

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

February 24, 1994/ 13 Adar 5754

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

Volume LVIII, No.9



Counterpoint Head Advisor Josh Lookstein (center) pictured with program participants in Melbourne, Australia. See pages 6 & 7

Purim Chagiga Returns to the Beit Midrash

by Steven Miodownik

After much agony and travail, the *Beit Midrash* was selected as the site for SOY's Purim *chagiga*, which will take place this Thursday night. Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, YU's Director of Facilities Management, made this decision on Friday, February 18, less than one week before the event. Rosengarten's plans place the Stern College women in Weissberg Commons, and the Purim *shpiel* in the Lamport Auditorium for both men and women. The recent history of the SOY Purim *chagiga* is a study in mismanagement and bad planning. In 1992, a last-minute decision put the *chagiga* in the *Beit Midrash*, caused dangerous overcrowding and numerous fire code violations. Over 1,500 men and women filled the Main *Beit Midrash*, a room that can legally hold one third that

amount. Cases of students passing out from the extreme heat were reported. In addition, two-thirds of the Stern women were forced out into the street during a rare Purim snowstorm. The chairman of the *chagiga* in 1992, Ari Mosenkis, had pushed for the *Beit Midrash* for its *ruach*. Weissberg Commons, although larger, was ruled out because of its poor acoustics and columns which could seriously hinder the dancing and the view of the *shpiel*. Fears of the *chagiga* turning into a social event were also voiced. After several people were hospitalized due to the *chagiga*, Shea Farkas, SOY President at the time, recommended that the *chagiga* be moved to Belfer for 1993 because "safety has to supersede sentimentality." It was obvious that the *Beit Midrash* could not hold everyone. Location is not only

continued on page 8

Student Guidance Center Planned For Fall 1994

by Oded Dashiff

What began in 1988 as a mere idea may become a reality this year. With the start of the Fall 1994 semester, YU will introduce a Student Guidance Center. The goals of the center were defined in a proposal by the YU Undergraduate Student Council and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz.

The guidance center is being created for several reasons. YCSC Secretary Daniel Billig stated that "the guidance in this school is currently lacking." Billig explained that first, a student needs to realize that he has a problem, and then must proceed to find someone who can help. "Even then", he said,

"the guidance is insufficient." Furthermore, information on curriculum guidance is currently unavailable to students. The guidance center is the proposed answer to these problems.

Dr. Schwartz explained that both YC and Stern Colleges will have their own centers. The offices will be staffed by four faculty members, who will be responsible for advising students on all academic matters. They will also be available to meet with students on a one-on-one basis during the registration period. The first students to utilize the services of the new centers will be the incoming freshmen classes. Schwartz noted that it was his

continued on page 9

WYUR: Back With A Bang, But Still Experiencing Problems

by Stuart Milstein

Two weeks ago, after a semester's hiatus, WYUR 640 AM, the official radio station of Yeshiva University, began broadcasting again to both the uptown and downtown campuses, generating a great deal of excitement among students.

Both the DJs and listeners have displayed tremendous enthusiasm for the station, more so than in any recent year according to David Steiner, WYUR station manager. Additionally, tremendous promotional efforts have accompanied the broadcasting, and extensive efforts have been made to have companies advertise on the station.

"Based on the phone calls [we] received, the station is very popular," said Stephen Unterberg, the assistant station manager. "Also, I have heard many people speaking about the shows in the hallways." According to Unterberg, the best indicator of the station's success was that "in previous years people made jokes about the reception; this year they are complaining about it."

According to WYUR directors, the eagerness of the DJs is greater this year than in the past as well. Steiner was amazed at the number of people who wanted to have shows. Currently, there is a list of students who are still waiting for time slots. Finally, the problem of irresponsible DJs

seems to have been rectified. This semester, the DJs have been on time and prepared for their programs.

Funding Problems

The rejuvenated station has, nevertheless, had its share of problems. One is the lack of sufficient funds. Though money has been coming in from advertisements and donations, the expenses of paying for new equipment, repairs and phone lines is quickly draining WYUR's budget.

The station's phone system has also experienced a few glitches. During various shows the lines have sometimes gone dead. Since many of the

continued on page 8

Seforim Sale Raises Over \$20,000 for Student Organization of Yeshiva

by Howie Beigelman

The SOY Seforim Sale is coming to a close after another successful year. Chaim Hollander, a YC/IBC junior who heads the Seforim Sale committee, said that this year, the sale "is doing as well as last year and would be doing even better if not for the weather." Hollander would not, however,

give out actual figures because "it is against policy." Gelbtuch did disclose that over \$20,000 was netted, and that this money would be utilized to help fund SOY's philanthropic projects.

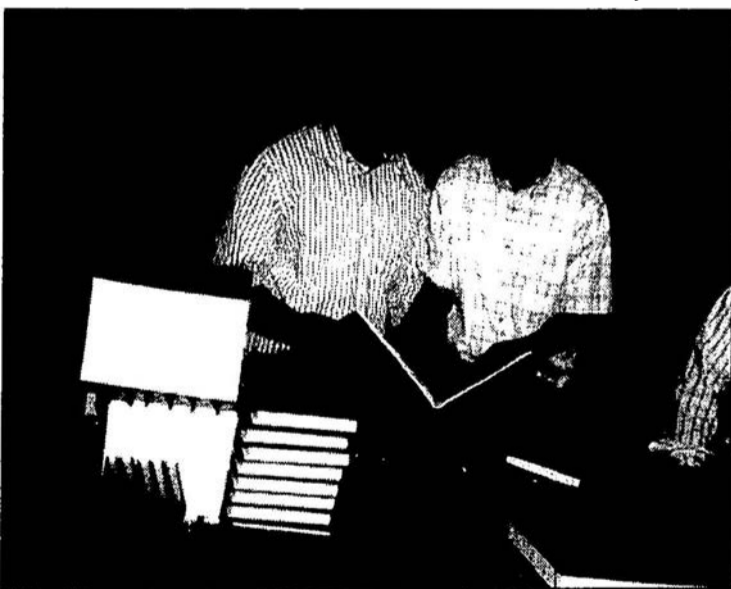
This year there were a number of items that sold out. Among the fastest sellers were the *seforim* of Rav Joseph B. Soloveichik, *zt"l*. Hollander said that "The Rav's *seforim* are

selling out left and right." Also, many of the *seforim* on tractate *Baba Basra*, which will be learned in Yeshiva next year sold out.

Another popular area was the Judaica stand set up by Mordechai Lent, of Just Stam Judaica, which offered various religious articles. Elie Hecht, a YC senior, pointed out that "His [Lent's] prices were very reasonable. He was much cheaper than the local Judaica stores in my neighborhood."

More Volunteers Needed

Looking ahead to next year, Hollander has a few improvements in mind. He would like to get printed cash register receipts. Alluding to the lack of volunteers this year he added that "we will need more people involved." Hollander also hopes that, weather permitting, "the deliveries will come in on time next year, and thus allow the catalog to come out a little earlier."



YC students Steven Berg and David Brofsky browsing at the Seforim Sale

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

YC Student Court Back in Session

The Student Court spent its initial session hearing two cases, and recovers funds for YCSC.

Page 8

Book Review: The Not So Grand Jury

A review of Dr. Blanche Blank's penetrating analysis of the federal grand jury system.

