

# The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

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## Blank Named Acting President of Hunter College

by Sender Cohen

Dr. Blanche D. Blank, former Professor of Political Science at Yeshiva College and Stern College, has been named Acting President of Hunter College, a division of the City University of New York. Dr. Blank will officially take office on December 1, 1993, and will remain there until a permanent successor can be found for current Hunter president Paul LeClerc. Dr. LeClerc is leaving to take the job of President of the New York Public Library.

A spokeswoman for Hunter said that a search committee to find a permanent replacement for LeClerc has yet to be fully formed. The school hopes to have the committee functioning by mid-December, and a permanent successor for LeClerc in place by next September.

In 1977, Dr. Blank left her position as Dean of Social Sciences at Hunter College to become the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Yeshiva University. She is the first woman in YU's history to hold that post. After leaving the position of Academic Vice-President, Dr. Blank joined the political science department of the undergraduate colleges. In a telephone interview, she commented that "it was a great surprise and a great honor," to be selected as Acting President of Hunter, "the years that I spent as Provost and professor at Yeshiva University will certainly serve me well in this future assignment."

Dr. Blank, who retired from Yeshiva following the Spring 1993 semester, recently authored *The Not So Grand Jury*.



Dr. Blanche D. Blank, former Professor of Political Science at YU



Registrar's Office: cramped and crowded?

## Anonymously-Hung Signs Decry Registrar's Facilities

by Owen Cyrulnik

Over the past several weeks, signs have been hung in various places around the campus decrying the size and the condition of the Office of the Registrar. These signs are actually a reproduction of an editorial that appeared in *The Commentator* a number of years ago. That editorial criticized the University for renovating the Deans' Office while ignoring the condition of the Registrar's office which, it claimed, was far more important to the welfare of the students.

Although it is unknown who is responsible for hanging the signs, the episode is indicative of a broader dissatisfaction with the condition of the Registrar's office. Informal polls of both students and employees confirm the generally held opinion that the office is in great need of change. Many students find that their interaction with

the Registrar's office is made very uncomfortable by the cramped space that it occupies.

The Registrar's office falls under the jurisdiction of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz. When questioned, Dr. Schwartz was quick to acknowledge the concerns of the students. He agreed that the Office of the Registrar is a focal point, where students interact with the University. Dr. Schwartz related that upon his arrival at Yeshiva, one of his first acts was to tour the premises, and he immediately identified the need for additional space for the Office of the Registrar. He also explained that although the Admissions and Financial offices did have to remain together, there was no such constraint on the relocation of the Registrar's office.

Dr. Schwartz maintains that the relocation of the Registrar's

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## It's Bright and it's Yellow: New Security Measures Instituted

by Ari Listowsky

Students who leave their dorm rooms unlocked may soon return to find their door locked with a yellow security warning "post-it" stuck to it. According to Chief of Security Don Sommers, Burns security guards will patrol the dorms on a daily basis checking for unlocked doors. Until now they have just posted the sticker on offending doors, but after students become aware of the procedure, guards will start locking the rooms.

Sommers explained that the policy has been in place at the downtown campus for a while and has been an effective tool for ensuring that the students lock their doors, thereby minimizing the chances of robbery. He further stated that although the student body as a whole

is not inclined to thievery, there are exceptions, and his job is to protect the students' property from these students and any outside thieves.

Student reaction to the stickers has been mixed. YC Junior Yosef Crystal, whose room was "stickered" last Tuesday, said that "it doesn't bother me in principle, in theory the policy is okay." He reasoned that "the only time I

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## Prenuptial Agreement Authored by YU Rosh Yeshiva Passes RCA

by Amir Perlson

The close of the 57th annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America in June of this year brought an end to nearly forty years of deliberation in the observant American-Jewish community on how to deal with the problem of *agunot* (chained women). In a ground breaking decision that could potentially end the trauma of women trapped in marriage by their husbands' refusal to issue a "get" (Jewish divorce) the Council authorized the use of a prenuptial agreement drafted by Rabbi Mordechai Willig of Yeshiva University. Acceptance of the agreement was unanimous.

The problem of the refused *get* is not a new one. The *get* has been used in certain cases as a bargaining tool by husbands to force monetary concessions from their estranged wives. This manner of extortion continued unabated because the *Beit Din* (Jewish court) was incapable of compelling husbands to execute a full divorce, as Jewish law requires the husband to issue the *get* willingly; any coercion would negate the validity of the document.

With the new prenuptial agreement, a man agrees to pay his future wife a specified sum of money during the time that they are married, whether they live together or separately. This financial obligation can only be terminated through a Jewish divorce. Although this gives strong incentive for the man to relinquish the "get," it does not constitute *halachic* coercion, and is therefore acceptable. The prenuptial agreement was approved by several Rabbinic authorities including the former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, Rabbi Gedalyah Schwartz, *Av Beit Din* of the RCA, and the *Av Beit Din* of the



Rabbi Mordechai Willig, author of the prenuptial agreement

Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbi Yitzhak Eisig Leibes, prior to its adoption.

Part of the problem with a Jewish divorce is the reluctance or refusal of one or both of the spouses to appear before a *Beit Din* to settle their grievances. For this reason, a second legal document is to be signed by the couple as part of the prenuptial pact. This document commits the husband and wife to a hearing by the *Beit Din*, and stipulates that the couple will adhere to any decisions concerning the divorce that the Rabbinic court may reach.

A third measure, public action, is also implemented by the agreement. This constitutes several directives initiated against the offending husband. He is to be barred from holding any office or employee position in a synagogue, and may not acquire membership or receive honors, such as an *aliyah*. Additionally, his name is to be announced every month at the end of the Sabbath service and printed in the synagogue bulletin, asking people to limit their association with him.

The initiators of the prenuptial agreement were the members of the Orthodox Caucus, a coalition of Orthodox laymen, pulpit rabbis, and *halachic* authorities who seek to approach the contemporary problems facing Judaism in a *halachic* manner. Diversity enables the Caucus to effectively achieve its goals in a relatively short time.

Rabbi Willig was asked by

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### Student Court Finally in Gear

The recently re-instituted Yeshiva College Student Court has been given the go-ahead to begin operating.

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### Sociology CLEP Postponed

Nearly 100 students signed up for the Sociology CLEP in a last ditch effort to get CLEP credits, resulting in a lack of sufficient testing materials.

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### Intramural Update

Ohio State wins its first game of the season. Who's ahead and who's behind in the basketball intramurals.

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## Turn to the Board for Job Hunting

Senior year arrives, and many students find themselves applying to law school or to medical school. Having YU on one's application is certainly an asset; year after year YU students enter the top law and medical programs in the country. But for those who wish to plunge into the job market immediately after leaving here, YU's merits are much less apparent. Many top corporations that interview at Columbia and NYU don't come near Yeshiva, and that's a pity. They simply aren't aware of the talent that YU produces. But a solution does exist.

Many members of the various Yeshiva boards are officers at leading corporations in finance, industry, and a variety of other fields. To be sure, a number of these benefactors have gone to great lengths to help Yeshiva students get a fair shot at entering these professions. But other board members have not been utilized by the Administration to help YU students enter an increasingly competitive job market.

We would like to remind the upper-levels of the University Administration that courting supporters for YU does not mean merely asking them for donations. It means finding people who are willing to invest not just in the University's present, but also in its future - the students.

## Halacha As Our Censor

Perhaps the most difficult position for a student to hold at Yeshiva University is that of an Editor of *The Commentator*. In journalism, if you're not attacked from the left for being too conservative, then you're attacked from the right for being too liberal. But at YU, the arguments are more fundamental than a mere clashing of political ideologies. At YU, *halacha* comes into play.

Journalistic integrity dictates that outside pressures brought to bear on the Editors should have no affect on *The Commentator's* content. Bowing to pressure not to print an article is tantamount to accepting the yoke of censorship. But what if that pressure is coming from a highly respected *rav*? And what if that *rav* does not merely express his personal opinion that a particular article should not be printed, but judges that *according to halacha* the article cannot be printed? Two options exist: ignore the *rav*, or kill the story. *The Commentator* will not ignore a *Rav's halachic* decisions, and must acquiesce to the mandates of *halacha*.

