

The Commentator

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photo: YUPR

Marttila & Kiley Release Survey

by Ryan S. Karben

A May 1993 survey of YC students designed to shape new recruitment techniques has Administrators expressing optimism about the school's prospects for growth, and confidence that they can overcome the deep dissatisfaction with the University's administration expressed by respondents.

The survey, completed by 57% of the student body, was conducted by the Boston-based firm of Marttila and Kiley. It points to the growing positive influence of the Israel experience on YC's recruitment pool, and reinforces the notion that the school's values and philosophy, rather than its academic program or reputation, attract students to YC.

Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, who is responsible for YU's undergraduate recruitment

program, said that while the report contained "few surprises," it is "extremely valuable as part of an ongoing effort to attract more qualified students to the College."

The report recommends that YU use a more "values-oriented" approach to recruitment, citing the 68% of respondents who said that completing their college education in an Orthodox Jewish environment was the "most important" factor in their decision to come to YU.

The report noted great concern about YC's academic program by students; one-third of students said academic concerns gave them greatest cause for hesitancy about attending YU.

Administrators say those concerns are being addressed, and expect the hiring of a new Academic Vice President to greatly aid the process. As part of the effort, school officials note

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YU APPOINTS DAVID GOTTESMAN CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

by Yehuda Fruchter

Over the summer, David Gottesman, son of former trustee Benjamin Gottesman, and himself a member of the Board of Trustees since 1979, was elected to the position of Chairman of the Board of YU. He succeeds the late Ludwig Jesselson.

With his election, Gottesman continues in his family's tradition of holding leadership positions at Yeshiva University. Mendel Gottesman, David Gottesman's grandfather, emigrated to the United States from Hungary in the 1880s. In the early 1920s, as Vice Chairman of the Yeshiva College Building Fund, he headed a group of leaders who wished to move the University's campus from the Lower East Side of New York to Washington Heights. At the conclusion of this move, Mendel Gottesman founded the Yeshiva College Endowment Foundation, and became its first benefactor with a gift of \$50,000.

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Professor William Schwartz Former Dean of Boston U. Law Appointed Academic VP

by Gene Alperovich

In a long awaited decision, YU President Norman H. Lamm announced on September 8, 1993 the appointment of Dr. William Schwartz as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Schwartz, who will replace the retiring Dr. Egon Brenner, will officially assume his post on October 11, 1993.

The former Dean of the Boston University School of Law, Dr. Schwartz has served as counsel to the nation's oldest law firm, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, since 1988. In addition, Dr. Schwartz is a University Professor at YU, a title which allows him to lecture at any of the University's affiliates, and an Associate Board Trustee of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. A native of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, who received his education at Brooklyn's Torah Vodaath Yeshiva and the Boston University School of Law, Dr. Schwartz is a longtime resident of Newton, MA. He and his

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FOCUS

- 68% of respondents described themselves as "modern Orthodox".
- 26% described themselves as "right-wing Orthodox".
- 63% of YC students have a family member that once attended the University.
- 37% of students applied only to YU.
- 73% of students spent one year in Israel; 35% spent two years.
- On a seven-point scale, 15% of students "strongly agree" that they will encourage their own children to go to YU; 59% were neutral, and 24% "strongly disagree" that they would do so.
- 60% of students said that YU was their first choice for college.
- 39% of students plan to make *aliya*; 17% said that they would not make *aliya*, and 44% said that they were not sure.
- 63% of the respondents said that the Administration of YU does not care about them; 60% of the respondents said that the Administration does not understand them.

Memorial Section on Rav Dovid Lifschitz, Pages 7-9



photo: Judith S. Harris

(l to r) Rav Meir Goldwicht, Rav Dovid Lifshitz, zt"l and Dr. Israel Miller dancing in the Beit Medrash, Purim 1992

YC Cracks Down On CLEPs

Ten Subjects to be Phased Out

by Sandor Bak

In a move aimed at bolstering the quality of education at the University, the Academic Standards Committee has decided to reduce the number of College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests for which YC will grant credit. Beginning with the spring semester, CLEP exams in ten subjects will no longer be recognized.

YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht chaired the July 15, 1993 meeting at which the new policy was adopted. He explained that the Academic Standards Committee reviewed the CLEP tests in all courses and found that only a few meet University requirements. The College will continue to recognize the General Biology, General Chemistry, Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, Calculus, and Foreign Language exams.

The Administration's decision has been met with mixed reaction on campus, with many students calling the move long overdue. Others, however, view the CLEP exams as a legitimate way to bypass introductory level classes in subjects they know.

Several students spoke candidly of having taken numerous CLEP exams with no

background in the subject area, and breezing through with "twenty minutes of studying the night before the test." Hecht noted that "many students have come over to me after taking the exams and told me that the tests were way too simple and fell far short of college-level work."

YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld affirmed Dean Hecht's comments and explained the decision as a way to "protect academic standards." However, he did note, "The reason for permitting the CLEPs in the fall semester is so as not to impose an undue burden on students who were counting on these CLEPs for their graduation."

Dr. Henry Silvert, Professor of Sociology, believes the move will work to the students' advantage in the long run. "Students who 'CLEP' an introductory course end up hurting themselves," he maintained. "In an introductory course, a student gains a foundation for all future classes he will take in that subject. There is no way that can be learned by simply preparing for a CLEP test."

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Perspective: Safety on Campus

A thorough analysis of campus security's ability to deal with neighborhood riots and other threats to the safety of the uptown YU community.

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YC Students From Around the Globe

The first Danish student at YC in 45 years, and the first Cuban student at YU ever, tell the unique stories of their lives and the lives of the Jews in their countries.

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YC and SSSB Career Services Merge

In an effort to mold a more effective placement team, catering to both YC and SSSB students, a combined career services office has been created.

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EDITORIALS EDITORIALS EDITORIALS

Welcome, Mr. Gottesman

We applaud the choice of David Gottesman as the new Chairman of the Board of Yeshiva University. He and his family have long played an outstanding role in supporting the growth of this institution. The unfortunate passing of many benefactors of Yeshiva University has left the Board with the opportunity to restructure itself. The alumni base of YU is, in general, still too young to have profoundly made its mark in the world and the Jewish community. Yet, many of them are of substantial means and influence and could, if given the chance, play an outstanding role on the Board. The University's need to court outsiders for the Board is understandable and even commendable; but alumni of the undergraduate colleges have a deeper understanding of, and commitment to, this University. At the outset of his tenure as Chairman of the Board, we urge Mr. Gottesman to create a Board in which the alumni are more involved. The Board could be restructured to include a set number of alumni members and general board members. The alumni members would be elected by their peers from a slate nominated by the Board, while the general members would continue to be drawn from the community as a whole. We feel that such a board would best be able to serve the University with the expertise, resources, and commitment that Yeshiva needs.

On Clobbering the CLEPs

Kudos to the College for eliminating all of the the easier CLEPs. To put it bluntly, these CLEPs were a joke. For example, it was not uncommon for students to take the psychology or sociology CLEP without having studied, and still receive full credit. CLEPs such as these hurt the reputation of the College. Many students have relied on these CLEPs as a means of spending less time on campus so that they might spend more time in Israel learning, and that is certainly understandable. But other, more beneficial, options for graduating quickly do exist, such as summer school. Inevitably, this decision is going to cause much grumbling, but on this matter we stand behind the College. Taking an easy CLEP is a penny-wise and pound foolish approach to education.

The Commentator

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RESPONSA

Two Sides to Every Story

To the Editor,

This letter is being written in response to the very vocal anti-peace movement taking place on the Yeshiva College campus. The anti-peace movement currently has two flyers flooding our hallways. One flyer tells us the "real deal" about peace with the P.L.O. It informs our student body of little known facts about the peace treaty, like the P.L.O. won't settle for just Gaza and Jericho and that we are abandoning 100,00 Jews. The other flyer lists a number of "facts" and calls on us to gather and demonstrate against this peace treaty.

I do not claim to know any sensational "facts," (like the flyer which stated it's 18 minutes from Jericho to Jerusalem) however, I feel that I have the right to express an opposing opinion without succumbing to cheap propaganda tricks.

Yet, I too can put my opinion in fact form.

Fact: Yitzchak Rabin received the majority of votes from the Israeli public and thus has a mandate from them to act as he sees fit.

Fact: More Israeli boys, aged 18-21, die fighting to control Gaza and Jericho than Yeshiva College boys demonstrating not to return Gaza and Jericho.

Fact: The PLO will not make peace unless they have some land they can call their own.

Fact: It is immoral to keep people living in refugee camps their entire lives.

Fact: The Yeshiva College boys who hung up those flyers have not visited all of the Palestinian refugee camps.

Fact: There are two sides to every issue.

Fact: People die in a time of war.

Opinion: In this great opportunity for peace we should not fight the peace movement, but rather embrace it with open arms.

Shmuel Herzfeld
YC '96

Tonight:

The Hausman/Stern Kinos Teshuva Lecture
Rabbi Meir Goldwicht
8:00 pm
Weissberg Commons/Belfer Hall

Congratulations to Rabbi Bernard
Rosenzweig on his appointment as
Senior Professor of Jewish History.

P I C T O R I A L

Y.U. FOOD
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1. monies not spent by expiration date will not be refunded

2. card not valid on Mexican Taco or Hawaiian Meatball nights.

לפי תנאי השימוש הנלווים!

YC and SSSB Career Services Merge

by Ari Hirt

After years of autonomous existence, the Career Services office of Yeshiva College has merged with the SSSB Job Placement office in an effort to mold a more cohesive team catering to both Yeshiva College and SSSB students.

Such an undertaking, involving an increase in office hours and necessitating an additional staff member, will provide all undergraduate students with the opportunity to take advantage of a fully equipped career services team, located in Belfer Hall, ready to assist in career counseling and job placement. Dr. Harold Nierenberg, Dean of SSSB, remarked, "for career services to be located in an area where job placement information is available is a major advantage."

The Career Services office, established eight years ago in Furst Hall, has been the primary place to go for students in YC seeking career advice. However, students seeking guidance would very often also solicit advice on job opportunities from SSSB's Job Placement office. As a result of separate offices and locations, conflict and miscommunication arose.

Survey Indicates Widespread Dissatisfaction

In the recent Marttila and Kiley Report (see page 1), student dissatisfaction concerning Yeshiva University's Career Services Office was revealed. Such criticism was expressed despite both the high job placement rate enjoyed by the Placement office and verbalized student admiration of the current faculty - Hal Tannenbaum, Adrienne Wolf and Naomi Kapp. Accordingly, in response to the students' needs of improved communication between the two career offices, the University decided to merge the YC Career office with the SSSB Placement office, while maintaining the

popular faculty of both centers. Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman commented that, "the intent here was to demonstrate commitment in responding to students needs and desires."

Kapp Hired Full Time

The combined office requires additional staff as well as longer hours from the current faculty members. To resolve the additional burden, Naomi Kapp has now been hired as a full-time employee, making her guidance counseling more accessible to students; she will share her time between the uptown and downtown campuses. In addition, the University is currently in the process of adding a fourth member to their career services staff, primarily to guarantee daily availability of at least two members on the Yeshiva College and on the Stern College for Women campuses.

Constant Availability to Students

Although the new office addresses both career counseling and job placement, Naomi Kapp will continue to specialize in career guidance, and Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolf will concentrate on job placement. However, Mr. Tannenbaum expressed confidence that any staff member is capable in assisting a student in all areas. Mr. Tannenbaum said that, "the constant availability of three full time professionals covering two campuses," will be the forte of the united career office.

Dean Jaskoll, Associate Dean of SSSB, commented on the new, consolidated career services office, saying that "if it provides exposure to each student and meets at least once with each person," then he is "certain that the office will achieve its goals." The combined career services office will be administered by the Sy Syms School of Business.

O B I T U A R I E S

Jacob Burns, Benefactor of Syms, Cardoza, Einstein

Jacob Burns, a noted New York City attorney, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the Cardoza School of Law, artist, and art patron, passed away on June 20, 1993 as a result of heart failure.

Burns served on various boards, including Yeshiva University and George Washington University, and donated millions of dollars to Yeshiva University.

At Cardoza Law, Burns established the Jacob Burns Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, the Jacob Burns Moot Court Room, and the Jacob Burns Scholars Program. He also was a Founder and member of the Board of Directors of Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, where he endowed the Jacob Burns Scholars Program, and was a Founder of the University's Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

-- Gershon Seiferas

Joseph Gruss, Noted Philanthropist

Funeral services were held for Joseph S. Gruss on July 4, 1993 at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan. Gruss was a twenty-three year member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University and a benefactor of Jewish educational causes worldwide, particularly in the United States and Israel. It is estimated that Mr. Gruss' charitable donations totaled more than \$300 million. Gruss was elected to Yeshiva University's board in 1969 and was a member until 1992, when he was named an Honorary Trustee.