Page 9

Schick Basketball Tournament Draws to a Close

The "Favorites" take the YU title and advance to the Columbia Regionals.

Page 12

YC, The New MTA

Here we go again. Just when the College has finally succeeded in eliminating the Reduced Early Admissions Program for MTA students and in minimizing the number of regular early admissions participants, someone in the Administration came up with yet another program to make the college an extension of the high school. With its new program, it seems that the University has decided to enhance the high schools at the expense of the college, diverting precious resources away from an already under-served student body. Moreover, input from the student council was not solicited by the Administration.

Whatever problems MTA has attracting students or strengthening its program should be addressed within the high school. YC students should not be used to plug the leaks in MTA's dam.

Advancing from high school to Yeshiva College should mean more than a Caf Card and higher tuition costs; it should also mean access to better facilities and a more mature environment. Will the plan make the high schools more appealing? Probably. Will it detract from Yeshiva College students' satisfaction with their University experience? Absolutely.

The Administration must realize that it is not at all uncommon for prospective students to opt for a different college because they are seeking an experience wholly different from their yeshiva high school days. Indeed, the much ballyhooed Marttila and Kiley survey released earlier this year revealed concerns about the college's environment, academic and otherwise, as major obstacles to increased enrollment. This plan of "integration" and "coordination" does little to strengthen the notion that Yeshiva College offers an experience distinct from MTA's. So, if anyone missed the opportunity to go to MTA the first time around, don't worry; university administrators are offering another chance. Just come to Yeshiva College.

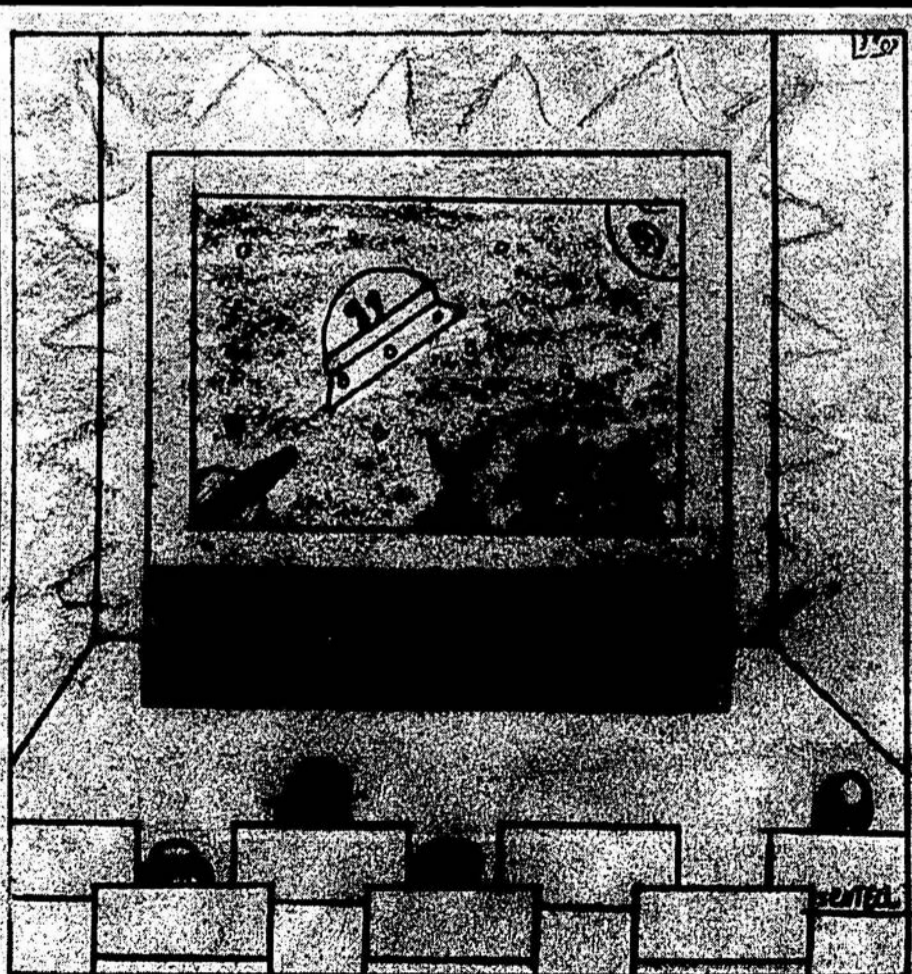
Senior Awards - Hardly Honorable

The voting process for Senior Awards, which took place last Thursday, was truly an embarrassment. In a highly undemocratic fashion, the nominating process was held in an informal setting, and behind closed doors. Nominations for the annual student awards and for an award for "best professor" were made by an obscure group of students. As a result, many students who should have qualified for student service awards were omitted from the ballots.

Additionally, few seniors knew when the vote was (signs went up only one day before the voting), or what the vote was all about. Even some Senior Class officials had no idea that the vote for Senior Awards was scheduled for last week's club hour. The polls were hardly supervised, and there were numerous instances of ballot stuffing.

The Office of the Dean of Students should investigate this matter, and Senior Awards should be voted on - in a proper fashion - once again.

P I C T O R I A L



Morg. Ner Tamid.

The Commentator

500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033, Telephone and Fax: (212) 740-2155. Published bi-weekly during the academic year by the Yeshiva College Student Council. The views expressed in these columns are those of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Commentator, the student body, the faculty, or the Administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages. Copyright 1994 The Commentator.

SENDER Z. COHEN ROBERT B. FAGIN
Editors-in-Chief

OWEN CYRULNIK MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER NOAM NOVICK
Layout Editor YISROEL M. HOLCZER Managing Editor
News Editors

ARI HIRT
SID SINGER
Features Editors

STEVEN TIGER
Copy Editor

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Steven Ackerman, Dov Simons, **Copy**
Sandor J. Bak, Ryan S. Karben, Ari Listowsky, **News**
Amir Perlson, **Features**
David Goldenberg, Adam Melzer, **Sports**

COLUMNISTS:

Neil Lauer & Avi Sussman

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF:

Benjamin Aronoff, Richard Soclof

ART EDITORS:

Daniel Baron, Daniel Sentell

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS:

Joshua Guedalia, Joshua Hosseinoff

Member:



Associated
Collegiate
Press



AMERICAN JEWISH
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

RESPONSA

MTA and YC: Not a Good Idea

To the Editor,

Next year marks the start of a new era in YU history. Whereas once MTA existed as a feeder school for YC, that relationship has now been reversed. Yeshiva College will now function as a highly advanced child-care center for the best and brightest of MTA. How regrettable.

In the past five years, YU has wisely begun to phase out the early admissions programs which enabled high school students to begin college upon completing the 11th grade. One of the reasons for this decision was, presumably, that 17 year old children, no matter how intelligent, are simply not mature enough for the college classroom. That move was viewed by many, including myself, as a continuation in the establishment of YC as a "serious" college. The decision to integrate MTA with YC must therefore be seen as a step backward.

