

The Commentator

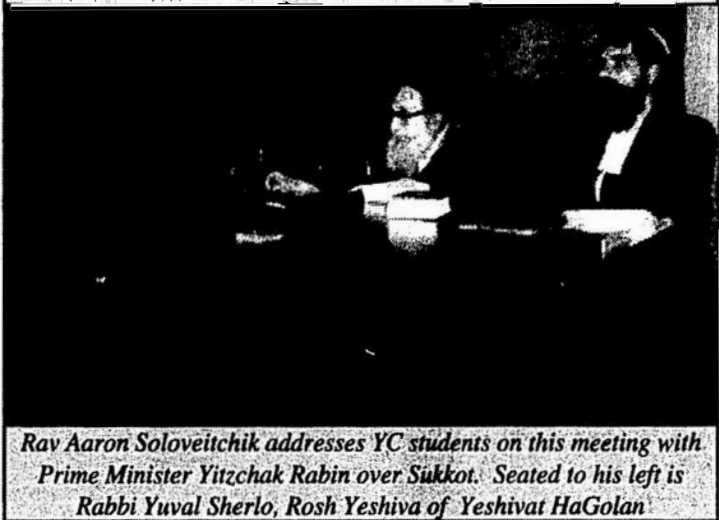
Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

Volume LVIII, No.3

Special Section on the Middle East Peace Process.
See pages 8-9.



Rav Aaron Soloveitchik addresses YU students on this meeting with Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin over Sukkot. Seated to his left is Rabbi Yuval Sherlo, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat HaGolan

YU Faces the Recession

by Gene Alperovich

If the 1980's was the Decade of Greed, then in many cases it was also the Decade of Economic Growth and Prosperity. Perhaps at no other academic institution was this more apparent than at Yeshiva University. On the brink of bankruptcy in the late and mid-1970s, the University experienced almost unprecedented growth in the decade that followed, implementing new programs like the Sy Syms School of Business and expanding its total endowment from less than \$50 million in 1980 to the current figure of slightly under \$300 million.

Yet, in a trend that seems to be affecting universities nationwide, YU administrators are finding the present decade much less fertile ground upon which to continue the growth of the 1980s. With an expanding deficit that currently stands at about \$8 million, almost 3% of the annual operating budget, and with the deaths of several prominent philanthropists within the last year, University fundraising officials are scrambling to find the resources to continue financing key scholarships and programs.

"We are working much harder now to get the kind of funding that we require," says YU Vice President for Development David H. Zysman, "It's a fact of life. It's no different for us than for anybody else."

Indeed, while the recession of the 90's has touched even the most established and affluent of America's educational institutions, small, private universities like Yeshiva seem to be most affected. Receiving only limited government funding, most of it directed toward the Albert Einstein

College of Medicine, the University relies primarily on student tuitions, benefactors' gifts, and earnings from endowments to finance its operating budget. With the prolonged slump in the real estate business and other sectors, many prominent donors have been less willing to produce the million dollar sums necessary to sustain the University's fundraising campaign. Interest rates, down substantially from the 25% peaks of the 80s, have curtailed the income available from endowed (specified) gifts, the principal of which may not be touched by the University. In total, the revenue raised from all philanthropic gifts during fiscal year 1993 stood at \$36 million, down about \$4 million, according to YU Director of Finance Bernard Pittinsky, from the previous year. Early indications, continued Pittinsky, again point to a "lagging" total for fiscal 1994.

The University's financial dilemmas have been further exacerbated by the successive deaths in the past year of the Honorable Herbert Tenzer, Ludwig Jesselson, Arthur D. Belfer, Jacob Burns, and Joseph S. Gruss, part of a generation of "philanthropic giants" who sustained countless Jewish organizations with their donations. While the family of Mr. Jesselson has expressed a firm desire to continue his philanthropy to YU, other heirs have been less forthcoming in their commitments. In a trend noted by social scientists and financial specialists alike, scions of philanthropic families tend to give increasingly less to exclusively Jewish causes. As Pittinsky observes, "It's not that they don't give as much... but they may give to the Metropolitan Museum of Art,

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"Kol" Journal Confiscated

by D. Alex Bailey

A number of "offensive terms" and sexually explicit references in Kol, Yeshiva College Student Council's (YCSC) official literary journal, resulted in its withdrawal from students' mailboxes last Monday for the first time in its thirty years of intermittent production.

Kol's production is funded by YCSC, while the English Department serves in an advisory capacity to the Editorial Board, which is comprised of student volunteers. All final decisions regarding the content of "Kol" are made by the Editorial board, with last year's consisting of Editor-in-Chief Joel Haber (YC '93), Executive Editor Ari Blech, and Senior Editor David Flatto.

Upon distribution last week, YC students Hillel Scheinfeld and Daniel Gelbtuch read the journal and immediately proceeded to alert Dean Efreim Nulman of the language content. They requested that they be allowed to remove all

issues of "Kol" from the dormitories and mailboxes.

Nulman's first action was to send for Daniel Gurell, YCSC President. Upon reviewing the stories in an initial meeting, Gurell noted that he felt it was "disgusting that this [Kol] was printed." Following a second meeting with Nulman, Gurell stated that "a joint decision between Rabbi Lamm's office, Dean Nulman's office and myself, called for the retraction of the journals from the students' mailbox's."

Since YCSC pays for the printing and production of "Kol", Nulman felt it imperative that Gurell make the official decision on what to do with the journal. As a result, according to Nulman, "He [Gurell] gave me a letter... asking me to remove [the journals because] he felt that they were improper." Nulman also stated that Rabbi Lamm wholeheartedly agreed with his perspective and fully supported Gurell's action.

One of the two stories in question, "Smiling John," was the winner of the 1992-93

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69th Annual Chanukkah Dinner honoree, Jack Kemp

Former HUD Secretary Kemp to be Honored at Annual Chanukkah Dinner

by Robert Fagin

Jack Kemp, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Bush Administration, has been announced as the keynote speaker at the 69th annual Chanukkah Dinner of Yeshiva University. The dinner will take place on Sunday evening, December 5, 1993, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan.

Kemp is widely regarded as a loyal friend to Israel and to the American Jewish community. Kemp is currently the co-Director of Empower America, a Washington, D.C. organization dedicated to "expanding freedom and democratic capitalism around the world; promoting policies to expand economic growth, job creation and entrepreneurship for the nation; and advancing social policies which empower people, not government bureaucracies." Kemp also serves as a Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation and as a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institute, two prominent conservative think-tanks.

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YU In Top Twenty In Per-Student Spending

by Yisroel Holczer

In a recent U.S. News and World Report article ranking United States colleges, Yeshiva University was ranked in the Third Quartile (schools ranked 103rd to 153rd) of the top 204 research-oriented schools in America. The rating was based on objective information, such as student/faculty ratio, average SAT scores, alumni donations, graduation rate, educational programs, cost per student, and percentage of faculty with PhD's, as well as subjective information, such as academic reputation rankings by college presidents and deans.

The office of former Executive Vice President Egon Brenner supplied YU's statistics to the survey.

High SAT Scores

Curiously, Yeshiva University's statistics are in consonance with many of the top colleges in the U.S. Most notable is YU students' average SAT scores; a 1165. Only one institution, the New School for Social Research (NY) has a higher average score for schools ranked 52nd and above (Second Quartile). Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, who tabulates all academic statistics of YU

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Pre-Med Students Consider Clinton's Health Plan

A thorough analysis of the YC Pre-Med students' views of the proposed health plan

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Gurock Appointed Assistant V.P. of Academic Affairs

Former Academic Assistant to YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, is appointed the number two man to Academic V.P. William Schwartz.

Page 6

YU Macs 1993-94 Preview

A review of how this year's basketball team is shaping up

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Time to Reflect on Our Future

We welcome Dr. William Schwartz to the position of Academic Vice President. YU has built a strong foundation of academics, but there is tremendous potential for growth. We are confident that Dr. Schwartz will take a fresh look at the curriculum and program of Yeshiva. A more progressive curriculum, with more course flexibility, is needed to meet the demands of a changing world. We hope that Dr. Schwartz will reflect on how our education should be molded to meet these challenges, and do his utmost to get input from the faculty and students on this matter. The fact that Dr. Schwartz has assured student leaders that he will maintain more of an "open door policy" and invite students to discuss pressing issues in the area of academics on a continual basis is refreshing, and demonstrates his true desire for change.

Silencing "Kol"

It is difficult to dissect the many factors involved in the recent "Kol controversy." It is important to note that "Kol" as a journal is not to blame; those students who argue that funding for future editions of "Kol" should be terminated fail to recognize the importance of having a variety of forums for students to express themselves. Furthermore, the students who wrote the controversial materials are not at fault; students have the right to privately express themselves in any way they wish - to their instructors, to their mentors, to their friends, and in the classroom. However, the Editors of "Kol" were insensitive to push such provocative material onto the general student body, some (if not most) of whom would not choose to read that type of literature. The Editors were further wrong to put the YU emblem on the journal, which indicated that the publication was sanctioned, supported, and was consistent with the philosophy of the University. Thus, the desire to suppress the journal was understandable.

At the same time, those involved in deciding to remove "Kol" have a great deal to consider. The fact that the Editors and faculty advisors of "Kol" were not consulted prior to the removal of "Kol", or even after many copies of the journal were seized, is inexcusable. This courtesy should have been extended despite the *halachically* problematic nature of the journal.

It is obvious that the University must publicly define its position on the issues of free speech so that an uncomfortable situation such as this will not reoccur. Moreover, it should act to sensitize students and faculty to the *halachic* concerns of the University community while understanding that professors at Yeshiva expect the same standards of free speech that apply at other universities. Certainly, these standards should not be bent without the University expressly informing its faculty.

Freedom of speech is of the utmost importance. And somewhere between total suppression and total freedom there must exist forums in which students can express whatever they feel an honest need to voice.

The Commentator

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RESPONSE

Raising Our "Kol" I

To the Editor,

Another week, another controversy here within the confines of Yeshiva. This time, the Administration took a firm stance to protect Torah values; Dr. Lamm's courageous stance in preventing the dissemination of the "Kol literary journal" should be duly applauded by all those in Yeshiva. However, the mere fact that the suppression of *nivul peh* and *divrei cheishek* needed to be undertaken at all in an institution which claims to hold itself to the highest standards of Torah and *Yiras Shamayim* is profoundly disheartening. That certain individuals could even countenance the possibility of giving academic freedom precedence over clear *halachic* considerations is just another one of the many symptoms of the moral confusion (or perhaps malaise) that so often prevails here.

Theoretically, the aspiration of Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan is to produce people who are on the highest level of *Avodas HaBorei*, yet are still able to function, and indeed lead, in modern Western society. To enable us to truly fulfill our mission of being an *ohr lagoyim*, a light unto the nations, Yeshiva tries to provide not only a superior *makom limud Torah*, but also a respected institution of higher secular learning wherein we can foster and develop the tools needed to deal with the world at large. However, the motivation of *nih'yeh ohr lagoyim* must not be confused with *nih'yeh kechol hagoyim*. In our quest for

secular knowledge, we must be guided solely by *Torah* strictures and mores; the ends of a superior university education do not justify the means of learning material or engaging in extracurricular pursuits which are of a dubious *halachic* nature. Analyzing Shakespeare on the same level as is done in Harvard and Penn may be justified within a *halachic* framework; publishing quasi-pornographic material as they do in Harvard and Penn clearly is unconscionable. Facing modern society head-on as a *Torah* Jew is often a dangerous game of brinkmanship; we must be sure not to overstep the boundaries laid down for us by the *Torah*. If our *Rabbonim* and *Roshei Yeshiva* tell us that certain topics of study are unacceptable for a *ben-Torah*, we may not challenge them on the grounds of intellectual curiosity being our overriding concern. We must realize that we are ultimately responsible to a Higher Authority and held to a higher standard than other peoples. If that means sacrificing the study of Christian art or the New Testament, so be it.

There are two complaints which I am sure certain readers will voice against this letter. First of all, some will accuse me of being monolithic, of dismissing the need for diversity within Yeshiva. This is clearly not my point; *chazal* have pointed out numerous times that there are many different forms of *Avodas Hashem*. However, certain uniform standards are accepted by all *Ovdei Hashem* (yes, all). Surely no one would tell you that eating non-Kosher food with the intent of serving *Hashem* is permissible (excepting certain bizarre cases of *pikuach nefesh*); in the same vein, imbibing of "non-Kosher" intellectual

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PICTORIAL



RESPONSA

Fact or Fiction?

To the Editor,

Providing an open forum for students to express their opinions in *The Commentator* is a wonderful thing. Your readers should be exposed to a wide range of views on a particular issue. But they should not be misled by falsehoods made by uninformed and unreliable sources.

I am referring to Shmuel Herzfeld's "ResponSA" in the first issue. The author lists several of his opinions put into fact form, much like, he claims, the "anti-peace movement" (his words) did in their flyers. As a flyer supporter, let me say that we are not anti peace and it is unfair to be labeled as such. We do, however, see danger in this foolishly contrived peace deal based on territorial compromise with the P.L.O. and want the Y.U. community to be aware of how it will affect Israel. Our list reflects the documented long-term objectives of Arafat himself, not the PR sound-bytes he offers the gullible Western media. Allow me to comment on two items on Shmuel's list.