At the same time, *The Commentator* will not be bound by a *rav's* personal opinion. Many *rebbeim* felt that *The Commentator* article about "Kol" should not have been printed. In fact, one rabbi actually called an Editor's dorm room, prior to that issue having been published, in an attempt to impose his opinion upon the editor. But that's what it was, an opinion. The rabbi never said that the article was *halachically* problematic, he just said that it would give the *yeshiva* a bad name.

We are not in the business of upholding the Yeshiva's reputation in the eyes of the outside world. If a controversy such as the one surrounding "Kol" arises, the students have a right to know about it, and so we have an obligation to write about it. Suppressing a problem does not make it go away. Exposing a problem forces people to confront it and deal with it.

We will never allow the personal whims of any faculty member to dictate our editorial policy. Yet, we can readily accept a *Rav* telling us that an article is *halachically* impermissible, just as we would welcome him saying that something one of us is about to eat is not kosher. How can we not?

## PICTORIAL



# The Commentator

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## RESPONSA

### Sorry, Shmuel

To the Editor,

I wish to apologize to Mr. Shmuel Hertzfeld for any personal attack he might have felt in my last letter. I never had any intention to impugn his character. The indisputable facts remain, however, that: 1. Rabin is not an elected official (he was chosen by his party to be prime minister, but not directly by the voters) and 2. Israel does not incarcerate its Palestinian population in refugee camps as Mr. Hertzfeld alleged. Aside from recent Israeli emergency measures barring them from Israel, they are free to travel anywhere in the world.

Ironically, Mr. Yoni Kahan's "In Defense of Shmuel" Responsa admonishes my "unprofessionalism" by offering me sarcastic advice on how I should save my "fancy talk for when [I] join the senate." Why doesn't he follow his own advice?

Mr. Kahan minimizes the difference between the American and Israeli (also British) electoral system. In fact, there is an important distinction between these two systems: the longevity of its leader.

Specifically, President Clinton knows that he will lead our country for the next four years, regardless of the vagaries of his popularity ratings. In contrast to this, Premier Rabin can be ousted from his office by a vote of no confidence tomorrow morning. I would doubt that Mr. Rabin would agree with Mr. Kahan that his lack of tenure is "a minor detail."

I do not support a dialogue with people who have preached and did their best to implement the destruction of Israel. If Moslems, who are ostensibly one big brotherhood, can attack each other, e.g. Iraq vs. Iran, Iraq vs. Kuwait, how could we possibly put any confidence in their intentions towards Jews?

Israel has no moral equivalent in the Middle East with whom to negotiate. All of her Islamic neighbors are headed by totalitarian leaders. This makes the permanence of a peace agreement even more dubious. Jordan's King Hussein barely survived several assassination attempts this year alone. Syria's Assad is ailing. Egypt's Sadat was murdered by his own people for concluding a peace agreement with Israel; with growing Islamic fundamentalism, we must seriously consider Mubarak's chances of being assassinated too.

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### To All Undergraduate Students:

Please fill out student activity forms which can be obtained in the office of the Dean of Students (FH-416 and FH 413). These forms help in preparing letters of recommendation and distributing honors at graduation.



## RESPONSA

**MSAC For Whom?**

To the Editor,

As students of Yeshiva College, and members of its volleyball team, we are outraged with the attitude that has prevailed about our squad. Recently, the team had to abruptly conclude a scrimmage in order to accommodate the needs of the junior varsity HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL team. This incident once again raises the question of who has earned the right to use this COLLEGE facility. When upbraided about the mishap, Stanley Watson pointed to Coach Podias and claimed, "He reserved the gym." Since when can the high school arm of Yeshiva university usurp college facilities from a college team?!? Mere reservations by the high school should have no bearing when the needs of the college have not been met.

Coach Vargas was so discouraged by the whole ordeal that he replied, "We can't continue to scrimmage under these conditions." If Yeshiva College is not willing to step in on the side of the college teams, what type of message is being conveyed? Somewhere along the line, the high school has mistakenly assumed that they can dictate to college teams when the high school can use the MSAC. What has been forgotten is that college students pay a respectable fee to have the right to use the facility. We appeal to the Administration to see that college functions can run unimpaird by the pesky needs of the high school.

Noah Lindenberg  
YC '95  
Avi Marocco  
YC '94

**The Difference is Remote**

To the Editor,

There has been a lot of talk lately about television violence, and, in fact, that is the topic of this column. Not the violence depicted on TV, but rather violence that results from having just one television and many tastes. It happened on a recent Thursday night, in Morg lounge. Four dedicated Rangers fans were watching the Rangers-Canadians game. Come eight o'clock no less than eight people (including yours truly) wanted to watch *The Simpsons*. "Precedence," cried the Rangers fans, "we were here first, the channel stays where it is!" "Democracy," yelled the masses, "times are a changin'." We want *The Simpsons*! The situation remained at an impasse (it was 8:01 by now) until a wise man (alas, not yours truly) suggested compromise. "Allow us to watch the Simpsons now, and then we will return to the hockey game at 8:30," he suggested. This was met by the general approval of the pro-Simpson contingent, but received no response from the Ranger goons. That's when I came into the picture. Time was of essence (it was already 8:02), the compromise was, at least in my opinion, eminently equitable, and the reticence of the goons seemed to me a begrudging acquiescence, so I moved to the TV to change the channel. As I did so, one of the goons arose, and with more than one vein popping prominently from his neck, screamed, "Get away from the TV. You're not changing the channel!" Undaunted (in retrospect, I probably should have been daunted), I calmly responded, "Yes I am." At this point, he sprung like a panther (yes, a panther), clamped his rather powerful hands around my neck and proceeded to convince me that it was not in my best interest to change the channel. Lucky for me, security arrived before he finished presenting his rather convincing argument (although to be honest, I think that had he been allowed to finish his argument, I would have been thoroughly persuaded, if I was alive).

What's my point in telling you all this? It's not to prove to all you doubters that I really like *The Simpsons*. I am a dedicated Simpsons fan, but I couldn't care less if you believe me or not. No, my point has

to do with the concept of compromise. When I reflect on that rather violent experience, a few things occur to me. Clearly, the individual who attacked me needs professional care. His behavior displayed certain antisocial tendencies (understatement of the year), and simply isn't conducive to dorm life. However, when it comes to assigning blame, equal responsibility lies on the other three hockey fans who, in their self-righteous smugness, refused to negotiate. Certain that they were 100% right, they refused to compromise. To them, the issue was closed, decided in their favor. No concessions were necessary, justice had been served.

Why they felt this way is still a mystery to me. However, I am quite certain that had those three agreed to compromise, my assailant would not have done what he did. Instead, encouraged by the implicit support of his hockey-watching cohorts, he proceeded to wring my neck. Had he been isolated in his hard-line position, it's unlikely that he would have had the audacity to do what he did. Their silence was both irresponsible and immature.

This sort of smugness is hardly restricted to Ranger fans. Especially when it comes to difficult moral and ethical issues which often tend to polarize this university, each side views its own position as unassailable, and that of the other side as misguided, uninformed and foolish. When one feels this way, compromise becomes virtually impossible, for to do so would mean to sacrifice truth for falsehood.

That is not to say that one should not stand for what he or she believes. On the contrary, one should fight for what he or she perceives is right, and should do so with zeal and passion. However, that passion should not blind one from listening to and honestly evaluating the opinion of those whose beliefs differ, for when that happens, society can no longer function.

Jonathan Weglein  
YC '94

**In Response to the Peace Poll**

To the Editor,

In the October 25, 1993 issue of *The Commentator*, a campus poll was published depicting students' attitudes on the Israel-PLO peace accord. We would like to point out a few major problems with your survey. This was a "campus poll." Does this consider students who commute? Graduate students? We're not sure.

As any sound statistician will tell you, a sample of less than 10% of a small population is inadequate. You cited that only 51 people responded. Is this 10%?

When we asked Dr. Schneider in class how the random sample was chosen, she informed us that in fact you received the names of 85 people (with their addresses and phone numbers) who were randomly selected by computer from a list of YC students who dorm. You were advised to

do a second mailing and to make follow-up phone calls to get at least an 80% response rate. Yet, you received only 51 responses from the 85 people surveyed which translates to 60%. As anyone who ever took a baby stats course can tell you, you did not play by the rules.

You misled the readers. The poll does not represent the YC Undergraduate population. It only provides data for a small percentage of students. Perhaps you forgot what valid percents mean. The magic words are "of those who responded in the sample..."

