myself signing my name for people I didn't know and who were running for offices I'd never heard of." Also, many students felt that they didn't know enough about the candidates' stands on the issues. Rafi Rosenblatt, a YC sophomore, claimed, "I didn't know what the candidates felt about the issues or what the issues were." Finally, students were overwhelmed and annoyed by the sheer numbers of signs put up. One YC sophomore who wished to remain anonymous said, "When we asked the Office of Residence Halls for wallpaper, I didn't think it would come in multi-colored eight by eleven inch sheets of construction paper."

Responding to these student grievances, Adam Orlow, a member of the Yeshiva College Board of Elections and the Board's Chairman for next year stated, that "these are legitimate problems and I'm open to any suggestions that anybody has, but all changes in election rules and regulations must be approved by [YCSC president-elect Danny] Gurell."

### Vigorous Campaigning

As the elections approached, life on campus became frenzied. Candidates canvassed dorm rooms late at night in a last-minute effort to win over voters. Students received notepads, pens, keychains, buttons, and message boards all asking them to "VOTE FOR [CANDIDATE X]."

When the polls opened at 11:00 AM on Thursday morning, the candidates gathered in front of Morgenstern to give their final campaign pitches. Nothing at all could have prepared the uninitiated for the experience of walking into, out of, or past Morgenstern that day. A mob of candidates pitched their slogans and names to all passersby, be they student, faculty, or even MTA kids.

### Six-Hundred Votes Cast

According to Orlow, just over six-hundred students cast ballots. However, the Board of Elections did not release individual tallies for candidates or for specific races. Orlow claimed that "We are not allowed to divulge tallies. They are private and they are kept confidential as a matter of Board of Elections policy."

### Student Leaders Planning for Next Year

Gurell, who is already hard at work planning for next year (while preparing for finals) is "ecstatic." "I'd like to form a student government in which even those who didn't win are represented, because all of the ideas brought up during the campaign were productive and thought provoking. I'd like to have many committees to improve student life, and I hope to better the experience here at YU and improve student-faculty and student-Administration relations," he said.

Lavi Greenspan, SOY President-elect, shared this sentiment. "While unfortunately, only one person can be successful in the quest for leadership positions, I hope that all the candidates, even the unsuccessful ones, will remain active in student life, because everyone's help is needed."

Steven Burg, Greenspan's roommate, is also planning for next year. Said Burg softly with a smile on his face, "Next year, I'm getting a suite."

## ALUMNI r e f l e c t i o n s

### Reminiscences about Yeshiva College and AECOM

by Dr. Fred Rosner

I have been privileged to have obtained my entire education at Yeshiva University. I graduated from Manhattan Talmudical Academy (Yeshiva University High School), received my B.A. degree from Yeshiva College, and entered the Albert Einstein College of Medicine with the very first class when that school opened for business in September 1955.

The initial Einstein graduating class of M.D.'s was very special, not only because of the historic implications of that event, but because we had no upperclassmen to guide and to advise us. We were pioneers. The faculty served as our mentors, advisors, role models, and upperclassmen all rolled in one. For four years of medical school we were followed around by a YU cameraman (nick-named Cecil B. Demille) to record for posterity this historic group of students. During our first semester at Einstein, the main building was not fully completed. Elevators were not yet working, so we had to climb six flights of stairs to the anatomy laboratories to dissect our cadavers. There was no heat the first winter, so the school provided us with small electric heaters.

At the end of the second year, we took Part One of the National Board of Medical Examiners test. One senior faculty member went around the examination room handing out chocolate bars. Another faculty member provided orange juice. The professor of anatomy lugged a huge fan into the sweltering auditorium to cool the environment in which we were taking this all-important test. The nervousness and anxiety of the faculty were for naught. We all passed with flying colors. Our graduation in June 1959 established Einstein as an excellent medical school with an outstanding faculty and superb student body. The guest speaker was Hans Albert Einstein, son of the famous Jewish physicist for whom the school is named.

Many of the graduates of that first class have gone on to hold prestigious

academic and professional positions in major universities and teaching hospitals, as well as in industry. My post graduate training consisted of residency in internal medicine followed by a hematology fellowship at the Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. Next was a two year service obligation to the United States which I fulfilled as an epidemiologist in the United States Public Health Service, stationed in the Washington D.C. area. In 1965 I returned to Maimonides as assistant director of Hematology. Five years later, I became director of Hematology at the Queens Hospital Center Affiliation of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. In 1978, I was promoted to Director of Medicine, the position I now hold. For many years, we were affiliated with the Health Sciences Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where I was appointed Professor of Medicine. Several years ago, the Long Island Jewish Medical Center switched its medical school affiliation to Einstein, so my professorship was switched there. I was also appointed as Assistant Dean for Students at Einstein's Long Island Campus. I felt that I had come home. Thirty years after graduating from Einstein I became a senior faculty member at my alma mater. It was quite a thrill!