Gruss was born in 1902 in Lemberg (Lvov), Poland (now called Lviv and part of the Ukraine). His family had the third largest Polish banking business when he sold his holdings in 1939 at the age of 37 to escape Nazi persecution and move to the United States with wife. After World War II, he founded his Wall Street firm "Gruss & Co.," which was particularly active in oil and gas industry mergers. Gruss was active in gas and oil exploration and development from the 1950s to the 1970s.

"Mr. Gruss was a giant in Jewish philanthropy," said Yeshiva University President Dr. Norman Lamm. "He marshaled his prodigious talents, which served him so well in the business world, and focused them especially in the support of Jewish education. Yeshiva University will sorely miss him and will forever be indebted to him."

Mr. Gruss, along with his late wife Caroline (who died in January of 1987), was a Yeshiva University Benefactor, a designation reserved for people who contribute at least one million dollars to the University. He was also a founder of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In a *New York Times* interview, Mr. Gruss, who would not disclose the exact amount he had given over the years, said, "I believe that every person should leave a live monument behind him when he dies. If you leave a stone, it is a stone. If you create a school or hospital - something which is alive and brings comfort to humanity - this is a greater monument." Some of the "monuments" left behind by Gruss include Toras Emes Kaminetz in Brooklyn, a yeshiva in the Hasidic Village of New Square, and the United Lubavitcher School in Brooklyn.

Gruss is survived by a son, Martin David Gruss, a lawyer with Gruss & Co., a daughter, Dr. Evelyn Gruss Lipper, a physician in New York and alumnus of Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and six grandchildren. Mr. Gruss was buried in Israel.

-- Ron Markovitz

Summer School Returns to YU

by Stuart Milstein

This past summer, Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women reinstated their summer school program, offering chemistry and physics courses taught by Yeshiva University professors. Overall, the faculty, administration, and students, deemed the summer school program a success.

When the program was first proposed, professors were skeptical as to how successful the classes would be. They were concerned about the time constraints that the shortened summer session would pose. Dr. Raji Viswanathan, the chemistry professor who taught the summer course, remarked, "I was apprehensive because of the limited time." Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, the professor of the physics class, said that he "was afraid because they would need to rush a year into ten weeks; each day of the summer is like a week in the regular semester."

From the administrative side there were also concerns. Professor Cwilich,

who was eager to begin the summer courses, noted that the Administration was afraid that there would not be enough interest, and that Yeshiva College was too expensive as compared to other college summer programs.

After the session was over, everyone had positive feelings about the program. Both professors Viswanathan and Cwilich proclaimed that the courses "went extremely well." A total of forty students participated in the two classes. Dean Rosenfeld explained that this number exceeded expectations. Professor Cwilich was also pleased, "considering this was the first time in a while that summer school has been offered."

The students attending the summer session felt that, despite the time constraints, they accomplished just as much as they would have in a regular semester course, and found it to be worthwhile. "It allowed us to take courses in a familiar place with professors who we know," said one

YC junior. Another student commented, "It allowed me to finish all of my sciences at one university before my MCATs."

Professor Cwilich was also pleased that he covered more material than he would have during a regular semester. He explained that one of the reasons this was possible was because he "made sure that students did not fall behind because it would be too difficult to catch up."

The summer school session was a revival of a summer session that existed during the mid 1980s. The purpose of the summer session that existed then, and this past summer's session, was "mainly for pre-med students to be able to take their required sciences in Yeshiva University without staying any extra semesters," explained Dean Rosenfeld. Viswanathan added that a summer session "allows the University to insure a sufficient knowledge of chemistry so the student can proceed to take organic chemistry. It also eliminates the worry

of students choosing easy schools for the summer." Cwilich said that "medical schools prefer if students take all their sciences at one school. Summer school makes this advantage possible."

Mixed Classes

A unique characteristic about the YU summer program was that the Yeshiva College men and the Stern College women had classes together. Regarding the co-ed classes, Cwilich remarked that the class became very friendly, mainly because of the long hours that everyone spent together. He also said, "I was interested in seeing if the boys get more attention because they are more insistent, but I felt that this did not occur." Viswanathan added that she noticed no difference having a mixed class.

Regarding next summer, Dean Rosenfeld, and Professors Cwilich and Viswanathan expressed hope that the summer program will continue, with the possibility of adding biology to the list of available courses.

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Tuesday, September 21

Kinos Teshuva Lecture, Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall, 8:00 PM.

Wednesday, September 22

Torah U'Madda Project
A Study in the Interface of the History of Halacha and Medicine
"The Anatomy of Halacha"
Dr. Edward Reichman
SCW, Room 306, 2:30 PM.

Friday, September 24

JJC Residence Halls Yom Kippur
D'rasha: Dr. Norman Lamm, President of YU, speaker.
Tanenbaum Hall Beit Medrash, 7:00 PM.

Saturday - Friday, September 25 - October 8

Yom Kippur - Sukkot

Friday, October 8

JJC Residence Halls *Isru Chag Simchat Torah Tish*., Rubin Hall, 8:45 PM.

Friday, October 15

JJC Residence Halls Shabbat Program: Rabbi Yitzchak Cohen, TMSTA, speaker. Rubin Hall, 8:30 PM.

Sunday - Tuesday, October 17-19

YU Eli and Diana Zbrowski Professional Chair in Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies International Conference: *Individualization of the Holocaust: Diaries, Memoirs, Personal Accounts, Belles Lettres, Paintings and Drawings Written and Created During the Shoah*., Dr. Aharon Appelfeld, Ben-Gurion University, keynote speaker, SCW, Sunday 2:00-8:00 PM, Monday 9:00 AM - 9:30 PM.

Tuesday, October 19

RIETS Yom Iyun: Belfer Hall Weissberg Commons, 9:00 AM.

Thursday, October 21

YU's Torah U'Madda Project
"Halacha, History, and Us"
Rabbi Micheal Rosensweig and Dr. David Berger
JJC, Rubin Shul, 2:45 PM.

Friday, October 22

JJC Residence Halls/ YC Student Council Freshman Class Shabbat Program: Rubin Hall, 8:30 PM.

Sunday, October 24

YC Cross Country: Poly Tech Invitational, Van Cortland Park, 12:00 PM.

Monday, October 25

SSSB Career Fair: Belfer Hall Weissberg Commons, 8:00 PM.



Dr. Lucjan Dobroszycki is scheduled to lecture at the Holocaust Conference

Holocaust Symposium to Feature Rare Materials

From October 17 through October 19, 1993 Yeshiva University will sponsor a unique Holocaust conference to be held at Stern College. The distinctive nature of this symposium comes from its exclusive use of material that was created by Jews and non-Jews during the Holocaust.

Dr. Lucjan Dobroszycki, Visiting Professor of Jewish History, explained that, "there are hundreds, if not thousands of diaries and memoirs written by Jews in the ghettos and even the concentration camps, as well by non-Jewish partisans and observers of the Holocaust".

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History and Academic Assistant to the President, who is also a conference organizer, said that among the materials to be presented will be "wartime diaries and letters just uncovered from the archives of the former USSR. Until now, access to materials reflecting the Soviet perspective had been prevented. Thus the historical record was incomplete."

-- Sender Cohen

S.O.Y. Hosts Elul Minyan

On Thursday, September 9, 1993, over 200 students turned out for a 7:40 "Elul Zman Shacharis Minyan" sponsored by S.O.Y. in the main Beis Medrash. Attendees of the minyan were treated to a free breakfast of doughnuts and orange juice.

In the days prior to the minyan, signs went up in the dorms inviting all students from YP, IBC, and JSS to attend. Last semester, a number of similar minyanim had been held. The idea behind the previous minyanim and this most recent one, explained S.O.Y. President Lavi Greenspan, is "to try to create a unity in the yeshiva." He went on to explain that davening together in the main Beis Medrash is one way in which this unity could be achieved.

A "Decent Turnout"

Greenspan went on to note that he was pleased with the "decent turnout." Other students at the minyan voiced similar positive sentiment about the minyan and what it hopes to achieve. MYP/YC junior Jonathan Rosenbloom added, "I feel that it is important, especially in Elul, that there should be more of a yeshiva atmosphere. This minyan is a way to do that."

On the downside, however, Greenspan did note that S.O.Y., in organizing the event, did not coordinate the planning of the minyan with the JSS student body, which has its own morning minyan offering free breakfast to all who attend. He promised that next time such a minyan would be planned, S.O.Y. would coordinate with JSS and thus enable the JSS students to attend the minyan.

More Minyanim In The Future

Greenspan pledged to organize other minyanim at regular intervals over the course of the next two semesters. Most likely, he asserted, they will occur once a month, possibly on each Rosh Chodesh. Signs promoting the minyanim would be put up in all the dorms to ensure that all students would be aware of them.

-- Moshe Kinderlehrer



Dr. Avery Horowitz explaining his plans for the Assistant Dean's office

Horowitz Named Assistant Dean at YC

Dr. Avery Horowitz, a former professor of economics at YU, has been appointed the new Assistant Dean at Yeshiva College. The position of Assistant Dean became available late last semester, when former Assistant to the Dean David Rosenberg decided to vacate the administrative post after six years of service. "It was simply time for a change," said Rosenberg. Rosenberg is now the Assistant Dean at Eugene Lang College, a division of the New School of Social Research.

In describing his qualifications for the job, Assistant Dean Horowitz noted, "having taught here makes it easier to understand problems that might arise." As Assistant Dean, Horowitz hopes to make the Dean's office more approachable. "Students are users of this office," he said. "Hopefully, I would like to make students comfortable coming and coming back. . . the term 'user friendly' comes to mind."

Toward this goal, Horowitz has plans to make the information students need more readily available. For instance, he has consolidated the data on courses and majors found in the YU Undergraduate Catalog. The requirements and courses offered in each major are now listed together. For first year students, Horowitz compiled a list of all introductory level courses and a scheduling grid that shows the hours of a typical YU work week. "These are not major changes," he admits, "but hopefully more things such as this will follow."

-- Jonathan Schloss

A.S.A.P. Comes to YU

On Wednesday September 8, 1993, members of American Students to Activate Pride (A.S.A.P.), a division of Aish HaTorah, met with Yeshiva College students to discuss events in Crown Heights. A.S.A.P. member and YC student Avi Roth explained that, "as the leaders of Jewish students in New York, YU students cannot sit by and let the riots be painted a Lubavitch issue and not our concern. For if we do, the next time might be at our footsteps." YCSC president Danny Gurell agreed to help A.S.A.P. Director Rabbi Dovid Felsenthal arrange a seminar at YU on October 18, 1993. Invited speakers include Alan Dershowitz and Curtis Sliwa.

-- D. Alex Bailey

Orientation Shows Students the "Lighter Side" of YU

The doors of Morgenstern Hall opened three weeks ago, ushering in a new semester. After taking care of interviews, evaluations and identification, students were offered a view of the "lighter side" of Yeshiva University. There were tours to show students around the campus, and the Athletic Center and Gottesman Pool were open to let students relax after the tumult of unpacking.

The annual barbecue was a great success. YC sophomore Yosef Bednarsh said, "It was great to have an opportunity to just sit and talk with my friends for a little while. Also, free food is cool."

Students were introduced to various extra-curricular activities through an

enlightening session at which they were able to meet the leaders of various groups and clubs.

Donny Besser, the student organizer of Orientation, said, "I feel that I brought together the right group of guys to assist the incoming students through the different parts of Orientation."

Almost 320 incoming students joined the Culture Society at the Society's annual Orientation Night at the Theater. This year, students saw "Fool Moon" a hilarious comedy performed in mime. Steven Kaye, President of the Culture Society, commented that, "the turnout was great and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves."

-- Akiva Fuld

Rabbi Miller Recovering from Heart Attack

Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice-President of Yeshiva University, suffered a heart attack early last July. The attack came suddenly and unexpectedly, according to his secretary, Ms. Vivian Owgang. He is reported to be recovering quickly, and is expected to return to work later this fall.

Dr. Miller supervises most non-academic offices at YU, including Student Services, the Dean of Students, the Medical Office, and alumni organizations. In addition, he has many responsibilities outside of Yeshiva; he is a recognized leader in the Jewish community, and has headed various committees, such as the Conference of Material Claims Against Germany.

Owgang stated that "he is progressing nicely", though she warns that recuperation from the kind of surgery Miller underwent takes time. She continued, "He is making a full recovery, and plans to resume all former positions. He is currently working from his home, and is expected to return after the holidays." Owgang added that, "he has no intentions of giving anything up. He graduated and received his *micha* here. Yeshiva is his first love."