Shmuel states that Yitzchak Rabin received the majority of votes from the Israeli public and thus has a mandate from them to act as he sees fit. (list item 1) This is neither a fact nor opinion. It is a lie. Mr. Rabin received NO votes in the last election. Israeli voters do not vote for individual candidates (yet), they vote for party lists. His Labor party did not win the popular vote and was not able to capture the 61 seats in Knesset necessary to rule alone. As party chairman of the largest minority voting bloc, Rabin was called upon to form a coalition government. His weak power base gives him no mandate from the voters.

I am confident that any Yeshiva U. student would agree that it is immoral to keep people in "refugee" camps their entire lives (list item 4), least of all members of the "anti-peace movement" that Shmuel so adamantly despises. Our nation is painfully familiar with large-scale forced incarceration and have suffered countless immoral acts. We are not in the habit of playing out our injustices on others.

Shmuel's list implies that Israel is keeping Arabs in refugee camps against their will. On what grounds does he make such a bold claim? On the contrary, the government has repeatedly attempted to settle these Arabs in better accommodations, only to be turned down. These "refugees" could and should have been absorbed in 1948, 1967, & 1973 but were deliberately left by their oil-rich Arab brothers to be a constant thorn in Israel's side. They drain Israel emotionally, economically, undermine her international standing, but are repaid only in kindness. Despite their abject conditions, these "refugees," thanks to Israeli goodwill, live better than Arabs in Jordan, Egypt, and Syria.

Shmuel clearly needs to study Israeli & Middle Eastern history. He obviously lacks basic information on the electoral process of Israel, the challenges she faces both internally and externally, and the true nature of her enemies. Perhaps he should also pick up a copy of Myths & Facts or subscribe to the weekly Near East Report. His ignorance is a disservice to himself, the pro-Israel community, and Jews around the world.

Raphael C. Gross
YC '96

Raising Our "Kol" II

To the Editor,

I am appalled and embarrassed over the "controversy" concerning the Yeshiva College Literary Journal. For 6-8 objectionable words, this publication has been banned from distribution at Yeshiva College. This works out to about one objectionable word per 4-5 pages. One would think that something like this could have been worked out peacefully so that those who objected to content on legitimate *halachic* concerns would feel comfortable reading it or choose not to, but let those who want to read a good literary journal do so

without feeling ashamed or "less Jewish." Of course, there are *halachic* guidelines that must be followed insofar as what's acceptable literature and what isn't. But, I would think that Yeshiva University, where people are mature enough to run their own programs, could work out some form of compromise so that talented students could publish their writings in this institution. Next time something like this happens, I hope people will approach the problem with levelheadedness instead of selfishness.

Joshua Normand
YC '94

First Cuban Student?

To the Editor,

I have read with interest your article concerning David Levi (*The Commentator* September 21, 1993, page 10). While Mr. Levi may be the first recent Cuban student at Yeshiva University returning to Cuba, he is

not the first Cuban Student at Yeshiva University. To my knowledge, there were other Cuban students who attended Yeshiva University, including me.

Leon I. Behar
YC '78

A Request for More Advisement

To the Editor,

As a recent graduate of Yeshiva College, I have begun to tackle the responsibilities of the 'real world.' For me, these include finding a research laboratory position while I wait for acceptance to a medical school. Due to the weak economy however, and the fact that two out of three applicants to medical school did not gain acceptance last year, the available research technician positions are in great demand. So, I wait another day for a letter inviting me for an interview, or I make another telephone call to a lab instructor asking him if he knows of an open position. I begin to wonder, if only I had a higher GPA, or maybe taken that pre-med course in my first year instead of my second, or what other extracurricular activities could I have participated in to make me a more desirable candidate. Perhaps then, I think, it would not now be necessary for me to re-apply to medical school.

All of these questions lead to what I consider the greatest flaw of my four year education at Yeshiva College: Academic advisement. This is not to say that there is no academic advisement system at Stern and YC, but rather that there are serious flaws with the current system. It was evident from my time at Yeshiva that there is considerable dissatisfaction with the system among students. Many feel that their academic progress would be enhanced with better advice and planning. For example, students do not graduate on time, or are unaware of courses they need to certify their major until the second or third year. What's more, Dean Rosenfeld's office does not offer advice in a timely and organized manner, and may even be threatening to some.

Perhaps the most serious problem with the system (outlined by the Committee on Academic Advisement) is the lack of development of meaningful educational plans which are compatible with an individual student's life goals. It is recommended that there be a continuous process of clarification and evaluation for a student; an interpretation of the institutional requirements; referral to and use of other institutional and community support services; and the collection and distribution of student data regarding student needs, preferences, and performances for use in institutional policy-making.

These recommendations have, for a long time been made by the Middle-States Evaluation Committee, by the Committee on Student Affairs, by faculty members, by students solicited to take part in the Marttila & Kiley Survey, as well as by other committees involved in discussions regarding student affairs.

The most productive and concrete proposal to date is that resulting from the Committee on Academic Advisement (mentioned above), a faculty committee

devoted exclusively to overhauling the advising system at this school with the help of student suggestions and opinions. As of the beginning of the 1992-1993 academic year, a proposal of implementation had been discussed and approved. Much of the credit should go to Dr. Nochimson, Dr. Bartholomew, Dr. Lee, Rabbi Carmy, and all others involved in the process.

The actual implementation of this proposal however, has been shelved. Due to concerns over who shall give what advice, and the unwillingness to find the financial support, the Offices of the former Executive Vice President, the Senior Vice President, and the Dean of Yeshiva College have blocked the change in the current system. Perhaps they are content with running this University like a family business i.e., their only concern is to keep the business operating from one day to the next, instead of investing in the future [by implementing the proposed system, which would help to secure a student's future goals]. The fact that most students at Stern and Yeshiva College fulfill their career goals in spite of, not because of, the academic advising program at YC has fostered a general disregard over the years by the Administration for its students. Only as a result of the forceful outcry by students over the Revel ordeal did this disregard become fully exposed.

Let me say that I applaud the sincere interactions now proceeding between student leaders and the Administration with the goal of improving student life on all fronts. Yet, it would be better if the Administration would function not merely reactively, but also to take the initiative. One way is to improve the weak faculty-Administration relationship -- a relationship which indirectly affects the students, as the faculty members will supply the bulk of advisement. If there is little interaction between the faculty (who will provide the manpower), and the Administration (who supply the financial needs), then what kind of advising will the students receive? I dare say the same as they do now.

Only when there is positive cooperation between the Administration, faculty and student body can academic advisement be successful. This will lead to the strengthening of academic programs at Stern and Yeshiva College, improved student morale, increased freshman application rates, and greater alumni support.

I am grateful to this school for the financial support I received, the close friends I made, and the education I have gained. Yet, I can not help but feel anxiety and anger at having my future placed on hold because Yeshiva University tries to sell itself instead of investing in its students.

Avigdor Butler
Member, Committee on Academic
Advisement 1991-1992
YC '93

RESPONSA is continued on page 18

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, October 27

SOY, YCPSS, SCWPSS present New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind

"Race Relations in New York City"

8:00 P.M.

Rubin Shul

Thursday, October 28

YU Museum Film

The Falashas

Historic film study of Ethiopian Jews

12:00 P.M. - 12:50 P.M.

1:00 P.M. - 1:50 P.M.

Friday, October 29

Hebrew language credit/
Exemption Exam

Friday, October 29

JJC Residence Halls SOY Shabbat Program

Sunday, October 31

Men's Cross Country IAC Meet

12:00 P.M.

Van Cortland Park

Sunday, October 31

Men's Wrestling

Scrimmage at St. John's University

2:00 P.M.

Monday - Thursday, November 1 -
November 4

IBC, JSS & MYP Midterms

No YC/SSSB Uptown tests

Tuesday, November 2

Election Day

Wednesday, November 3

YU Museum Lunchbox Special

"A Whimsical Look at Serious Art"

Author and textile designer Ita Abner gives video tour of her artworks

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 7

YU Museum

"Art at Large"

Tour of "Aishet Hayil" exhibit

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Sunday, November 14

CLEP tests administered

Weekly Mussar Introduced in Main Bais Medrash

A weekly *mussar seder* has been instituted by SOY president Lavi Greenspan and the rabbinic faculty. The topics will focus on classical Jewish ethical works tied in with the weekly *parsha*. The talks will be delivered either by Rabbi Blau, *Mashgiach Ruchani*, or Rabbi Cohen, *Mashgiach Ruchani* of the high school, with occasional appearances by Rabbi Goldvicht and Rabbi Schachter. The *seder* is open to all students, JSS, IBC, as well as MYP.

This weekly *sicha* has come about as a result of many requests from the Yeshiva students, who had learned *mussar* during set *sedarim* in their respective *yeshivot* in Israel.

SOY hopes that by instituting an official *mussar seder*, students will take the subject more seriously and devote more time to it. Rabbi Blau explained that "being sensitive to the climate in YU, we did not want to make it obligatory.. we don't want to restrict students in any way at all."

The new *seder* may address a major concern of many students regarding the

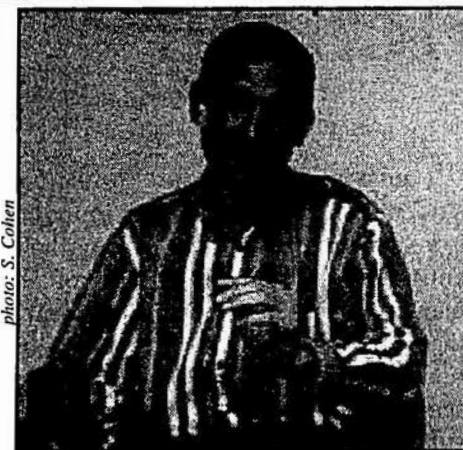


photo: S. Cohen

Lavi Greenspan explaining the structure of the new *mussar seder*

lack of unity at YU. One claimed that "every *shiur* is like its own *yeshiva*, each with its own *hashkafa* and its own *Rosh Yeshiva*." Rabbi Blau expressed hope that the *mussar seder* will address this grievance; "It is a beauty made out of necessity... that allows the *Yeshiva* to be felt as an entity."

Though it comes in part as a result of contemporary issues, the *mussar seder* is not unprecedented in Y.U. The weekly *sicha* originated years ago when it was given by the previous *Mashgiach*, Rav Dovid Lifshitz (z"l), who gave a weekly talk to his *talmidim* on his favorite *sefer*, *The Gates of Repentance*, by Rabenu Yonah. This year, the *sichot mussar* are dedicated in memory of their founder, Reb Dovid (z"l).

--Tzvika Nissel

Jack D. Weiler to be Honored by YU

Jack D. Weiler, real estate magnate and humanitarian, will be honored by Yeshiva University at a luncheon on October 27. The tribute will take place at the Annual Meeting of the University's Joint Boards, which will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel. David S. Gottesman, the investments management executive who is Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, will preside over the meeting.

Mr. Weiler served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1992, when he was named Honorary Chairman. For over 30 years, he was a member of Einstein's Board of Overseers and was its chairman from 1960 to 1967 and from 1976 to 1977. He is currently Chairman Emeritus.

--Reuven Mohl

YU Student Hit by Car

YC student Barak Haimoff suffered serious injuries this past Tuesday night when he was struck by a car traveling south on Amsterdam Ave. at 185th street. According to Haimoff, he was crossing from the corner of the Gottesman library to the high school dorm when the car struck him. He alleged that the car, described by eyewitnesses as a gray four door Mitsubishi, slammed into him, propelling him over the hood onto the roof, smashing his elbow into the windshield, and spider-webbing the glass of the car front window. Haimoff finally landed at the corner of 185th and Amsterdam.

When Hatzolah EMT Jeremy Strauss arrived at the scene, Haimoff was lying on the sidewalk at the corner of 185th and Amsterdam. Strauss said that Haimoff complained that his left leg was "killing him." As is standard practice in accidents like these, Haimoff was collared, immobilized, and backboarded to prevent spinal cord injury.

Police were already on the scene as a result of earlier disturbances (see article in column to the right) and had called for EMS who arrived soon after Hatzolah. Haimoff was loaded into the EMS ambulance and accompanied by Rabbi Cheifetz. He was taken to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

According to Strauss, who later visited Haimoff at the hospital, the doctors explained that while he suffered serious damage to his left leg, there was no serious head trauma.

By this Sunday, Haimoff said that although he was feeling weak, he was "B'H feeling much better." He said that the doctors had operated that Thursday morning and told him that his leg was totally broken. A metal rod had to be inserted in his leg in place of what was formerly bone. He hopes to be discharged from the hospital by the 24th and be back in school in two weeks, but he will still have to walk on crutches for another four months.

--Ari Listowsky

Blood Drive a Success

About 150 students participated in the New York Blood Center's recent campus blood drive. Over thirty-seven gallons of blood were collected during the two-day program.