Yeshiva University has obviously been very good to me. It enabled me to pursue a career in academic medicine, my first love. It also gave me a solid Judaica and Hebraica background. The late President of YU, Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin, used to say that "Yeshiva" comes before "University" because that is the correct sequence of priorities. Today's Yeshiva University students recognize the same in the Torah U'Maddah expression on the YU emblem.

My two avocations are medical halacha and the medical and other writings of Moses Maimonides, many of which I have translated into English and published. My recent book, *Modern Medicine and Jewish Ethics*, is in its second edition and is very popular indeed. I also lecture widely on both these subjects. Together with the environment of my parents' home, Yeshiva University has had a major impact on my life and continues to do so as I cherish my old and new relationships with the University.

Dr. Fred Rosner is the Director of Medicine at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center at Queens Hospital Center and is an Assistant Dean at AECOM

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*The entire Student Body wishes  
a fond farewell to Dr. Blanche  
D. Blank upon her retirement  
from Yeshiva University.*





Candidates for YCSC President: (L-R) Avi Roth, Danny Gurell, and Marc Friedman

## Students Square Off In Pre-Election Debate

by Jon Glazer

In an effort to promote a more orderly forum for the annual YCSC/SSSB candidate electoral debate, the format of this year's debate, held on Wednesday evening, April 28 in Morgenstern Lounge, was modified from that of previous years. In the past, the debates were conducted with a "freestyle" format in which candidates spoke about issues of their choice; this year, candidates were asked to address specific questions that were posed to them by the Editors Emeritus of *The Commentator*, Michael Eisenberg and Michael Z. Kellman, and an audience of students.

The first debate featured the two candidates for SSSB president, Jack Berlin and Eric Zimmerman. They addressed issues important to SSSB students, including strategies to aid students in acquiring summer employment. Berlin, a finance major and a Junior in SSSB, suggested forming a committee whose responsibilities would include contacting various companies and locating job opportunities for students. Zimmerman, a finance major and also a Junior, countered with a proposal to initiate a "Big Brother" program where

alumni of SSSB would aid current SSSB students by providing them with information and advice. The candidates both promised to sponsor more social events. Zimmerman also proposed to revive the Sy Syms Journal which will come out this year after a two year hiatus.

The Vice-Presidential candidates were the next to debate. This year, four candidates, Andrew Lanter, Elie Needle, A.J. Schreiber, and Yoni Epstein, vied for the position. All four candidates promised that if elected, they would organize a successful Chanukah concert and add more student parking. In addition to performing the usual duties of a YCSC Vice-President, some candidates expressed a willingness to broaden the responsibilities of the Vice-President if elected. Vice-President Elect Epstein went as far as calling himself a "human suggestion box," ready to receive any and all ideas for expanding the Vice-President's role.

The final debate featured the three candidates for YCSC President, Daniel Gurell, Marc Friedman, and Avi Roth. All of the candidates fielded questions concerning issues of general importance to the student bodies of both YC and SSSB, including the role of YCSC and improvements in food services.

## Gentlemen, Please

*continued from page 3*

it is the gentlemanly thing to do; it is the Torah way of behavior. The same courtesy should be shown to women, who also study Torah at YU, and who showed their devotion to the Rav's memory by travelling uptown to hear Rabbi Schachter.

Let me cite another common example that can easily be rectified. Normally, the entire Beis Medrash is open to men for their learning. On Shabbat, however, the rear section is designated for women's *davening*. During *Minhah* on Friday evening, some men continue to learn in the women's section, which, theoretically, should not cause a problem; as soon as a woman appears, the fellows are certainly prepared to move into the men's section. Yet in practice, this sometimes does not occur,

since women who show up and see men in the *ezrat nashim* simply assume that they may not enter. I have known cases in which women have gone back home rather than ask a man who is learning to move. Again, there can be no doubt that the men would be happy to move, and would have done so if they had been aware of the situation.

The Rambam's prescriptions for a *talmid hakham* stem from a faith that studying Torah refines personality, bringing a person closer to G-d. Sensitivity to the needs of all members of the Yeshiva community will enhance the effectiveness of our Torah study. I am confident that all YU men will take this opportunity to increase their efforts to make women feel comfortable when they come to the Beis Medrash for Torah and Tefillah.

## Schneider Heads Up Senate Sub-Committee

by Eyal Feiler

As part of an effort to heighten student sensitivity towards ethnic conflicts and tensions, the Yeshiva College/Sy Syms School of Business Uptown Senate has formed a Sub-Committee charged with formulating a set of programs which would promote respect towards other ethnic groups, and heighten student's awareness of other cultures. The Sub-Committee believes that there is a need for this type of programming in light of recent global trends of ethnic hatred and religious wars. The Sub-Committee is comprised of three professors, three Student Senators, and several other YU students.