-- Dov Simons

Dean of Students' Office Introduces Student Sourcebooks

In years past, informational resources such as the "Neighborhood Guide" and a pamphlet describing student services have been given out at Student Orientation. This year, however, the Dean of Students office employed a different medium to inform students of services provided by the university. The small, user-friendly format of their new "sourcebook" includes a calendar, a list of the University's standing committees, and a directory of student services.

"The intent of the sourcebook is to provide a resource book for undergraduate students that is clear and concise," said Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students. The creation of the sourcebook is partially a result of last semester's student-Administration retreats, where student leaders suggested a more complete and versatile catalog of services administered by the Dean of Students. "All of the recommendations made at the retreat about written communications between administrators and undergraduate students at Yeshiva University have been fulfilled, in terms of both layout and content," Nulman said.

Nulman also noted that the sourcebooks were distributed by dorm counsellors rather than at Orientation, thus insuring that students and their dorm counsellors would meet within the first two weeks of school.

-- Robert Fagin

MTA Seeks Closer Relationship with YC

by Howie Beigelman

Rabbi Gedalya Finkelstein, the principal of MTA, Yeshiva University's High School for Boys, is set to initiate a number of programs which are aimed at improving the often strained relations between Yeshiva College and the high school. Rabbi Finkelstein stated that, "the basic aim... is to allow the high school and college and other parts and divisions of the University to be part of one family, one *mishpacha*."

He plans to have the high school help make YC events such as the blood drive, the annual Chanukah concert, and other fundraisers more successful. This would be accomplished by increasing high school participation in these events, and by having the high school help publicize these events. A second aspect of the program involves having both *rebbeim* and professors speak to the high school's students on various topics in their own individual areas of expertise. The third and final phase of the program is the volunteer mentor program. This program would have college students tutor high school students in either *limudei kodesh* or general studies. Furthermore, college students would volunteer to be so-called "big brothers" to the high school students.

Among those people Rabbi Finkelstein said he would be

approaching, are Yeshiva College Dean Norman Rosenfeld and YCSC President Danny Gurell. Both have declined to comment on the specifics of the program since nothing has been made official, and talks are still in their formative stages. However, both Rosenfeld and Gurell expressed their full support for the initiative. Rosenfeld asserted, "It is certainly beneficial to the high school, and if it causes the college to be seen in a better light then I'm all for that." Gurell said that "I believe that it will benefit the college, the high school, and the student body at YC."

Mr. Michael Kranzler, Associate Director of Admissions at Yeshiva College, also voiced his support for the initiative. "I'm pro it. I'm for it. MTA is our biggest feeder school. Anything that might make recruitment easier, I'm for."

Student reaction to the planned initiatives was primarily optimistic. YC senior Elie Hecht believes that "it's a good program. It allows the high school students to benefit from the experience of those older than they." YC junior Andrew Sicklick thought the idea was a good one but added, "I'm concerned about how the use of facilities will be affected." However, Dean Rosenfeld, in response to the above concern, stated that "the level of facilities use by the high school is at the level it should remain at."

YC/SSSB Boast High Placement Rates for '93

by Yosef Bednarsh

With a demand for fewer and more talented workers, as well as a stagnant job market, college students face more competition for jobs than ever before. If the past is any indication of the future, YU students will continue to have little to worry about. In his 1993 pre-law advisory report, Dean Michael Hecht states that fifty-five out of fifty-eight YC students that applied received at least one acceptance into an ABA-accredited law school, which he says is, "consistent with the better than ninety percent acceptance rate we have come to expect." In fact, twenty out of these fifty-eight students placed in the 95th percentile nationally on the LSAT. That is, better than one third of our pre-law students scored in the top 5% of the country, with two students receiving a perfect score of 180 on their LSATs. The acceptance rates to prestigious law schools from YU were exceptional last year. Four YC graduates were accepted to Harvard, twelve students got in to Columbia, ten to N.Y.U., eight to Penn, and one to Yale. "I can only attribute these results to one thing," commented Dean Hecht, "extensive talmudic studies certainly

develops the analytical skills and sensitivity to text that is needed for the LSAT. We don't learn in the Beit Medrash in preparation for the LSAT, but it is a real consequence, and we will take advantage of it."

Even in today's economy, where the number of jobs in the business sector is decreasing as companies downsize, the Sy Syms School of Business still has a 100% job placement rate. The twenty-two accounting majors and eleven business majors who graduated in the spring of 1993, are all working for large, well-known firms. "There is no question that our students are outstanding," remarked Assistant Dean of SSSB Ira Jaskoll, "when firms like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley tell you that the best students they received were from Yeshiva University."

This past year, when seven out of thirty-six liberal arts majors were not able to find jobs, the Deans helped out. By the end of the summer, three more students had found work. Hal Tannenbaum, placement coordinator at YU, commented "that's an amazing thing when a firm calls with a job opening and I say, 'thank you, but keep us in mind.' because we have placed all of our students."

Students Continue Efforts to Enhance MYP, RIETS

Last year, a number of individuals took it upon themselves to evaluate the various issues perceived to affect the performance of the Mazer Yeshiva Program and RIETS. A major part of this effort was a survey conducted by students Eitan Mayer and Yitzzy Schechter.

The survey, designed to identify and bring to light certain possible trouble spots in the Yeshiva Program, dealt with such topics as attendance in *shiur* and *sefer*, the level of personal involvement of the *rabbeim* with their *talmidim*, and the students' opinion on certain programs that might enhance the quality of the Yeshiva. Designed to be user-friendly, the survey received a respectable 67% return from the students.

As of yet, the official results haven't been released to the administration or S.O.Y. However, the conductors of the survey have had numerous discussions with Rabbi Blau, Rabbi Charlop, and S.O.Y. leaders.

Benji Taragin, S.O.Y. Treasurer, claims that these discussions are playing a major role regarding S.O.Y. policies and projects planned for this year, such as the *sichot mussar*, special *tefillot* together as a yeshiva, and a greater emphasis on *shabbos* in yeshiva. Rabbi Blau commented that it is impossible to say whether the survey, or its organizers' conversations with the Administration, has brought about any tangible results. Rabbi Blau pointed out that an analysis of the survey's impact at this point would be premature, due to the fact that the results have yet to be released.

-- Ilan Haber

Students at Rally Oppose Peace Plan

On Sunday afternoon, September 19, 1993 approximately 25 YU students joined hundreds of other Jews at a rally to protest the Israeli-PLO peace agreement. The rally, held at the Israeli Consulate on Second Avenue and 42nd Street, was sponsored by several groups, including Kahane Chai, Israel Action Alliance, and the United Jewish Coalition. The keynote speaker was Councilman Dov Hikind, who stressed that "if Israel allows Palestine to form a state, there will only be tragedy in the future."

YC Junior Zev Frankel, who organized YU's participation in the event, commented that "everyone wants peace, but abandoning 150,000 Jewish settlers into Arab hands will not achieve anything positive... It falls upon every Jew to be concerned. It should also be kept in mind that Yasir Arafat is not exactly known for his integrity." Noting the low YU turnout, Frankel felt that people are confused about why the peace plan is not destined for success, and there will be greater student interest when the negative effects of the plan become more apparent.

-- Yisroel M. Holczer

PERSPECTIVE:

Safety on Campus

by Isaac Sasson

Neighborhood unrest following the violent death of a community member has become a familiar and frightening story in Washington Heights. This summer however, the Fire Department became the unfortunate victim in a new wave of civil strife that rocked the neighborhood around YU.

After a frustrating evening of extinguishing burning automobiles and trash cans on the evening of July 9, 1993, firefighters returning to their station at 181st Street and Audobon Avenue had a blazing Molotov cocktail hurled at the side window of their fire truck. The cab of the fire truck exploded on the corner of 187th and Audobon and burned for four blocks until the firefighters tumbled from the flames. Two of the officers suffered second and third-degree burns to their faces, ears, and hands.

The attack was a result of unrest stemming from the accidental death of motorcyclist Alfred Soto, who was killed earlier in the evening. Soto was struck on Fort George Hill Road in a head-on collision with a police car travelling the wrong way on a one-way street. Rumors quickly spread through Washington Heights that Soto had been intentionally run down by the speeding police car.

Previously, during the summer of 1992, a young Dominican man was shot in a conflict with a police officer. The rioting which ensued caused several deaths and hundreds of injuries. The situation in the northern part of the city was precarious for more than a week while chaos ruled the streets of Washington Heights. It took more than 2,000 officers to return everything to normal.

Many of the students interviewed on the uptown campus felt little change in the state of security on campus as a result of the recent unrest. Yet, some students were more cautious. "I'm glad they [the security guards] are here, but there is a limit to what they can do," said Jonathan Miller, a YC sophomore. "They [the security guards] are not lacking anything, but I just wish there was more that could be done," added Michael Smigel, a sophomore in his first year on the JJC.

In response to a claim by some students that if a riot were to break out and spill onto campus, security would not be prepared to handle the situation, Don Summers, Chief of Security, stated that, "we are always prepared to deal with a riot and any other crisis situation. The campus would be flooded with cops in a moment's notice." He said that there was no need to change the

security because the campus was not threatened in any fashion. "In fact, it was one of my assistants that reported to the police the attack on the fire truck. He [the assistant] had been standing on the corner of 189th and Broadway when the incident occurred, and he was on the scene in moments."

During the riots of the summer of 1992, when the violence reached 181st and St. Nicholas Avenue, "...the police used [the] JJC as a base of operations," said Summers. There was a police detail in front of Belfer Hall, and "not one person came near the campus."

"The security office is always welcome to suggestions on improving security," Summers stated, "You would not believe how much feedback we get a day and how much more we need. We receive suggestions from the guards every day about daily patrol coverage." There is a Student Security Council which brings matters to the security office on behalf of the student body. "It is a two way street," Summers noted, "You are our eyes and ears. We need your suggestions."

Morris Benun, a senior pessimistic about his safety in the neighborhood, noted that, "...when we look at the guards, we have no way of telling if they are trained." Yet according to Summers, Burns Security Guards have more training than any other institution, as well as a high number of supervisors on duty, and they are trained in emergency response, bomb threats, and any other compromise to the security of the students. Summers added, "Their main job is to prohibit intruders and communicate with supervisors." He added that the safety of the students is their number one priority. In addition to all of the formal training which they receive from the security agency, many of the guards have been police officers in the Dominican Republic. Guards do not carry guns due to "liability... and a contract with the security agency," Summers said.

"I'm pleased about security, but never too pleased. We are always seeking ways to improve things," said Summers. Security [at the JJC and SCW] is "better here than most other places. There is no comparison." In addition to the security guards, there are two police officers which are assigned to patrol the JJC twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. "We are in close contact with police officials from the NYPD as well as federal forces," Summers noted.

One student commented that in general, he was "afraid, but felt safe" about living in the neighborhood with the highest homicide rate in NYC; "they [security] instill a feeling of security...they are around twenty-four hours a day in uniform, and the community members look at them as authority figures."

ALUMNI
reflections

Time, Light, and Tremors

by Judah Levine

I graduated from Yeshiva High School in 1956 and Yeshiva College in 1960 with a major in Physics. I chose to attend the Graduate School of New York University because they offered me a twelve month teaching assistantship, while most other schools offered only nine month appointments. I received a Ph.D. from NYU in 1966. Six years is a typical time interval for an experimental Ph.D. both then and now - two years of course work and four years for dissertation research.

Most Ph.D.'s who are interested in a career in research or in university-level teaching look for a post-doctoral appointment after they complete their Ph.D. degree. I had two such appointments - one year at Oxford University and a second two year appointment at the University of Colorado.

I was offered a permanent position at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) in Boulder, Colorado in 1969 after the conclusion of my second post-doctoral appointment. The NBS, which was later renamed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 1988, has programs ranging from basic research on new standards to calibrations and other services for industry and the general public. I have been at NBS/NIST ever since, and I also teach and do research at the University

Judah Levine is a Physicist working at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

of Colorado, which is nearby. My work is supported by various Federal agencies (in addition to support from NIST), and I spend about 25% of my time writing proposals and reports to raise money.

I have worked in many different areas of physics. My first project at NBS was to work on a new measurement for the velocity of light. One of my current research interests involves measuring small motions of the earth near plate boundaries such as the San Andreas Fault Zone of California. These measurements are useful for understanding plate tectonics and may be helpful in predicting earthquakes.

In addition to my working geophysics, I am also involved in operating the ensemble of primary time standards at NIST and in devising better ways of measuring time and frequency, and of disseminating these quantities to users. I have worked on a system to transmit time digitally using dial-up telephone lines, for example, and I am currently working on a similar system that uses wide-area computer networks.