Students who chose to donate were required to fill out an extensive health history questionnaire and undergo a brief physical exam by blood center personnel prior to the ten-minute donation procedure. Blood samples were screened for disease and contamination, and tested for blood type prior to being forwarded to the blood bank.

Drive organizer Zev Schubin said that giving blood is one of the most important things a person can do. "When we give blood we literally give of ourselves to society - that is what makes this campaign so important."

A platelet-donation drive to help those with cancer is planned for December 24, 1993.

Yeshiva University will be receiving the Distinguished Services Award for Education at the New York Blood Services Reception on October 25, in recognition of its having the highest student-donor ratio of any New York school.

--Ron Markovitz

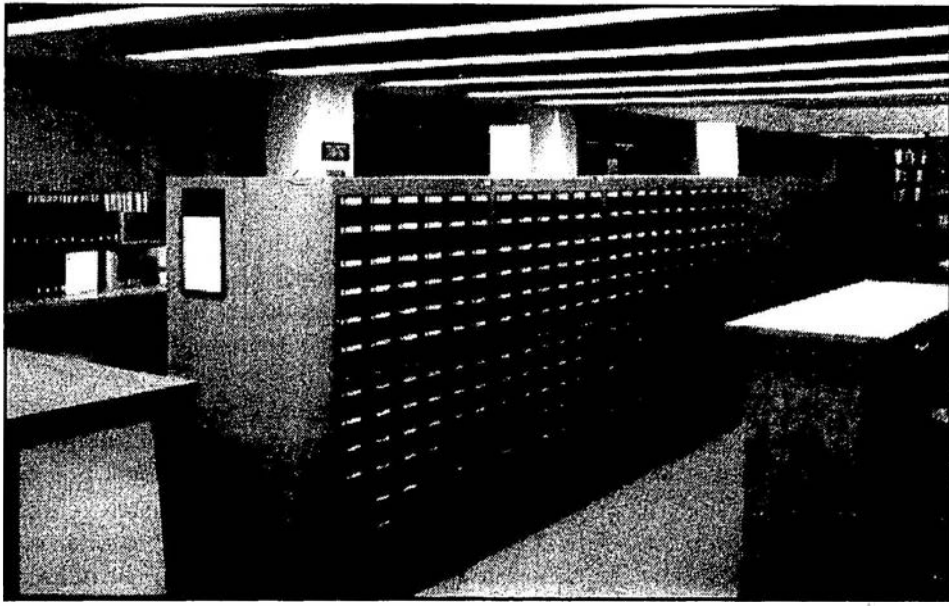
Local Teens in Scuffle With YU Security

Last Tuesday night at approximately 8:00pm several local teenagers were involved in a confrontation with Burns security guards outside Belfer Hall. According to Chief of Security Don Summers, the teenagers' skateboarding was interfering with those attending Rav Aharon's speech. A security guard reportedly asked them to "cool it." There was a brief exchange following which the skater hit the guard with his skateboard. In the ensuing fracas one of the skaters noses was injured slightly.

The teenagers alleged a different account of the story and claimed that initially, the guard pushed one of them while they were "just skating around." Chief of Security Sommers strongly refuted this account. He explained that the guards tried to avoid confrontations and were only telling the skaters to skate on the mall proper so as to avoid injury to passersby. Chief Sommers added that he did not mind them skating but he pointed to the damage to the mall benches, planters and the white guardrail noting that if they continue to cause such destruction "they will be prosecuted and their parents will be made to pay [for it]."

The teenager whose nose was hurt has allegedly filed charges, as have assault charges been filed against one of the teenagers.

--Ari Listowsky



Card catalogs; soon to be obsolete

YU Library Goes High Tech

by Pedram Farzhanfour

Yeshiva University has given clearance to the Midtown and Uptown undergraduate libraries to implement a Library Automation Project (LAP). Dean Pearl Berger, Dean of Libraries, pointed out that it is difficult to predict exactly when the system will become operative, since the Administration has just started the selection of a contractor.

With the planned computerization, the JJC and Midtown libraries join the array of YU schools that have an automated system, such as Albert Einstein School of Medicine and Cardozo Law School. Dean Berger made it clear that the YU Administration is moving forward at a steady pace, and their interest lies in executing the plan as quickly and as efficiently as possible. The computer terminals will ultimately replace the card catalogs.

Once LAP becomes operative, it will be accessible via the Internet, a network that would provide access to the information in the library catalog from any other computer that can access the

Internet. Dean Berger hopes to keep the computer facilities up-to-date with the latest developments in the area of computer technology.

Dean Berger commented that "We feel very pleased about the LAP. It is a project which we hoped for, and planned towards, for a long time. It is very exciting."

Dean Berger also enumerated the new features of the undergraduate libraries currently available. With the cooperation of the faculty of the Belz School of Music, in conjunction with Deans Rosenfeld and Bacon, 150 CDs and a number of CD players equipped with headphones are now available at the Undergraduate libraries. Additionally, with the assistance of Mr. Larry Brandwein and the YU Computer Science faculty, the CD-ROMs will be connected to the ON-LINE service by the end of the fall semester, further expanding the availability. Furthermore, people who wish to access an article which is not available at the libraries, and are unable to wait for an inter-library loan, will soon have the option of ordering the article and receiving it via fax at the library.

Fire Scare in Gottesman Library

At around 8:15, on Sunday night, October 19th, the Gottesman Library's fire alarm bells sounded, forcing all in the library to evacuate. Two fire engines from the local 13th Battalion arrived on the scene to investigate and after an exhaustive search, discovered that the fire alarm had been caused by a harmless steam leak in one of the lower floors of the library.

The scare, which lasted about 40 minutes, forced an estimated 60-80 YC and SCW students inside the library to evacuate. The students exited the building via the fire stairs located on the 185th St. side of the library. The evacuation was calm and orderly, though a number of students were a little taken aback by the unforeseen development. Initially, the students presumed a fire drill was in progress and were a bit disturbed at the seemingly inappropriate timing of a fire drill. Exclaimed YC Junior

Jonathan Landa, "We were annoyed by it."

As the evacuated students milled about in front of the library, anxious to return to the building, firefighters searched the building thoroughly to ensure that no fire had been started. After roughly twenty-five minutes, they discovered the steam leak in some of the piping on one of the lower floors in the library and, with the assistance of maintenance personnel and Burns Security officers, corrected the problem.

YU Chief of Security, Mr. Donald Sommers, explained the steam leak as something that "can happen anywhere, anytime," and that no one was placed in any danger by the leak. He also stated that, in retrospect, the leak was a good chance to "keep 'em all on their toes."

--Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

CAF Implements Changes

by Erez Gilad

A recent meeting of the student-led Food Services Committee and the Cafeteria Administrators, held on Thursday, October 14, led to a number of recommendations regarding the quality of services offered by the cafeteria. The Food Service managers accepted much of the student input, and many of the suggestions were implemented as early as the Tuesday following the meeting. Those in attendance included Avi Greenbaum, Chairman of the Food Services Committee, David Wagner, Vice President of the Sy Syms Accounting Society, Daniel Billig, YCSC Secretary, Associate Director of Food Services Jake Lieberman, as well as the other Food Service managers.

The meeting came through the initiative of Billig, who, after personally interviewing students regarding the quality of food in the Caf, created a list of suggestions. In order to improve the quality of the breakfast and dinner meals, Billig recommended that the Caf offer a larger variety of dishes. Food Services responded by providing more entrees for breakfast, improving the meat recipes, and by introducing Vegetarian and cholesterol-free alternatives for dinner. Both Greenbaum and Billig were impressed with the swift response.

YCSC is currently reviewing the menu for the coming weeks in an attempt to ensure improved quality and diversity. Billig asserted that all cafeteria purchases are computerized and can be easily tallied. As a result, both Food Services and student representatives can use this data to determine which innovations will prove to be successful with the student body.

Another issue discussed at the meeting was the extension of the Convenience Store's hours. In response to student demands, store hours will now include Sunday afternoons. The possibility of opening the store on Thursday night, however, was rejected out of concern that it might compete with the student-run Morg Mart.

According to Billig and Lieberman, the meeting indicated an increased sense of responsiveness and a genuine interest in student suggestions. The purpose of the meeting according to Lieberman was to create an ongoing system of communication between the student body and the Cafeteria. "This was the first time students sat down to discuss these problems, and the requests were honored immediately," he said. Lieberman expressed hope that regular meetings will change student misconceptions regarding the Cafeteria, and that "Student-Cafeteria relations" will improve.

SSSB Contemplates Five Year Accounting Program

In response to the recommendation of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants and recent government legislation, YU is exploring the possibility of a five year program for accounting majors.

The AICPA is advocating a new program which would require 150 credits as opposed to the regular Bachelor of Science requirement of 128. This new program reflects a revised standard that has already been adopted by thirty state legislatures and is being considered in another twelve. SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg believes it is only a matter of time before New York mandates a similar program.

According to Nierenberg, the University has virtually ruled out

keeping the current system, which requires students to complete their studies at a different school, and is considering several alternatives.

Possible options under review include another year of undergraduate study specifically for accounting students, or a special one-year graduate program for accounting majors which would offer a Master's degree. An MBA program open to all students, where accounting majors could complete their requirements, is also being considered.

The new program would not affect any students currently in the school; Nierenberg does not expect the new requirement to be implemented for several years.

--Chanoch Kanovsky



Curtis Sliwa, the head of the Guardian Angels, came to YU on Monday night, October 18, to speak on the Crown Heights issue

YU: Combatting Racism

by Jonathan Schloss

In an attempt to combat the alleged "I'm not a bigot I'm just better than..." attitude on campus, next spring Yeshiva College will offer "Race, Caste, and Ethnicity" -- a course geared towards promoting tolerance.

Dr. Marelyn Schneider, the course's architect and instructor, points out that the terms race, caste, and ethnicity, are objective terms that refer to certain ascribed statuses into which every person is born. In Judaism, for example, every child is born into the caste of either Kohen, Levi, or Israel. Each has distinct qualities.

The course's objective is to enable students to recognize and appreciate differences without being condescending. Dr. Schneider hopes to achieve this goal through a number of means. The class will study the inherited statuses mentioned above from moral, biological, socio-biological, psychological, cultural, political, linguistic and historical perspectives.

In addition to class discussion, students will learn how to appreciate opera or other unfamiliar music. Participants will be required to listen to and keep a journal of their reactions to one piece of unfamiliar music on a daily basis throughout the semester. The point of such an exercise is to show that familiarity and understanding can change negative attitudes.

"Awareness" posters with quotes from religious and literary sources and a submission to an interdisciplinary publication on "combatting haughtiness and prejudice" will also be course requirements.

"A Policy Rescinded"

On September 20, Dean Nierenberg rescinded the policy that allowed upperclassmen to miss 50% of their Sy Syms classes. However, reasonable absences will still be excused; the term "reasonable" meaning no more than twice the number of hours the class meets each week," stated Dean Nierenberg.

The policy was immediately rescinded upon its discovery, and was labeled "an error" by Dean Nierenberg. He explained that he had never created this policy (it had been left over from the previous administration), and it had simply been overlooked until now. "I was shocked and surprised," he exclaimed, when the topic of the policy was brought up. He added, "The classroom experience is paramount and it's not realistic to believe that one can do well without being in the classroom."

It will now be up to the individual professor to clearly define what his or her attendance policy will be.

Andrew Davidson

Student Court Going Into Gear

by Sandor Bak

After months of study and discussion by members of the student body and the Administration, the Student Court of Yeshiva College has been reestablished and will resume its sessions this semester.

The effort to revive the Student Court was spearheaded by YC Senior Avi Greenbaum. Greenbaum, who now serves as Chief Justice of the Court, began lobbying for the Court's reinstatement at the Second Student-Administration Retreat last March, where he outlined the aims, goals, and functions of the Court.

The bylaws for the Court were agreed upon by Dean of Students Efreml Nulman and the Student Court Committee. The

seven page document by Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, Assistant Dean of Students, outlines the jurisdiction, policies, and procedures of the Student Court. The proposal passed through the Steering Committee, composed of four members of the student body and administrators, last Friday.

The seven-member court has jurisdiction in a variety of cases. According to Chaitoff, "the Office of the Dean of Students will serve as a type of filtration system. When a complaint is brought against a student and there is reason to believe the student's conduct may have violated the University's rules, regulations, or standards of appropriate behavior, then we will determine if the case is appropriate to be heard by the Student Court." A panel of three judges will hear each case; students must represent themselves, and may not solicit the services of an attorney.

The Court does not have jurisdiction over cases involving psychological

matters, confidential issues, or illegal actions.

After the Court has heard a case, the judges will issue a written decision and recommend appropriate sanctions to the Dean of Students. While the Court does not have the power to impose those sanctions, the Dean of Students "shall give great weight to the recommendations of the Student Court in imposing sanctions, but may... modify the recommended sanctions or decline to impose sanctions."