Dr. Schneider's Intro. to Statistics  
Class section 341

P.S.: This letter does not critique the polls' questions, only the statistical and methodological problems. Of course, we could critique those, too.

**Watch Your Language**

To the Editor,

This is a response to Ephy Gopin's *Responsa* ("Rafi was wrong") to Rafi Rosenblatt's article ("Rabin was Right"). Our focus is not on the political content of the response or the article. Rather, it is concerning the technical jargon upon which Ephy chose to argue.

Ephy strongly accused Rafi of being "WRONG" for referring to Jews living in America as American Jews and proudly points out that the correct term should be Jewish Americans. However, if Ephy wants to affirm that "Your first citizenship is to your fellow Jews - then to the U.S.A.", the proper phraseology is American Jew. The word Jew is not minimized by appearing second. Just

the opposite, in the phrase American Jew, "Jew" is the focal point while the word "American" appears solely as an adjective modifying the noun Jew. The choice of Jewish American allots secondary importance to the word Jew. The fact that the word "Jewish" appears first in the term does not grammatically (or any other way) imply that it is more significant.

Ephy's point is certainly valid, but he contradicts himself by ascribing it to the terminology "Jewish American." A quick glance at the *Handbook for Writers* (Prentice Hall), would have avoided this mistake.

Batsheva Brandstatter  
Rivka Carmel  
SCW '95

**Progress on the Computer Lab**

To the Editor,

Your recent editorial about academic computing on our campus raises a number of important issues ("The Lab of Yesterday," Nov. 9). While your tone, I believe, exaggerates the deficiencies of the Belfer Hall computer facilities, fundamental problems definitely do exist. Progress, however, is being made.

The YC-SSSB senate, at the initiative of Professor Gabriel Cwilich, formed a committee at the end of the last school year to investigate the flaws in academic computing services and to suggest corrective measures. The committee has discussed all of the issues which the editorial mentions - poor maintenance of hardware, lab fees, the laser printer, and, perhaps most importantly, student computer illiteracy. A package of recommendations will hopefully be finished by the beginning of next semester, and, given the interest and cooperation that there has been from

all levels of the Administration (including Lenny Brandwein, Dean Rosenfeld, and Vice President Schwartz), I am confident that the University will take the proposals seriously.

A number of notes on specific concerns that you raised:

1) The Administration has already purchased a number of 486's to replace many of the slowest machines, and will install them shortly.

2) I do not think it is true that "students rarely use the computer room." Also, I do not really understand why you feel that computer science majors' buying and using their own computers is a disturbing development; in fact, I would think it rather strange if most majors did not have computers.

3) The committee is studying a proposal to replace the \$50 lab fee for computer courses with a smaller fee levied equally on all students.

4) A computer literacy requirement is in the works, at least in the form of a

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**RESPONSA is continued on Page 10**



# CAMPUS NEWS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### Wednesday, November 24

Friday Classes meet in the afternoon (regular Wednesday morning Jewish Studies Classes)

### Thursday - Friday, November 25 - November 26

Thanksgiving recess - no classes

### Thursday - Sunday, November 25 - November 28

Inaugural North American Orthodox Leadership Conference, The Homowack Lodge, Spring Glen, NY

### Friday, November 26

YC Macs basketball - Molloy Tournament

### Sunday, November 28

YC Macs basketball - Molloy Tournament

### Monday, November 29

YC Macs basketball - Opening Game vs. Cooper Union.

8:00 P.M.

MSAC

### Tuesday, November 30

YU Torah U'Madda Project - Student Symposium

Rubin Hall

8:00 P.M.

### Tuesday, November 30 - Tuesday, December 7

Period to file for P/F or P/N grade

### Wednesday, December 1

Due date for Senior portraits

### Thursday, December 2

YUM - *Art at Large*: slide show and discussion with New York textile artist Ellen Eichel

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

### Friday, December 3

MFAT and Departmental exams

### Sunday, December 5

YUM - Family Workshop: create copper repousee Chanukah menorahs with Avi Zukerman

YUM - Culture Connection: Peggy and Dr. Ted Myers first-hand account of their relationship with the Beta Israel community in Ethiopia

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Yeshiva University 69th Annual Chanukah Dinner and Convocation.

Jack Kemp, convocation address.

The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

5:30 P.M.

## Upcoming Events:

### Thursday - Thursday, December 9 - December 16

Chanukah (regular classes)

### Tuesday, December 7

YU Department of Chemistry Ira Kukin Lecture Series: *Molecular Robots - Small Molecules as Enzyme-like Catalysts*

Nobel Laureate Dr. Elias J. Corey, Professor of Chemistry, Harvard University, lecturer

Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall

8:00 P.M.

### Thursday, December 9

8:00 P.M. - Annual Chanukah Concert, starring Avraham Fried, Hillel Zakai, Neshoma, Teva. Nathan Lamport Auditorium.

### Tuesday, December 14

YC/ SSSB annual Chanukah *chagiga*

Tanenbaum Hall Beit Midrash

8:00 P.M.



Photo: B. Aronoff

Students say the presence of rebbeim will enhance their Torah learning

## Night Seder Bolstered by the Presence of Rebbeim

by Yehuda Fruchter

At the request of SOY, a new policy has been established regarding night seder in the Yeshiva Program. In addition to the usual complement of *Kollel Elyon* members in the Beit Midrash at night, *Rebbeim* will now be present at night seder to answer any questions that students might have. Schedules have been posted in the Main Beit Midrash and in Furst Hall with the names of the *Rebbeim*, and the nights on which they are required to be present.

Lavi Greenspan, President of SOY, who pushed for this new plan, described it as "a way to increase the personal touch between the *Rebbeim* and the *talmidim*." He added that, "During a year of study in Israel, many students developed a strong *keshar* with their *Rebbeim*, something which I hope this new policy will continue [here]."

Reaction by students to the new plan

has been positive and optimistic. Avi Schmidman, a recent returnee from a year of study at Yeshivat Har Etzion, applauded the plan as "a good opportunity to ask *Rebbeim* those questions, such as *hashkafa* questions, which one does not have the time to ask during morning *seider*." Another value of the program was expressed by Elliot Reich, a MYP/YC senior who said "that although in terms of answering *Gemara* questions the *Kollel Elyon* was sufficient, the presence of the *Rebbeim* at night seder greatly enhances the *avira* (atmosphere) of the *Beit Midrash*." While expressing great thanks to the Administration for their work in instituting the plan, Eitan Mayer, a MYP/YC senior active in MYP affairs, hoped that, "although this program has not been successful in the past, this time *rebbeim* and *talmidim* will both take advantage of a great opportunity."

## Student Court Gears Up For Grievances

by Reuven Mohl

The Yeshiva College Student Court, recently re-instituted by the Administration and the student body, has been given the go-ahead to begin operating. The Court has not yet heard any cases.

YC Senior Avi Greenbaum, who serves as Chief Justice of the Court, and Dean of Students Efrem Nulman confirmed that the Court will begin hearing cases the week after Thanksgiving. This date was chosen to allow those students who have objections enough time to organize and present their arguments. Many cases have been proposed, but Greenbaum stated that, "the cases [that have been presented] are

confidential because they are pending approval."

Student Justices are also preparing for next week. An orientation with the Court's legal counsel has been planned to discuss the legal requirements needed to oversee and regulate the Court.

When the Court begins, a student may bring his complaints against a fellow student, or bring grievances against a faculty member. The judges will then have to decide whether the case is legitimate and meets the required standards to be heard by the Court. If the case is heard, the arbitrators will suggest possible resolutions to the problem. The Dean will then have the power to enforce, waive, or revise these decisions.

## Mid-day Shuttle To Serve Faculty and Students

The Department of Safety and Security has introduced mid-day van service between the Joel Jablonski Campus and the Midtown Center. There are currently two mid-day shuttles, leaving the JJC at 11:00 and 12:45, and departing from the Midtown Center at 11:45 and 1:30.

Chief of Security Don Sommers explained that the shuttles were originally intended for use by faculty members who teach on both campuses. He later opened up the shuttle service to students as well, because limited use by professors was not enough to justify its continued operation. Sommers added that if a situation were to arise where there would not be enough space on the van to accommodate both teachers and students, faculty members would be given preference.