It is difficult to predict what the scientific job market will be like six or eight years from now, when many of you will have completed graduate school. There will always be jobs for the best and the brightest, of course, but the general outlook at the moment is not good. The current Administration is proposing substantial increases in many areas of science, but it is too early to know what effect these changes may have.

I wish you all the best of luck in your careers, and I will be happy to reply to any questions you may have about a career in science.

Two New Sephardic Rebbeim
Appointed

by David Schertz

In the past few months, Yeshiva University has added to its ranks two new Sephardic rebbeim. Rabbi Zevulun Lieberman has been appointed to the Maxwell R. Maybaum Memorial Chair in Talmud and Sephardic Codes at RIETS. In the undergraduate MYP program, Rabbi Eliezer Ben-Haim has been chosen as the first Sephardic *rosh yeshiva* to give a daily *shiur*.

Rabbi Lieberman received *s'micha* from RIETS and earned his doctorate from what was then the University's Graduate School of Education. He has taught extensively in numerous branches of YU's graduate and undergraduate programs. He will be replacing the Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Chief Rabbi of the World Sephardi Federation, who recently ended his association with YU after 29 years.

Rabbi Lieberman explained that although his heritage is Ashkenazic, he was persuaded into becoming a Sephardic rav by his shul, Congregation Beit Torah of Midwood, Brooklyn. He

had originally come for a Bar Mitzvah and was asked to speak since the shul had no rav. That speech eventually led to an offer to become the shul's rav. Despite having to "learn everything all over again" according to Sephardi *halakha*, Rabbi Lieberman accepted the shul's offer and has remained rabbi at Beit Torah for over 35 years.

Rabbi Ben-Haim, the second addition to the YU faculty, grew up in Israel and studied under one of the former chief rabbis of Israel, Rabbi Isaac Nisim. He received his degree in Jewish education from Beit Medrash Lamorim. After teaching *shiur* in Mesivta Beit Harashal for a number of years, Rabbi Ben-Haim moved to Iran in the mid-1970s to accept the position as rav of Mashad. The Jews of Mashad, until 50 years ago, had been forcibly converted to Islam, and needed a rabbi to help them on their path back to Judaism. In the late 1970s the Jews of Mashad emigrated en masse to America. Rabbi Ben-Haim came with them and is today the rav of their shul in Kew Gardens, New York.

Best Wishes for a
Shana Tova!

In Memoriam: Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz, 1906-1993

Personal Reminiscences about Rav Dovid Lifshitz

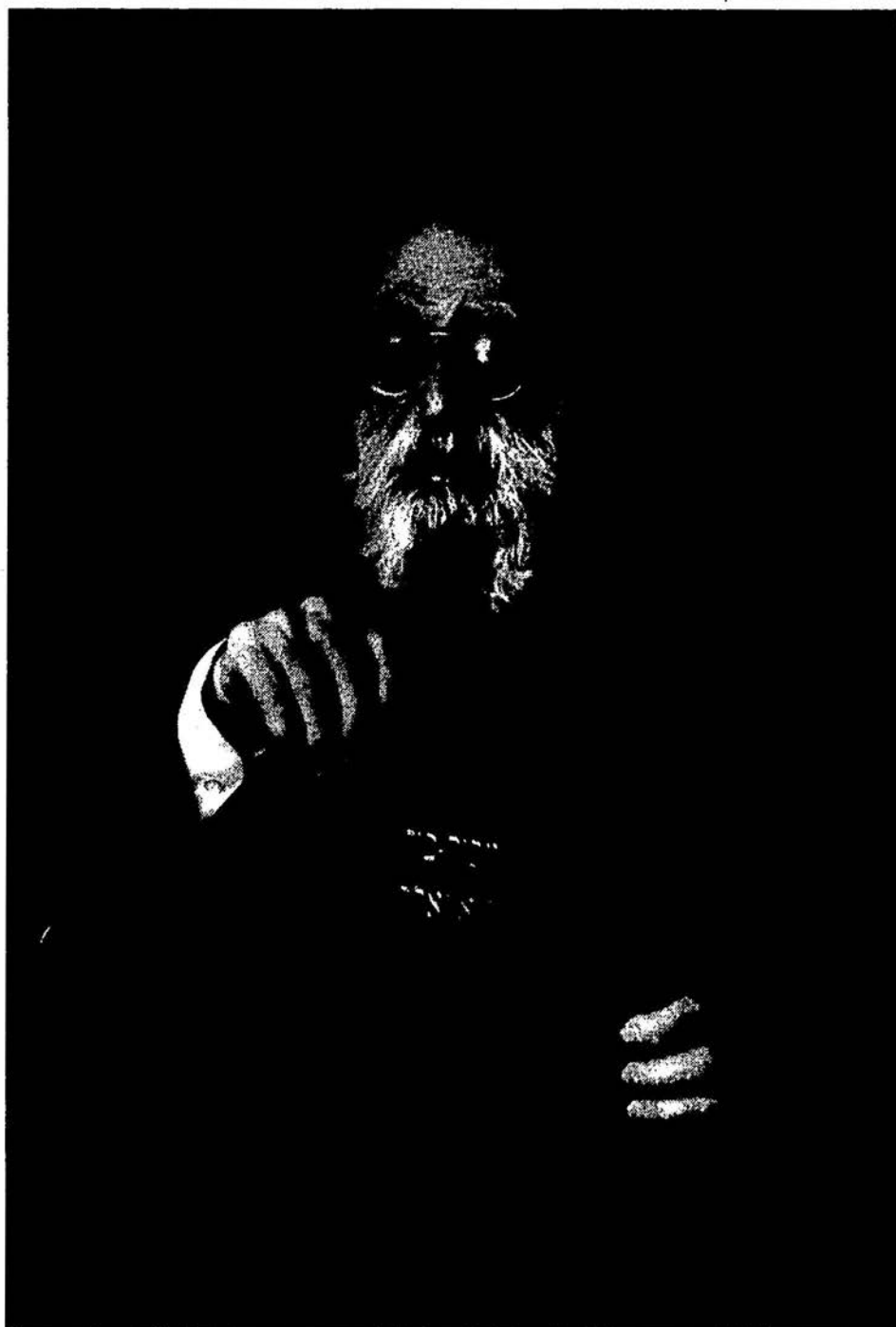
By Dr. Fred Rosner

On July 1, 1949, my family and I arrived in New York harbor on the steamship *Washington* from Ostende, Belgium. The next day my father took me to the main Yeshiva University building on Amsterdam Avenue, now known as Tannenbaum Hall, between 186th and 187th Street. I was thirteen years old, and had already completed two years of secular high school in Europe. I had very limited knowledge of Jewish studies, having spent World War II separated from my parents, in a non-observant home for Jewish refugee children in northern England. The registrar for Talmudical Academy, Y.U.'s high school, was Mr. Norman Abrams, who said that my limited Hebrew studies background made it impossible for me to be registered as a junior in T.A.'s high school. He sent my father and me to Yeshiva Soloveitchik (now the Schottenstein Center) which was a Jewish elementary school. I could not be registered there either because I was far too advanced in English studies.

We returned to the main Y.U. building and entered the Beit Hamedrash to ponder my predicament. It was ghastly hot on that summer morning with very few students around. Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz was removing his *talit* and *tefillin* after the morning prayers. He called us over and inquired about us. We told him that we had just arrived from Europe, that most of our family was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz, that I was raised in a non-religious Jewish hostel for refugee children and that I was very desirous of learning Torah and entering Yeshiva University's high school but was prevented from doing so because of my limited background and knowledge of Jewish studies.

Rabbi Lifshitz comforted us and unhesitatingly offered to help to resolve our problem. He called over one of his *s'michah* students, Nathan Bamberger, and instructed him to study with me throughout that summer. I was introduced for the first time to the Talmud. Every morning from 9 A.M. for about four hours, we studied tractate *Baba Kamma*. After six weeks, I was able to understand as he would repeat the first Mishnah in that tractate with *Rashi's* commentary. Throughout the summer, Rabbi Lifshitz frequently inquired about my progress in learning. On August 26, 1949, an entrance *bechinah* examination was scheduled for me, administered by Rabbi Mendel Zaks, son-in-law of the renowned Chofetz Chaim. Numerous young men ahead of me who had studied many tractates of Talmud were intensively questioned by Rabbi Zaks.

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



Rav Dovid Lifshitz, the Suwalker Rav, was taken from us less than three months ago, leaving a tremendous void at Yeshiva and in Torah leadership as a whole. On these pages, his talmidim reflect on the life of this great man, and the enormous impact he has had on us all.

I cringed in my seat next to my father while waiting my turn. When it came, I recited the first Mishnah in *Baba Kamma* which was the only part of the Talmud that I had ever studied. He asked me only one question: "Do you want to learn Torah?" Enthusiastically, I replied in the affirmative. "Then you are admitted to M.T.A.," he said. I offered to read the Rashi but he said that would not be necessary. My father and I strongly suspected that Rabbi Lifshitz had spoken to Rabbi Zaks about me, but we did not ask.

My first *Rebbe* was Rabbi Michel Katz. Rabbi Lifshitz offered me private tutoring to help me overcome those difficult first few months. Most of the young men in my class had studied Talmud for years. I was a novice, struggling, but I succeeded. Constantly, I was under the watchful eyes of Rabbi Lifshitz. We lived in Washington Heights a few blocks from Y.U., so I came every morning for davening. Rabbi Lifshitz spoke to me often, encouraging me to learn well, and offering to provide additional help if I felt I needed it. He took me under his wing like his own son throughout my T.A. and

Yeshiva College years of study.

In 1955, when I told Rabbi Lifshitz that I was going to medical school, he was heartbroken. With tears in his eyes, he said that he had high hopes for me to become a great Torah scholar and perhaps even a *Rosh Yeshiva*. I explained to him that my childhood dream was to be a physician and that I came to study Torah at YU not for rabbinic ordination. Many weeks later, when he became reconciled to my entering the very first class of YU own Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he said to me "If you are going to be a doctor, be the very best doctor. Study medicine hard and show the world that Orthodox Jewish men can practice medicine according to the Torah. That will be a *Kiddush Hashem* (sanctification of G-d's name)." I hugged him to express my gratitude for his accepting and supporting my decision to become a physician.

In 1958, before beginning my last year in medical school, my Torah learning partner, Rabbi Dr. Melvin Zelefsky and I decided to spend the entire summer at YU learning Tractate *Chullin* and the corresponding legal code *Yoreh Deah*. Nearly every day, Rabbi

Lifshitz would approach us in the Beit Hamidrash to see what page we were up to and to give us a ten minute "shiurette" or discussion of a talmudic commentary such as *Tosafot* or *Rashba* or *Maharsha* related to the topic or page we were studying. These private lessons were unsolicited by us but most welcome and came straight from the heart of this great man.

Throughout the 1960s, Rabbi Lifshitz followed my progress with intense interest. He asked about my family, including my parents. He asked to see copies of my books on the medical writings of Maimonides and on Jewish medical ethics. I visited him every Purim and phoned him often. "What are you learning now?" he frequently asked. When I told him which Talmudic tractate, he asked "what page?" and proceeded to give me a little Torah lesson over the phone on that page of Talmud.

In 1984, Rabbi Lifshitz served as the *mesader kiddushin* at my daughter Miriam's wedding. His smile and warmth and charm throughout the ceremony and during the dinner and dancing that followed, were typical of the Rabbi Lifshitz I knew for all those years. In the late 1980s I visited him in Bayswater when he would come to spend time with his beloved Rebbetzin at their daughter's home. His eyes shined every time I told him a little *D'var Torah* or anecdote in learning. He always insisted that I eat and/or drink something, so I could recite a blessing to which he answered with a fervent "Amen". His acts of loving kindness towards me and others are legion. His sagacity and wisdom made him a pillar of strength for the hundreds and perhaps thousands of students who were privileged to have had contact with him. Although I was never officially in his class or shiur, he was my Rebbe for forty-four years.

In 1993, I bought the *sefer* of his Torah Novellae compiled by his students. Unfortunately, he was too ill to inscribe it to me. It is difficult to find words to adequately describe this giant of twentieth-century Rabbis. His greatest asset, in my opinion, towering even above his Torah knowledge and learning, was his concern for his fellow Jews. My personal story described above is but one example of Rabbi Lifshitz's intimate relationships with disciples, rabbinic colleagues and ordinary Jews. He was dignified and respectful and deserved the respect that he enjoyed. He earned his reputation as a warm, compassionate, and revered Rosh Yeshiva. His comportment was majestic and his smile regal. His piercing eyes were friendly and full of love for his fellow man.