The Student Court will also serve as a grievance committee to advocate on behalf of students who feel that they have a legitimate grievance against a faculty member, administrator, or other university employee. The Chaitoff memorandum makes it clear that this committee is intended to be used only as a last resort in cases where the matter could not be settled directly between the parties involved or through the office of the Dean of Students.



Dr. Jeffery Gurock at work in his new office

Gurock Appointed Assistant VP of Academic Affairs

by Dov Kalton

After six years of serving as Academic Assistant to YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock has assumed the newly created post of Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. He moves in as the number two man to recently appointed Academic Vice President Dr. William Schwartz.

Gurock, a scholar of American Jewish History, came to Yeshiva in 1977 after receiving his Ph.D. in Jewish History from Columbia University. In 1986, he was appointed Libby Klapperman Professor of Jewish History at the University, and was made a professor at the Bernard Revel Graduate School two years later. He is the author of many books, including The Men and Women of Yeshiva (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988).

In his previous administrative position as Academic Assistant to the President, Dr. Gurock formed a very close relationship with Dr. Lamm and aided Lamm in the publication of his book Torah u-Maddah.

Dr. Gurock is perhaps best known to the student body as Assistant Coach of the Macs basketball team. Because of

the great demands of his new position, he will no longer be able to attend practice regularly, but promises to be at all the games and at practices when his schedule will allow.

Although his position gives him responsibilities over the entire Yeshiva University system, he will probably be spending most of his time dealing with the undergraduate schools and the Bernard Revel Graduate School, places where he is known to have a good rapport with both faculty and students. Gurock said he will continue teaching Jewish History because, "there is no better way to know what's on the students minds than to teach."

Gurock has begun to meet with Deans as well as with student leaders in an attempt to get a perspective from both the faculty and the students regarding issues that they feel may need improvement. Both he and Dr. Schwartz attended the YC/SSSB Senate meeting on October 14, and both have intentions of meeting with the Senate in the future. Gurock intends to have an "open door policy" with the teachers and students and to address their needs to the best of his abilities. Major issues he feels need to be addressed include curriculum adjustment and boosting admissions.

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Perspective on Simchat Torah

by Isaac Sasson

On October 4, the second day of *Chol HaMoed Succot*, SOY held its annual *Simchat Bait HaShoevah* in commemoration of the festive celebration in the *Bait Hamikdash* at this time. However, this year, out of the approximately 840 students in the YU undergraduate program, only 75 were in attendance at the event. In addition, SOY was unable to conduct a planned *Simchat Torah* program because of low registration. This lack of interest has prompted the question of whether students have become indifferent to religiously oriented, non-academic programs.

The *Bait HaShoevah* began with a 45 minute *shiur* by Rav Schacter which began at 8:15, followed by an hour of singing and dancing. Dean of MYP Rav Charlop spoke and the *ruach* continued until 11:00. Rav Goldvicht, Rabbi Blau, and Rabbi Chaifetz were also in attendance.

"Guys are not going to show up. Understand, its vacation," answered Lavi Greenspan, president of SOY, to

"This year, out of the approximately 840 students in the YU undergraduate program, only 75 were in attendance at the event."

the students who requested a *Simchat Torah* program. Originally, no program had been planned for the three day holiday weekend. However, SOY agreed to the requests of some students if enough people registered and paid in advance. Days later the program was canceled because only four people displayed interest in the doomed event.

When questioned about the program's failing to get off the ground, *Mashgiach Ruchani* Rabbi Blau wished to place the poor attendance in the proper context. He explained that because the

students are still in school, attention is placed first and foremost on the *Yomim Noraim*. He explains, "On *Rosh HaShanah*...we had a couple hundred people, and we had well over 500 people for *Yom Kippur*. A tremendous amount of effort goes into arranging this which makes it very difficult to work

Greenspan strongly emphasized the commonly expressed notion that, "Most importantly they [the students] don't have any connection to the Yeshiva."

simultaneously for events during *Succot*."

Rabbi Blau expressed the view that the *Simchat Bait Hashoevah* was not a "big deal" of a program to setup and "...some years you get a big crowd and some years you get a small crowd." However, he added, *Simchat Torah* is much more difficult to organize, because no one is here...therefore, all preparations and registration must be made more than a week in advance. He commented, "With a three day *Yom Tov*, don't even bother trying. You need to have a whole program, and the numbers were just not there."

Rabbi Blau listed several reasons why he felt programs like these are not as attractive as in past years. He explained that the number of older *Ba'al HaBatim* left in the neighborhood has dwindled to less than a minyan, so they are unable to contribute strongly to the programs attendance. Rav Blau recalled when YU had been a tremendous center for *Simchat Torah*. The larger community in the immediate neighborhood as well as the community in the Bronx would all join in the festivities. "It wasn't just a matter of guys staying, it was fellows staying, supplementing a neighborhood of communities where it was safe to walk. All those factors are gone."

"There have also been many positive things which have made it harder [to run a program during Succot]. The most significant of which is the explosion of Torah Tours. Approximately 135 quality guys are going into communities and having a big impact. It is very difficult to say that we should cut that out because it is more important to have a *Simchat Torah* in the yeshiva," added Rabbi Blau. Ultimately, he concluded that, "given the choice, for many reasons, it makes sense to have the 500 people for *Yom Kippur*. Rabbi Lamm attends the davening, and it really enhances his relationship with the Yeshiva."

Adding to the list of contributing factors for the failed programs, Greenspan added that many of the out-of-town guys return home for the holidays and more than 100 of the students go to Israel for the two week vacation. However, he felt that the root of the problem went beyond poor planning and extenuating circumstances. Greenspan strongly emphasized the commonly expressed notion that, "Most importantly they [the students] don't have any connection to the Yeshiva; They have no gratitude. Judging from what I saw last year while campaigning, I don't know how many

Rav Blau recalled when YU had been a tremendous center for Simchat Torah.

guys have gratitude for the Yeshiva. You try to view Rabbeinu Yitzhak Elchanan as your yeshiva, but then you realize you start fooling yourself. Guys who went to Israel don't feel that Israel experience back here."

He felt that the Administration does not provide a personal touch for the students. "Parts of the Administration does not show caring for them. You come in and spend two or three years here and you are dying to get out. Which other university do you have guys graduating in two and a half years. It's ridiculous.... People adopt the attitude, "Why now should I come back, I am

going to finish up and get out of here as fast as possible? Why now should I stay in for Shabbos. I don't feel that anyone cares if I stay in for *Shabbos* or if I come to the *Simchat Bait Hashoevah*. And you

Rabbi Lamm attends the davening, and it really enhances his relationship with the Yeshiva.

see that when you go to the *Simchat Bait Hashoevah* and when you stay for a *Shabbos*, the Administration officials are not there either."

When approached about the student attitude toward the yeshiva as being a contributing factor in the poor attendance of the *Succot* programs, Rabbi Blau rejected the idea that such an attitude existed. "Then why would so many people come for *Yom Kippur*?" he asked. "I think that it is unfair and not true. A vacuum opened up and other things took its place. I don't think it is in their feelings towards the Yeshiva. I have never heard of that as a problem."

The *Simchat Bait HaShoevah* was open to the whole college. Yet, some IBC\JSS students felt as if they were left out. "That might have been our fault," admitted Greenspan. Maybe we should have pushed them more. I understand why IBC\JSS guys feel that the YP guys are looking down on them." He felt that this attitude had developed because of the multiple student governments and the widely varying Judaic Studies programs.

Others attribute the poor attendance to the attraction of the social scene found on the college campuses of Penn and Columbia. They believe that the *Chanukkah* and *Purim Chagigas* at YU attract such a large crowd not only because everyone is in school during those times, but the women of Stern also attend. This is, perhaps, yet another way to account for a number of the guys who do not wish to remain in YU for *Simchat Torah*.



Commencement exercises will be held on
Thursday, May 26, 11:00am
 in The Paramount at
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Have you returned your completed graduation kit to the Office of the Registrar?

POINT: Rabin Was Right

by Rafi Rosenblatt

Walking around YU, one can pick up juicy tidbits of countless conversations. In elevators, between classes, or on line at the caf, people are always talking to each other. Several weeks ago, one conversational tidbit continuously arose. Everyone at YU was bashing the Israeli-PLO Recognition of Principles. I couldn't find anyone who favored the historic event.

The problem is that most YU students only see one side of the story. They only see the fact that the PLO's Covenant vows the total destruction of Israel. They only see the fact that Israel is dealing with people who are responsible for the deaths of Israeli citizens. They only see problems with the Peace Accords. However, the fact is, there are other sides to this story.

First of all, regardless of the stance we take as American Jews, we are American Jews. We have no right to dictate Israeli politics. We do not put our lives on the line fighting to protect Israel, and our friends and family members aren't the ones getting killed in the occupied territories. It doesn't matter what we think. Israel elected Prime Minister Rabin, and he has accepted the PLO - that is a fact; there's nothing we can do.

Second of all, granted the PLO's ultimate goal is to establish a Palestinian State in Israel. But they are a liberation organization. I've never heard of a liberation organization that did not want a piece of land in which to rule itself. Additionally, Israel's current internal problems with the Intifada are not only the PLO's fault, but are mainly a result of the Hezbollah and Hamas' rivalry with the PLO. In the past the PLO was chiefly a terror organization, but now they are almost exclusively a negotiating body.

Hezbollah and Hamas feel that the PLO is not Islamic enough. The main contention between Hamas and the PLO is that Hamas does not want the PLO to

establish a secular Palestinian State. When the PLO initially failed to produce results in the peace talks with Israel, Hamas gained a massive following. Palestinians were tired of following a useless organization. But now that the PLO has been officially recognized, Hamas will be deligitimized and lose support. In fact, the week after the historic signing, Hamas called for a huge rally in Gaza to protest the latest events, but not enough people showed up to conduct a rally. This is significant because Israel would rather deal with the PLO than with Hamas.

Another important factor is that Rabin's popularity level among Israelis rose during the weeks following the signing. Obviously, the majority of Israeli citizens stand behind their leader. There is no chance that this Recognition of Principles will lead to a Palestinian State in Jerusalem, either. There are certain things that are completely non-negotiable in the minds of Israeli leaders - one of which is Jerusalem.

Finally, whether we choose to accept the fact or not, Israeli leaders and PLO leaders have been meeting secretly for a while. A Recognition of Principles doesn't mean that a country suddenly exists. It means that the two sides are finally willing to accept each other - two concepts that are extremely different.

Wherever one stands with regard to Israeli politics, the person must accept the fact that history was made when Israel and the PLO recognized each other publicly. All Jews must stand behind Israel no matter what political decision is made. Israel knows the Middle Eastern political system better than Western politicians do.

Part of what the college experience should teach us is that although something looks distasteful at the outset, it still merits analysis and consideration. Admittedly, these historic events have some negative aspects - aspects everyone should examine and consider.

THE PEACE PROCESS

In recent weeks, the topic of the Middle East peace negotiations has been hotly debated on campus. Here, we present varying perspectives on this issue, as well as the results of a campus poll which probes students' attitudes on the peace talks.

COUNTERPOINT: A Voice of Concern

by Dov Weiss

Before debating the positive and negative elements of the peace agreement signed by Yitzchak Rabin and Yassir Arafat, a few points must be made clear. American Jews must speak with humility when expressing viewpoints over what Israel should or shouldn't do. Only those people living in Israel, whose lives are on the line, should make that decision. Secondly, those who consider themselves "right wing" must realize that they have no monopoly on love for the Land. Conversely, those on the left must realize that they have no monopoly on the quest for peace. Finally, name calling on both sides serve no constructive purpose. Rabin and those on the left are not "traitors"; Netanyahu and those living in Judea and Samaria are not fascists.

Khartoum in 1973, and disabled New Yorker Leon Klinghoffer met his death at the hands of the PLO when his wheelchair was thrown overboard from the Achille Lauro in 1985).

For twenty years Arafat has publicly declared that he believes in a two-phase solution to the 'Palestinian problem.' Phase one is an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza. This will be used as a springboard for Phase two - an all out military confrontation to annihilate Israel.

Arafat is a man who has embraced Saddam Hussein. If Hussein ever starts a war with Israel, God Forbid, he will no longer need to throw Scuds, he will already be a few miles from Jerusalem. Arafat has accepted this political agreement now that he is economically weak. The PLO is on the verge of collapsing. Will he act the same way once he becomes economically secure??

Even if one believes that Arafat can now be trusted, there are still dangers to the agreement. He does not have control over various extremist factions. So will there truly be an end to terrorist activity??

Already fundamentalist groups have declared a death warrant on Arafat. Leaders like Jibril, Hawatmeh, and Habash have strong followings. They by no means intend for Arafat to control this new "Palestinian political entity". Inevitably civil war will ensue. If the extremists succeed they will have a governmental infrastructure already built for them. Israel will be faced with a Hamas controlled state next door.

Many claim that the status quo in Israel had to end. Israel desperately needed a change. "Taking a risk for peace" was crucial. Everyone yearns for peace, yet I am unwilling to "risk" the security and existence of the State of Israel. The argument that the status quo must come to an end does not hold water. "Change" for the sake of change is dangerous. As bad as the status quo was, it may have been the lesser of two evils.