Despite assurances by administration officials that "the college students will not be inconvenienced in any regard," that hardly seems likely. Allowing high school students greater access to college facilities, especially the gym, necessarily means that YC students will be inconvenienced. Furthermore, no matter

how rigorously the selection and approval process is conducted, there is no way to predict how that high-schooler will conduct himself in a college classroom. He can only be judged based on past and present behavior, both of which are observed in the context of his own peers, precisely those students from whose midst he will be removed. Additionally, besides the issue of immaturity, their mere presence will irk the collegestudents, further affecting the atmosphere of the classroom.

It would seem that YU in general, and MTA specifically, has decided that instead of addressing the academic shortcomings of MTA, which are many (ask any graduate), it will simply feed off of YC. Though administrators are firm about this plan - "These (ideas) will happen" - proudly asserts Rabbi Hirt - they should realize that the long-term effect could be devastating. Had this plan been instituted four years ago, chances are quite good that I would have decided not to attend YC, and I am certain that it will have that affect on prospective applicants in the future as well. Yeshiva College should be moving away from MTA, not closer.

Jonathan Weglein YC '94

Have a Happy Purim

RESPONSA

The Positive Side of YU

To the Editor,

A number of weeks ago, on a Wednesday night, I received a message from the rebetzin of a small shul in upstate New York which desperately needed a *ba'al koreh* for that *Shabbat*. When I returned her call to inform her that I had to be home that weekend for a family *simcha*, she requested that I find someone in yeshiva to do the job, and I agreed. I spent that night's *seder* asking virtually everyone in the packed *Beit Midrash* if they could serve as the *ba'al koreh* that *Shabbat*, and, if not, who they thought would be able to do the job.

Late that night, when all was said and done, I reviewed in my mind all the frustration and aggravation that had transpired. Although I learned very little, if any, Gemara, Rashi, and Tosafot that night, I learned a Shas-worth about the *talmidim* in this yeshiva as they

described to me their plans for that weekend. I encountered four different outreach-related *Shabbatonim* with which YU students were involved, and countless other commitments to *Kriat HaTorah*, *shiurim*, and youth programs in communities throughout the area. It seemed that wherever there was a need for *tzarchei tzibbur* that *Shabbat*, YU students were there to answer the call.

Despite all the problems and controversies which I imagine appear in the columns and pages surrounding this letter, I am as proud as could be to be where I am. There's something very special happening here, and, personally, I find it very exciting to be a part of it.

Without ignoring the many challenges facing us, let's keep up our optimism, idealism, and, most importantly, our good work. *Klal Yisrael* needs us!

David Silverberg
YC '94, RIETS

What Makes a Member?

To the Editor,

For too many years now, I await with great anticipation the arrival of my copy of *The Commentator*, the only tangible evidence of my contribution to the YCAA.

It took me quite a while this year to realize that "Ernst and Julio Down by the Schoolyard" is a comedy column. It took me no time at all to realize that in your February 9 issue the layout editor made a mistake.

The piece entitled "The Debate is for Members Only," which was printed in the Responsa column, clearly belonged in the comedy column. Its premise is

simply preposterous.

If Dr. Lee were to convert to Judaism would Eytan Tokayer no longer "reject his comments out of hand?" At what point does one who is Jewish develop the "visceral connection" which, according to Eytan Tokayer, is the *sine qua non* of participation in the Torah U'Madda debate? Is one born with it? Who is the judge?

Again, preposterous is the only word which comes to mind, which is why this piece should have been relegated to the comedy column. Or has *The Commentator* inadvertently started a tragedy column?

Marvin S. Sussman YC '68

YC Students to Participate in Minority Program

by Commentator Staff

With Black-Jewish relations at perhaps an all-time low, a small organization of YU students is trying to make a difference.

The Council for Racial Harmony is a group of five students from Yeshiva University that will meet with a contingent of minority students from City College of New York on Tuesday, March 1. YC Junior David Price, chairman of the function, described the planned event. "The day will feature two speakers, one at the beginning and one at the end. The main part of the program will be small workshops where groups of students will discuss core issues of Black-Jewish relations as well as a number of contemporary issues."

The opening speaker for the program will be Mike Myers, Executive Director of the NY Coalition for Civil Rights. There will also be a buffet breakfast and lunch served to give the students a

chance to meet in a more informal setting.

Professor William Helmreich of CCNY has been working hard to see that this important event takes place and he has been in close contact with students from CCNY. Many of them have taken courses on Judaism and they will all soon be participating in The March of the Living, a tour of World War II concentration camps.

The Yeshiva students who will be participating in this event, along with Price, are YC Senior David Montag, YC Juniors Sandor Bak and Mike Mohler and YC Sophomore Ryan Karben. Bak takes a very pragmatic approach to the planned event. "Clearly our one-day program is not going to solve all the racial problems. However, if we can even begin to promote interracial dialogue and multicultural understanding among ourselves, then we have taken a step in the right direction."



Student delegates at the Yale Model Knesset

YU Goes to Yale for Model Knesset

by Commentator Staff

A number of YU students recently got a first-hand view of how the Israeli government operates by participating in the first annual Model Israeli Knesset. The event was held at Yale University on the weekend of February 10-13.

According to Sandor Bak, a YC Junior who served as co-chairperson of the delegation, the weekend served a double purpose. "For one thing, it was a real learning experience to participate in the simulated Knesset sessions. In addition, we all spent a very enjoyable *Shabbat* on the Yale campus."

YU was represented by a delegation of nineteen students, consisting of eleven men from Yeshiva College and seven women from Stern College. The other students in attendance came from Columbia, Brown, Johns Hopkins, SUNY-Albany and various other northeastern universities. YU played a significant role in all the committee sessions, as fourteen YU students represented the Labor party, the current governing party in the Israeli government. Four YU students represented the National Religious Party (NRP), while one YC student, Mordechai Pelta, represented the Arab Democratic Party.

Seven YU students held the title of minister of various committees. These students composed bills which were

debated during the Knesset sessions. Two YU delegates, SCW Juniors Susan Kasser and Liat Sharabi saw their bills eventually passed into law. Additionally, many YU students won awards for their respective committee roles.

The Knesset sessions were held on Thursday night, *Shabbat* afternoon, and Sunday morning. Originally, there had been some debate as to whether YU should attend the session held on *Shabbat*. Numerous YU students felt that it would be inappropriate for their delegates to attend the *Shabbat* session. However, after consulting with the Mashgiach Ruchani, Rabbi Yosef Blau, along with the Assistant Dean of Students, Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, the students were given permission to attend all of the sessions.

SCW Senior Helen Bloch, co-chairperson of the delegation, described the *Shabbat* at Yale as a very positive experience. Bloch noted that the organization running the weekend, Yale Friends of Israel, did everything possible to assure that no violation of the *Shabbat* took place. "In fact", Bloch stated, "*Shabbat* itself was the highlight of the Model Knesset. Had YU not attended the event, it would not have had any *Shabbat* flavor to it. However, with the *tefilla*, *zemirot*, and *divrei Torah*, the YU students really made it a *Shabbaton* for all those in attendance that weekend."



A reinigorated Morg Mart: Manager Josh Segal showing just a small part of the profits

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Friday, February 25

Purim: No Classes
JJC Residence Halls *Oneg Shabbat*
Program
Rabbi Yosef Blau, *Mashgiach Ruchani*,
speaker
Rubin Hall
8:30 P.M.