On the ninth day of *Tammuz*, his Creator claimed him. His radiating warmth is no more. His unparalleled love of his disciples, students, colleagues and ordinary people with whom he came into contact will be missed. However, the light of the Torah which he instilled in his students will shine brightly for years to come. His gentleness was special. His favorite songs of "*v'taher libeinu* and *tzaveh*" will now be sung by the angels who came to accompany him to heaven. May his memory be blessed and be a blessing for all those he left behind. *Amen*.

Photo: Judith S. Harris

In Memoriam: Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz, 1906-1993

MY FATHER (IN-LAW), MY REBBE

by Chaim I. Waxman

It is difficult to even attempt to characterize my late father-in-law and rebbe, zt"l, especially in a brief article. Nevertheless, it occurs to me that it would be quite accurate to say that he was an extremely rare individual who had internalized and operationalized the entirety of what is written in the first Mishnah in *Masechet Pe'ah*, and is recited every morning at the beginning of the *birchos hashachar*: "These are the words that a man can't reap the benefits in this world..."

Kibud Av V'aim

My father-in-law always spoke with great love and reverence for his parents, and it was obvious both from how he spoke of them and from the way his sisters spoke of their relationship, that he fulfilled the *mitzvah* of *kibud av v'aim* to its fullest. He also treated his mother-in-law with great love, great care, and respect, and went as far as humanly possible to save her during the war. His *kavod* for his father-in-law was evident in the way that he guarded his manuscript throughout his wartime ordeal, and then spent many years in meticulous editing, so that he could publish *Sefer Minchas Yosef* and know that it was as perfect as could be.

Gemillas Chesed

His whole life was devoted towards this end. Need I indicate more than his selfless devotion to the work of the organization, Ezras Torah? Among the

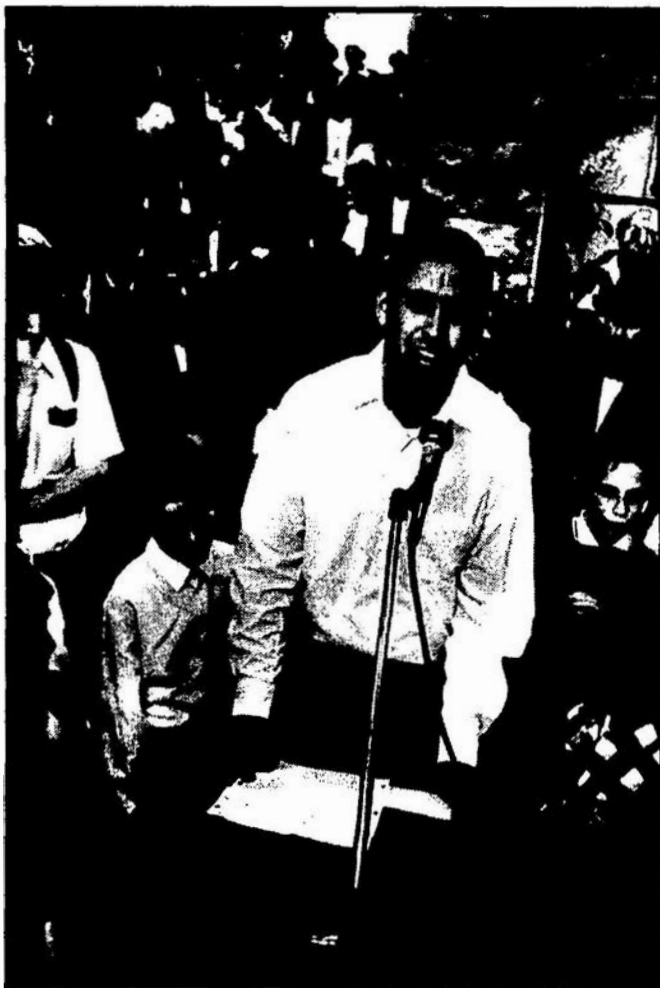
many letters which were received after the *levayah* was a very emotional one from the director of an institution in Israel who emphasized the personal interest that my father-in-law took in every one of the recipients of funds from Ezras Torah. I remember very vividly the many letters he received before Rosh Hashana and *Pesach* requesting help, and how he would follow up on each of those requests with a detailed list that he kept. I also remember the many times that he helped others by writing letters of recommendation on behalf of individual needy scholars to Jewish foundations, and how he followed those letters up with calls to the foundations imploring them to make the grants.

Hashkomas Beis Hamedrash Shacharis V'Arvis

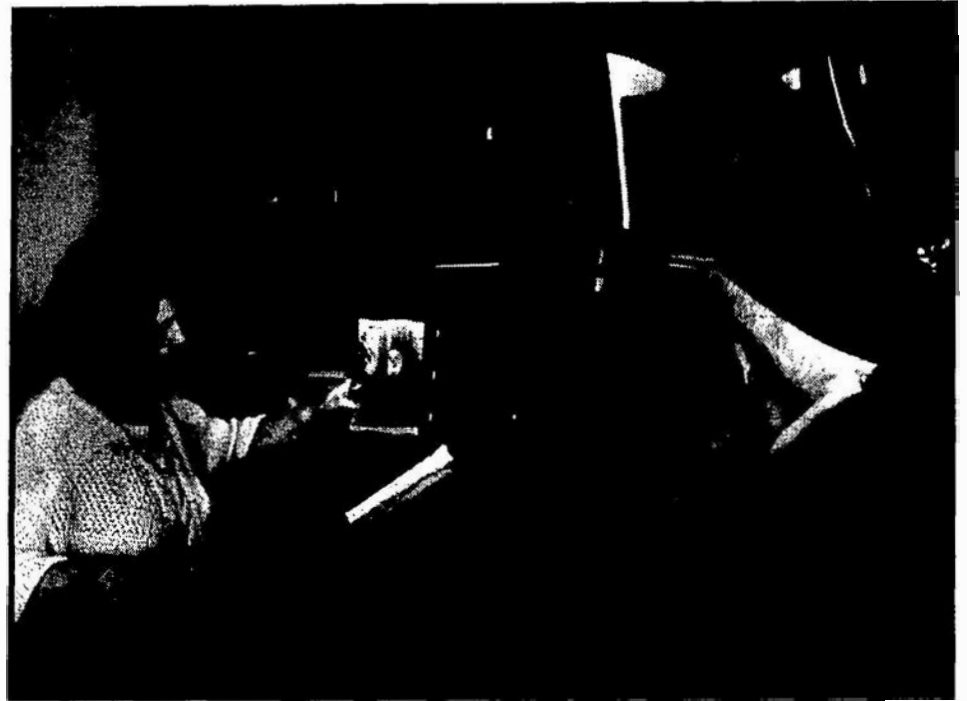
Coming to the Beis Hamedrash early for *t'fillah* was almost a "fixation" with him. He was always the first one to get up, and he was ready to leave the house long before was actually necessary. I always knew that when we stayed over, I had to be up extra early in order to accompany him to the Beis Medrash. During the early stages of his recent illness, he would get up in the middle of the night and try to get dressed in order not to be late for *t'fillah*.

Hachnosos Orchim

Whenever he saw a guest, be it in the Beis Medrash or elsewhere, he would invite that person home for a meal. I recall many times when my father-in-law completely surprised my mother-in-law, she should live and be well, with a guest or two on *Shabbos* or *Yom Tov*, or during the week. More than once, part of our meal went to the completely unexpected guest. The fact that there was no time to prepare food or that there was simply no room for the guest was simply not a factor to be considered for my father-in-law, zt"l. My mother-in-law, she should live and be well, would joke about their home being like that of the woman who would awaken their children saying: "Get up. Your bed now has to be used as the table." She would always remind us to be prepared to say that we're no longer hungry, in case "der Papa" brought home unexpected guests.



The author's son, Rabbi Ari Waxman, eulogizes his grandfather in Jerusalem. Photo by Judah S. Harris



Rav Dovid Lifshitz, zt"l, pictured here at home with his wife.

Bikur Cholim

Whenever he heard of an ill person, my father-in-law would first speak with a close family member of the person to inquire about their condition. If at all possible, he would then visit the person and call them frequently. He would always ask the person's full Hebrew name and that of his or her mother, so that he could say a *mi sheberach* and pray for their recovery. Most notably, he would issue very firm halachic decisions to the ill persons and their family members in matters relating to the person's condition and their recovery. Just as he adopted a stringent stance in other areas, he always adopted a very stringent position in matters relating to health. For example, if there was even the slightest suspicion that fasting on any fast day might be injurious to one's health, he ordered the person to eat and assured them that they were not sinning, but performing a *mitzvah* by not fasting under the circumstances!

Hachnasos Callah

Every *talmid* who was considering becoming engaged accompanied his prospective *callah* on a visit to "Rebbe," where she was greeted with deep personal interest. If and when the couple became engaged, they would come to receive a *b'rochoh*, and they would drink a *L'Chaim* with my father-in-law and he would discuss their future plans with them. He always urged every *chosson* to be very sensitive to the feelings of his *callah*, and he would maintain a strong personal interest in the couple's welfare until the wedding and after. He went to such great lengths to insure that the material, emotional and spiritual needs of the bride were tended to, that I sometimes joked with him that although he did not have the professional degree, he was a first class family social worker.

Respect for the Dead

Anyone familiar with Rav Dovid zt"l as an orator immediately thinks of his *hespedim*. He was the ideal-typical classical *maspid*. But he did not only go to a funeral when he was called upon to be *maspid*. I recall numerous occasions when he overcame great personal

difficulties in order to attend the funeral of simple lay people. He was also frequently called in the middle of the night by colleagues, students, friends, and even casual acquaintances for guidance and assistance in funeral arrangements. He never stood on ceremony, and he always felt it an obligation to give *kavod hames* just as he always felt it of primary importance to respect the living.

Concentration on T'fillah

His concentration on the *tefillah* was obvious to anyone who saw him during *t'fillah*, and was a source of inspiration to generations of students. Who can forget his awesome rendering of *Avinu Malkeinu* on Yom Kippur, or his *Na'anuim* on Succot when he shook his *lulov* with every fiber in his body? Even during his terrible illness, he made every attempt to *daven* every day for as long as possible. Last Yom Kippur, when he was already quite sick, he spent the entire day in the Beis Medrash and followed along with me as I sat next to him and said the *t'fillos* aloud for him.

Bringing Peace Among Men

I can't imagine a person more dedicated to this end. It would literally pain him to hear of a conflict between two people. Even when he strongly disagreed with someone, he did everything in his power not only to avoid conflict, but even to remain on good terms with that person. My mother-in-law says that in the 60 years they were married, she doesn't recall him ever saying he "hated" another Jew. Not only was the term not in his vocabulary, the emotion was totally alien to him.

Learning Torah Above All

Every one of his *talmidim* can testify that this was the case for him, especially those who suggested that they were going into a profession other than the Rabbinate or Jewish education. However, as my wife and I indicated in the *hesped* at the *levaya*, even though he may have given some a difficult time, he was always proud of their achievements.

Continued on page 9

In Memoriam: Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz, 1906-1993

Continued from page 8

He would beam when he said, "This doctor" or "This lawyer was my *talmid*." In terms of my own personal experience, he encouraged me to enter either *chinuch* or the Rabbinate, but when he saw that I wanted to be a sociologist, he encouraged me to undertake my graduate courses and my dissertation seriously. Throughout the course of the writing of my dissertation, he would frequently ask me about my progress. He took interest in the subject matter with which I was involved, even if he didn't always quite understand all of its intricacies. To me and to all of his *talmidim* who went into other fields, his questions were always the same; "Are you Kovea Ittim L'Torah," and "What are you learning now?" His dedication to Talmud Torah also manifested itself in his commitment to giving *shiurim*, even when doing so caused him hardship. I remember numerous occasions when it was difficult for him to say a *shiur*, and I

The dictum, "Havai zahir b'mitzva kalah k'bechamurah" ... was also one which he internalized to its fullest.

suggested that he cancel it that day, but he wouldn't hear of it. Even during his illness, he garnered every ounce of strength in him and gave *shiurim* until last year when it finally became clear that it would no longer be possible for him to continue. And even then, he kept hoping that the illness would pass, and he would be able to return to his *shiur*. On numerous occasions, he urged Rabbi Charlop and Rabbi Bronstein to make sure that his *talmidim* keep up with their learning and prepare for the forthcoming *Shiur* which he hoped to give.

He was, of course, much more than that. The dictum, "Havai zahir b'mitzva kalah k'bechamurah," to be as careful with a "lighter" mitzva as with a very stringent one, was also one which he internalized to its fullest. For example, although he would ordinarily be the last one to leave the Beit Medrash after *ma'ariv*, on the evenings of Chanukah I would have a hard time keeping up with him as he almost ran home to light the menorah. And, he would always tell me how his "Rebbe, Reb Shimon" (Shkop) would run home to light the Chanukah menorah

immediately after *ma'ariv*.