The Sub-Committee is called "Social Awareness: Fostering and Promoting Tolerance," and was formed after several students approached Professors Mareleyn Schneider, Shalom Carmy and William Lee, to discuss the possibility of drafting programs that deal with understanding other ethnic groups and cultures. As a result, together with several students and Student Senators, Dr. Schneider met with Carmy and Student Senate Chairman Matthew Harris, and drafted several proposals, one of which will be implemented shortly. In the spring semester of 1994, a sociology course will be offered entitled "Race, Caste and Ethnicity" taught by Dr. Schneider.

According to Dr. Schneider it will be "an interdisciplinary course dealing with sociology, physical anthropology, psychology, economics and political science concepts." Dr. Schneider also asserted that "it is important for every college to have mechanisms to foster tolerance, and serve as a moral arbitrator. Students should learn to deal with this to help them out in the real world where they face discrimination in their work place and community."

The Sub-Committee has developed other activities that are still under consideration. Professor Carmy has offered to develop an interdisciplinary course in Jewish studies that would discuss how one should understand the seemingly unrealistic Talmudic edicts regarding non-Jews. The Sub-Committee also suggested hosting an interracial forum that would feature guest speakers to discuss existing and potential conflicts. Finally, the Sub-Committee suggested inviting the American Jewish Committee (AJC) or the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to run programs that would increase student awareness of Anti-Semitism that occurs in the New York area as well in America at large, such as the recent phenomenon of Holocaust revisionism. The Sub-Committee expects to meet one more time this semester to discuss other suggestions.

## MYP Survey Enters Second Phase

*Tabulations to Begin in June*

by Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

The first phase of the independently-run MYP\RIETS survey currently being conducted by a group of MYP\RIETS students concluded on Thursday, May 7th. The second phase, which involves tallying the results and compiling the suggestions in the survey, will continue through June.

After a short break for finals, the students conducting the survey, with the aid of a data entry program, will record the responses and transfer them to a statistical analysis program provided by Professor Mareleyn Schneider. The responses will then be broken down and statistically analyzed. The results, when tabulated, will be compiled in a report containing the survey results, an analysis of these results, suggestions, and other proposed modifications to the MYP\RIETS program based upon the survey responses.

The report will be presented to the Dean of MYP, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, and to each of the Roshei HaYeshiva. This move, explained Eitan Mayer, one

of the MYP\YC Seniors responsible for the survey, "will hopefully cause discussion to ensue" among the Roshei HaYeshiva. He added, "We're going to be working with Rabbi Charlop in order to implement some of the things which were nearly unanimous in the survey responses and relatively simple to do, such as a weekly *sichah* on *Mussar* or *Parsha* delivered by rotating groups of Roshei HaYeshiva and deans." The *sichot* would focus on contemporary issues such as living halachically in the modern world and other related topics.

Other suggestions from the report, he conceded, would require major consideration by the Roshei Yeshiva and Rabbi Charlop before action could be taken on them. While Mayer declined to reveal these suggestions, he said that they would be subject to rigorous debate and review over the months ahead before any decision to change any aspect of MYP could be reached.

Mayer requested that anyone who is interested in helping with the survey in June should please call him at 927-3971 or call Yitzy Schechter at 568-3684.



## ERNST & JULIO DOWN BY THE SCHOOLYARD

"Nananananananana, nanananana."  
—Mr. Softee

As Presented By Avi Sussman

Don't bother denying it; you know you do it. You're on your way to class, and suddenly there's a spring in your step; hips a swayin', records playin': Dancin' in the street<sup>1</sup>. You gotta move - you can't help it as the rhythm of your soul, your rhythm, connects with the pulsing beat blasting from the approaching car whose broadcasting range dwarfs that of WYUR. As the car nears, your experience grows into a musical paroxysm that builds and builds until the car passes, and all that's left to hear is a faint, doppler-distorted rendition of a tune that no one can dance to anyway: Mr. Softee's Theme. The tune that subtly sends the message: I'm not leaving until somebody buys some ice cream.

Minutes later, a few minutes have passed, and, following your brief brush with dance excitement, you're thirsty. Man (people?) thirsty. Why not head across the square to the Yum Yum Shoppe for a little Cholev Yisroel<sup>2</sup> or some other beverage?

Ah, the Yum Yum Shoppe. That extra "e" does so much for me. It makes the store seem somehow...European. I don't know, I can't explain it, but somehow "shoppe" as opposed to "shop" or even "shopp," adds a little bit of Swiss Alps charm to the Joel Jablonski Campus. It needn't end there; we can do plenty of constructive renaming around here. Try "Furste Halle" on for size. Or how about "Schottenstein Centre" or "Rueben." Our work is cut out for us. We need to get far more involved in the naming of our institution's parts. What could be more important? I know, I know, you're thinking that there are any number of things that are immeasurably more important. That is to say, so very much more important that to measure the so-called "importance gap" that exists between the item(s) that is (are) considered more important than the

other item, and the other item, would be impossible. Or maybe not impossible, but you know what I mean.