Since the agreement was signed, a number of discouraging events have taken place. Arafat has refused to crack down on the extremist Hamas movement. The New York Times quoted Arafat as calling Hamas his "legitimate political opposition". Arafat has also failed to call for an end to the economic boycott of Israel. It seems that Israel is making all the concessions. Mr. Rabin announced this week the release of 2000 Palestinian terrorists sitting in Israeli jails. He is also considering allowing thousands of refugees a safe return to Israel. What is Israel getting in return? Arafat has called for the continuation of the Intifada and general strikes. There seems to be a lack of seriousness on the part of the Palestinians.

Israel is in the process of supporting the PLO with an estimated \$75m loan. The next time you give money to UJA make sure you know exactly where the money is going. It may end up paying for a handful of pistols used by Palestinian militiamen. How would that make you feel?

The "Gaza Jericho First" agreement was signed by the PLO and the Israeli government just a few weeks ago. Explicit in the accord is the eventual Israeli withdrawal from Judea and Samaria. Some kind of a Palestinian State doesn't seem to be far behind.

Fear pervades a large segment of the Jewish community and these fears are well grounded.

A major problem with the way the peace agreement was reached was that it was done in secrecy. The Israeli population had no time to mobilize their dissent. David Bar Ilan, editor of the Jerusalem Post, writes that "the PLO were (sic) more forthcoming with information than the Israeli government".

Prime Minister Rabin also has a moral obligation to call for new elections. The agreement was passed in the Knesset without having a clear Jewish majority. Never before has Israel made such a critical decision without having broad governmental support. Additionally, the Labor party ran on a platform which centered around three points. Through this agreement they have broken two, and possibly the third. Mr. Rabin had promised no negotiations with the PLO and no compromise on the Golan Heights-- these two were broken. The Labor party vowed that Jerusalem was not negotiable. This promise appeared to be breached when Mr. Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles. In Article 5, Section 3 it is stated "It is understood that the negotiations shall cover remaining issues including Jerusalem...". Thus, an integral part of the agreement is negotiation on the status of Jerusalem.

For many years those on the left called Rabbi Meir Kahane's plan of "transfer" of Arabs repulsive and unethical. As one who rejects the idea of forcible "transfer", I view territorial compromise as no less repugnant. While Kahane believed in transferring Arabs, the left in effect will cause the transfer of Jews. No Jew could possibly be willing to live under PLO rule, with 4,000 Palestinian police officers controlling the roads.

Israel is making a dangerous decision by signing a treaty with a murderer. Arafat cannot be trusted. He is not only responsible for the murder of hundreds of Israeli's, but is also clearly implicated in the death of Americans (Two U.S. Ambassadors were murdered in

negotiations were only about the interim settlement, angrily criticized Beilin just hours later for what he termed irresponsible comments and for conducting discussions contrary to Prime Minister Rabin's instructions.

For those who stand far to the left, their day in the sun has arrived. Shulamit Aloni, Yossi Beilin, and their political kin are basking in their self-proclaimed humanistic accomplishments. They have rescued the previously declining Arafat and restored dignity to the Palestinian cause. For those to the right of the political center, many of whom purport to represent the religious Zionist camp, the response is clear: opposition at all costs. There will be no compromise on Eretz Yisrael. Their successes and their goals are measured in terms of square meters.

However, those in the middle, such as myself, while we are deeply saddened by the prospect of having to relinquish parts of Eretz Yisrael, are nevertheless aware of the alternative. Therefore, we look toward peace, try to contribute to its realization and pray for the geula shleimimah.

the taxi as they turned to make sure that the knitted kippah they thought they saw on my head was really there.

"Aval ata dati (But you are religious)?" they asked.

"So," I said.

The taxi arrived at the Hilton hotel and the two men got off, ending another round of the peace process.

More than anything, the "Gaza Jericho First" agreement has prompted much confusion in the streets of Israel. Nobody knows where the trail will end, and that has contributed to the anxiety of an already anxious and war-weary society. Even former President Chaim Herzog, a noted Laborite, has warned about the dangers of the agreement's seeming open-endedness.

Moreover, the government has not allayed the public's fears. Yossi Beilin, the Deputy Foreign Minister, bragged in one radio interview that he had discussed the final settlement with Arafat during the former's recent trip to Tunis. Mordechai (Motta) Gur, the Deputy Defense Minister, having just completed explaining to residents of Judea and Samaria that the current

doesn't even know where Ben Yehuda is," he said angrily. He stopped at a red light and turned to me. "Where do you live?" he asked.

"Yerushalayim."

"No, originally. You are American. What do you think about the accord?"

This was like diving into a shark tank I thought to myself. A hard-line Sephardi and an angry taxi driver waiting to hear what an American had to say.

I said, "Ichpat licha ma she-Americanai choshevo (Do you care what an American thinks)?"

"No!" they strongly asserted. "But now you are a Yerushalmi." They laughed. No wonder there are so many politicians in this country, I thought. I have only been living in Israel for one month and already I am qualified to speak about the country's problems.

"I think that one has to weigh the alternatives," I said. "Since the alternative, I believe, is war somewhere down the road, we need to take this chance. I am nervous as to where this process will end up, but I am in favor of the general direction. I hope that there can be peace." There was dead silence in

know." There is some truth to what he says, I thought to myself. Sephardim, for the most part, lived alongside Arabs for centuries and probably have a greater insight into Arab nature. However, the hard-line position was in my opinion, extreme.

"Ala stam medaber." The man sitting next to me retorted. "We have to do something. We can't continue in this situation. I am not a left-winger like Shimon Peres," he continued, "but something has to be done." The taxi driver was not satisfied.

"They [the Government] are running like they are on a fast train," the taxi driver chirped in. "Who is Shimon Peres to give up my country? They are ruining the whole country. First, they give taxi licenses to all the Russians who they can't find work for, and now they are giving the country to the Arabs. You get in a taxi in Tel Aviv and the driver

A View From Israel

by Michael Eisenberg

I got into a taxi on Ibn Gvirol Street in Tel Aviv a number of days after the "Gaza Jericho First" plan was announced. The cab driver turned right, onto a typically crowded and narrow Tel Aviv side street, and immediately stopped short to pick up two middle aged men who were signaling him to stop. "Mafriah lecha (does it bother you)," the taxi driver asked me. "Ain Ba'aya (No problem)," I replied as the two men proceeded to open the door and sit down.

Only seconds later, the familiar multiple beep signaling the beginning of the 1:00 hadashot (news), blared over the radio. Yehudit Barkai (I think

Michael Eisenberg, Editor Emeritus of The Commentator, now resides in Jerusalem.

Pre-Health Students Consider Clinton's Health Plan

by Ryan S. Karben

President Clinton's Health Security proposal has elicited strong reactions from YC Pre-Med students, with opinions sharply divided between those who believe the program to be vital to the country's health and those who view it as an assault on the medical profession.

When Clinton proposed the ambitious program in a September address to the nation, he challenged the Congress to "write a new chapter in the American story" by embracing his plan's proposals for managed competition, malpractice reform and paperwork reduction. Many students, however, are skeptical.

YC Sophomore Ben Levy says that no matter what Clinton says, "the plan is socialized medicine. And socialized medicine means socialized medical schools and debt for the rest of my life."

YC Junior Yosef Helft believes that the plan is a prescription for disaster. "We simply can't have the government control something that is one-seventh of our GNP. It just won't work."

Under the Clinton plan, individuals would join regional health alliances that would negotiate with insurance companies for a package of maximum coverage at minimum cost. All Americans would be guaranteed coverage under the proposal and, Clinton argues, reduce the amount of emergency room care necessary and diminish incentives for "after-the-fact" treatment.

No legislation has been formally presented to Congress yet, but the plan's architect, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, has been travelling across the country touting the merits of "health care that's always there." The Democratic National Committee plans to spend up to \$3 million to generate public support for the legislation.

Some future doctors are already on board.

Senior Aryeh Ciment calls the plan "good for America" and hopes that its passage will end the current system which, he asserts, "caters to the upper classes." Biology major Elie Needle agrees that "something radical needs to be done."

While some students like Helft say the "best and brightest" will no longer go into medicine because of potentially smaller paychecks, YC Junior Michael Kupferman sees no reason to change his plans. "Doctors will always be able to make a fine living, but that's not the reason to go into the field," he said. "You do it because you want to. And if people back out because of bucks, well, they probably shouldn't be doctors in the first place."

Kupferman says he has been paying close attention to the health care debate because of his professional aspirations, but most pre-Med students seem content to let events take their course.

Sophomore Azriel Hirschfield is not worried. "I'm not really following the issue," he said, "Whatever happens, happens."

Pre-Med Students Facing Anxiety in Light of Stiff Competition

by Ari Hirt

With the number of medical applicants reaching its highest level last year, as over 47,000 students applied for 17,000 available seats, Yeshiva College Pre-Med students are feeling much anxiety as they contemplate getting into medical school. Michael Wiederkehr, Co-President of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Medical Honors Society, agreed, stating, "The awareness that there has been an increase in the number of applicants, has added additional stress and pressures to the student waiting to hear from medical schools."

Many students, in light of such stiff competition, have expressed concern over liabilities such as taking the MCAT examination late, availability of the Pre-Med advisor, lack of diversity amongst Y.U. students, and incapable teachers. These problems, which students claim exist in Yeshiva College, hinder their ability to effectively confront the "crowded" medical school market. However, despite such concerns, students applying to medical school have maintained remarkable success, despite the stiff competition.

Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students, stated that, "In this type of market we will have a degree of anxiety which is acceptable. We don't blame students for feeling anxious. We understand and welcome questions and it is then our job to do everything to work with them."

The MCAT examination is offered twice a year - once in April and once in September. It is common knowledge in the medical community that it is prudent to take the April MCAT in a student's junior year. Not only does this allow for the student to apply early, but the April MCAT also supplies the student with knowledge of his score before applying to medical school. For these reasons 80% of the country takes the April MCAT.

However, at Yeshiva College, because most students must cram four years of science into two years, as a result of many students spending a year in Israel, we see the opposite - 80% take the September MCAT. As a result of a "stacked" market last year, medical schools filled a majority of their seats with students scoring over 30 on the April MCAT, without having even received the September MCATs.

Due to the above reasons, the top medical students at Yeshiva College last year were not accepted until this past summer, a few weeks before school started. Though they eventually were accepted, the fact that quality graduating students were heading into the summer without having been accepted into medical school worried many students.

Dr. David Weisbrot, the Pre-Health Sciences advisor, explained that in an effort to enable Yeshiva students to take the MCATs in April, the College is trying to add more science labs throughout the year so freshmen may double up courses more easily and take biology and chemistry in the same year. Furthermore, since most medical schools prefer that students take all of their sciences in their "home" schools,

Yeshiva College now offers physics and chemistry over the summer.

Since Dr. Weisbrot is not a member of the faculty, his limited availability has been a common grievance among the students. Dean Nulman has acknowledged the problem, but feels that various solutions such as added hours and constant phone access will help alleviate the problem. Furthermore, Dean Nulman explained that the purpose of the newly formed Pre-Health Sciences Committee is to establish a working partnership between the students, faculty, and administration.

Moreover, because students generally feel "lost" in their first year as Pre-Med students, the committee is currently assembling a Pre-Health user-friendly brochure which will give the students, in writing, a lot of the information they need.

Last week, Dr. Weisbrot visited Johns Hopkins Medical School, in an effort to open the door to qualified Y.U. students. Weisbrot paraphrased Johns Hopkins School of Medicine's comments regarding Yeshiva College students, "our students compare academically but they (Hopkins) look for diversified achievement above and beyond G.P.A. and MCAT scores." A former Y.U. student, currently a freshman at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, remarked along similar lines, asserting that "all Y.U. students look the same, while students from other universities come into medical schools with a slew of special research on their resumes."

A number of pre-med students, who preferred to remain anonymous, felt that certain professors in the science faculty are unsuccessful in teaching the material, thereby forcing the students to learn the subject on their own. The Y.U. Administration hopes that the Pre-Health Sciences committee will be able to communicate with the students to try and evaluate if, in fact, such a problem exists. Dean Nulman commented that it is "human nature for people to lash out unintentionally in a time of anxiety."

Dean Nulman expressed the view that the "problem" existing in the Pre-Health sciences is the perception that there is a problem. In a competitive market which witnessed the medical acceptance rate of prestigious Swarthmore College fall from 90% to 60% last year, Dean Nulman was pleasantly surprised at how well Y.U. did. "We must look at the bottom line," he stated, "and the bottom line shows 80% of Yeshiva College students being accepted to medical school, a 10% drop, despite the increased competition and relatively late applications."

Upon being asked if the picture will remain as positive in the future under similarly harsh circumstances, he responded, "I am nervous, not because of the competence of the students or the faculty, but because we are dealing with such a crowded and stiff, competitive market. It is healthy to be nervous, for it is this anxiety students are currently experiencing which will continue to drive our students to succeed."