He also had an incredible sense of responsibility for the entire community. I had pleaded with my mother-in-law many times to set hours for visits and calls, but she said that he would not allow such limits. He felt that he had to be available whenever needed. Likewise, although most people begin the *Pesach*

"He also had an incredible sense of responsibility for the entire community."

Seder as soon as they return home from shul, he always took a relatively long time until he began. For years I thought it was a matter of his penchant for perfection in preparing for the Seder, but I then came to realize that he felt that he had to wait to begin later just in case there would be someone in the neighborhood with a question for him. This was probably a carryover from his days as the Rav of Suwalk; it is mentioned in the *halakha* that the Rav waits until everyone else begins their Seder in the event of a question.

And with all of that, there was his incredible humanity. He was not only exacting in the observance on mitzvot. He was also meticulous in remembering the birthday of each of his children and grandchildren, in blessing every Friday night, in being a father and grandfather to them according to the appropriate age-level.

He was a rebbe-father figure to several generations of students. He established a unique, personal relationship with each *talmid* which extended long beyond the years in Yeshiva. On every *Chol ha-moed* and Purim, the house was full of former *talmidim* who came with their spouses and children, and sometimes even grandchildren, to visit Rebbe. And Rebbe spoke with each one, man, woman, and child, on a very personal level. He was a

"He was a rebbe-father figure to several generations of students."

very unique combination of Rav and Rosh Yeshiva, Tzadik, and Gaon, a person with a great mind and a big heart. "May his remembrance be blessed."

Photographs by Judah S. Harris

Judah S. Harris, photojournalist and Y.U. alumnus, photographs assignments in the U.S., Israel, Europe, and the Caribbean Islands. His fine art B&W imagery is represented both in the U.S. and Japan.

Strongly committed to documenting Jewish life, Harris has covered the March of the Living in Poland and Israel, this summer's 14th World Maccabiah Games, and is working on a solo exhibition in conjunction with Beth Hatefutsoth focusing on the Jews of the Southern States.



Rav Lifshitz, z"l, being carried to his final resting place in Jerusalem

It Is Never Enough

by Moshe Neiss

It was late spring when I visited Rav Lifshitz, z"l at his home. As I got up to leave, Rav Lifshitz took my arm and, as always, began to accompany me to the door. Not wanting to impose on him, I said, "Rebbe *maspik*." Clutching my arm more firmly, he looked at me and replied, "lo *maspik*." These were his last words to me.

Little did I realize twenty-nine years ago when I first met Moreinu Harav Dovid Lifshitz that this man would impact so greatly on my life. My father, who was a *talmid* of Reb Dovid in the 1940s, was proud to introduce me to his *rebbe* on my first day at M.T.A. Although I was somewhat intimidated, I sensed the love and warmth radiating from Rav Lifshitz.

My wife Vivian and I would visit often with the Rav and the Rebbetzin. Reb Dovid showed great sensitivity and made my wife feel quite welcome. Reb Dovid would enter the room with a word of greeting to me, and then give his absolute attention to my wife, inquiring in depth about the family as well as about her doctoral studies in psychology which she was then pursuing. The word "perfunctory" did not exist for Reb Dovid; he was thorough in all of his undertakings.

A few times a year, we would take our children to receive Reb Dovid's *bracha*. After dispensing chocolates (only with parental approval) and personally bringing in an armful of toys to occupy the youngsters, he would discuss a wide range of topics with us. He would gather the children on his lap, have them join in the singing of "tzavey" and tell them how much he loved them. He once pleased our son, David, then four years old, by telling him, "My name is also David!" I would tell my sons that Rav Lifshitz represented a fading era and they should savor every moment spent with him.

Moshe Neiss is an attorney in New York. He is a graduate of M.T.A. ('68), Y.C. ('72), R.I.E.T.S. ('75), and B.R.G.S. ('75).

Few of us can aspire to Reb Dovid's level of Torah mastery, but what excuse have we for not approaching his level of "midot"? I remember a *chag hasmicha* where I observed Reb Dovid stand to greet each and every person, man or woman, old or young, who approached his table. It was standard practice for Reb Dovid to profusely thank a cab driver for having taken him to his destination. The very essence of Reb Dovid was "k'vod *habriyot*."

Many of my recollections of Rav Lifshitz are too personal for publication, but I would like to share the following story. A few years ago, during one of my wife's pregnancies, a question arose regarding the upcoming fast of Yom Kippur. I wrote to Rav Lifshitz who was visiting Israel at that time. Three nights before Yom Kippur, at about 10:30 P.M., Reb Dovid telephoned. The first two minutes were spent apologizing for calling so late with no mention made of the fact that in Israel it was quite early in the morning. Rav Lifshitz reviewed with me twice the pertinent *simanim* in *Shulchan Aruch* dealing with my question. Then, Reb Dovid had me repeat the *halachot*. Rav Lifshitz then asked to speak to my wife and again reviewed the *dinim* with her. There was to be no possibility of error. Needless to say, Reb Dovid called again after Yom Kippur to make sure all was well.

The Editors have requested an impossibility of me. One cannot simply describe Rav Lifshitz. It is impossible to capture in words how Reb Dovid was able to restore the flagging spirits of a *talmid* by admonishing, "assur *lehityaesh*." Reb Dovid was insistent that each person think positively about one's self and one's abilities. His presence had an almost magical quality which defies written description. His loss is devastating to his *talmidim* and to our yeshiva. There will be many articles and accounts about Moreinu Harav Dovid Lifshitz z"l, but only one thing can be said about them with certainty - "lo *maspik*."

YC STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

The Cuban government has, for the first time, granted a visa to a Jewish Cuban, David Said Levy, to come to America and study rabbinics. The following is an interview with Levy, currently a student at YU, translated from Spanish by Avraham Benhamu. The interview was conducted by Commentator Associate News Editor Ari Listowski.

The Commentator: Approximately how many Jews are there in Cuba?

Levy: 1200.

The Commentator: Is the community made up of Sephardim or Ashkenazim?

Levy: Mostly Sephardim; there are both types, but most of the youth is Sephardic.

The Commentator: How did Jews originally come to Cuba?

Levy: They came during the time of Columbus and at the beginning of the twentieth century. Then Syrians and Turks came, and at the beginning of the Second World War, there was immigration from Poland.

The Commentator: Why did the Jews remain in Cuba?

Levy: They liked it there.

The Commentator: Of the Jews that remained, how many still know that they're Jewish?

Levy: They all knew that they were Jewish but did not know what it meant to be Jewish until about three years ago when the Argentineans and Mexicans started coming in to help them and to give them a little "chizuk."

The Commentator: Were they *shlichim*?

Levy: Not *shlichim*. They came out of concern for the Jews of Cuba. Some of them were not religious; they came to teach Israeli dancing, Hebrew. They brought clothes, food, [etc., it was] just concerned communities that sent people over.

The Commentator: Is there a Chabad house in Cuba?

Levy: They have a school which was begun by Chabad. The Cubans began a Sunday school and they [Chabad] come to visit.

The Commentator: Is there a new beginning of Jewish awareness now?

Levy: Yes.

The Commentator: Is it a visible change?

Levy: Before I left, I realized that there was a revival of Jewry, especially among the youth, and I realized that it's in the youth where the force of the yiddishkeit stands.

The Commentator: Do people go to shul more often?

Levy: They had a hundred [people] in shul last Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana. You can see the revival on the chagim; [people] come more often to shul. As far as the daily minyan, that's still a problem. But as far as chagim, they come and they also are more involved in the parties they have, and whatever yiddishkeit [there is]. Six months ago, before I left, [on] Shabbat afternoon there were a hundred people.

The Commentator: How many shuls are there?

Levy: Four.

The Commentator: Are they Ashkenazi or Sephardi?

Levy: Two Ashkenaz and two Sephard, and the Ashkenazic ones have the Sephardic nusach.

The Commentator: What makes them Ashkenazic?

Levy: They were founded by Ashkenazim, but now pray nusach Sephard.

The Commentator: Are the shuls close to each other?

Levy: Two are in one zone, and two in another; [both are] in cities.

The Commentator: What are the occupations of most Jews?

Levy: The majority of them are doctors and professionals.

The Commentator: Is there a Jewish hierarchy, a chief rabbi or leader of the community?

Levy: There is no hierarchy, no chief rabbi or anything. In my shul, particularly, it's mostly [the] older people who rule. Many [of them] are in my shul, and my shul is the one that has a *minyan* every day. Out of the four shuls, my shul has the older people who help teach. Before I left, I left the few [Jewish] books I had in Spanish to the youth because they were leaning towards Judaism. So I left them in charge, [to] learn how to be *shlichai tzibbur*, [and] to learn how to pray.

The Commentator: Did you have a problem with kosher food?

Levy: We had *Pesach* products shipped to us and that lasted for the whole year.

The Commentator: Do a lot of people keep kosher?

Levy: They are reviving that, but in these places you buy simple foods anyway; they don't have snacks. If you want milk, you milk a cow.

The Commentator: What is the government's relationship with the Jews; are there restrictions on religion?

Levy: The government isn't involved; it's not like they allow *shechita*... it's like in all [of] Latin America - the government doesn't get involved because [with] *shechita* there is no problem because everybody kills their own animals... they kill animals for all reasons, like the Santeria ceremonies.

The Commentator: Is the Jewish population assimilated into the Gentile community?

Levy: There is no Jewish ghetto.

The Commentator: Where did you live?

Levy: Havana.

The Commentator: What were your motivations to become a *shochet*?

Levy: They asked me to do it.

The Commentator: What previous involvement did you have in the Jewish community?

Levy: I was the one who was the most involved with yiddishkeit; I was a serious boy and was [the] most involved with the shul, so they asked me.

The Commentator: Was it your initiative to get involved?

Levy: It was self-motivated. My family tried to stop me; they said I should take my time and shouldn't rush into yiddishkeit, so it was self-motivation. The generation before me did not get involved [in the Jewish community], so when I started to get involved, even though it was [just] in the synagogue, the older people were a little reluctant because they weren't used to having young people around them; in their generation, the parents didn't force their children to go [to synagogue] so they lost a generation there. My generation is trying to regain what they lost. Even



David Said Levi, the first Cuban Student at YU

though the older generation was reluctant at first, they now accept me.

The Commentator: What type of Jewish education did you receive?

Levy: We have Sunday school and at Sunday school they teach davening, dancing, Hebrew, customs, and songs.

The Commentator: How many people attend this school?

Levy: About 50 every Sunday... now there should be more.

The Commentator: Is there only one school?

Levy: Yes, they were thinking of expanding to two days a week; now [class is] from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sundays.

The Commentator: When did you start attending this school?

Levy: When I was 19; [I went] for 3 years; the school has been around for 8 years.

The Commentator: Did you do this while attending regular school?

Levy: No I started after I [had] finished school.

The Commentator: What schooling did you receive?

Levy: First I went to high school and then I got a degree in telecommunications.

The Commentator: Did you perform other services besides being a *shochet*?

Levy: I wasn't the only *ba'al t'fila* [but] they pushed me to [daven] more because they were getting old and tired, but we tried to have rotations. One of the older people taught me to be a *ba'al korei*.

The Commentator: Were you the *shochet* for all of the kosher meat in Cuba?

Levy: Yes

The Commentator: How did you get the idea to leave?

Levy: A businessman, Barry Katz, came to Cuba for the Pan-America Games and he went to visit the shul. When he was in the shul he asked the old people if they needed a rabbi and then he met me and wondered if they would give me up for a couple of years to go to New York or Israel to learn. They were willing to let me go and I was willing to come. It took a whole year for Barry Katz to work out [the details] and then it took a while to straighten out the paperwork, with Rabbi Serels' help, and

now I'm here.

The Commentator: Why YU?

Levy: It was Barry Katz who decided, and he made a very good choice; I'm very happy here.

The Commentator: Had you heard of YU beforehand?

Levy: I never thought that I would be studying at a yeshiva, let alone here.

The Commentator: Did you have apprehensions about leaving?

Levy: Since it took so long to work out the details, my parents [had time to get] used to the idea and they realized that it was for the benefit of the community. It wasn't a quick decision; there was time to sort things out.

The Commentator: What has made the greatest impact on you?

Levy: It wasn't until I was 21 that I started to do *shechita*. [I've been involved with *shechita* for] a year and a half; they made me watch for half a year and after that they let me do the *shechita*. It was a very serious thing. It is possible that had it not been for [the] *shechita* [process] I wouldn't be as involved as I am now; I wouldn't be here [in YU]. All of the responsibility that they placed on my shoulders made me feel the importance and the need for [the continuance of the customs].