I am inexplicably reminded of an interesting visit to the doctor's office that I once assimilated. I was complaining of soreness in my nape (of the neck) (as if there's another nape). Soft music - like all soft music, vaguely suggestive of our milchig<sup>3</sup> melody - permeated the examination room as the doctor prescribed his prescription.

"Ernst," they began (pronouns have been changed to protect the innocent), "You need to do the following nape exercise." He demonstrated the exercise, which consisted of swivelling the head in a swivelling motion (what else?) around the neck.

"Do it like this," them (better safe than sorry) continued.

"One." He swivelled his neck.

"Two." He re-swivelled.

"Three." Again.

"Four." You guessed it.

"Five." Uh-huh.

"Six." By this time someone even dumber than myself could have performed the move verbatim.

"Seven."

"Eight. Through ten."<sup>4</sup>

Dumb doctor, right? Wrong. I sprained my neck even further trying to contain my laughter, and I had to make another appointment with him. I guess it's just another case of a doctor who at first glance seems really dumb, but then when you think about him a little more, he ends up seeming smart. Anyway.

The day has matured, the sun long since having set over New Jersey (I assume), and the delicate strains of the familiar tune are wafting through my closed, locked window. I, tired from trying to make sense of it all, am lulled to sleep by my ever-present musical friend, Monsieur Softee.

<sup>1</sup>Vandellas, Martha and The, Motown Records, 1960.

<sup>2</sup>Milk of Israel.

<sup>3</sup>Of or containing Cholev Yisroel (ibid), or Cholevs generally.

<sup>4</sup>Punchline.

## Belfer: An Active Communal Leader

*continued from page 1*

businessman. He soon branched out into other industries and founded Belco Petroleum, Inc. Besides his outstanding business achievements, Belfer held leadership roles with many charitable and educational institutions, such as with State of Israel Bonds, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the UJA, and Brandeis University. He received honorary doctorates from Israeli universities with which he was closely affiliated, including Bar-Ilan University and Tel Aviv University. In 1986, Belfer was awarded the prestigious David Ben-Gurion Award by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Belfer also took an active role in promoting scientific research outside the Jewish community by sponsoring a scholarship program at the University of Wyoming, endowing the Arthur Belfer Chair at Syracuse University, a Chair at Cornell University Medical College, and a geriatric center at New York University. Belfer was also a strong supporter of the arts and donated generously to the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the New York Philharmonic.

Belfer is survived by his wife, Diane; his three children Robert, Selma Rubin, and Anita Saltz; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. His children are active supporters of Einstein and Yeshiva University.

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## Friends and Family Mourn Jesselson

*continued from page 1*

grandchildren, several of whom accompanied him on a skiing trip during the weeks immediately preceding his untimely passing. Michael Jesselson also told an anecdote illustrating the enjoyment that his father derived from helping others. While a principal at Philip Brothers, his father once decided to have his shoes shined on Sixth Avenue. Striking up a conversation with the shoeshiner, Jesselson quickly learned that he was a Jewish immigrant from the Soviet Union trying to eke out a living. Within a short time, Jesselson arranged for the man to shine shoes at Chase Manhattan Bank and at Morgan Stanley, thus fulfilling the highest level of the mitzvah of charity, helping a person support himself.

Samuel Jesselson, Michael Jesselson's eldest son, fondly spoke of the meaning that his grandfather's life holds for him. In particular, Samuel recalled that his grandfather loved to give gifts of a set of three chassidim, representing the aphorism "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil." Rabbi Morris Talansky, Executive Director of Shaarei Tzedek hospital in Jerusalem, recited a psalm in Jesselson's memory.

### Helped Refuseniks

Rabbi Irving Greenberg of Riverdale, a longtime friend of the Jesselson family, spoke of how Ludwig Jesselson embodied each of the thirteen Divine Attributes. Rabbi Greenberg recounted the story of how the wife of a Soviet refusenik, convinced that a pair of South African lawyers could help free her

husband, approached Jesselson with a request for \$25,000 to pay the legal fees. Jesselson, sensing a lost cause, declined to finance the venture, whereupon the woman, turning to leave, burst into tears. Jesselson couldn't bear to see the woman cry, and gave her \$30,000. After spending \$10,000 of the money with no results, the woman realized her mistake, and came to return the remaining \$20,000. But Jesselson wouldn't accept the money, saying that "the mitzvah was done." He insisted that she spend the money on other attempts to free her husband.