Students seemed pleased with the introduction of the mid-day shuttle. YC sophomore Reuben Levy felt that the new service "is a great idea - if they counted mileage for this stuff, I'd be a frequent flyer." Akiva Davis, a SSSB sophomore, stated that the mid-day shuttle is helpful because "some people need to get downtown during the day."

-- Oded Dashiff

## Yeshiva Steps Up Security at Muss

In the past few weeks, residents of Muss Hall have been confronted with ominous signs of security problems in their building. First, notices were posted on all floors warning students not to use the 187th Street exit. Next, coiled barbed wire was strung around the outdoor alleyway connecting Tannenbaum Hall to Muss. In addition, an alarm was installed on the door from the Main Beit Midrash to that passageway, limiting its use only to emergencies. YU Chief of Security, Donald Sommers, explains that these changes are part of a general security overhaul on campus. While reviewing the security of each building, Sommers' department concluded that in order to preclude any problems, it was necessary to tighten security in the Muss Dorm. According to Sommers, residents were asked not to use the 187th Street exit because of an incident that occurred several years ago, when students stuck a wedge in the door to keep it open, allowing a burglar to enter the building. The use of barbed wire is to "deter" any prospective thieves from doing business in Muss.

-- Steven Miodownik



YU's delegation to the U of P Model United Nations, posing with the Philadelphia-based Consul General of Israel

## Model UN Blends Politics With Jewish Values

by David Schertz

Eight students from YC and eight students from SCW joined with delegations of colleges from all over the country at a recent model United Nations, held at the University of Pennsylvania from November 4 to November 7.

Each participating university represented a pre-assigned country. YU was assigned the countries of Spain and Finland.

Donny Baron and Batya Markowitz, Presidents of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society of YU, organized the event. They appointed delegates, arranged the trip, and served as the delegation's group leaders. The trip was sponsored by YCSC with additional funds provided by the Political Science fund. Participating students were also required to pay a nominal fee.

Delegates were appointed after being interviewed by Baron and Markowitz. Baron stated that they were looking for people who were "somewhat knowledgeable" about political science and current events. More importantly, however, they chose people who could present an articulate and intelligent argument for either side of an issue. Baron explained that many times, model U.N. delegates have to argue the side of an issue which they do not personally agree with, in order to accurately represent their country's policies.

Once appointed, members of the delegation had to research specific issues relating to their countries. Upon arriving

at the model U.N., each delegate joined a committee devoted to their issue and explicated the policy of their country. Various resolutions were then passed based upon the findings of the committees.

Both Markowitz and Baron felt that this year's delegation performed commendably. "They were excellent," said Markowitz. Dr. Ruth Bevan, chairperson of the Political Science Department, pointed out that YU was precluded from winning any awards due to the fact that most of the actual "U.N. business," such as passing resolutions, occurred on *shabbat*, when the delegates could not participate.

The students' main objective, however, was not simply to win awards. Baron explained that the purpose of the Model U.N. is to make a "kiddish Hashem" by, "proving that Orthodox Jews are well informed in world events." Markowitz felt that another aspect of *kiddish Hashem* was that, "people learned that [it is possible] to participate in worldly projects and maintain Judaism at the same time, by the fact that we stopped for *shabbat*." Dr. Bevan stated that the other students at the event respected the YU delegation for stopping before *shabbat*, and recalled a previous model U.N. at which the YU delegation was given a standing ovation for maintaining this stance. She felt that the Model UN is a good experience for Yeshiva students and students from other universities to learn about each other.



The YU Computer Team, third-place winners in Tri-State Contest

## Computer Team Logs in a Victory

by Andrew Davidson

On Sunday, November 14, the YU computer team, now in its second year, competed in the annual Tri-State regional computer contest held in Manhattan College, and came away with a third-place finish. With two practices under their belt, they arrived at the contest ready to take on twenty-four teams representing fifteen colleges. In order to compete efficiently, the YU team split into two groups of three.

In a heated match, teams were given eight programming problems to solve. Teams raced to complete problem sets, and gain points.

As time grew short, one YU group

was computing neck-and-neck with two teams from Columbia. The group, consisting of Joshua Guedalia, Ahron Herring, and David Schwartz, was on its fifth problem, as were the two Columbia teams. Both Columbia teams finished ahead of YU, although all three teams completed five problems correctly. The difference between first and third places was only twenty-five minutes.

After the competition was over, an awards ceremony was held, and YU received a trophy for their third-place finish. "The team was well prepared, and performed well under pressure," said team Captain Joshua Guedalia.

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## Sociology CLEP Postponed

Last week, students discovered that the fall administration of the Sociology CLEP had been postponed. Because the test is one of the many college-level equivalency exams (CLEP) that will not be accepted after this semester, nearly one hundred people registered to take it this past Sunday. However, according to Rabbi M. Edelstein of the Office of the Registrar, there were not enough exam booklets to accommodate the large amount of students taking the CLEP, nor was the Educational Testing Service, the agency which produces the test, able to provide additional booklets.

Edelstein said, "The booklets are currently on order, and will be shipped to us as soon as more booklets are printed." Students will be given at least one week's warning for the make-up exam date. He emphasized that it would not be fair to give some students the exam, and force others to wait. "How could we choose which people would be allowed to take the exam this time," he asked. Although a few students were disturbed by the postponement, reaction was muted. As YC Sophomore Joe Markowitz put it, "I don't really mind, as long as they tell us ahead of time."

-- Dov Simons

## YU Hosts Open House

### Students and parents visit from across the nation

On Sunday, November 14, Yeshiva University held its annual "open house" for high school juniors and seniors. Over 300 students and parents, some from as far as Wisconsin and California, used this opportunity to meet YU's administration and faculty, as well as to visit the campus.

Visitors were greeted in Belfer Hall with a continental breakfast, and later heard addresses by Vice President for Academic Affairs William Schwartz, MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, IBC and JSS Dean Rabbi Michael Shmidman, Yeshiva College Dean Norman Rosenfeld, and SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg. This was followed by a video presentation, and "workshops" for each of the Jewish Studies Programs, for Yeshiva College, and for the Sy Syms School of Business. After lunch, several YU students led guided tours of the campus and answered prospective students' questions. Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, who organized the Open House, expressed that he was "very pleased with the turnout, and the smoothness with which the event ran."

-- Yisroel Holczer

## OBITUARIES

### Rabbi Hyman Muss, Benefactor of Muss Dorm, Passes Away

Rabbi Hyman Muss, a YU Benefactor and longtime member of the Board of Trustees of RIETS, passed away last Saturday, November 13th, at Mount Sinai Hospital at the age of 82. The cause of death was cancer.

Rabbi Muss, born and raised in Brooklyn, was a member of the first graduating class of Yeshiva College in 1932, and received his *s'micha* that same year in RIETS. He later went on to receive a law degree at Columbia University. He was a partner with his son, Joshua, in the Muss Development and Muss Management Companies, which build shopping centers, apartment houses, and developments throughout the Metropolitan area.

A trustee of RIETS for 23 years and former President of the Yeshiva College Alumni Association, he was awarded with an honorary doctorate by Yeshiva University in 1986. He and his wife, Ruth, donated the endowment for the Ruth and Hyman Muss Residence Hall.

A noted philanthropist, Muss is survived by his wife, Ruth, a YU Guardian, and two sons; Joshua, a Yeshiva College alumnus and a member of the Yeshiva College Board of Directors, and Stanley, also a Yeshiva College alumnus. Rabbi Muss continued in the tradition of his father, Isaac Muss, who was a YU Board member in the early years of the institution's existence.

-- Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

## Renovating the Registrar's: Furst Hall Basement is an Option

continued from page 1

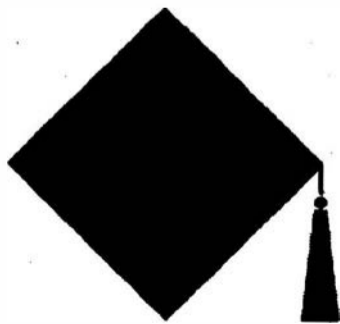
office is a matter of urgent importance. When asked if any sites were currently under consideration, he responded that there were a number of sites that were being examined, but none had been chosen as of yet. One of the early possibilities had been to renovate a space in the basement of Furst Hall near the laboratories. That

option has been put on hold, for the time being, due to the massive costs and construction that it would necessitate. Another consideration is that it would be very difficult to relocate the Registrar's office during the academic year, because it provides a vital service to the University.

# COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 11:00 AM

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IF SO, DID YOU RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION OF YOUR APPLICATION?

IF NOT, CONTACT THE REGISTRAR.

## Sigma Delta Rho Hosts Shabbaton

This past *Shabbat* Sigma Delta Rho and the Chemistry Club held a *shabbaton* at Stern. A medical ethics discussion was held Friday night after dinner, covering a range of topics such as organ transplants, death and dying, and premature births.

On *Shabbat* afternoon Rabbi Moshe Kaganoff gave a shiur on the permissibility of *Kohanim* attending medical school, concluding that each person should consult his own Rav on this matter.

— David Price

## Rabbi Riskin Speaks at YC

On Monday, November 16, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the Chief Rabbi of Efrat and the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Hamivtar, spoke to more than 150 students about the *kedusha* (holiness) of *Eretz Yisroel*. The program was sponsored by IBC and JSS with the cooperation of the Ohr Torah Institutions. All JSS students, and select IBC students were in attendance.

Rabbi Riskin, a student of the Rav, *zt"l*, and a former Rosh Yeshiva of JSS, explained the importance of making *aliyah*, the responsibilities we, as Jews, have to the Land of Israel, and the relationship Jews have to the holiness of Jerusalem.

— Isaac Sasson

## Passing of Prenuptial Agreement an "Optimistic Point in Jewish History"


*continued from page 1*

the Caucus to draft the document because, as Rabbi of the Young Israel of Riverdale and a Rosh Yeshiva at YU, he was felt to be able to understand both the profound public need for such a document as well as the *halachic* subtleties involved in its development.

Rabbi Robert Hirt, Vice President of RIETS, and member of the Orthodox Caucus, stressed the fact that the current draft of the prenuptial agreement was adopted by the RCA, a system of *Batei Din*, and not just by *halachic* theoreticians. He concluded that he feels this is an optimistic point in Jewish history. He asserted, "We see that the community at large has matured and gained confidence in the *halachic* system, turning to the *rabbonim* for the resolution of important issues. The gap between the laymen and the rabbis is narrowing."

*The Commentator wishes Mazal Tov to Rabbi Jeffrey & Chani Chaitoff on their recent marriage*

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<b>Sweet Yams</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Corn on the Cob</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
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<b>Pumpkin Pie</b>	<b>\$1.25</b>

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## OP-ED: Don't Question Players' Resignations

Adam Melzer

Now that the messianic fervor about the Macs 1993-94 season is over, the Macs have unfortunately been confronted with some distressing information. Top prospects Arkady Abraham (following the lead of Mahmud Abdul Rauf/Chris Jackson) and Ari Ciment have opted not to play for the team.

Over the past several weeks, just about all who have an interest in Yeshiva sports have questioned and stated their own opinions as to why the two resigned. Some overheard opinions at YU have ranged from a lack of dedication to poor treatment by the coaching staff. People have blamed the fact that the coaches center their team around some players and not others, and hold practices with an atmosphere which is too intense. Quite a few people have placed full blame on Assistant Coach Steve Podias, citing examples of early admissions students who could have played MTA varsity but opted to go to YU.

Let us attack the last issue first. The above example regarding MTA makes about as much sense as Greg Anthony winning Knick sharpshooter of the month. In speaking to some of these early admissions students, they explained that to leave MTA for Yeshiva College for a reason like that is "sheer stupidity." In addition, it is important to recognize the truth regarding Coach Podias. Podias is a winner who has the respect of those he leads. Nobody can take away the two championships, one national championship, and two Sackin championships he has helped win for MTA. He has always achieved great success on the college-level, creating the hard-nosed defense that has become the Macs' trademark. In watching him on and especially off the court, I have noticed the extreme care that he has shown for past and present players that he has coached. Whether he has gotten along with these individuals as players, he always cares about their well-being. To this day, if

I, as his chief rival on the court (HAFTR) can express this respect for him, than everyone else should, too.

As for the questions regarding Abraham's and Ciment's dedication, it is essential to realize their true motives in attending Yeshiva College. Every YU student is an octopus. An octopus reaches for many different things. Comparably, both Abraham and Ciment are in the first semester of a dual program, have numerous obligations, and other extra-curricular events; consequently, the two didn't realize the extreme time constraints accompanying the responsibility of being on the Macs. Abraham and Ciment explained to me that this decision was hard because of their love for basketball, but the time factor is even harder to accommodate. This is the reason, and the only reason, for their resignation.

In terms of the possibility of a "biased and uncaring" coaching staff, I have only heard praise for said personalities by both veteran players and rookies. A source close to the Macs explains that Coach Halpert is a "caring and good-hearted individual who puts the well-being of all his players equally in the forefront." Therefore, do not hold the coaches responsible for a decision in which they lacked any sort of control.

As far as the issue of intense practices, the practices should be intense. Everyone wants to win and therefore, it is necessary for the Macs to work especially hard, for pride's sake. Besides, this isn't Indiana-calmdown.

As I conclude this editorial, I begin to realize that people stated their negative opinions either because they are jealous, or because they are ignorant. Personally speaking - kudos to Abraham and Ciment for making a difficult decision with pride, and to Coaches Halpert and Podias for respecting their decision.

I think that it is time for Coaches Halpert and Podias to cite a line by Coach Norman Dale from the movie, "Hoosiers": "I was hoping that you would respect us for who we are, and not for who we are not."

## STUDENT NOTEBOOK

# YU Students: Be More Open-Minded

by David Montag

One of our *rebbeim* recently said of YU, that if you want to understand what YU is really about, look at what is going on at night. Well, I took a look around and what I found was no surprise. There was an eclectic range of activities happening on campus. The range went from *Beit Midrash* learning to quite the other extreme. YU guys indulge in all this world has to offer. The University has many types of students from many different schools of thought. If variety is the spice of life, then this place is red hot.

It is shocking then to find only one basic political philosophy espoused by the university at large. After a quick glance through the college paper, activities listing, and speaker schedule, one would assume that this institution was comprised solely of RIETS students, interested only in *halachic* debate or Israeli politics. Well, here's some news for you all; it's not. Many students live in modern American society and the issues and problems of that society are a major concern to them. For some reason, the voice of students with interests and views other than those commonly espoused by *Yeshiva "bochurim"* seem to be conspicuously missing.

There exists a portion of students, lurking in dark corners of the campus that advocate liberal and left-wing political ideals. For some reason, these mysterious young Democrats keep a low profile. I assure you, students of the left, it is safe to come out now; no harm will come to you. I can understand why many choose to keep their convictions to themselves; I know from experience. One day, while I was debating the latest university politics in the cafeteria, the following conversation took place: I remarked, "Rabbi Lamm is giving Dorm Talks soon. I can't wait to hear what he has to say." A second student hastily responded, "Oh, you agree with him?" At that point I was forced to walk away. After all, how can you argue with someone whose blind attitude is "if you do not agree with me, then you are wrong." Unfortunately many

closed-minded people on campus think similarly.

It is unfortunate that many students are forced into a self-imposed exile within their own school. This silence out of fear is no illusion. Political diversity exists in the outside world. People live and work well with others of different views; this is not so in YU. Students socially congregate with those of the same views as themselves, and those with differing opinions seem to be left out. I have friends on both sides of the fence, however I have noticed that my relationship with YU students with views other than my own are strained. Many students feel as if they are political dissidents, unable to speak their mind in public. This is all because of the aforementioned attitude of "I am right, you are wrong."

The source of this tension might have to do with political movements in America in general. The 1980s were a decade of conservatism, and this institution was swept along when the Republican winds swept the nation. The right-wing attitude is commendable in its sincere preservation of traditional Judaism; however, not when it is to the exclusion of other, more modern segments. This institution has changed over the decades. I have been told stories of the 'Golden Age of YU,' the 60s and 70s. That was an institution accepting of all. I am afraid that the new-found conservatism will alienate many supporters of the University.

I plead with you, students of YU: make an effort to get along and be more open-minded. How can we hope to overcome our problems with the rest of the world if we can not get along with ourselves. There is a tremendous disunity among students. This creates resentment, and in some cases it fosters outright bitterness towards religious institutions. This only means opening up your mind to hear what your fellow students have to say and why they say it. Do not assume that others are wrong just because you do not agree with them. If you can avoid this, we will find an institution that honestly represents all of its members in the true democratic tradition.