Sunday, February 27

YC Volleyball vs. Bridgeport and Mt.
St. Vincent at Bridgeport
2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, March 2

YU Hillel Rogoff Memorial Lecture:
"Denying the Holocaust - The
Growing Assault on Truth and
Memory"
Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot
Associate Professor of Modern Jewish
and Holocaust Studies, Emory
University, lecturer
Koch Auditorium
8:00 P.M.

Friday, March 4 - Saturday, March 5

Annual Yeshivat Har Etzion *shabbaton*
Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rosh
Yeshiva, speaker

Sunday, March 6

RIETS *Chag Hasemiklah* Convocation:
Ordination of the Classes of 5750, 5751,
5752 and 5753.
Lampport Auditorium
11:00 A.M.

YUNMUN Boasts Record Number of Students

The fourth session of the Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) convened February 13-15 at the Meadowlands Hilton in New Jersey. YUNMUN welcomed three new high schools to this year's conference: Shalhevet from Los Angeles, Hebrew Academy of Atlantic County, and Torah Academy of Bergen County. The purpose of YUNMUN, which is sponsored by the Office of Admissions, is to recruit potential students for the undergraduate colleges.

Twenty-five schools from across North America participated this year. The session grew by thirty students over last year's, to bring the total number of students participating to just over three hundred, the largest number of delegates in YUNMUN's history. YC senior Jeff Wild, the Secretary General of the Conference, noted that, "by far, this was the most successful Model UN that YU has sponsored. The kids all went away with a very favorable impression of the college."

--- Commentator Staff

Mishmar Seder Starts Up

by Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

Late this past Thursday night, the main *Beit Midrash* witnessed the inauguration of an official late-night *mishmar seder*. On its first night, the new seder attracted approximately 50-60 participants, and was followed by refreshments at 12:30 AM. Afterwards, a *shiur* was given by Rabbi Jacobson, a JSS rebbe, to all those remaining.

A *mishmar seder*, explained SOY President Lavi Greenspan, had been discussed earlier in the year but had been put on the back-burner temporarily until Steven Gordon, an IBC junior, approached Greenspan with the idea of making the *seder* a reality. Greenspan acquiesced, explaining, "we felt that attendance in the *Beit Midrash* was very weak [on Thursday nights] and this *mishmar* would be a way to somehow enhance the attendance."

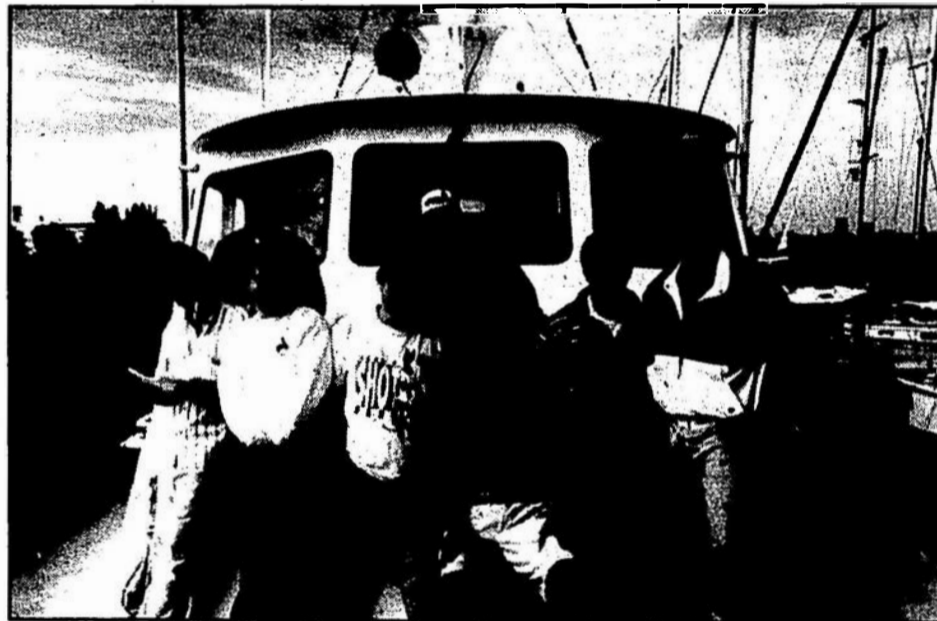
Gordon, in explaining his motivation, added, "I just remembered that at 12:30 in my yeshiva in Israel, they brought in food and I saw how everyone's face lit



Students enjoying *mishmar* refreshments

up. I felt that it really helped us in our learning. I wanted to bring that feeling here." He further thanked Greenspan and JSS President Adam Balkany for their help in organizing the new *seder*.

The *mishmar seder* is being jointly funded by JSS and SOY. JSS provided the food, and SOY funded the signs appearing on campus advertising the new program.



YUDA members in the Bahamas, shown l-r: Dr. Mel Rosenblatt, Asher Goldstein, Irving Bruk, Josh Ehrenreich, Seth Dimbert, Ari Nagel, Aron Tendler, Robert Lederman, Michael Marks

Deep Sea Diving in Pool

Many students make good use of Yeshiva University's pool, but few people appreciate the aquatic facilities more than the members of the Yeshiva University Divers Association (YUDA). Perhaps this is because the diving they do is in full SCUBA attire, rather than off a diving board.

YUDA was established last year, and has rapidly gained popularity ever since. Over a score of YU alumni and current students have taken a six week class on Thursday evenings, making them fully trained SCUBA divers. Conveniently, YU provides all the equipment, including top-of-the-line buoyancy control devices, wet-suits, and air-tanks.

Senior Asher Goldstein, who is president of YUDA, was enthusiastic about the club's future, citing such upcoming events as an exploration of The U.S.S. San Diego, a World War I Cruiser sunk off the eastern tip of Long Island. During winter vacation, ten YUDA members spent five days on a boat in the Bahamas, performing night dives, wreck dives, and shark dives. The club is also planning an eight day trip to Puerto Rico during the first week of June. Students interested in joining YUDA are asked to speak to Goldstein, who added that "due to popular request, the club is also open to Stern College students."

-- Yisroel Holczer

Town Meeting With the Deans

YCSC has announced that the first of a series of "town meetings" will take place on March 14 at 8:00 P.M. in Morgenstern Lounge. Students will have the opportunity to pose questions on academic and student life to the deans and assistant deans of the undergraduate schools.

"The inception of the town meetings," said YCSC President Danny Gurell, "is a reaction to the requests of students, particularly those reflected in the Marttila and Kiley survey." In the survey results released in September, nearly two-thirds of YC students indicated that the Administration of YU "does not care about them or understand them."

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman explained that last year's retreats had been set up in order to enhance the relationship between students and the deans. Dean Nulman noted that "within the spirit of the retreats from last year, these town meetings are a continuation of the work of improving those relationships." He added that another goal of the meetings is to convey to the student body the impression that the Administration is behind them, and is interested in hearing their opinions.

-- Jonathan Neiss

Rabbi Weiss Responds to Khalid Mohammed at Kean College

Responding to what was deemed as anti-Semitic statements by Nation of Islam member Khalid Mohammed last month at Kean College, New Jersey, Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies Rabbi Avi Weiss spoke at Kean College on February 16 before a full auditorium on the topics of racism and anti-Semitism. Over 60 Yeshiva and Stern College students attended, as well as a large contingent from Riverdale, where Rabbi Weiss acts as Rav of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. Only a handful of Kean students attended the lecture.