### "Hundreds of Obituaries"

The service's final speaker was YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, who spoke emotionally of Ludwig's Jesselson's tireless and generous devotion to worthy Jewish causes worldwide, and especially to Yeshiva University. Jesselson's commitment, said Lamm, was evidenced by the hundreds of obituaries various Jewish organizations placed in *The New York Times* in the weeks following his death. Additionally, Dr. Lamm described the Pesach seder which he led on behalf of the bereaved Jesselson family on the night following Mr. Jesselson's burial. According to Dr. Lamm, "Although the spirit of Ludwig z"tl hovered tangibly in the atmosphere," said Lamm, "the family was brave enough to repress their grief and complete a meaningful Pesach seder."

— With contributing research by Adam J. Anhang

# McQueen Abdicates

## Leaves Void in SSSB Staff

by Adam J. Anhang

After only two semesters on campus, accounting professor Dr. Patricia McQueen has tendered her resignation to Sy Syms School of Business Dean Harold Nierenberg. The popular professor, who held a two-year contract to teach Introductory Accounting I & II as well as Management Accounting, has accepted a position teaching accounting at Baruch.

Calling the four course per semester teaching load at YU "excessively heavy as compared to other schools," McQueen explained that she simply does not have enough time "to put the necessary effort" into both teaching and research. The four course teaching load per semester, coupled with the need for her to supervise fifteen senior exit papers, simply "does not leave any time for [my own] research in accounting," she said. In fact, McQueen claimed that she was forced to turn down a joint environmental accounting research project with NYU professors this year because she was teaching four days a week.

At Baruch, McQueen's compensation will be "pretty much the same" as it was at YU, but McQueen will be teaching only two courses per semester. And while McQueen acknowledged that "Baruch expects more research from its faculty than does YU," she maintained that "research is what [she] was trained for...and that's what [she] wants to do."

McQueen admitted that she was aware of the heavy emphasis that YU places on teaching before she accepted the position, but thought "that she would be able to balance the two [obligations of research and teaching]." Two-thirds of the way through the first semester of this year, McQueen felt "that she wasn't able to give students the time they deserved, given her schedule," and she began to look for a new position.

However, McQueen submitted her formal resignation to Nierenberg only last week, which explains why she is still listed as a SSSB professor in the Fall 1993 course catalog.

Nierenberg is actively searching for a replacement, but admitted that "it's very, very difficult to find qualified faculty this late in the year." Asked whether SSSB's four course teaching load precludes research, Nierenberg stated, "...Dr. [Moses] Pava does research; Dr. [Joshua] Krausz does research...if she [McQueen] finds it difficult to do research on a four course load, then what can I say? Dr. Pava was recently given tenure and promotion based on his research." Furthermore, Nierenberg believes that "if you took a survey of undergraduate business schools, many have a four course teaching load...including Long Island University (LIU) where I taught that load for many years." A survey of other undergraduate business schools showed that SSSB's teaching load was equal to the heaviest of all schools surveyed; while LIU mandates a four course per semester load, Fordham requires three courses per semester; NYU, two courses in one semester and one course in the second semester; and Wharton, one course in the first semester and none in the second.

Both Nierenberg and McQueen's students are sorry to see her leave. Said Nierenberg, "She's an excellent teacher...her performance evaluations were very good, and we're sorry to see her go. We tried to keep her here...she had a contract for next year." Senior Avi Steinlauf, who is taking McQueen this semester for Introductory Accounting I, praised McQueen as a professor who "teaches the material thoroughly and clearly uses several resources...she doesn't merely recite the textbook, she supplements it with her own material."



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## RESPONSA

continued from page 2

Needless  
Controversy

addition, he emphasized the need to give every AIDS patient whose mode of contraction we do not know the benefit of the doubt - to assume that he is not a criminal, but rather the victim of tragic circumstances. As an example, he brought tennis legend Arthur Ashe, whom Rav Tendler referred to as an upstanding man who not only had to suffer the anguish of the disease, but also had to clear the record on how he contracted the virus.

It is a grievous injustice to accuse Rav Tendler, a Rosh Yeshiva and a biology scholar of high calibre, of treating this epidemic lightly and humorously. I think it would be highly appropriate for Mr. Kadden, in the future, to consider reality before stirring up needless and falsely grounded controversy.

As for the condom issue, if the problem of premarital sex among YU students is as serious as Yoni claims, shouldn't our Roshei Yeshiva be dealing with the crux of the issue - premarital sex - rather than placing a band-aid on a fracture and sanctioning behavior that is prohibited by the Torah and therefore has no place in a Yeshiva of any kind?

Uri Schechterman  
SSSB '95

A Vivid  
Recollection

To the Editor,

The picture featured in the center of pp. 10,11 of *The Commentator* (Vol. LVII, No. 12) captures a moment I vividly recall. I was the young student sitting (to the right of Rabbi Blau) in awe in the majestic presence of the Rav, who was simultaneously revered and loved. (In the caption under the picture that individual was erroneously identified.)