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## CORRECTION

In the review of Dorm Talks (*The Commentator*, Vol. LVIII, Issue 4), comments made by Rabbi Lamm about Rabbi Gorelik, zt"l, were apparently taken out of context. The actual transcript of Rabbi Lamm's words reads:

"You mean to say that because one *rebbe* is opposed to Torah U'Madda, therefore, you're not going to do any thinking about it? On the contrary, if everyone says the same thing, you wouldn't think about it, because you would accept it as a given. I know that there are people who are opposed to it -- but no more than there were in my day. No more. Rav Gorelik, zt"l, whom I liked very much although he was never a *rebbe* of mine, makes everyone here pale by comparison. He was a firebrand. A man with fiery eyes, a short, heavy set person with a muscular mind; he was opposed to everything about Yeshiva except salary checks -- everything down the line. And he was a wonderful human being -- a great *talmid chacham* and a charming man..."



## ERNST & JULIO DOWN BY THE SCHOOLYARD

"White men can't plant corn."  
--Squanto

Hello. Who is this?  
I have a confession to make. I understand where half of the word "Thanksgiving" comes from: the phrase "thank you." Its the ssgiving part I can't figure out. Am I alone in this?

Maybe you, John, can explain the following item to me. No, on second thought, I'd like to address this to the general readership, and not just to "John," if that's even your real name: the administration has been so busy confiscating apostrophiless literary journals, that they haven't seemed to notice the hundreds of supposedly religious students stuffing their yaps with M&M's! Talk about out-of-it!

At this juncture I would like to throw out a suggestion. No, on second thought, I'd better recycle it. Darned environmentalists. You'd think that at Thanksgiving time they'd have some important mission lined up, like rescuing a captive balloon forced cruelly and annually to march down Central Park West. Afterwards, they could make a documentary and call it "Free Snoopy."

Far and away the most entertaining part of the Thanksgiving Day Parade is the clowns on roller skates. Whoever thought up that idea is a genius. I mean, clowns are so much fun as it is, and then to go that extra step and put them on wheels. If the guy who thought that up is reading this, I just want to say thank you, man.

If you're like me, after the parade you'll probably put on a black coat, black stockings, and a black hat with a white buckle made of construction paper, and sit down to turkey and giblets. There is

no joke here; I just like to say giblets. Mid-way into the meal, one of your fat, slovenly lawyer uncles will inevitably posit at least one of these two claims:

1) "Thanksgiving turkey" is a revisionist hoax--the Pilgrims did not enjoy it at the first Thanksgiving!

2) Turkeys certainly have nothing to be thankful for on Thanksgiving!

Superficially, you'll debate him politely, but deep down you'll despise him for trying to dishearten you on a national holiday, and also for making fun of your hat. By the way, it's no secret that when you look at the corpulent kindred attorneys, the last word to come to mind is "firm."

And now let's quickly take an official *Commentator* poll. They'll never miss it.

**SCHEDULE CHANGE:** This Wednesday, November 24, will run on a Friday schedule, so I guess I'll be leaving class at about 4:15. It's my Sabbath, you see.

When the smoke clears on Thursday, and the crowds have stopped chanting my name, I'll go and watch the parade crew deflate the balloons. Then, invigorated, I'll walk briskly Joel Jablonski-ward, eagerly anticipating getting back to my room and cracking open a bottle of grape juice--and maybe some gefilte fish. After that, clenching my thick, red mane with my stubby digits I'll lament, "Why did I eat that?" But then a warm wave of thankfulness will splash over me, because all at once I'll know that having already achieved that delicate mixture of indigestion and regret, reading this will be unnecessary.

All the best.

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## What if I Don't Have a Key?

continued from page 1

could see a problem is if they locked the door when I'm in the shower; otherwise the only reason my door would be open is if I forgot to lock it."

Other students, however, expressed dismay with this new policy. YC Sophomore, David Greenstone, whose room was "stickered" on three separate occasions, explained that "anything stolen is our responsibility, they aren't responsible even if the door is locked... There are more serious security problems that they should occupy themselves with." When informed of the forthcoming policy of locking doors, he expressed stronger reservations: "What if I don't have a key and get

locked out?" He further commented that, "If you feel that you can trust leaving the door open you should be allowed to."

Summers responded to student concerns by stating that he "would rather they be upset that there is a yellow sticker on their door than be upset because all of their belongings were stolen." He added that the security office will be keeping a record of rooms that have been stickered so that if something has been stolen they will be able to determine whether or not the student has left his door unlocked on many other occasions.

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## RESPONSA

## This Land is Our Land

To the Editor,

I would like to write a few words in defense of the article I wrote in a previous edition of *The Commentator*. I would like to address the article by Jonathan Kahan who wrote against me.

He questions my *kavana* when I daven for peace in the *Shemona Esrei*. Again I have to state that we all want peace, but that I don't agree to their definition of peace. I don't believe that appeasement of cruel and vicious murderers, through giving them parts of Eretz Israel, is peace.

Mr. Kahan asks if I would agree to any peace plan. First, I would like to state that the Arabs do not want peace. They proved this numerous times. They want Israel. It is very likely that there won't be peace until the *Moshiach* comes (hopefully very soon). And then "all nations shall beat their swords into plowshares." But meanwhile, as they continue to have swords with which to destroy us, let us not wave plowshares. I believe in peace through strength, not peace through weakness. In the Middle East, it is strength which is respected. Land for peace? By all means. The Jews who were the victims of countless efforts to destroy them and who are the rightful owners will keep the land and graciously give the Arab murderers peace. The 1967 war was a *Kiddush Hashem* and by acknowledging this fact and declaring that the land is ours and that G-d gave it to us is *kiddush hashem*. Retreating from it and giving it away are not. "The degradation of Israel is the desecration of the name of the Lord" (*Rashi-Ezekiel 39:7*). The converse is also true.

Then, in my argument of expulsion of the Arabs from Israel, he says that if we were to do that, we would be condemned all over the world. He is right. And today the world loves us? Even if we don't expel the Arabs the world will condemn us. No matter how "nice" we are to the Arabs. They condemn us for the 1967 war. In essence we were condemned because we fought back and lived. They condemn us because we exist and there is nothing we can do about it. The Rabbis stated "It is a law - Esau hates Jacob."

How long are we going to beg for love and money from America and the world? How far are we willing to cower to the world for acceptance? Where is our self respect? Instead of going to and putting our faith in gentiles we should put our faith in G-d.

Mr. Kahan says it is "immoral" to move out Arabs from Israel. But it is not immoral for him to move out Jews from Eretz Israel. (Which in effect is what the peace plan is doing.) We are not allowed to expel Arabs who hate Yisrael, Arabs who believe the land is theirs, Arabs who kill Jews and Arabs who have many babies. From where does Mr. Kahan's definition of morality come from? From Jewish sources? I wonder. Normal self preservation dictates that they must go. There is

no moral obligation to allow one's home to be taken from him merely because the thief is already in the house. There is nothing unjust in removing those who would rob you of your own land before they can accomplish their desire. His kind of twisted morality is what will lead to a bloodbath. The separation of Arab and Jew will save lives on both sides. Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish said "Those who are merciful to the cruel are destined to be cruel on the merciful." Indeed, the Arab birthrate is one of the highest in the world. It is much higher than the Jewish birthrate. There is a low Arab death rate and high Jewish death rate. The Arabs are much younger than the Jews. Is the present *aliyah* rate going to offset the Arab growth? What will happen when the Arabs become 30%, 40%, 50% of Israel and demand autonomy for the Galilee?

Our only right to the land is that G-d gave it to us. If we have no right to Shechem, where Jacob lived, to Hebron where Abraham lived, and Bethlehem where King David lived then we have absolutely no right to Tel Aviv. G-d took the land from Canaanites and gave it to us. Not for us to share with the Arabs, but as a Jewish state for the Jewish people. We are the only people commanded to live in that land. Would Hashem command Joshua to do something immoral like killing the inhabitants of the land? Was the establishment of the state of Israel and its displacement of Arabs immoral? Is the expulsion of Jewish settlers from Judea and Samaria moral?

And regarding non-Jews in Eretz Yisrael. "And you shall drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you but if you will not drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you those which you let remain of them shall be thorns in your eyes and thistles in your sides" (Numbers 33:52-56). A certain number of them may remain in the land if they fulfill certain conditions.