Rabbi Weiss discussed recent Jewish and related events, and fielded questions from an audience mixed with Jewish and pro-Nation of Islam attendees. Concluding that "if we cave into racism and anti-Semitism, then we'll be engulfed in racism and anti-Semitism," he was interviewed later that evening on radio station WOR (710 AM) to discuss his presentation. YC Junior Ari Ellen asserted that "Rabbi Weiss did an excellent job in denouncing and disproving... Khalid Mohammed, as well as other racists."

-- Yisroel Holczer

● Gilbert ● Legalines ● Law in a Flash ● Sum and Substance ● Gould ●

● Review ● Mathew Bender Legal Text Series ● Horn Books ● Black Letter ● West ● Little Brown ● Foundation

● Nutshell ● Casenote Legal Briefs ● Blond's ● Emanuel ● Smith's Review ● Bar Charts ● Ryan ●

Did you know that there is a friendly, concerned, well-stocked law bookstore for students just two blocks south of Washington Square Park

New York University
Professional Bookstore
530 La Guardia Place
(212) 998-4600

● Flex Law Chart ● Law Dictionaries ● Casenote Law Outlines ● Q&A

Yeshiva Outreach - Stimulating Jewish Strength and Leadership

Kiruv for Orthodox High School Sophomores

by David Merklin

The Yeshiva Seminar for High School students is an outreach program geared towards the inner circles of the Orthodox community. The yearly seminar is run by Aaron Tirschwell and led in its daily activities by head advisor and YC senior Joshua Lookstein.

The Seminar's main goal, according to Lookstein, "is to take lessons learned in *yeshivos* and use them to transform it into informal education." He added, "The seminar features certain Jewish values to Yeshiva students in a perspective which they are not usually exposed."

According to Lookstein, the seminar acknowledges that there is a problem within the yeshivas of America. "There is a myth that going to a Yeshiva automatically brings with it an earnest belief in G-d...but it is not so," says Lookstein. Most Orthodox Jewish kids have been affiliated with Yeshivot since the age of five and have never been asked "Do you believe in G-d?" Such fundamental questions are addressed in Yeshiva Seminars.

A strong advisor-student relationship is emphasized in the yearly Seminar. One important guideline of the Seminar is to never have more than six students per advisor. The advisors, five to six years older than the participants, are adept at offering sound advice and guidance regarding going to Israel for a year, taking electives in school, and choosing colleges.

The Social Element

Some people criticize the social scene which develops at the seminar. These critics question whether the knowledge gained outweighs the inherent pitfalls of the program. Lookstein agrees that these are problems, but that socializing is necessary to attract the age groups that the Seminar wants to attract. "No one wants to go to a five day program only with students from their own yeshiva, and no one wants to go to a five day program without students of the opposite gender, that's obvious," Lookstein admits. And at least "the kids are socializing with Jewish kids."

Rabbi Besser, the principal of HAFTR, agreed with Lookstein's assessment, adding that "the program gives the kids an opportunity to sit and rap with the advisors and to sit on the floor and just talk - with students that we as educators would like the kids to choose as their role models."

Interactive workshops such as "Tefillah workshops" and a Shabbos workshop are popular programs of the Seminar. These workshops help the students attain a deeper understanding of prayers and of Shabbos. The Jewish Future workshop discusses the development of the world's Jewish community. It deals with questions such as - where we will be in 50 years and what will happen to Israel's Jews? "The whole purpose of these workshops is to make these young Jews into

something more than just observing Jews," explains Lookstein. "It is not enough merely to observe, we also want them to gain a sense of appreciation of Judaism and the performing of mitzvot."

YC senior David Kaplan attended Yeshiva Seminar in 1988 and 1989 as a Ramaz high school sophomore. He noted that he enjoyed the program then as a way to get away from the regular class-room activity and participate in an interactive group debate. "We developed a relationship with the advisors. I myself am still good friends with my advisor." Kaplan also pointed out that a positive peer pressure exists which encourages most high school sophomore students to participate in the seminar.

As well as the interactive workshops, the seminar also provides multi-media programs and discussion sessions. The sessions cover such topics as "Faith and Doubt," "Tolerance among Jews," "Family," "Mitzvot," "Judaism and Evolution," "Jewish Sexual Ethics," and "Israel in the Peace Process."

Lookstein feels that there is a need for an organization like Yeshiva Seminar to ask the fundamental questions. "Otherwise, some of the kids will go around for many years with a true doubt about Torah and G-d. Yeshiva Seminar is the only organization that really acknowledges the fact that there is a problem in modern American Orthodox day schools, and it is the only Kiruv organization that tries to do something about it," he asserted.

Multimedia Attractions

The multi-media programs run by the Seminar consist of three screen plays: one called "Life-choices" which deals with lessons learned from biblical narratives and the personality of the Avos in the Torah. Another deals with Jewish unity and is called "Enemies from Without and Enemies from Within" and the third is about Israel. It focuses on the negative perspective of not having a Jewish homeland. As Joshua Lookstein says, "we learn from the bad how we are to appreciate the Israel we have and to understand how lost we would be without our State." And he continues, "We want the students to understand that for a long period there was no Israel, only so they can comprehend how important it is for us to defend the modern state."

In these multi-media programs, the lessons are taught through television and music. Film clips are used from "Dead Poets Society," "Flatliners," and "Operation Thunderbolt," and songs are played by SAPAM. The advisors perform several screenplays which are used to stimulate thoughts before the students return home to their respective yeshivas.

"We hope that the time spent during the five days gives the Seminarists food for thought on their Jewish identity and their role in the World Jewish Community," concluded Lookstein.

YUSSR: Long Distance Kiruv

by Jonathan Schloss

Quick! What type of creature has endless energy, a huge heart, and a forehead for a forehead?

No, not a defrosted neanderthal.

A tell-tale sign distinguishing a YUSSR member from members of other kiruv organizations is his/her propensity toward making fashion statements in winter apparel.

While the hats and Matruska dolls are cute material souvenirs, YUSSR members certainly do not go to Russia for the bargain shopping. They also come back with the invaluable feeling of knowing they have helped fellow Jews in need.

YUSSR's (Yeshiva and University Students for the Spiritual Revival of Soviet Jewry) goal is to "lay the religious foundation necessary for Russian Jews to withstand future secularizing pressures and to emphasize the importance of aliya." This may seem ambitious for an organization that is completely student run. Yet, YUSSR has experienced encouraging results and tremendous growth since its pilot year.

As the world cheered at communist Russia's downfall, a few ambitious students planned to help give direction to Russian Jews' new found freedom. While still at Yeshiva College in '89-'90, S'micha student Hillel Novetsky and others planted the seeds for an organization that has influenced the lives of thousands of Jewish souls through creative summer camp programming and intermittent Jewish studies seminars held throughout the year.

Even though YUSSR is privately funded and has no parent organization, it has been able to establish viable contacts throughout the former Soviet Union. Originally made through the Coalition for Soviet Jewry, YUSSR's contacts have helped secure key details in running summer programs in Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. Last summer, YUSSR sent 29 undergraduate, law, and s'micha students from YU, Columbia, Barnard, Yale, Brandeis, and Queens College to run camps for 10-17 year olds in these cities.