I thank you for the insert in this issue of *The Commentator*. It brought back many fond and precious memories. We are all still mourning the death of our Rebbi, z"tl. After the mourning period we should begin to celebrate the remarkable life and accomplishments of our Rebbi, and thank God for granting our generation this *Ish Ha-Elokim*.

Sincerely,  
Menahem Meier  
Principal, The Frisch School

*Editors Note - The person sitting to the right of Rabbi Blau is, to the best of our knowledge, Rabbi Moshe Yaged of MTA. Perhaps Rabbi Meier is the person sitting on Rabbi Blau's left, on the right side of the photograph.*

Extra  
Flights

To the Editor,

Operating officials of the Delta Shuttle should be commended for their special efforts to accommodate those flying to Boston to attend the *levaya* of the Rav, z"tl. Although the first shuttle on Sunday morning is scheduled for 8:30, Delta put on two additional flights at 8:00 and 8:15, as well as additional flights returning to New York in the afternoon. Administrators of the Maimonides Day School in Brookline should also be commended for arranging bus transportation from the airport to the yeshiva.

These efforts contrast with those of certain YU administrators. After Shabbos, I contacted two high level YU officials to determine whether YU had made any special arrangements with the airlines. I was surprised to learn that no such arrangements had been made. One official told me that it was decided that everyone "would have to fend for himself."

I know that many individuals who wanted to attend the *levaya* did not attend because they were uncertain if they would be able to get on a flight to Boston or return in time for *Yom Tov*. Because of this uncertainty, others drove to Brookline through rain and fog, leaving as early as 4 AM. With just a little effort and planning, many more people could have attended the *levaya*, and the hardship experienced by others could have been avoided.

Something is very wrong when airline officials demonstrate more concern and sensitivity than YU administrators for those trying to show proper *kavod* to a *Gadol Hador*.

Steven A. Weinstein  
YC '75

Matters of  
Heaven vs.  
Matters of Earth

To the Editor,

In the last issue of *The Commentator*, a couple of letters appeared arguing against the opinion I presented regarding Rabin's visit. I have no desire to defend my original letter because that would merely be a boring repeat; everyone just hates "reruns". However, I am motivated to present a rejoinder for two reasons. First, because many students have come over to me and suggested that I do so, and second, because I would like to clarify something which was mentioned in the "attack" letter and is incorrect.

I was chided for daring to say that I thought that an Orthodox Jew who supported the State of Israel had more in common with a "Charedi Jew" than with a "not yet" *shomer mitzvos* Jew who

supported the *Medinah*. After all, who am I since I don't live and fight for *Eretz Yisroel*? What he forgot to mention, or just didn't notice, was that I quoted that opinion from Rav Y. Sarevnik, my Rebbe in Yeshivat Sha'alvim. He did serve in the IDF, and he does live in *Eretz Yisroel*! Those should be good enough credentials even for the writer of said letter. Along these lines, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein said at a shiur given here at Yeshiva that we share "*miley de'rekiya*" - matters of Heaven - with the "Charedi" Jew while unfortunately with the secular Jew we merely share "*miley d'ara*" - matters of the Earth. Is Rav Aharon a good enough source? After all, he is a Rosh Yeshiva in Yehuda v'Shomron; that should qualify!

What upsets me the most is that this is the defense I have to give. It should be enough to mention those Roshei Yeshiva and *Talmidei Chochomim* without saying where they live! Throughout the letters, I saw a lack of *kavod HaTorah*. Questioning and debating an issue is acceptable (in most circumstances) but presumptuous attacks are uncalled for.

There is more that I can say but I am not sure if, in this forum, it will cause "*lehagdil Torah*" or create enmity, *chas vesholom*. I believe that we all agree that we hope all Jews will soon embrace a lifestyle of Torah and *mitzvos* and that this discussion will not be needed.

Sincerely,  
Avrohom Kanarek

## Thanks, YU

An Open Letter to the Yeshiva  
Community,

I am leaving Yeshiva College after only one short year of teaching in the Biology Department. Because I am leaving after such a short stay, some might think that I am leaving because I did not like the experience at YU. That is far from the truth. I thoroughly enjoyed my year at YU, even with a ninety-minute commute from upstate. I think that I had more fun teaching this year than I have ever had. The student's willingness to actively participate in class was wonderful.

Instead, I am leaving YU because my wife (who teaches Genetics at Vassar College) and I have an opportunity that we just can not pass up. We have the chance to go back to the community that we reluctantly left several years ago. In addition, we are taking a unique position; we will be sharing a single tenure-track position in the Biology Department of Birmingham-Southern College. Thus, we can each keep our careers active, and still have the time to raise our family, something we find almost impossible to do with two full-time positions.