The Commentator: Did you have any expectations regarding what America or YU would be like?

Levy: It's not really what people think. It's almost the same here as it is there, especially now that I moved to this neighborhood; especially here [it is] even more like [it is] there. They tried to dissuade me and [they] told me that New York is dangerous and a [that I would have a] hard time. [They told me that] I wouldn't like it. For the two years that I was in limbo I didn't waste my time thinking about what it would be like [in America]. I took the time to learn what was necessary to come here to YU. [I spent my time on] *tachlis*.

The Commentator: What are you doing at YU now?

Levy: [I am] studying hard... JSS, computers, math, English, Hebrew.

The Commentator: Do you plan on returning to YU after your visa of two years is up?

Levy: I can go home two times [under the conditions of my visa], for *Pesach* and at the end of the year; then I will come back until I finish my goal... to get semicha.

The Commentator: Is there anybody in particular that you want to thank?

Levy: I want to thank YU; I am very happy here. I would also like to thank Rabbi Serels, and the students for being so friendly. *Shana tova*.

Attention Alumni!

If you have moved recently -- please contact the Alumni Office with your new address

David Merklin, a resident of Copenhagen, is the first Danish student enrolled at Yeshiva University in forty-five years. His family was rescued from the Nazis, along with 7,200 other Jews, in the historic evacuation of Denmark which took place fifty years ago, in October of 1943.

The Commentator: What motivated you to come study at YU?

Merklin: I was an exchange student in Memphis four years ago, and I heard about YU. In my senior year in Danish high school I applied to Brandeis and YU, but I chose YU because I heard that Brandeis isn't that "Jewish."

The Commentator: Does your family have any prior connection to YU?

Merklin: None at all.

The Commentator: Do you know the last Dane to have studied here?

Merklin: Yes. He is a rabbi here in New York, Rabbi Bamberger. He came here at about the same age as I did. He is a neighbor of Rabbi Israel Miller.

The Commentator: Do you plan to return to Denmark upon graduation?

Merklin: I really don't know that yet. I have all my family in Denmark, but at the same time I wouldn't mind making aliyah.

The Commentator: Tell us about the Jewish community in Copenhagen.

Merklin: There are approximately 6,000 Jews in Denmark, with almost all of them situated in Copenhagen. The community in Copenhagen is just like the rest of the communities in Scandinavia; struggling against assimilation. There are only two synagogues. One Modern Orthodox, and one that is more right-wing. There is one Jewish day school with 250 kids, but

it is not what would be called a Yeshiva here in the states, because it has all kinds of Jews attending it. There is no Jewish high school, so everyone must attend public high school. The community is shrinking because many people are making aliyah.

The Commentator: Tell us about the evacuation from the Nazis.

Merklin: Most of what I know was told to me by my grandparents and their relatives who were part of the evacuation. The Nazis occupied Denmark on April 9, 1940. Since the Danes weren't particularly fond of the Germans, the Jews were relatively safe under the occupation. However, in late September, 1943, the Germans arrested the entire Danish police corps, and started to enforce more German policies. People started to get nervous, and there was a rumor that spread to all the Jews that they would be deported. People started to take fishing boats to Sweden and others went to the US and UK; the majority went to Sweden. It all happened very fast, but many members of my family had scary experiences that they still remember. When they heard the rumors, the majority of my relatives went to live with goyim in the outskirts of Copenhagen near the ocean. My grandfather's brother had married a Danish girl, and her brother was one of the leaders of the Danish resistance movement. He arranged for a fishing boat to take them to Sweden. When night came, they went to the pier, but the guy who owned the boat had been paid in advance, and he took the money and got drunk so he couldn't find the pier. My family could see and hear the boat, but they couldn't get to it, so

they had to go back to the house. They tried a couple of days later, and succeeded in getting to Sweden, where my father was born. Other members of my family were in a boat that sunk but they managed to get to Sweden anyway.



Photo: Richard Socolof

David Merklin, the first Danish student at Yeshiva in 45 years

A total of thirteen of my relatives were evacuated. The bulk of the Jewish community was evacuated on the 3rd and 4th of October 1943 and less than 500 Jews were sent by the Nazis to the camps. One member of my family died on the way to Terezin state. My family returned to Denmark in May, 1945. The Danes were retaliating against the Nazis for the years of suffering; but the Jews were welcomed back. Some goyim took care of my family's stationary store while they were in Sweden, and my grandfather got it back when he returned.

Continued from page 1

Socol Has Role in Implementing Survey Recommendations

Lamm's Task Force on Undergraduate Male Enrollment, which was formed in response to a drop in YC enrollment. Marttila and Kiley also conducted focus groups with selected students, and surveyed all incoming students during orientation.

Nulman says he and University Vice President Dr. Sheldon Socol will be very engaged in implementing the report's recommendations, and also intend to conduct a survey of individuals who chose not to attend YU.

YCSC President Daniel S. Gurell said the survey was a "good idea because it gave faculty and administration information about what students feel." Gurell says he hopes greater efforts will be made to attract students with weaker religious backgrounds to the school.

Continued from page 1

CLEP Deadline: End of Fall Semester

The Academic Standards Committee, while defeating a proposal not to offer credit for any CLEP exam, directed the relevant departments to review the remaining credit-bearing exams to ensure that they meet University standards.

Credit will no longer be given after the fall semester for the CLEP test in American Government, American History I, American History II, Western Civilization I or Western Civilization II, General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Educational Psychology, Computers and Data Processing, and Introductory Sociology.

TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

JAN '94 MAY '94 SEPT '94

Commencement exercises will be held on

Thursday, May 26, 11:00 am

in The Paramount at Madison Square Garden

Have you returned your completed graduation kit
to the Office of the Registrar?

If your name is not on the Registrar's computer listing:

- Cap and gown will not be ordered for you
- No tickets and instructions will be issued
- Your name will not be listed in the Commencement program

On the 18th of Nissan 5753, Maran HaRav Yosef Baer Soloveitchick, zt"l was taken from us, leaving a tremendous void in Torah leadership. The **Student Organization of Yeshiva**, as part of its effort to perpetuate the Rav's memory, has commissioned the writing of a **Sefer Torah** to be placed in our *Beis Medrash*. We invite you to participate with us in this meaningful endeavor.



*The Talmud
(Menachos 30A)
states that one who
writes even one letter
of the Torah is
regarded as if he has
written the whole
Torah himself.*

The writing has already begun. The sefer will G-d willing be completed in time for the first *yahrzeit*.

TORAH DEDICATION FORM

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Preference (if any - not guaranteed): _____

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|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasuk in Bereshis or Shemos | \$10 |
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Please make checks payable to RIETS; please send checks as soon as possible.
Please send to: Student Organization of Yeshiva, 2525 Amsterdam Avenue, Room 221, New York, NY 10033.
Receipts available upon request. Certificates will be issued for any donation over \$100.
For more information, please call (212) 781-7971.
Excess funds will be used for SOY activities.

ERNST & JULIO DOWN BY THE
SCHOOLYARD

"Why don't you start the column with some nice quote or something?"

--My mother

As told to Avi Sussman

Sing, oh Muse, sing to me and so let me sing. Sing of teeth, and other things, oh Muse, sing to me.

Yesterday I had four teeth pulled. Count 'em: un, ooh, ooh, ore. Both of my cheeks have swollen nicely, and while there is some degree of pain involved, my cheeks really hurt. But then, some of the hardest things in life are difficult. In fact, just the other day, a homeless person (residentially challenged) accosted me on the street and exclaimed, "Shalam. I know I'm just a bum¹ on the street, but I'm trying to learn Hebrew." It's tough out there. I mean, it's gotten to the point where a person can't drink a cup of coffee in the street without some doggo dropping a quarter in it. Why don't they, in the store, when you're buying the coffee, just put the change right in the cup? Has all the world gone mad?! In these topsy-turvy times, is nothing sacred? It's my coffee, not a wishing well.

Getting back to my teeth, the oral surgeon who performed the multiple extractions administered laughing gas and proved a fine administrator. I never dreamed that I would so enjoy the experience. Suffice it to say, I've been to have my wisdom teeth pulled six or

seven times now...but I can stop at any time.

The dentist wittily peppered the conversation with sharp quips like "You're missing your wisdom teeth," and "This is like pulling weeds," and "This doesn't look like the tooth I want to pull." He may have been joking, but it may have just been gas. At any rate, his biting humor didn't rile me much, as he had earlier pledged to pull the tooth, the whole tooth, and (if you're still reading this line) nothing but the truth.

Why are they called "wisdom" teeth, anyway? I fail to see the connection between the hallowed ideal of wisdom, and the notion of pain or extraction. I've heard it suggested that they are called wisdom teeth because one only grows them when he or she is older, and consequently wiser. Following this logic, couldn't they just as easily be called "fat teeth" or "bald teeth"?

I am sitting on a park bench now, and as the cool breeze tousles my red hair, I am filled with a deep sense of serenity, and fall asleep. When I wake, darkness has fallen, and a strange man is tottering towards me. My first reaction is fear, my second and third terror and panic respectively. But I soon remember that this is the time of year for repentance, forgiveness and love, and this thought abates my unholy trembling to a negligible degree. I leave you with the words that this street-person friend spoke, in the hopes that they will uplift you as they did me: "L'shana tova Tikatayou V'taychataymu."

All the best.

¹Alternatively housed person.

²Nitrous oxide.

Gottesman and YU:
A Family Tradition

Continued from page 1

It was the custom of Mendel Gottesman to visit the College every Sunday to converse with the students, and to assess the conditions of the Yeshiva.

David Gottesman's father, Benjamin Gottesman, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1925 to 1979. As a result of his interest in the University's library system, Benjamin Gottesman, along with other family members, endowed the University's Mendel Gottesman Library. In 1959, Benjamin Gottesman was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters as a tribute to his many years of service to the University, including his thirty year presidency of the institution's Endowment Foundation.

David Gottesman was born on April 26, 1926, the second son of Benjamin and Esther Gottesman. After earning his B.A.

from Trinity College in 1948, he went on to Harvard Business School where he received his M.B.A. in 1950. In 1964, he founded the First Manhattan Company, an investment research and management company, and has been its managing partner ever since. In addition to his being the Chairman of Yeshiva University's Budget and Finance Committee and a member of the Executive and Investment Committees, David Gottesman has been a member of the Board since 1979. His most recent contribution to the University financed the construction of the Benjamin Gottesman Pool. Mr. Gottesman's wife, Dr. Ruth (Levy) Gottesman, a widely recognized authority on learning disabilities in children and adults, is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Psycho-educational Services at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

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The Yeshiva College Writing Center is looking for tutors. Pay begins at \$6.50 per hour.

If you think you may be interested, see Professor Richard Nochimson in Furst 513 or Mrs. Nancy Rosenblum in Furst 202.

Dr. Schwartz Approved
Unanimously

Continued from page 1

wife Bernice have two children, Robin Jacobs of Miami, and Alan of Boston.

Dr. Brenner's plans for retirement last spring spurred a nationwide search for a qualified successor. The Academic Vice President is responsible for a large portion of the University's \$300 million dollar annual budget, for the implementation of new academic programs, and for the hiring of new faculty. Additionally, he serves as the primary representative of the sixteen University graduate and undergraduate schools and affiliates, and spokesperson for the University's general educational mission.

The University enlisted Heidrick & Struggles, a Washington-based consulting firm, in its three month screening of candidates. Applicants met with all University deans and senior administrators and with the Board of Trustees. According to Assistant to the President Gladys Cherny, Dr. Schwartz was approved unanimously by all involved parties from a condensed pool

of "five or six." While speculation abounded that current University administrators may have been considered for the position, SCW Dean Dr. Karen Bacon, a member of the interviewing committee, denied such reports.

Dr. Schwartz expressed both an appreciation of YU's unique educational ideal and a willingness to effect improvements. "I happen to believe that Yeshiva University is the best institution of its kind anywhere in the world, and my object is to make it better." Asked whether he foresees major changes in University operations, Dr. Schwartz replied, "I don't like to prejudge the situation but we're certainly going to take a fresh and objective look..." Dr. Schwartz further emphasized a desire for input from "all relevant University constituencies" into decision-making processes, beginning with planned private and small-group sessions with students and faculty immediately upon his arrival.

Caf Introduces "Gold Card"

Premium Plan Includes Local Vendors

by David Kelsey

In an attempt to broaden the range of uses for the "caf-card," YU is offering students an expanded caf-card, the "gold card," for an additional three hundred dollars. The extra money is placed in a separate account that can be used at participating restaurants where students will also receive a fifteen percent discount.