The *Radak*, David Kimchi, says: in (Joshua 9:7) "If they uproot idolatry and accept the seven Noahide laws they must also pay tribute and serve Israel and be subjects under them as it is written 'They will be tribute and serve you'" (Deuteronomy 20:11). And the *Rambam* says in (Hilchot Melachim 6:11) "If they make peace and accept the seven Noahide laws we do not kill them for they are tributary. If they agreed to pay tribute but do not accept servitude or accepted servitude but not tribute we do not acquiesce until they have accepted both. And servitude means that they shall be humble and low and not raise their head in Israel. Rather they shall be subjects under us and not be appointed to any position over Jews ever."

Let us do acts of *Kiddush Hashem* which bring the *geula* ever closer.

Shlomo Kirschner  
YC '96

## Thoughts on "Kol"

To the Editor,

As a graduate of YC (1989), an English major, a writer, and a publicist, I was surprised by many aspects of the recent controversy over "Kol." As best as I can tell, all involved with this mess made some notable errors.

I am not surprised at the Administration's reaction to the offending stories. Rabbi Lamm and his supporting cast have shown themselves in the past to be overzealous in the defense of Torah values within the YU community. I might even be willing to overlook this particular case if the Administration would make some effort to clearly explain the reasons for acting as it did. But once again, YU's public relations fall far short. I thought that the mishandling of the near-demise of the Revel Graduate School and of the debate over last spring's Salute to Israel Parade would have taught Yeshiva the value of good public relations. I was wrong. This is a major reason I do not give my *alma mater* any more donations.

I am dismayed that Dr. Lee would show such disregard for *halacha*. I recall his being very respectful of his students' beliefs and always trying to learn more about Judaism. He seemed to know where to draw the line. Apparently, he draws it where his own beliefs begin. I understand that he despises censorship. So do I -- the students involved have the right to write whatever they want. But the college is well within its rights to choose not to fund something it finds offensive, and *halacha* must come ahead of all considerations.

I am disappointed with this newspaper for failing to report the story. What was the offensive content? Okay, you can't say directly without offending,

but you don't give the reader even a hint. I would guess that the offending material was either of a sexual nature, or a curse word of the sort banned from network television. But you don't even give me a clue. Can you possibly be so afraid of the zealots that you can't even use the words "sex" or "curse word" in the context of a newspaper? I am proud to have written for *The Commentator* during Benham Dayanim's days as Editor-in-Chief, and I can say that he and his staff never backed away from reporting all the facts.

More than anything else, though, I am surprised at the writers themselves. As an Orthodox Jew, I know that I cannot use improper language, even as a writer. I do not curse or act lewdly, and my characters do not. I cannot compromise the Torah for anything. In this vulgar world of ours, that might not be to my advantage if I am to succeed. But I cannot succumb to that pressure. Have we fallen so far that we must use the filth around us? If we have, then perhaps YU was right in censoring *Kol*.

Moreover, as a writer, I cannot accept the necessity for curse words and suggestive language. A good writer can be more creative than that. Using four-letter words and steamy scenes is too easy. I urge the two writers to try using more imagination in place of curses, and to leave some things to the reader's imagination instead of producing sex scenes. If you can't do that, you might as well quit either writing or Judaism. It may be a hard choice, but it's one that every *frum* artist must face. And don't expect the rest of the Orthodox world to accept the decision.

Alex Wittenberg  
YC/ JSS '89

## UJA Doesn't Support PLO

To the Editor,

The headline about confiscating "Kol" in your October 27 issue, and the subsequent articles and editorial made it clear that *The Commentator* recognizes that there are certain standards for journalism which should be respected in the Yeshiva University community.

I would think that of even greater *halachic* consequence, and therefore requiring even more careful judgment, would be to make sure that there is no defamation or blatant lies printed in your paper.

I therefore was most surprised that while you showed justified concern about the character of "Kol", you did not exercise similar care in ensuring the accuracy of Dov Weiss' Counterpoint article.

In his concluding paragraph, Mr. Weiss implies that the \$75 million that Israel has pledged to give the PLO is coming from the UJA, and that one's UJA contribution "may end up paying for a handful of pistols used by Palestinian militiamen."

Not a penny of anyone's contribution to UJA has ever gone or will go for this

purpose! Had you checked the facts, you would know that this is money coming from the Israeli government's budget and the UJA does not in any way contribute money to the government of Israel, but only to the Jewish Agency and the JDC. That is why a contribution to UJA is tax-deductible. The money Israel pledged is actually coming from tax money paid by the Palestinians themselves, which is now being returned to them.

The donations that UJA receives help to actualize our dream of *kibbutz galuyot*, and if anything, one of the best ways that we can strengthen Israel is to make sure that the UJA receives the funds to enable new immigrants to be properly absorbed and become productive citizens.

If Dov Weiss really wants people to answer his final line, "How will that make you feel?" in a positive sense for the benefit of the State of Israel, then he should be endorsing UJA's Operation Exodus.

Rabbi Doneil Z. Kramer  
YC '70

Director, UJA Rabbinic Cabinet



## RESPONSA

Continued from page 2

Arabs did not recognize the state of Israel before 1967 when the "disputed" territories were in their hands and will never truly accept an Israel of any size. Any apparent conciliation on their part is only a tactical move. Israeli territorial concessions of any kind will never fully satisfy the Arabs, and will breed Munich after Munich. Hasn't Arafat himself called this plan the first step towards [another] Palestinian state? Painful as the status quo may be, making peace with terrorists is clearly not "the best solution we have."

Raphael C. Gross  
YC '96

## Hashkafa is an Issue

To the Editor,

Though I was unable to attend the Dorm Talks with Dr. Lamm and hear firsthand what was said, I feel your report of the event deserves comment:

1. Rabbi Lamm, *shlita*, is reported to have said "there is no right or wrong when it comes to *hashkafa*." Surely even one only superficially familiar with the Rambam's *Mishna Torah* would realize the great number of *hashkafa* issues ruled upon in *Hilchot Yesodai HaTorah*, *Hilchot Dayos*, and elsewhere. The very fact that *Rishonim* write on *hashkafa* and attempt to prove certain tenets of our faith would indicate that *hashkafa* is indeed an area of *halachic* ruling - how can *Rishonim* debate an issue where there is no right and wrong?

2. Rabbi Lamm (according to the report) asserts that secular classes are designed to expose students to all viewpoints, but not to prescribe those viewpoints as normative. While it is certainly proper to assume a degree of critical thinking on the part of students, it is naive to believe that one can study and not be influenced; it is for precisely

Continued from page 3

seminar on how to use the YU network. Instituting a required course would be a bit difficult, as many students come here already knowledgeable about computers.

Finally, I agree wholeheartedly with your call for overall modernization of academic computing here. Such a fundamental overhaul, as I am sure you realize, requires significant amounts of both money and serious, prudent forethought. But that definitely shouldn't stop us.

Gedalyah Berger  
YC '94  
Chairman, Task Force on Computers  
YC-SSSB Senate

this reason that the prohibition of studying foreign religions exists according to Rambam *Hilchot Avodah Zarah*, chapter two.

3. If *hashkafa* is something "every person has to figure out for himself" one wonders how one is to arrive at a standard of "Torah values" by which to judge opinions as harmful or invalid.

4. Clearly those *gedolim* who speak openly about issues of *hashkafa* do view the role of a *gadol* as dictating *hashkafa* and not leaving it up to individual whim. This attitude is conveyed in the writings of just about every author of a *hashkafa sefer* who tries to convey the Torah point of view on a matter, not just personal recollections or biases. Rav Soloveitchik's "Halachic Man", as an example, is not merely a product of the Rav, *zt"l*'s, religious intuition, but a statement of what the Rav felt was the perspective borne out of the depths of *halachic* analysis and appreciation.

Rabbi Lamm's speech was a revealing indication of the paucity of proof for the adoption of Torah U'Madda as *hashkafic* framework within our Yeshiva.

Name Withheld Upon Request

## Keen on Comp

To the Editor,

I graduated from Yeshiva College in 1985 and went on to study at the Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School. Recently, as I was completing a writing assignment for my firm, I thought about my Freshman English Composition course which was taught by Dr. Joan Haahr. As I sit here today, I realize that my writing skills are a direct result of what I learned in Dr. Haahr's class.