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YU Boasts High SAT Scores

continued from page 1

applicants, remarked that "the average SAT score for incoming students tend to hover between 1180 and 1220." Furthermore, he pointed out that of those students who get low scores, many are transfer students from other universities who are accepted on the merits of their college index rather than their SAT scores.

Newly appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs William Schwartz asserted that YU's SAT scores were analogous to many top colleges. For example, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), ranked 22nd in the nation, has an average SAT score of 1160. "Our scores were better than 17 of the 26 schools listed in the First Quartile," (schools ranked 27th to 51st) said Schwartz "which may very well be where we belong."

YU in Top 20

Another area where YU ranked extremely high was university spending per full-time student. YU spends \$21,554 per student per year according to federal government statistics; only 19 national universities disbursed more than this amount. Kranzler attributed this figure to the dual curriculum; YU must pay salaries to both Rebbeim and college professors. Only one school in the First Quartile, the University of Rochester, spent more money per full-time student (\$21,850) than YU.

Low Student/Faculty Ratio

YU's student/faculty ratio is 9-to-1, lower than all but seven U.S. colleges, and lower than Columbia, New York University, and Cornell Universities. Schwartz accredited this statistic to the fact that Yeshiva University does not

have large, impersonal seminar classes like many other schools. However, not all students are cognizant of this low ratio. YC Senior Andrew Leibowitz questioned that "if the ratio of teachers to students is 1:9, then why do I get closed out of so many classes each semester? I shouldn't have to wait until I'm a senior to get into classes I wanted to take as a sophomore."

Ambiguous Alumni Donation Rate

Nevertheless, YU appears to suffer in the categories of alumni donations and graduation rate. The report indicated that only 18 percent of YU graduates donated money to their alma mater; most upper tier universities have a higher donation rate. However, Alvin Schwartz, who is a member of YU's fundraising staff, emphasized that this number must be put into perspective. "I think 18 percent is a respectful figure, since most of our students come from middle income families, and many live in Israel, so it's difficult for them to contribute," said Schwartz. He also noted that most of YU's donors are over 50 years of age, but there aren't that many alumni in that age category due to small graduating classes in the past. Additionally, many graduates are paying multiple Jewish Day School tuitions, which takes a large cash bite out of their income.

Director of Public Relations Sam Hartstein offered a simpler explanation. "Alumni donations do not always go to the alumni office, where the 18 percent figure came from," commented Hartstein. "It's definitely a lot higher than that number." Frequently, benefactors earmark donations to specific projects or schools, hence, some of these contributions are not calculated in the official alumni tally.

Distorted Graduation Rate

Perhaps the most surprising figure in the survey was YU's average percent of 1983-86 freshmen who graduated within six years of matriculation; only 57 percent. In an article appearing in the New York Jewish Week, Hartstein declared that the figure was wrong, stating that "our batting average is very high. Students who come here, graduate." William Schwartz explained that the low figure is primarily due to the Joint Israel Program. Many students who spend their freshman year in Israel under this program never step foot into YU, yet they are counted as YU non-graduates. Schwartz believes that the graduation rate would be close to 80 percent, akin to most top universities, if these students are not reflected in the survey.

Subjective Report

In response to the apparent discrepancies of some of the figures, Hartstein epitomized the entire report by stating that "unless you know the orientation and background, you can't understand the statistics." Schwartz concurred, affirming that "[some of] these figures are very distorted. Our program is atypical, and can't be measured. This is not a scientific study, it's a highly subjective study. If you look at the objective material, we clearly should be in the First Quartile. Additionally, too much weight is attached to the reputation rank; many people simply don't know about us."

Rav Goldvicht Delivers Annual Kinos Tshuva Shiur

by Uri Schechterman

Over 700 people gathered in Weissberg Commons on September 21, 1993, to hear RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldvicht deliver the ninth annual *Kinos Tshuva Drasha*. Among those attending were Y.U. president Rabbi Norman Lamm and Dean of MYP Rabbi Zevulun Charlop.

Rabbi Charlop introduced Rav Goldvicht and commented that this was the first year that the *drasha* in the United States was given in Hebrew and still drew a large audience. He added, ironically, that the *drasha* delivered in Jerusalem this year was given in English. Rabbi Charlop also mentioned that Rabbi Lamm and Rav Goldvicht are the only two people to ever deliver the *Drasha* both in the U.S. and in Israel.

The *Tshuva Shiur* was divided into two parts. The first was comprised of a *Halakhic* segment which dealt with *Nusakh Haviduy* (the Composition of Repentance) and its explanation. Rav Goldvicht then proceeded to give the audience a greater understanding of the *Viduy* prayer of Yom Kippur. From there he went on to the second part of the *shiur*, which dealt with *Aggada* (talmudic lore), and shed light on the topic of *Sod Ha'tahara* (the secret of purity) in *Mayim Chayim* ("living waters").

Rav Goldvicht proceeded to explain the difference between *Tshuvat Ha'yachid* (an individual's repentance) and *Tshuvat Ha'rabim* (a community's repentance). He stressed that when alluding to *Tshuvat Ha'tzibur* he saw Y.U. students as distinctively possessing the proper world view and broad perspective on life. "They have the power to carry the flag and stand at the front of the nation, to uphold all those who are lost, and bring them back to *Derekh Hashem*." Rav Goldvicht maintained that Y.U. students need to be proud of the fact that they learn in the right place; a place in which they can get all the right tools for building their individual personalities while in the Yeshiva and after leaving it. "If we will be discriminating in acquiring all that we get in the Yeshiva, it will protect us and those who surround us. This is the answer that we can give to the confusion that encompasses our nation, to the unforeseen future as a result of the peace talks with the Arabs." He emphasized the obligation of religious Jews living in the United States not to stand on the sidelines while a substantial segment of our people assimilates. "*Kol yisroel arevim zeh lazeh*- Every Jew is responsible for one another. We must make sure in any way possible "*lelamed toim bina*". He noted further that Y.U. students are the ones that are capable of bringing back those that are off the proper path of Torah.

The lecture lasted close to two hours. YC senior David Silverberg commented that "both the content of Rav Goldvicht's *shiur* and his dynamic delivery reflect the immense contribution Rav Meir has made, and continues to make, to our Yeshiva through his *Shiurim*, *Sichot*, and very presence."

ERNST & JULIO DOWN BY THE SCHOOLYARD

"I think that Kol is a \$!?*%&# fine literary journal."

-Anonymous

As told to Avi Sussman

Lecture Title Choices

Either "From Fast Breath to Fish Breath: One Man's Yom Kippur Journey" or "Tzitzis: A Hasidic Tail" would be a far more interesting lecture title than, say, "Yom Kippur" or "Fringes." I really believe that.

Sitting in Synagogue

I was sitting in synagogue over *Sukkot*¹, listening to the Rabbi's sermon, when it hit me. I hit back and a scuffle ensued, which a burly candy-man² eventually broke up. Then it occurred to me: If the automobile manufacturer Citroen would only change its name to Citron, a great advertisement for them could be: "It's not a lemon. It's a Citron."

Following Services

Following services, the congregation was invited to the *sukkah*³ for *kiddush* (this story is somewhat ethnic, isn't it?). We accepted. A heavy morning drizzle had just subsided, and the shul's normally "mature" sponge cake was at its annual moistest. That morning's shower, however, had been nothing compared to the previous night's downpour. Of course, my family waited until the rain stopped before eating. I just wish we could have waited indoors. Not that our *sukkah* wasn't beautiful. It was fully decorated, right down to that mainstay of Jewish *Sukkot* tradition, Indian corn. What is Indian corn, anyway? Have you ever heard of a recipe that calls for it? And how does it differ from maize? I was agonizing over these very questions when the candy-man approached again and asked me if I was feeling quite alright,

and I said yes, I was, I'm only agonizing figuratively, and thanks for breaking up the fight before, but if you hadn't, I could have taken that jerk.

"Sure you could have," he retorted sarcastically, and then added before walking away, "Now shake my hand *Good Yuntif* and go back to your father." He's a strange man, really.

New Segment Introduced

At this point I would like to introduce a new segment of this column, henceforth to be known as "The Question or Questions Later To Be Statistically Analyzed Segment." This issue's question is: Which of the following better characterizes you?

A. "I enjoyed the film, 'Yentl.'"

B. "I was disturbed by the film, 'Yentl.'"

Please circle either "A" or "B" and send your answer sheet to *The Commentator* marked: Attention Dimwits.

And Then I Thought

Just now it hit me - I ignored it and told it to grow up - and then I thought, is it fair for me to ask for mail from you without ever having written you a letter? You bet it isn't! So, here goes.

Dear [Your Name Here],

How are you? I'm fine, thank you. How are [Your Mother's Name] and [Your Father's Name], your wonderful parents? Seriously, how is everything with you? Anyway, gotta go!

Love, Ernst and Julio.

Don't Say I Never Wrote

There. Don't say I never wrote.

Graceful Close

While strolling on my veranda trying to think of something serene and uplifting with which to gracefully close - something about the richly colored autumn leaves, perhaps, or the crisp clear winter breeze beginning to blow here in the diaspora - I began hallucinating and decided it was time to get off the sauce.

All the best.

1 Tabernacles; Holiday of Booths.

2 On Yom Kippur read: snuff-man (Not to be confused with Snuffman, a rare last name --ed.)

3 Tabernacle; booth.

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Hope to see you there!

Rav Baruch Simon Appointed Rosh Yeshiva

by Avi Lowell

This semester, Rabbi Baruch Simon was added to the rabbinic staff of the Mazer Yeshiva Program. Rabbi Simon has been on the YU campus since 1978, the last time the Yeshiva learned Maseches Pesachim, the tractate currently being studied. His Yeshiva University affiliation began in tenth grade in MTA, and spanned Yeshiva College and the *shlich* program. Rabbi Simon has assisted Rabbi Yaged in MTA and has taught *halacha* in IBC.

Rabbi Simon, who was in Rabbi Hershel Schachter's shiur for over seven years, emphasizes the importance of giving *talmidim* a practical *derech*, or way of life: "The goal of Yeshiva education is *Ahavas Torah* and *Yiras Shamayim* above and beyond learning *Gemara*." In shiur,

whenever applicable, he connects the *Gemara* to practical *Halacha*.

Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau believes that "it's very important to add young Rebbeim who have gone through the system, understand the boys, and are big *talmidei chachamim*. The fact that Rabbi Simon is in the *Beis Hamedrash* a great deal is a tremendous plus."

Menachem Schechter, a freshman in Rabbi Simon's shiur, says that "the guys like the shiur. He's very warm; people outside of his shiur come to him for advice. He's also a very funny guy -- although most people don't know it." Students find it easy to talk to Rabbi Simon because he's down-to-earth and modest. Noted Rabbi Simon: "I don't like to be in the limelight. I hope it's a short article."

Jewish Philanthropy Declining

continued from page 1

and things like that." Among the programs most affected by the changing of the philanthropic guard are the Max Stern and Jacob Burns Academic Merit Scholarships. While there are no indications that these programs are in immediate jeopardy, due in part to provisions in the wills of their founders, their long-term existence, especially the Burns', is not guaranteed.

In addition to the prospect, and in some cases, the reality, of diminished philanthropic donations, administrators continue to deal with several aspects of the University's internal structure which complicate financial prosperity. "Everyone should understand that a medical school is a much more expensive operation than even a law school, and much bigger than [an undergraduate school]," reflects Zysman. Roughly three-fourths of the University's annual operating expenses are devoted to AECOM, and harboring one of the nation's largest and most successful medical research operations, the College accumulates a proportionally smaller deficit than the other University divisions. Because of their relative financial well-being, AECOM and the Cardozo School of Law are obligated by University regulations to assist the less prosperous undergraduate schools. The undergraduate schools, because of their double curriculum-single tuition and split campus arrangements, "lose money across the board," according to Pittinsky. A further economic problem is presented by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, which, because of Federal separation of church and state statutes precluding any government funding, and because many rabbinical students do not pay tuition, must rely heavily on other University divisions to support its \$15 million annual budget. While to date, the wealthier graduate and professional schools have supported the undergraduate programs, some divisions, according to Pittinsky, are "coming under [greater financial] pressure" amid rougher financial circumstances.

In the face of these serious financial concerns, YU administrators continue to mount a wall of confidence in the financial stability of their institution, stressing innovative money management and fundraising techniques. "Our problem now", comments Zysman, "is to find young leadership, new leadership to take over. We are very carefully evaluating a lot of younger Jewish leaders in the community to come into the picture... When a person passes away and does not leave us funds... then it is our responsibility to find others who will replace him. I feel reasonably confident that we will do it in every case." Pittinsky cites Sy Syms, who, before founding the University's undergraduate business school in 1987, "had not been a regular donor," as an example of the "brand-new donor" sought by the University. Zysman also said that the development Office plans to announce several large donations from the estates of recently deceased benefactors in the near future.