For most of these campers, this summer experience was their first connection with Judaism. "They really know nothing except that they're Jewish. We have to start with the most basic stuff," explained Uri Gutfreund. Like many other Jewish camps, the day starts with Mifkad (line-up) by an Israeli flag. After singing *Modeh Ani*, *Hatikvah*, and *Sh'ma*, YUSSR counselors do some "shtick" to pique interest in the day's particular Jewish theme. Bunks then learn a new *t'filla* with their counselor and translator. They learn from a *siddur* with Hebrew and Russian translation and transliteration of the basic *t'filot* and *b'rachot*.

Counselors give formal and informal classes in *mitzvot*, Jewish history, Bible, and Hebrew language at the level of each individual bunk. Sports, swim, and optional activities such as drama, choir, Israeli dance, karate, and arts &

crafts round out the day.

Considering that the campers all come from poor homes, the gift of any summer camp experience, let alone a Jewish experience, is a big treat. "They really treat us like we're American rock stars," said YUSSR director Yitz Motechin.

Rock stars or not, these counselors certainly make an impact on these children's lives. Counselors have received numerous letters from appreciative campers. For instance, Inna, a fourteen year old from Tallin, Estonia wrote to Cindy Rochwarger, "I go to synagogue regularly only because of the summer camp... to learn *lvrit* and to listen to stories about God and Jewish holidays. Whatever you taught, we will not forget; it sinks into our hearts." Inspired by YUSSR, some campers now attend Jewish schools in Russia. Many have emigrated to either Israel or the US.

"Our success is sometimes unexplainable," said Motechin, "Jews made the golden calf after witnessing *matan Torah*; you'd expect our success to be ephemeral but as we've seen through follow-up trips and the letters, the success is substantive."

Daniel Alter, YUSSR participant and Brooklyn coordinator for T'chiya (a kiruv organization that works primarily with Russian emigres) points out that, "The first question people ask us is why we have to go all the way to Russia to do kiruv when there's a lot to do here? When they come to Israel or America, they're struggling to fit in with the rest of the country. Judaism is undoubtedly placed on the back burner. People are more accepting of new ideas when they are in a familiar environment. I can tell you that the kids we've had the most success with are the ones who have been touched with something Jewish while they were still in Russia," said Alter.

For its success in fostering Aliyah and Judaism in general, YUSSR has been approached by some organizations, including the Israeli Government, to expand their efforts.

Where's the beef?

According to YUSSR veteran Jonathan Kroll, "Because of the general anarchic state of the country, you have to expect the unexpected." Apparently a contact was not able to deliver kosher meat to the camp as scheduled. After a week of improvising with cereal and fish a choice had to be made. "We were told that we could either serve *treif* meat, send the kids home or somehow come up with kosher meat." They flew in a shochet from Yerushalayim and bought 4 cows and 350 chickens. "It wound up costing us less than originally planned and kids were able to have hamburgers for breakfast." Kroll now takes *shechita* classes in Belfer Hall on Thursday mornings just in case he is faced with the same predicament.

Presently, YUSSR is accepting applications for the upcoming summer program. A bit of advice from Uri Gutfreund to those looking to impress the YUSSR bigwigs at the interview: "Get one of the hats. Everyone's wearing one. But DON'T wear the flaps down."

Counterpoint: Kiruv in Canada and Australia

by Amir Perlson

OK, so they're not from MTA. They're not even from the USA. So who are they? A group of Australian and Canadian students who arrived recently in the United States to strengthen their Jewish identity, and have some fun on the side, as a result of the Counterpoint programs run by Yeshiva University.

The group from Australia consisted of three students, two from Melbourne and one from Perth, who came for a five week excursion to visit and learn from the Jewish communities of New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and Boston. A large bulk of their stay consisted of study with the teachers and students of Yeshiva University, attending classes and participating in various activities. The two students who came from Winnipeg, Canada, enjoyed a more recreational retreat, attending a Broadway showing of - what else? - Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. Jewish identity can be strengthened in many ways.

These students are only a small part of the many high school youths who have benefitted from the Counterpoint Australia and Counterpoint Winnipeg programs run by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) of Yeshiva University. The two Counterpoint programs aim to provide an infusion of Jewish identity to students in communities that are on the

fringe of the Jewish world. Counterpoint Australia and Winnipeg have been in existence for two decades and a decade, respectively.

Counterpoint Australia is a two-month program that consists of five six-day retreats for students of grades ten through twelve. The students come from two Jewish high schools, one in Perth and one in Melbourne. Each retreat is a sort of extended shabbaton, consisting of various sessions and multimedia programs that span topics such as Belief in G-d, Anti-Semitism, and Faith after Tragedy. Along with this there is plenty of singing, a little bit of dancing, and even a full-fledged Color War.

The program is run by ten American college students, coming mostly from Yeshiva University and Stern College, with a few from Columbia and Barnard. Since the actual retreats are spread over a total of thirty days, the rest of their two month stay is spent preparing for the programs and hanging out with the Australian students from the various retreats, with some touring on the side. This summer's group is headed by RIETS student Joshua Lookstein, who is a two year veteran of the program.

Counterpoint Winnipeg is headed by Barry Bender, also head of KIRUV, and consists of a team of eleven students from YC and SCW. The Canadian program is shorter than it's Australian counterpart: it spans a two week interval, with two four-day retreats. The interim time is spent teaching in the Joseph

Wolinsky Collegiate Academy, as well as participating in local Jewish events, such as the annual Chai dance festival. Much time is spent with the members of the Winnipeg Jewish community. Team member David Kapian, a YC Senior, said, "You really feel like you're part of the community. The families are all eager to make us feel wanted. They even had all ten of us over for dinner at one time!"

The visits of the students from Australia and Canada to the United States are the culmination of the two programs. "We want these students to return to become leaders of Jewish groups on their university campuses and, ultimately, to be the future leaders of the Australian Jewish community," said Aaron Tirschwell about the Counterpoint Australia visitors. Tirschwell is the director of the Department of Youth Outreach Services at the MSDCS, and overseeing director of the Counterpoint programs.

Judaism is Cool

Lookstein added, "We wanted them to experience Jewish life in America as well as be involved in an intense learning experience. We really want to solidify the message of Counterpoint." And what is that message? Isaac Lifshutz, YC Senior from the Counterpoint Winnipeg group, answers, "To show the kids that being orthodox doesn't necessarily mean being uncool. Once we do that, there's no telling how much they can gain from their religion."

Campus Kiruv: MTA Chavrutot

by Sid Singer

Although often left unspoken (or at least unpublished), it is no secret that tensions exist between students in YU and their MTA counterparts, due primarily to the forced sharing of facilities such as the shuttle service and the cafeteria. YU's recently announced plans to increase integration of its high schools certainly will not ameliorate the situation. Fortunately, one place still exists where students of the college and high school not only co-exist but also interact on a meaningful level: the Beit Midrash.