I remember that, when I started the course, I struggled with the art of composition. Throughout the year, I improved my writing skills through practice and diligence. It is only years later that I realize the important role that my writing skills have played in my

success as an attorney. The ability to communicate effectively and clearly through the written word has served me well.

At the time, though, I took for granted the importance of learning to write effectively. I was, like most students, absorbed in the daily rigors of college life. It is only in retrospect that I am able to appreciate fully how crucial were those skills which I learned in English Composition. The ability to write honestly, effectively and clearly is an invaluable and essential skill in any profession which one ultimately decides to pursue.

David Scott Paul  
YC '85

## Penn State and Purdue Emerge Victorious

continued from page 12

exceptionally well, dishing out numerous assists and scoring 8 points. David Ruditzy continued his overall hot shooting, scoring nine points. The Gophers were led by Hillel Olshin and Neer Even-hen who both had 13 points.

Penn State 50  
Michigan 33

The upset of the year. Zour's bigger Nittany Lions taught the previously undefeated smaller Wolverines a lesson. Penn State shut down the Wolverine's explosive running game by controlling the boards. Zour pulled down a ton of rebounds and the offense was provided by Sam Maryles. Maryles led all scorers with 18 points. Avi Lyons and Norm Wachs each added 10. The Wolverines, led by Barry

Aranoff's 14 points, were absolutely stunned by the defeat. Penn State improved to 3-1, and Michigan fell to 5-1.

Purdue 41  
Indiana 30

Led by Sam Wald, the Boilermakers, playing with only six players, won their third game in a row by beating the Hoosiers. Purdue, the hottest team in the league, shut down the high-scoring Indiana offense, holding them to only 30 points. Wald led all scorers with 17 points in his best outing of the year. The win gave Purdue a 4-2 record, and a tie for second place with Indiana. Co-captains Jason Horowitz and Andrew Leibowitz each had 9 for the Hoosiers.

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ACROSS THE STREET FROM YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

# YESHIVA SPORTS

## YU Mulligans Brought Up To Par

by Andrew Sicklick

Following two disappointing seasons, the YU Mulligans Golf Team has taken on a whole new attitude. Changes in the team began at last season's Sports Awards Dinner, when a new coach, Allen Mittleman, known citywide for leading George Washington High School to last year's PSAL finals, was appointed. Coach Mittleman immediately vowed to change the selection process for tournament players. Previously, because of class conflicts affecting the top players, registration was open to all students, and if top players were unable to compete, other students were chosen to fill out the roster. Mittleman plans to restrict the team to 10 to 14 players, and

only these players will be permitted to earn one credit for their participation.

Mittleman is very excited about the "rebuilding process". He actively participates in the weekly practice sessions that are now held at the New York Golf Club on Randall's Island. These practices provide Mittleman with an important opportunity to carefully evaluate each of the team's thirty-four prospects. To further aid the selection procedure, the team is looking to add faculty-student scrimmages during the early spring, if faculty members are interested and available.

The Mulligans are hoping that this year will be a turning point for Yeshiva Golf, a successful season on which future teams can build.

## Volleyball Team Gets Ready For New Season

by Commentator Sports Staff

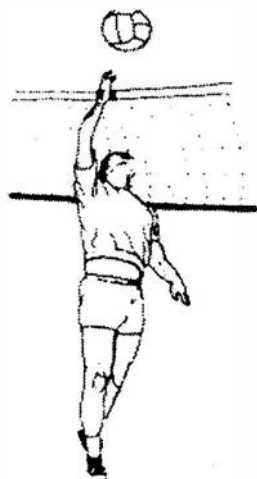
After losing three starters to the 1993 graduating class, the future of the Yeshiva volleyball team looked grim. However, the revitalized interest this season has yielded the best rookie prospects since the team's inception. When asked about the newly acquired talent, Coach Vargas exclaimed, "We have a lot of young guns this year!"

Returning this season is third year veteran, and the only senior, Avi Marocco.

Marocco's tremendous spiking abilities and experience in clutch

situations will be a key factor in the team's success. Through much perseverance and hard work, Noah Lindenberg has earned the respect of his teammates and the fear of the opposition. His sweet setting touch and all-around versatility make him a vital link in the team's success. Ralf Jacoel, perhaps the most talented outside hitter to ever grace the YU volleyball courts, continues to make the team a force to be reckoned with. Rookies Noam Geft and Avi Vogel have made an immediate impact on the team. Their strong skills and court smarts

are crucial to the team's transition into the future.



## PLAYER OF THE ISSUE

Name: Ephraim Gerszberg

Hobbies: snowboarding, watching cable, restoring a '60s mustang

Ephraim Gerszberg is a junior, majoring in speech and sociology. He joined the track team as a sophomore in MTA, and this is his fourth year on the team. He was an integral member of the 1990 track team, which finished fourth in the IAC, the highest finish in YU history. Ephraim has run the 5-mile course in 32:30, and holds the current YU 1-mile record in YU track (5:09).

Ephraim has run in a half-marathon and in numerous triathalons. Additionally, he enjoys playing basketball. In 1991, Ephraim along with Jacob Goldberg, won the YU 2-on-2 tournament. Ephraim is also playing YU basketball intramurals for the first place team, Indiana. His two co-captains, Jason "Feivel" Horowitz and Andrew "Lebo" Leibowitz lauded his basketball abilities stating, "Not only does he hustle from the opening tipoff until the final shot but he plays big inside as well."

-- Joel Kornbluth

## Intramural Action: Ohio State Wins First Game, Penn State Pulls Off Upset

Ohio State 61

Wisconsin 43

This was a huge game in more ways than one for the Buckeyes. Not only was it Ohio State's first win of the season after three tough defeats, but it marked the emergence of Jeremy Fox as one of the premier "big men" in the league. Fox supplied the offensive spark, pouring in a season-high 24 points. Another plus was the return debut of Shlomie Hershman. Hershman, coming off a terrible leg injury last year in Israel, played in his first game in over six months. Shlomie was immediately inserted into the starting line-up and scored six points in the game. More importantly, he is back, and Lerer's Buckeyes are on the right track. Joel Kornbluth added 13 points for the winners.

Purdue 43

Northwestern 37

After missing two games, Mikey Fruchter made all the difference in his return. He played tenacious defense and really controlled the previously struggling Purdue offense. David Ruditzky supplied the offense as he shot 5-6 from the outside including two three-pointers, scoring 12 points. Wes Kalmar chipped in with 11 points of his own. The Wildcats were led by newly-acquired Shlomo Kimmel who scored 17 points, and Hillel Schechter, who scored 11. Purdue snapped its two game losing streak to pull their record even at 2-2.

Michigan 66

Michigan State 39

The league is becoming too easy for the Michigan Wolverines.

They rolled to their fifth straight win, completely demolishing the Spartans by 27 points. The dynamic duo of Barry Aranoff and Arkady Abraham once again provided the offense, this time with some help from Andy Davidson.

Aranoff and Abraham each had 20 points, and Davidson added 10 off the bench. The Spartans were led by Elie Gertel, who scored 11.

Indiana 58

Penn State 40

The Hoosiers rebounded from their loss to Michigan to hand Penn State its first loss of the season. They defeated the Nittany Lions handily by 18 points. Co-captains Jason Horowitz and Andrew Leibowitz, and forward Ephraim Gerszberg combined for 46 points. Andrew "Lebo" Leibowitz came off the bench to score a college career-high 21 points. He said that the last time he could remember scoring that many points was when he played wide receiver for his high school football team. Gerszberg scored 14 points, and Horowitz added 11. Indiana remains one game behind front-running Michigan midway through the season.

Wisconsin 55

Illinois 46

Illinois remained winless, playing their best game of the season. The Badgers, with a balanced scoring attack, won their second game of the season. Eddie Markovich led the Badgers with 12 points, Avi Roth had 10, and Ari Dzik added 8. The fighting Illini were led by Brian Galbut, who scored 18. Jason Burstein had 12, and Avi Greenbaum chipped in with 11. Illinois will try and win that first elusive win against Northwestern in their game.

Purdue 47

Minnesota 46

The Boilermakers controlled the game throughout, but could not put away the Golden Gophers. They held off a last-minute surge by Minnesota to escape with their second straight win. The spark came from newly acquired point guard Dov Gottlieb. Gottlieb played

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