The University's financial dilemmas have had a mild effect on undergraduate student life and academic programs. While food costs and tuition have grown consistently over the last several years, future increases are not projected to exceed inflationary rates, according to Pittinsky. The two largest men's undergraduate divisions both expanded their faculties this year, with the addition of two new rebbeim to MYP and the hiring of six full-time Yeshiva College professors, the largest staff hiring "in many years," according to YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld. Echoing the general sentiment among academic and admissions administrators, Dean Rosenfeld commented, "It's expected that it would be more difficult to meet our educational costs. It's a problem we've faced before, it's a problem we're facing now, and it's a problem we'll face in the future successfully... We are not being impelled by financial constraints but rather by academic quality improvements."

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"Kol": A Case of Censorship?

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English Writing Contest. All contest entries were submitted to and judged by the Yeshiva College English Department. Winners of the contest are automatically published in the following "Kol" Journal. The second controversial story "Ruminations of an Ex-boyfriend", was recognized as a possible problem by the editorial board. It was ultimately accepted by Editor-in-Chief Joel Haber, following consultation on the nature of the

appearing in the journal, with the Faculty advisors.

Haber said that the issue of editing out the controversial lines was brought up, but due to the fact that the article "Smiling John" had been chosen winner of the Writing contest, "the English Department did not feel that the language was gratuitous in any way, and the department knew that it would be published." In addition, Haber felt that "since it [the language] was the voice of the personae, it did not necessarily reflect their [the author's] opinion, the Editor's or that of Yeshiva University." "As a matter of fact," continued Haber, "Boyfriend was indeed partially edited with the approval of the writer." Haber also pointed out the disclaimer on the second page of the journal, which states that although aware of the possibly controversial content, as a result of the previously stated reasons, it was important to keep the stories as is.

Haber made a final point that the faculty advisors, Dr. William Lee and Dr. Joanne Jacobson, at no time ventured their opinion on the matter. They presented the facts and considerations and according to Haber "Didn't recommend this way or the other." Other board members, after conferring with Haber at the time, were under the impression that the faculty was less ambivalent.

A major point of contention on the part of the English department is that throughout the confiscation no one in the department was ever notified of the problem, or of the action taken to rectify it. Dr. Haahr, head of the English Department, said that she was "offended at never having been notified of the situation." As of the writing of this article, the English Department still hadn't been officially notified.

Dr. Haahr expressed the necessity of discussing the situation in an open forum. Both Dr. Haahr and Dean Nulman stated that they have never encountered a situation like this in regard to Kol, and as a result, Dr. Haahr feels that it is imperative that the issue be brought to the surface so that it can be avoided in the future. Joel Haber said that he was distraught at the extreme action taken, and "would like to beg the concerned parties to reconsider their actions."

In response to Nulman's and Gurell's handling of the situation, Haahr stated

that when the English Department evaluates a work of literature they use strict literary standards to judge. "We are not qualified to make any other judgements, nor were we ever told that we had to." She pointed out that if the concerns of the Yeshiva do indeed have to be taken into account, then that must be brought up and discussed by the Administration. Haahr also explained that the English Department can't and won't be held responsible for judging *halachik* standards, and if that is to be a requirement, then they cannot be expected to participate in the publication of Kol.

Was the banning of Kol considered censorship? Did it infringe on the freedom of speech that the English department expected to be granted? Dean Nulman felt it was not a case of censorship because of the way that he handled the situation. Since YCSC is the publisher of the journal, they have a right to decide that it is not acceptable "and this does not impinge on the actions or judgments of the English Department." Haber disagreed with Nulman's reasoning and actions.

Scheinfeld felt that freedom of speech was not an issue here. "We, as *bnei Torah u'mitzvot*, have our own constitution given to us by *Hakadosh Baruch hu* (Gd) to live by." He continued "YU plays a very important role in the Jewish community. It has a goal, and I felt that putting articles like this under the YU headline was contrary to what YU stood for, therefore degrading and dragging YU's name through the mud."

If in fact Kol is a student publication, as stated by Nulman, rather than a Yeshiva College publication, then the YU symbol on the back cover needs clarification. Dr. William Lee stated that "he [Joel] may have had the naive assumption that YU has the room for Kol, the students who wrote and edited it, and the pieces that appeared in it." Haber explained the YU symbol as stating that Kol was a publication "put out by the students and paid for by a body of the University namely YCSC."

In defense of Haber's decision to include the stories in question, Lee stated that "He [Joel] made a decision that represented a real struggle for him and he made it out of a real sense of integrity for the publication and the institution, and to that degree he deserves a lot of credit." Rabbi Charlop, Dean of Yeshiva Program expressed dismay in regard to the journal and strong concern over the publication of this article. Furthermore, Rav Charlop verbalized disbelief that there were people in this institution who have no qualms about writing as they did.

Dr. Joanne Jacobson, as Faculty Advisor for this edition of Kol, stated that "the issues that are giving rise here are very important ones and must be dealt with. I hope and urge that *The Commentator* will serve as a forum for this meaningful and imperative discussion."

SY SYMS TO BECOME MORE CHALLENGING

By Steven Miodownik

Sy Syms students who planned on breezing their way through certain courses may discover that from now on earning "A"s will not be as easy as they had anticipated. According to Sy Syms Dean Harold Nierenberg, as part of a general YU trend to make courses more challenging, the business school will be "tightening the loose ends so students will get the most out of their education." Nierenberg has sent a memo to SSSB faculty instructing them to take attendance in every class. In addition, all professors have been told to challenge their students more and to stimulate them in an effort to give them a better education. This, he explained, may translate into an increase in difficulty and the work load.

Nierenberg said that he has not ordered teachers to award fewer "A"s and added that his actions are not designed to decrease the number of high grades received. Dean Nierenberg explained that his sole motivation was to insure that students didn't feel "that they are getting nothing out of a course." He stressed that the entire purpose of Sy Syms is to train the students for specific careers and if the students are not challenged now, they will not be able to

succeed in the future. Nierenberg defended his actions by citing what might occur if ill-prepared students were allowed to graduate from SSSB. He suggested that the entire school would be adversely affected because an alumnus's poor performance would reflect badly on the school. This, in effect, would diminish the value of a Sy Syms degree, hurting current business students as well as other alumni. Nierenberg concluded that the "reputation of the school" is at stake if students "can just joke their way through the school."

Teachers have been warned to take the extra burden of Jewish studies into consideration when restructuring their courses and to be reasonable in light of the extra workload. Nierenberg explained that he insisted on this because his concern is one of giving students their "money's worth," not "toughening up."

Implementation of these changes will be left up to the teachers. One professor interviewed stated that he intends to change the format of his tests. Whereas in the past the students would have received all of the possible midterm and final essay questions before the actual tests, he would now give students fewer of the questions in advance.

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RESPONSA

continued from page 2

spirits is also beyond the bounds of accepted behavior. Every person who has chosen to come to Yeshiva, even if he has come with no intention of becoming a "lamdan", must be seeking a traditional Jewish environment; otherwise he could just have easily gone to more prestigious colleges, or to those which offer at least equivalent secular studies at a cheaper price. Therefore, it is our responsibility to make sure that Yeshiva's environment is not only one of Torah learning but also one of Torah ideals, ethics, and behavior.

A second concern raised by some will be that by reining in academic freedom we may lose certain Federal or State funding. The technical vagaries of that issue must be left to the Administrators to determine. However, if standing up

for Torah and *halachic* principles in fact entails losing government funding, it is nevertheless something we must do. If the Yeshiva Board and Administration truly adhere to the goal which Yeshiva claims to exemplify, they will surely find a solution to any difficulty which loss of funding may entail.

In the merit of standing up for Torah ideals, even under seemingly trying circumstances, may we be blessed with the opportunity to truly be an "ohr lagoyim".

Shlomo Schwartz
YC '93, RIETS '96

Raising our "Kol" III

To the Editor,

While some expressed outrage and disbelief at the language and content of this year's Literary Journal, to me, "Kol" brought a tremendous sense of relief.

What the publication of "Kol" illustrates is the glaring problem that confronts YU as it prepares to enter the 21st century which is the separation of the University from the Yeshiva. At YU, one must always remember that our secular and Jewish studies are, and always will be, one entity. While it is true that as Americans the freedom of speech is guaranteed to us by our constitutional rights, as Jews we must also recognize the guidelines set down for us by the Torah. As Americans we revel in the opportunity to exercise freedom of speech, yet as Jews, aspiring to be *b'nai Torah*, we must realize when that exercise intrudes on those boundaries. At YU we try to be *b'nai Torah* and as *b'nai Torah*, we strive not to speak in the ways written in the journal.

I am not suggesting that YU become a school of black hats, dark pants, and

white shirts. On the contrary, the diversity of the students here is what makes YU so special. However, what we need is a more active association between the college and the yeshiva of YU. Why can't all of the publications and activities have a Rabbinic faculty advisor, chosen by members of the executive board of that publication or activity, to assure that everything written or done fits within *halacha* without greatly compromising the intent of the subject matter?

We are Yeshiva University, thus giving us higher moral and ethical standards than any other college or university in the country. Yes, we need our freedom, but as Jewish Americans our freedom has to fit within the parameters of the Torah as set by our Rabbinic authorities.

Hillel Wiener
YC '95

Editor's Note: *The Commentator* does indeed seek rabbinic advice from YU faculty on issues involving halacha.

The Gold Card Plan

To the Editor,

In the last edition of *The Commentator*, we were inundated with articles quick to condemn the Caf for what certain students perceived to be an injustice. The outrage echoed was in response to the Gold Card Plan currently being implemented and the rise in price of certain foods. Since neither writer was in attendance at this summer's meeting of the Executive Food Services Committee, we decided it was only fair to set the record straight.

Heeding the call from many students to extend the possible use of the caf card, and realizing the number of people who eat out on a regular basis, Supporting Services decided to offer to anyone interested the gold card option. YU is receiving NO money from this plan. The purpose is purely for the student's benefit, a point not conveyed in the article. If students do not feel like exercising this option, *don't*; no one is forcing you to. However, to criticize an obvious gesture as being "a ploy" just

goes to show that students here are researching for things to complain about.

Price hikes were an issue addressed in a separate article. This time the shifting of blame was aimed at the students on the Food Services Committee. At the Executive Meeting, Students' representation was but three out of about twenty. While we agreed to allow raises on *some* foods, this action had basis. First, the prices the cafeteria has been purchasing food at from their distributor has gone up drastically. Why is it that no one screamed at Deli Kasbah or K.D. when they raised prices last year, for this same reason? Second, this was done in lieu of a raise on the amount one must spend in the caf. Better to spend more per item than to have a higher initial mandatory fee. In future articles on the cafeteria, a little less personal bias and a little more fact would be most appreciated.

YC Food Services Committee '94
Avi Greenbaum
Daniel Billig
Jason Broth
Elliott Cohen
Adam Balkany
David Wagner

Two Sides to Every Story?

To the Editor,

In response to the letter by Shmuel Herzfeld, I would like to write the following. First of all, Mr. Herzfeld is going against all the rabbis at YU who also have a flyer out with what he calls "cheap propaganda tricks." Secondly, I would like to respond to his arguments. He states that there is a vocal anti-peace movement here at YU. This is false. Nobody is anti-peace. We simply believe that this is not a peace treaty, but a "piece" treaty, which will G-d forbid lead to war. Mr. Herzfeld states that Yitzchak Rabin has a mandate to give away parts of *Eretz Yisrael*. This is not true. Before the election, Rabin said whoever gives away the Golan is forfeiting Israel's security. Then when he became prime minister he reneged on this promise. In other words he lied to the Israeli public about what he was going to do. And even if he did get the majority of votes while saying he would give away land, he still has no mandate because the land is not his to do with as he sees fit. It is the land G-d gave to the Jews and we have no right to give it away.

Shmuel then states more Israeli boys die fighting to control Gaza and Jericho than YU boys die at demonstrations. This is a sick and bizarre statement. If YU boys were dying at demonstrations in NY something would be terribly wrong. And as for Israeli soldiers dying in Gaza and Jericho this is the Israeli government's fault for not allowing the army to crush the Intifada by all means necessary so as to prevent needless

Jewish deaths. The army that beat the armies of combined Arab nations in six days and rested on the seventh cannot put down stone throwing women and children in six years! Incredible!

Shmuel then states it is immoral to keep people living in refugee camps their entire lives. He is right. So transfer the Arabs to their own countries where they can live with their own people and be first class citizens in some Arab state. The Jewish State took in hundreds of thousands of Jews from Arab lands and now it is time for the Arab states to take their people from the Jewish land.

Shmuel then states that the YU boys who put the flyers up have not visited all of the "Palestinian Refugee Camps". Obviously Shmuel hasn't either. For he would probably not be with us today if he had. If you walk into a "Palestinian" refugee camp you will be killed or severely wounded. Think about it Shmuel!

He then says that there are two sides to every story. I hope to G-d Shmuel knows which side he is on. The Arabs gain immeasurably in their cause by leftist Jews like this. Remember, why wasn't there peace in 1966 Shmuel? The Arabs had all the lands that they now claim (West Bank, E. Jerusalem, Gaza). Why wasn't there peace then Shmuel? Why did they go to war and try to annihilate the Jews? Because of the occupied territories? Come on, Shmuel it is because they want all of Israel - all of it.