Once again, I thank all of you (y'all?) for a wonderful year.

Jeffrey Mayne  
Assistant Professor of Biology

Awards  
Ceremony  
Shines Light  
on YCDS  
Stars

by Dov Simons

The twenty-eighth annual Yeshiva College Dramatics Society Awards Ceremony, held this past Wednesday night, began amid much pomp and pageantry. Ribbons in the hallmark gold and blue colors of the Alpha Psi Omega drama society draped the ceiling and walls of the Schottenstein Theater. The stage on which this year's productions of "The Rainmaker" and "A Few Good Men" were acted out saw all the glitz and glamour of an Oscar award ceremony in Hollywood. The room was crowded with anxious nominees in tuxedos, and hopeful spectators gazed at the trophies standing on the middle of the stage.

Alpha Psi Omega

Alumni opened the evening's ceremonies by inducting eighteen new members into the Alpha Psi Omega fraternity, as well as three honorary inductees - Marine Staff Sergeants Marsh and Clark, who helped train the cast of "A Few Good Men," and Shirley Auslander, JSS Administrative Assistant, who had given advice and support. Honors were then bestowed on those people who had worked behind the scenes on tasks such as stage managing, set design, props, make-up, lighting and sound. The hosts then presented the "Best Performance as a Student Gypsy Award," an honor given to a small-part character, to Ethan Wasserman, for his portrayal of an MP, Attorney, and Marine in "A Few Good Men." The contest for Best Supporting Actor ended in a tie between Yoni Bellows, who played Pfc. Loudon Downey, and Adam Levitt who appeared as Lance Cpl. Harold W. Dawson, both in "A Few Good Men." The Best Actor in a Leading Role Award went to Daniel Brody for his depiction of the title role in "The Rainmaker." He subsequently invited the head of YCDS, Dr. Anthony Beukas, to join him in the spotlight on the stage. After the ceremony, Brody remarked, "I didn't think I was going to win. I was up against good competition. Everyone deserved the trophy." To explain why he had gone to such great lengths to honor the actors, Dr. Beukas said, "This is a great way to reward all of the students for all of their hard work. It is the continuation of a long tradition." The ceremony concluded with a long crescendo of applause.

GOOD LUCK  
ON FINALS!

## Mixed Feelings and Reactions Divide YU Student Body

*continued from page 1*

the issue for "modern Orthodox" institutions, was instrumental in engineering a compromise with Beth Simchat Torah and the AZYF. The compromise, under which the congregation would have marched under a joint banner with the Association of Reform Zionists of America, was reported in *The New York Times* on April 21. Deemed "acceptable" by YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, the compromise allowed YU, a smattering of day schools, and other Orthodox organizations to join the parade. What was not well-known, but according to Dr. Miller constituted a fundamental tenet of the compromise, was a clause in the agreement prohibiting Beth Simchat Torah from "publicizing" their role in the parade to the media in any way.

The controversy began to escalate in earnest on April 27th, when YU President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm publicly approved official parade participation for YU's Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy for Boys and Samuel H. Wang School for Girls, as well as a contingent of undergraduate students from YC and SCW.

### MYP Rebbeim Voice Disapproval

Shortly after Dr. Lamm's April 27th announcement, many MYP rebbeim began to voice their opposition to YU parade participation. While no joint directive concerning participation in the parade was ever formulated by MYP faculty, many rebbeim spoke at length to their shiurim about the issue, explicitly prohibiting their students from marching, or even watching the parade, based on a variety of considerations ranging from *chanifa la rishaim* - condoning the actions of sinners, to *keshet rishaim* - forming a union with sinners. Rabbi Aharon Kahn stated, "Those people who feel they must march in the parade should have a sense that they are trampling on *kedushas Yisroel*. Every talmid who goes or even stands on the side as an observer is learning the opposite of what we have been teaching him in yeshiva for years." Rabbi Moshe David Tendler, who expressed his opposition to marching in an open letter to the Principals' Council of Greater New York, added, "The basic stance, I think, of all the rabbonim, including as far as I know, every maggid shiur in the Yeshiva, is that it is forbidden to march, because what they [Beth Simchat Torah] have done is commandeered our prime focus from support of Israel to a focus on the gay/lesbian lifestyle as an alternative to the Torah." Rabbi Tendler, however, cited a variety of motives for the Administration's decision, including the parade participation of several major YU benefactors, stating, "Rabbi Lamm, I'm convinced, doesn't differ at all in his abhorrence of the homosexual lifestyle... Rabbi Lamm has other considerations which impinge upon his consciousness."