Approximately sixty MTA students live in the high school dormitory on campus. Residence in the building is conditional upon, among other things, attendance at night seder at least three times a week. Students have the option of learning with fellow high schoolers, but many learn with chavrusas from the college. Unfortunately, since YU students suffer from severe time constraints, finding those willing to give the time necessary proves rather difficult. "Even though students often want to help other people learn," Assistant Chavrusa Coordinator Daniel Feldman explained, "they have very little time. Even when they can spare some time, students have other important causes." To help increase recruitment of college students, the chavrusa program's advocates put signs up all over campus before the end of the fall semester. The overall success of the

continued on page 9

Training Tomorrow's Leaders

by Ari Hirt

Rabbi Avi Weiss - Hebrew Institute of Riverdale; Rabbi Heshie Billet - Young Israel of Woodmere; Rabbi Danny Rhein - Mashgiach of BMT; Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald - director of National Jewish Outreach Program; Mr. Richard Joel - International Director, Hillel. While these men are the leaders of today's Jewish community, it is no coincidence that each of these distinguished individuals could write on their resumes of having served in the past as a student advisor for the Department of Youth/Outreach Services (DYS). Indeed, DYS has served as the training ground for the Jewish leaders of today.

DYS, a Yeshiva University based organization, sponsors a wide range of programs providing religious strength and support for Jewish communities, synagogues, and high school students throughout the world. These programs depend on the commitment and devotion of the YU student advisors who volunteer their time and devotion to ensure the programs' success. However, many people do not take notice that while these students assist in the survival of the Jewish community, these programs in turn equip the advisors with the necessary tools and techniques required for "leadership."

Rabbi Aaron Tirschwell, coordinator of DYS, explained that, "when we expose him [the advisor] to communities or to different outreach opportunities, it

strengthens that desire for leadership but also exposes him to the unique challenges of each community." When YU advisors discuss with Jewish adults across the country issues such as abortion, land for peace, or genetic engineering, certainly students become aware of which topics are on the minds of the Jewish World.

As Rabbi Tirschwell phrased it, "there are two distinct aspects of outreach - the people you are trying to reach and the people who are reaching - each side gains perspective."

All student advisors receive formal training through the Carl and Sylvia Freyer Professional Training Program in Community Outreach, and then proceed to participate in a variety of programs - Torah Tours, Yeshiva Seminar, The Counterpoint programs, High School Chavrusa program... Never before has there been such a large menu of outreach opportunities available to the YU student body. Tirschwell commented that, "outreach is not a new phenomenon, but what is new is the fact that the Jewish community is opening their arms and receiving."

YU student participation in outreach has exploded in both numbers and enthusiasm, in response to the "open arms" of the Jewish world. Each day the DYS office, located on the fourth floor of Furst Hall, is overflowing with students - anxious to give of themselves to the Jewish community today, and be the leaders of tomorrow.

Kiruv Across America: Torah Tours

by David Schertz

The Rabbi was surrounded by his congregants, their faces flushed with excitement. They were operating to keep the Jewish lifeblood of London, Ontario alive and well. The congregation had just spent Yom Tov with Yeshiva students who breathed new life and energy into a Jewish community whose traditions had been wavering. Now the members of the London *kehila* were devising a means to maintain the newly found enthusiasm.

The religious vigor sparked in this remote Ontario community, caused Chana Ringel, a SCW senior, to appreciate how deep the tremors can reach when a group of students erupt with religious fervor in a small community. She knew that she not only helped create a lively Yom Tov in London, but that she helped motivate the Jewish community to maintain the zeal after she returned to Stern. Motivating the Jewish community of London is but one example of the success which YU students are achieving on the Blanche Schrieber Torah Tours.

Blanche Schrieber Torah Tours is the name of a program that sends YU students throughout North America to organize and run religious events for synagogues and schools. This thirteen year old program is directed by Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, Coordinator of YU's Department of Youth and Outreach Services. He explained that Torah Tours

is one of his department's most successful programs. Last year, over 300 students were involved in running 52 programs in 26 communities.

This year Tirschwell expects to run over 70 programs. He explained that these programs are meant to help support Jewish communities that are isolated from religious life. He added that in recent years Torah Tours has been expanded to run shabbatonim and other informal education programs for Yeshiva high schools.

These programs are organized by Tirschwell in coordination with the community rabbi and a staff of student volunteers. YC senior David Kaplan is this year's head student coordinator, and he is assisted by Isaac Lifschutz, Moshe Haber, Tziporah Kilimnick and Chana Ringel.

Kilimnick, a SCW senior, pointed out that the community members are not the only ones who benefit from Torah Tours. She was referring to the strong ties which develop between students and to the excitement generated by spending Yom Tov in a completely new environment.

After participating on a Torah Tour to Allenville, New York, a town where only two religious families remain during the winter months, many students expressed optimism regarding the positive effect they had on the community. A YC student commented, "I got so much out of trying to help a community enjoy their Purim rather than just going to Columbia and trying to entertain myself."

Court is in Session

by Ryan S. Karben

Fluorescent lights shined in the place of the traditional chandeliers, vending machines stood where one might expect a statue of Justice and Gap shirts replaced somber black robes, but there was no doubt on the third floor of Schottenstein Center in early February that, after months of delay, the Student Court was finally in session.

The court heard two cases, one brought by a student alleging that another student assaulted his microwave oven with a blow-gun and the other brought by YCSC to recover an unpaid parking fee from student Don Ghermazian.

YCSC's demand for payment was acceded to by the court and Ghermazian paid the \$320 bill. The justices, however, denied YCSC Secretary Daniel Billig's request that Ghermazian be fined.

A combative Billig claimed that in failing to replace a Canadian check refused by the student council's bank,

Ghermazian "hurt his fellow students by depriving them of much needed funds." Ghermazian said he was perfectly willing to pay the money he owed, but alleged that Billig had not informed him that a student court proceeding would be held or that a fine would be assessed. He further argued that it was not his problem that Apple Bank, where YCSC maintains its account, could not accept a check drawn on Montreal's largest bank.

Justice Avi Roth questioned Billig's suggestion that Ghermazian's failure to pay his bill adversely affected the student body. Roth asked Billig to name specific instances where student groups could not be funded and to reveal how much money was in the YCSC treasury. Billig said he did not have that information readily available.

Other justices sought to clarify the sequence of events leading up to the hearing. At the conclusion of the proceeding, Ghermazian gave Billig a new check for the money he owed.

Many WYUR Problems Rectified

continued from page one

programs revolve around call-ins, these phone disruptions have impacted negatively on the station's shows. Furthermore, last week during the "Yehuda and the 'Horn' Man" show, sportscaster Steve Sommers of WFAN was supposed to call. However, due to problems with the phones, he was not able to get through.

Poor Reception

Another major issue is the lack of constant quality reception throughout the dorms. During the first week of broadcasting, the residents of the Muss dormitory heard WYUR clearly while the Rubin and Morgenstern dorms only heard humming sounds. However, the following week, Rubin dormitory had clear reception while the students in Morgenstern struggled to listen. Those in Muss heard nothing at all.

Brookdale Hall also ran into problems with reception during the first two weeks. According to Dafna Kalish, the

Stern College WYUR coordinator, the women at SCW were trying to listen but all they heard was humming. Inexplicably, the best reception was attained in the restrooms.

Improvements

The station has spent much of the last week trying to solve the problems. Recently, an outside electrician came to YU to improve the reception in the various dorms. He adjusted a dial setting at Brookdale Hall, and, according to Unterberg, the sound there is now perfectly clear. He also changed the settings in the YC dorms, and will return this week to complete the job.