Shlomo Kirschner
YC '96



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ACROSS THE STREET FROM YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

YU Macs 1993-94 Preview

by Adam Melzer

With the advent of the new season just around the corner, the time has come to preview and predict the upcoming year. This season will certainly be one of high expectations because of the "above average" talent of this year's team. In addition, Daniel Aaron, the team's "franchise player," is now a senior. Therefore, look for Macs' fans to expect nothing less than an E.C.A.C. bid. Since N.J.I.T. is always a lock for 1st place in the Macs' division, the Macs should once again be in a dog-fight with arch-rival Mount St. Vincent. In order for the Macs to be competitive and have a very productive season, many factors must be satisfied.

GUARDS- The Macs are solid at this position. Donny Furst returns to lead the Macs at the point. He is a leader who will be instrumental to the success of the team. Furst must play well for the Macs to win the big games, which means he has to use his dangerous outside shooting touch to keep opponents' defense honest. This year will be the first year (and the last) where we will see shooting guard Israel Wallach's full potential. His ability to hit the three-pointer along with his dangerous first step make him a tough player to guard. Look for him to be a key contributor to the team's success.

The Arkady Ibragimov watch continues as his availability is about as predictable as a John Stark temper-tantrum. If Ibragimov is seen in a Macs uniform this season, look for the multi-talented guard to be a spark-plug in the Macs' offense. "Arc" can drain the jumper, run the floor well, and can play heads-up defense.

Yehuda Halpert is the lone freshman on the Macs this season. He is the type of player that you want on your team because his fundamentals are absolutely sound. Halpert is definitely a bright look to the Macs' future. A player who should be inserted in this category is **Jake Rosenberg**. Although he used to be known as a forward throughout high-school, the competitive college level as well as the size factor will make him into a guard. Rosenberg has two very essential weapons: his ability to hit the "three" consistently and an incredible jumping ability for a guard.

FORWARDS- Captain **Miko Danan** returns to the Macs as a key ingredient in this year's team. He will once again bring to the court his brilliance, outstanding passing ability, and prolific scoring. This being Danan's fourth and final season, he wants nothing less than a post-season berth. **Alan Levy** gives the Macs a very imposing front-line. He is a very skilled low post player and talented rebounder who will also be called upon to shut down the opposition's talented forwards. The

most interesting player on the team is **Michael Dube**. Dube should be a solid contributor this season because of his toughness, strong defensive play, offensive talent, and spiritual leadership. Look for Dube to have a very important role in the team's overall strategy. **Issac Newman** is another returning forward who is very talented. Newman is a solid finisher who is an offensive threat. The most heralded prospect this season is forward **Ari Ciment**. Miami faithful make his seem nothing less than **Steve Smith**. Ari has a terrific outside shooting touch that will get more dangerous with each passing season. An important question to this year's success is: Will Coach Halpert pull the trigger and use this new weapon?

CENTERS- Superstar Daniel Aaron returns for his last hurrah. He has already provided us with many memories and will hopefully give us another productive season and even a banner with his outstanding play. Look for Aaron to contend for Most Valuable Player honors in the I.A.C. or even among E.C.A.C. Division. III teams. **Steven**

Kupferman is a work-horse in the low post and a tenacious rebounder and shot-blocker. This prospect must be used to spell Daniel Aaron and therefore has a very significant role.

STRENGTHS- Daniel Aaron ('nuff said); lots of speed and a garden variety of outside shooters.

WEAKNESSES- Free throw shooting has perennially been a weakness on the Macs. In fact, the free throw

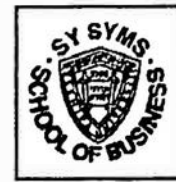
shooting has often been so bad that if this were football, the Macs would be accused of intentional grounding. The Macs also have occasionally had a bad tendency to get into foul trouble (both personal and team fouls).

KEYS TO SUCCESS- Kupferman spells Aaron enough to keep him fresh and most of all healthy. Danan, Wallach, and Furst provide consistent scoring. Ciment becomes a pleasant surprise and Danan, Levy, and Dube lead a ferocious defense.

SURE SIGNS OF TROUBLE- Aaron is forced to play the entire game with no rest. Teams surround Aaron and the outside-shooters do not respond to the double and triple teams. The Macs lose twice to Mt. St. Vincent.

THAT'S A FACT- The Macs had a 12 point lead on New Jersey Tech last season (something to remember). The Macs have not had a losing season in over a decade.

OVERALL PICTURE- The Macs will finish with a 16-7 record and will once again be the bride's maid to New Jersey Tech. They should qualify for E.C.A.C. post-season play but to predict an N.C.A.A. berth would be stretching it a lot. The Macs are going to be exciting, but of course it was also exciting when the *Titanic* went down.



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Kemp to Receive Honorary Degree

continued from page 1

Kemp will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from University President Dr. Norman Lamm. Lamm is also scheduled to bestow honorary degrees on Simon Bond, who recently established a scholarship at RIETS, Maria Finkle, who, together with her husband Joel Finkle, created a trust fund which supports the Joel and Maria Finkle Visiting Rosh Yeshiva Program at RIETS, and University Benefactor Mr. Mordechai Katz, who is vice chairman of the Bernard Revel Graduate School.

Katz and his wife, Dr. Monique Katz, have endowed a chair at Revel, a fellowship at Revel for Stern College graduates, and various scholarship funds for undergraduates.

The Chairman of the event is Burton P. Resnick, President of Jack Resnick & Sons. Resnick currently serves as chairman of the Executive Committee of Yeshiva University's board, and is the chairman of the Board of Overseers of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

YESHIVA

The "Big 10" Comes to YU Intramurals

by David Goldenberg

On Wednesday night, September 22, the intramural basketball season opened up featuring the "Big 10 teams." A breakdown of the events:

Michigan Wolverines 61

Wisconsin Badgers 49

Captain Barry Aranoff led his Michigan team to victory by scoring a game high 19 points, as the Wolverines broke open a close game midway through the second half with a 15-2 run which was keyed by Ari Hirt's 6 straight points. Shlomo Kimmel added to Hirt's 12 total points with 14 points of his own. The Badgers were led by Yoni Epstein with 13 but his eight three-pointers were not enough.

Indiana Hoosiers 35

Minnesota 30

In a very low scoring game, the Hoosiers prevailed by 5 as they played a tenacious defense led by co-Captain Andrew Leibowitz. Their offense was supplied by co-Captain Jason Horowitz (10), and Ephraim Gersberg who led all scorers with 16. Minnesota was led by Neer Everhorn with 14.

Northwestern 56

Ohio State Buckeyes 47

This game started out as a blowout as Northwestern jumped out to a 27-11 halftime lead, but Joel Kornbluth (17), and Jeremy Fox (17) brought back the Buckeyes as they keyed a 21-5 run to tie the game at 32. But late in the game Northwestern was just too tough. The winners were led by Ranan Well (18) who went 4-7 from the three-point range. Hillel Shechter added 11, and Doug Rothschild had 10.

Penn State 3

Michigan 31

In a tough and physical game that resulted in 34 fouls, the Nittany Lions

squeaked out a 4-point win. They were led by Sam Maryles who scored 13, including 9-10 from the line in the closing minutes. The only bright spot for the Spartans was point guard David Cohen who led all scorers with 19, including 4 three-pointers.

Purdue Boilermakers 41

Illinois Fighting Illini 32

This was a game of streaks. Avi Greenbaum's Fighting Illini came out smoking from the outside, and jumped out to an 18-8 lead, but after that it was all Purdue. Melzer's Boilermakers exploded with a 31-6 run that broke open a close game. They led by as much as 15 late in the second half. The winners were led by Wes Kalmar (13, 7-8 from the line), Yosef Bednarsh (8), and Sam Wald with 7. The run was sparked by Mikey Fruchter, and David Ruditzky.

Wisconsin 54

Minnesota 47

In a battle of winless teams, Jon Fischer's Badgers won their first game of the season. Avi Roth led Wisconsin with 14 points. Jon Fischer scored 13, and Yoni Epstein had 11 points and numerous key rebounds late in the game. In his intramural debut, Hillel Olshin led all scorers with a league-high 24 points, but if the Golden Gophers are going to win, he will need more support.

Michigan State 35

Northwestern 33

The Spartans won their first game of the season, but it did not come easy. They had to survive a last second three-pointer by Doni Davis that rolled off the rim to preserve the win. David Cohen led the winners with 13 points. To date, he has 5 three-pointers, and is averaging 16 points a game. Ranan Well led Northwestern with 12. Both teams are now 1-1.

Hockey Intramurals Return

by Michael Fruchter

After an unsuccessful season last year, in which very few games were played, the intramural hockey league seems to be headed in the right direction with one of the deepest drafts in recent memory. The captains, Moshe Schreiber, Michael Fruchter, Evan Borenstein, and Chaim Leffel were pleasantly surprised to see familiar names late in the draft.

With the first pick in the draft, Schreiber selected Rob Robinowitz, hoping to build a franchise around him. Schreiber also selected Oren Leiber, Barry Feuer, and Steven Tiger.

With the selections of Keith Mendelsohn and Eric Berkowitz, Fruchter has two of the best offensive defensemen in the game. The additions of Kenny

Ripstein, Michael Kule, and Ken Kassai in net makes this team a tough one to beat.

Borenstein used his first round pick to select defensemen Michael Kupferman. Borenstein also made solid picks throughout the draft with his selections of Matt Bryskin, David Tawil, Ari Bruger, and Steven Ackerman.

Leffel, the ex-MTA goalie, knows how important goalies can be to a team. With his first-round pick, fourth overall, he selected the top rated goaltender, Barry Gelman. Next, Leffel drafted a defensive unit of Tzvi Rudman and Barry Habib, which leaves Leffel choosing between offense or a prominent front office job. Does Leffel have the firepower to support his goaltending? Do other teams have the goaltending to compliment their offensive talent? This question and many more will be answered as soon as the season starts this week.

PLAYER OF THE ISSUE

Name: Brian Kalb

Height: 5'9" Weight: 150

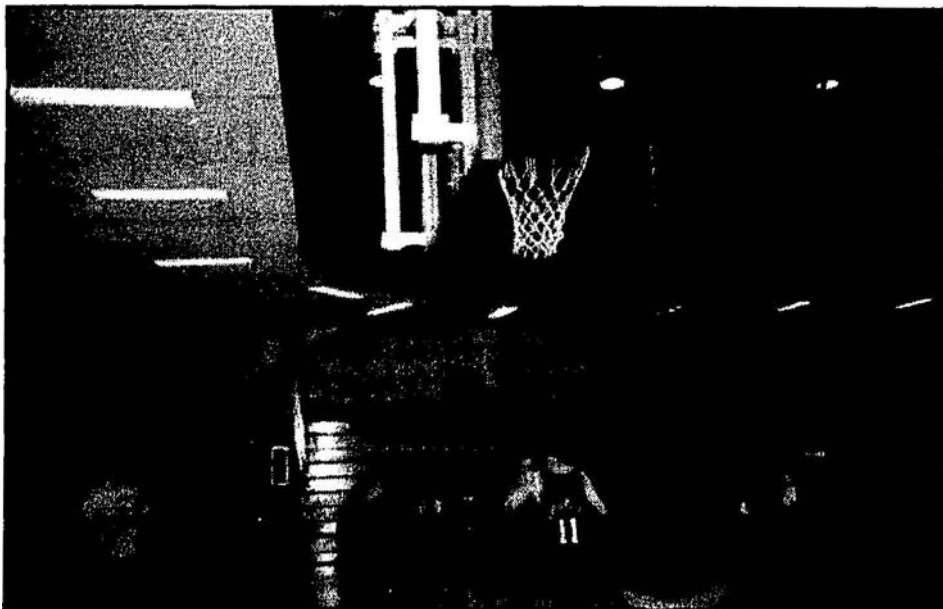
Brian graduated HAFTR High School in 1989, having served as Captain and #1 seeded player for two years on HAFTR's tennis team. He was the Elitzuria tournament winner in 1989 and spent two years on the U.S.T.A. Junior circuit. After spending a year and a half in Israel, Brian came to YU in January 1991. Kalb was given a special tryout for the YU tennis team in the middle of the season. He made the team and quickly worked his way up to the #1 seed in the spring of 1991.

His accomplishments included being the captain of the team for two years, and an undefeated singles record in 1992-1993 season. Brian's awards include the coach's award for excellence, and the IAC All Conference Award. Brian currently coaches the HAFTR tennis team.

I asked Brian to preview this year's team and he commented that the key is Captain Jordan Sudberg. Kalb commented, "[Sudberg] last year proved to be a consistent player, and if his consistency continues, the Macs could improve on last season's finish, which happened to have been their best in recent history, as they finished second in the conference."

-- David Goldenberg

The Commentator
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Intramurals begin in the Max Stern Athletic Center