Currently, one uptown and two downtown establishments have agreed to participate in the program - Mandy's, Great American Health Bar, and Time Out Pizza. As with the regular caf-card account, a student cannot reclaim his unused funds.

Each restaurant had originally demanded exclusive participation in the plan. Director of Personnel and Supporting Services Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten explained, "we have to crawl before we walk. While other universities which have a dining card plan often have an extended one that includes off-campus establishments, the success

of YU's plan is uncertain because we lack the numbers. Expansion will depend on the extent of the success of the program."

Some students are suspicious of the Administration's motivation. JSS President Adam Balkany said, "I think it's a farce! It's just a ploy for the caf to make more money, because the likelihood of students spending three hundred dollars in restaurants just isn't realistic."

While Rosengarten hopes the storekeepers will ultimately pick up their share of the cost of running the gold card, YU is paying for all equipment costs for the first six months.

A minimum sum was necessary in order to convince businesses to join the plan. The three hundred dollar figure was estimated to be the least amount a student who eats out occasionally would spend. Rosengarten expects that very few students who join the plan will not exhaust their account. The Administration rejected a plan to increase the general caf-card obligation to \$1600, of which \$300 could have been used at participating restaurants.

New Professors Join YU Faculty

by Tzvika Nissel

Over the summer, a number of new professors were added to the faculty of YU. Coming to the University with much expertise and varied credentials, the new group of teachers has a rather diverse background.

Dr. Kenneth Danishefski, Assistant Professor of Biology, received his B.A. from Yeshiva College and his Ph.D. from S.U.N.Y. Danishefski returned to YU after five years of teaching at New York Medical College. His field of expertise is in Biological Chemistry, Cell Biology, and Molecular Biology. Besides teaching biology, Danishefski will be setting up an updated biology laboratory through the generosity of the Alexander Foundation, and will be doing extensive research on proteins related to blood clots during his tenure here.

Dr. Bruce Skoorka, Assistant Professor of Economics, earned his B.A. at S.U.N.Y., his M.A. at Reneslaer Polytechnic Institute, and his M.B.A. and Ph.D. at New York University. Dr. Skoorka comes to YU after receiving the "Excellence in Teaching Award" in 1991 for his efforts at the Stern School of Business at N.Y.U. He explained that there were two advantages to his career change. First, he appreciated the emphasis at YU on teaching as opposed to the stress on research in N.Y.U.; second, he preferred to teach in a liberal arts

program rather than in a Business School, because in the former, he felt, the students are interested in learning, whereas in the latter, as he puts it "the kids just want to learn how to make money quick!"

Skoorka was originally an engineer of highly classified nuclear submarines. He also invented a highly advanced solar powered energy device in response to the call for more environmentally friendly sources of power and electricity. Skoorka left his "fieldwork," first, as he said, "I'm now my own boss!" and second, because he believes in the ethical value of teaching. Skoorka still follows up on some of his classified work.

Dr. Ross Zucker, Assistant Professor of Political Science, earned his B.A. at Bennington and his Ph.D. at Yale. Dr. Zucker comes to Yeshiva from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he spent two years teaching. He is currently publishing a book that will be published by U.C. Press.

Dr. Itzhak Miller, Associate Professor of Philosophy, received his B.A. and his Ph.D. at U.C.L.A. Miller taught at Stanford for a few years as a Visiting Associate Professor. He has also taught at M.I.T., Brandeis, and the University of Pennsylvania. His book on the philosopher Husserl, published by M.I.T. is a standard work on the subject.

Food Services Committee Hikes Caf Prices

The University's Executive Food Services Committee has increased food prices as much as 22% in an attempt to halt a rise in the cafeteria's deficit.

The move was supported by YCSC President Daniel S. Gurell, who defends his vote in favor of the hikes as an effort to prevent an increase in the caf-card obligation. "An increase in food prices serves the students better than raising the amount you need to spend in the caf," he said.

The price hikes were opposed by YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld. Dean Rosenfeld says that while some increases may be justified, he did not think it right to "burden students with double-digit price hikes" and was "very surprised when student leaders went along with the proposal."

The cafeteria is currently \$158,000 in the red - a marked decrease from the \$532,000 deficit of pre-meal plan days. It is expected that the caf-card price will be raised next year. Effective this fall, prices on most items increased between five and twenty percent to realize the caf Administration's goal of raw materials accounting for one-third of item prices. The cost of scallops, for example, shot up 22%.

— Ryan S. Karben

Kosher-D



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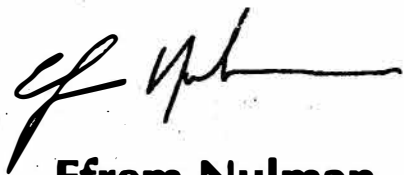
On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students, and offer our sincere wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

While all beginnings are difficult, they are also exciting and full of potential. The staff of the Department of Student Services shares a commitment to assist students through this challenging period. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools, or development of job search techniques, **take advantage of our expertise.** If you are in need of personal counseling or, even, a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our professional and caring staff to discuss with them your needs and concerns.

Do not wait until you feel frustrated or overwhelmed. Please feel free to come by Furst Hall room 416 or contact us at 960-5330 or 960-5480 to schedule an appointment. We are here to help!

As the new academic semester begins, we wish you success in your endeavors—this year and throughout your education at Yeshiva University.

L'Shana tova tikatavu



Efrem Nulman
Dean of Students



Jeffrey Chaitoff
Assistant Dean of Students

Rabbi Yosef Blau
(General Guidance)
FH-413

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz
(Dormitory Concerns/
Personal Guidance)
MO-104

Rabbi Yehudah Fine
(Academic Skills/
Personal Guidance)
FH-413

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-Law/Academic Advisement)
FH-104

Mr. David Himber
(Academic Guidance)
FH-413

Dr. Avery Horowitz
Assistant Dean, YC
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FH-103

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
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(Career Services Director)
BH-421

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Counselor)
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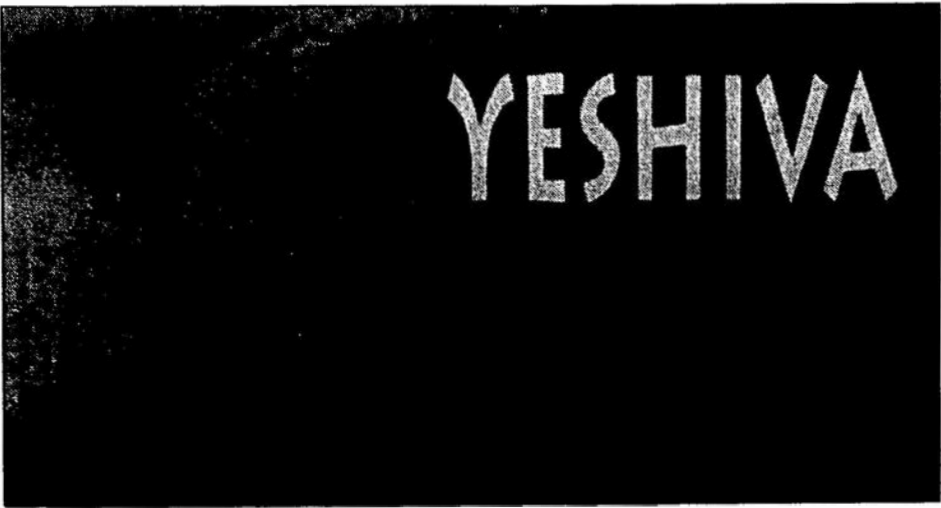
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Intramural Teams Drafted

by Adam Melzer

The Y.U. Basketball Intramural Draft was held with the season set to begin right after the *Sukkot* break. The following is a list of commissioners, advisers, and captains with their first round picks.

- Intramural Adviser:** Stan "X-Man" Watson
Commissioner: Adam Melzer
Assistant Commissioner: Barry Aranoff
Head of Officials: Yoni Epstein

Captains:

1. Brian Kardin; Eli Weiss (1st)
 2. Richie Sokolov; Hillel Olshin (2nd)
 3. Barry Aranoff; Shlomo Kimmel (3rd)
 4. Donny Davis; Ranan Well (4th)
 5. Daniel Lerer; Jeremy Fox (5th)
 6. Ronan Zour; Asaf Tzur (6th)
 7. Jon Fisher; Avi Roth (7th)
 8. Adam Melzer; Wes Kalmar (8th)
 9. Avi Greenbaum; Avi Lyons (9th)
- Jason Horowitz and Andrew Leibowitz forfeited their first round pick since they are co-captains and are both first round picks.

Young Appointed Athletic Director

by Erez Gilad

Stephen Young, former Athletic Director and Chairman of Physical Education at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, has been appointed Athletic Director of the Yeshiva University Undergraduate Schools. He replaces Dr. Gil Shevlin, who recently retired after six years in the post.

Young will be responsible for running intramural athletic programs, as well as instructional programs in physical education at both undergraduate colleges. Young hopes to arrange more intercollegiate

games, possibly cross-country, and create new teams and clubs. Says Young, "my goal is to see things expanded; see where it's been, where it can go, and what improvements can be made."

In the brief time that he has been at YU, Young has found that the University's athletic program was well maintained over the last several years. He is impressed with the high level of student interest in the intramural program, and praised Stanley Watson, Assistant to the Athletic Director, as the driving force behind the successful program. He also gave high marks to coaches, faculty and students.

Mr. Young's appointment comes after a selective process involving a search committee, chaired by YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld and composed of Mr. Jeffery

Rosengarten, Dr. Jeffery Gurock, Dean Efreml Nulman, Coach Jonathan Halpert, and Dean Karen Bacon.

Following Dr. Shevlin's resignation in early June, the committee advertised the position in *The New York Times*. Seven candidates were considered for the post.

Dean Rosenfeld says Young was selected because of his impressive credentials and background. Young graduated from Clark University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received a Master of Science degree in Physical Education with a concentration in Athletic Administration

from Western Illinois University. Mr. Young also serves as Assistant Camp Director of the Riverdale YM-YWHA.

YC Dean Rosenfeld believes that Mr. Young's prior experience will help him acclimate to YU, and claims that conditions at a private school such as Columbia Prep closely resemble those at YU.

Reaction from the current faculty to the change in administration has been very positive. Stanley Watson, Assistant to the Athletic Director, believes that thus far the transition from Shevlin to Young has been a smooth one, and that he will do everything possible to keep it that way. Watson added that he will "miss Dr. Shevlin's humanity and professionalism. I wish him well as I do Mr. Young."

Five New Players Join YU Macs

by Adam Melzer

This year, the Y.U. Macs were out for fresh blood to add to their roster. On September 13, 1993, a tryout was held, and after the smoke cleared, five new players were added to the basketball team. Herewith, a list of the chosen:

1. Arkady Ibragimov - (H.A.F.T.R.) A quick point guard with a good shooting touch; he will add the fast break to the Macs offense.

2. Ari Ciment - (Miami-Hebrew Academy - He played for Mitch Means so watch out!) A tall forward with a fine shooting touch. "Scary Airy" will add to the Macs perimeter game.

3. Jacob Rosenberg - (H.A.F.T.R.) A small forward who can hit the "three" consistently, and could potentially help the Macs with their rebounding.

4. Yehuda Halpert - (M.T.A.) A smart shooting guard with a good shooter's touch and sound defense.

5. Steven Kupferman - (H.A.F.T.R.) A big man who works well in the low post.

PLAYER OF THE ISSUE

Name: Jason Horowitz

Height: 6'1 Weight: 169

Hobbies: Avid Sports Fan, Bagel Runs, Road Trips.



Jason Horowitz graduated from HAFTR High School in 1990. He played two years of varsity, culminating in a trip to Madison Square Garden for the championships. He averaged 11 ppg, and 4.5 blocks per game, and was named to the 1990 All Star Team. Following his graduation from HAFTR, Jason entered YU as a freshman in the fall of 1990. In that year, he was drafted in the first round of intramurals, which is not usual for a freshman. In his sophomore year, he was drafted #1 in the overall intramurals draft. He was the MVP of the spring semester, averaging 18 ppg, 11 rpg and 3.5 blocks per game. He was named to the 1991-92 All Star Team as well as to the 1991-92 All Defensive Team. He was also the one-on-one champion and teamed up with Andrew Leibowitz to win the two-on-two championship. In his Junior year, Jason led his team in most categories including points, rebounds, and shot blocking. Jason has always been labeled as an aggressive defender and a team leader.

Taking all of that into perspective, I asked Jason to overview the upcoming season. He is an intramural co-captain with Andrew Leibowitz, and together they are looking to win a championship. They are looking for team players as well as blue collar players, and they hope that talent and desire, combined with a few shrewd draft picks, will lead them to that elusive title.

-- David Goldenberg

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