### YU Defends Position

As opposition to marching in the parade mounted, the YU Administration remained steadfast in its commitment to

participate. Commenting on the rationale for the April 27th decision, Dr. Miller explained, "...we felt that in order to keep the Jewish people together in support of Israel, it was necessary for us to make some kind of public statement in this regard, and we felt that people would understand our position and not criticize beyond what was proper." Concerning the vociferous opposition of the rebbeim, Dr. Miller added that their opinions "were taken into consideration" but that rebbeim, ordinarily, "are not consulted in administrative decisions." Dr. Miller further labeled the reports "baseless" that the Administration had been threatened with donation holdbacks by wealthy benefactors if YU did not march in the parade.

the parade would fall under the halakhic category of *yihareg vi'al ya'avur* - "one must die instead of transgressing this particular statute."

### YU Reverses Itself

A sudden reversal of University policy occurred on the afternoon of May 5th, when the consequences of *The New York Times* article, which cast an unfavorable light on the Orthodox community, became clear. Although no Administrator would comment at that time, it became apparent that YU would not march together with Beth Simchat Torah. While it was widely believed that the University's participation in the parade had been terminated, Administrators declined to issue an official statement, remaining silent until after an early May 6th meeting of the AZYF. It was at this meeting that the AZYF decided to deny permission to Beth Simchat Torah to participate in the parade, thereby demonstrating, in the words of Rabbi Hirt, "sensitivity and concern" to the needs of the Orthodox community.

## As A Show of Support and Solidarity, YU Marches

by Gene Alperovich

About one hundred and fifty YC and SCW students, organized by the Israel Club, marched down Fifth Avenue on May 9th in the annual Salute to Israel Parade. The event, which this year carried the theme of *kibbutz galuyot* - the ingathering of exiles - was highlighted by the participation of YU students from over twenty countries, ranging from Russia to Morocco to Costa Rica.

### Parade Protestors

Several dozen demonstrators lined the procession at several points, peacefully hoisting signs protesting the exclusion of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, a predominantly gay and lesbian synagogue located in the West Village in New York, from the ceremonies. No disturbances were reported between the protesters and parade participants.

### Beth Simchat Torah Breaks Deal

According to Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, RIETS Vice President for Administration and Professional Education, a May 5th *New York Times* feature on Beth Simchat Torah's spiritual leader, Sharon Kleinbaum, constituted an "abrogation of agreement" by Beth Simchat Torah. The publicity, explained Rabbi Hirt, violated the compromise reported in *The Times* on April 21. The YU Administration was subsequently forced to express "very great concern" regarding the participation of the synagogue in the parade. While Rabbi Hirt declined to comment on its specific nature, this "concern" apparently prompted the AZYF to revoke Beth Simchat Torah's marching permit.

### Rav Aaron Issues P'sak Din

Rabbinic indignation at YU's participation peaked on the morning of May 5th, when Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik issued a public p'sak din stating that the tolerance of the gay/lesbian group's actions espoused by YU's marching in

up by their rebbeim. Commenting on the Israel Club's parade involvement, Vadnai commented that "basically the whole Israel Club thinks that if we knew in the beginning that the gays were marching, maybe we wouldn't have agreed to organize the parade...now, since we had prepared everything, we couldn't pull out. If YU is marching anyway, it's proper that the Israel Club should organize it." Sy Syms School of Business Junior Raoul Isaac, who resigned as Israel Club Treasurer shortly after it was announced on April 27th that the Club would participate in the parade, expressed a different view, stating that he "wants the Administration to get a clear message of how we feel about the situation. As leaders, we must set an example. If the administrative leaders are not leading, then we must lead." Isaac further called for like-minded YC students to call the University Administration to voice their opinions.

### Rebbeim and Students React

The final verdict generated feelings of approbation and joy among rebbeim and students alike. Rabbi Shlomo Drillman, who had been among those rebbeim most passionately opposed to participation in the parade, stated, "It shows the pressure that can be put on by the Orthodox community [in order] not to be pressured." Isaac added that the final outcome was inevitable, that "a parade without the Orthodox community's full participation would not [have been] a parade," and that had YU withdrawn from the parade at the beginning of the controversy, its Zionism "could not have been questioned by anybody." With Beth Simchat Torah not participating, Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau strongly encouraged all students "to make it their business to go to the parade," stressing that the YU community must "maintain certain principles and show a strong commitment to Israel."

### Administration Reacts

A more subdued, yet obviously vindicated tone was heard from the Administration. Appraising the University's policies throughout the controversy, Dr. Miller declared, "We abided by our agreement one hundred percent. We did not issue any kind of press release, we did not go outside of what we consider proper." In some corners, however, questions are being raised regarding the harmful negative publicity created by the conflict; some people are concerned that cries of "Orthodox intolerance" could materialize in the general public in the near future.

### Student Opinion Divided

Throughout the controversy, student opinion concerning the parade remained divided. Ruben Vadnai, YC Israel Club public relations head, and one of the student parade coordinators, reported that over 100 students, mostly from SCW, signed up for the parade. He believes, however, that many YC students were dissuaded from signing

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