Another planned initiative will be the installment of an additional phone line to be financed by the Yeshiva College Student Council. This will allow celebrities to be on the line and entertain questions from incoming callers. The second phone line is expected to be installed this week.

Women's Chagiga Placed in Belfer Hall

continued from page one

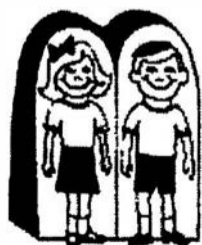
of primary importance in the *chagiga*. The issues of safety, security, money, as well as the all-encompassing area of *halachah* are all factors in determining the location of the Purim *chagiga*. Following the 1992 fiasco, several possibilities occurred to the Administration. For 1993, SOY proposed putting the men in the *Beit Midrash* and the women in Weissberg Commons, but the plan was rejected because the Saturday night event left YU bereft of enough security and housekeeping staff to support the use of two buildings. SOY's alternate solution called for the women to dance to "piped-in" music in the MTA gym below the *Beit Midrash*, but this was rejected for safety reasons. Mr. Rosengarten had originally wanted to place everyone in the capacious Max Stern Athletic Center gym but that proposal joined the others in the rejection bin due to the gym's lack of conduciveness to *ruach* and its overly high ceiling, which would have provided terrible acoustics for the band. In the end, Mr. Rosengarten compromised by putting the men in the cafeteria with the band, and piping the music into the adjacent gym for the women. This arrangement was especially unfair to the women, who were left with little *ruach* in a room that was much too large for them. On top of that, when the men joined the women in the gym for the *shpiel*, the microphones broke down.

This year, there was a concerted effort on the part of SOY to "take back" its *chagiga* and put it back in the *Beit Midrash*. Therefore, the role of women in the celebration had to be re-evaluated. The Stern women, who were invited uptown by SOY uptown for Purim, have their own *chagiga* every year on or around Rosh Chodesh Adar. This year it took place on Monday, February 21. Ostensibly, this would have opened up the *Beit Midrash* to the men, which many *Roshei Yeshiva* felt was crucial, in order to "enhance the *chagiga* and enhance the

yeshiva itself." However, according to Greenspan, the women running Stern's *chagiga* feared a lower turnout. TAC president Aliza Dworken emphasized the need for a celebration on Purim itself but said it was important to have it uptown in order to "to feel like part of the *yeshiva*." The editors of *The Observer*, the Stern College newspaper, also highlighted this "sense of unity" in a February 16 editorial, but suggested having a joint *chagigah* in the gym, a plan that was suggested last year. Greenspan presented his plan at a February 9 meeting with Jeffrey Rosengarten, Dean Nulman and Rabbis Blau, Charlop, and Chaitoff. But afterwards, there was little communication between the Administration and SOY about the proposal, and as a result, SOY was unable to publicize the *chagiga* in a timely fashion. Because of the confusion, SCWSC President Chani Pearlman said that she could only hope that "the *mesorah* of inviting the girls" would continue.

The official plans for the 1994 *chagiga* were finally relayed in a note from Mr. Rosengarten to Greenspan on Friday, February 18. "Separate-but-equal" *chagigot* will both commence at 9:00 P.M. The men's party will feature Neshomah Orchestra. Five dollars will be charged for admission. At midnight, the women will be walked over to Lamport by security for the *shpiel*. Immediately afterwards, the women will be escorted to their buses. The question of whether Stern will help fund the *chagiga* remains to be seen.

There was a mixed reaction to news of the *chagiga* plans. David Swidler, a statistics student, proclaimed that "with each bus load of girls the chances of finding my *bashert* increase geometrically." Another student said that inviting the women constituted nothing less than "*buses l'duvur ho'issur*." Everyone agreed, however, that only at YU could a Purim party cause so much aggravation.



Earn up to \$1500
this summer as a counselor

MA-TOV DAY CAMP

Alpine, New Jersey

(10 mi. north of GW Bridge)

Call Avi at 927-4735

for information and application.

Rubin 319



2549 Amsterdam Avenue - Washington Heights, NY

Tel. (212) 923-1180

ACROSS THE STREET FROM YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

New Guidance Center to be Coordinated With Career Placement Office

continued from page one

hope that the guidance offices "will make registration flow more smoothly." The program will be implemented at the Joel Jablonski Campus by Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz, and at the midtown center by Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian.

The proposal defines several objectives for the guidance center. The first goal is to address the student's academic advisement needs. This includes reviewing the student's current academic program and past academic program, responding to questions regarding potential majors, and career advisement. Also, students will be given advice in scheduling their college careers regarding Advanced Placement Credit, CLEPs, transfer credit, summer school credit, and YU course credit.

The second goal of the center will be to coordinate with the career and placement offices. This will aid in the student's decision for a field of study.

This includes organizing internships for students to allow them to gain experience in their fields of interest. Lectures will be arranged on a multitude of professions. YCSC President Danny Gurell and Daniel Billig said that some of these goals are currently being accomplished, but not to their fullest extent. They hope that the Student Guidance Center will take these goals to a new level.

The final objective of the Guidance Center will be to function as a "traffic policeman" by directing non-academic problems to the appropriate offices. This will result in the recognition of elementary personal difficulties which may manifest themselves in academic complications. A student with such problems will be directed to the personal guidance office. Billig added that related offices will be in close proximity to each other, and will be in constant contact.

High School Chavrutot

continued from page 7

signs, which claim "They're not in Australia... They're not even in another state," remains to be seen.

Despite this, the program has witnessed some success. According to Chaim Gottesman, who learns with a high school chavrusa three nights a week ("four during the high school's gemara

finals"), approximately seventy-five percent of the high school dormers actively participate in the program. Many YU students who learn with MTA pupils share Gottesman's sentiment that "There is a lot of satisfaction in teaching a high school student the basic skills of *talmud Torah*."

To All Candidates for Graduation

May '94 and Sept '94

Commencement exercises will be held on

Thursday, May 26, 11:00am

in

The Paramount

at

Madison Square Garden

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

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

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

The Commentator BOOK REVIEW

The Not So Grand Jury

Blanche Davis Blank, *The Not So Grand Jury: The Story of the Federal Grand Jury System*. Latham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1993, 96 pp. (cloth and paper).

by Kenneth Sherril

The highlight of my very petit jury service this January was my opportunity to read Blanche Davis Blank's *The Not So Grand Jury: The Story of the Federal Grand Jury System*. In this elegant monograph, Dr. Blank combines the skilled eye of a professional political scientist with a remarkable nose for reality to provide us with a no-nonsense view of a failing political institution.

The book, a product of Dr. Blank's two-year term as a federal grand juror in New York's Southern District, combines her eyewitness experiences with supplemental documentary research and with interviews of clerks, prosecutors and her colleagues on the grand jury.

To the framers of the American constitutional system, the grand jury was to provide both "a sword and a shield." The sword was to be wielded against wrongdoers; the shield was to protect innocent citizens from abusers of governmental power. The guarantee that "no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on presentment or indictment of a grand jury" is enshrined in the Constitution's Fifth Amendment. But while the Constitution guarantees that there be grand juries, the Constitution is silent on the subject of how grand juries are to operate.

The thrust of Dr. Blank's book is that the current operation of grand juries is seriously flawed. As a result, grand juries are uncertain as swords and rarely function as shields. Rather than empowering and protecting average citizens, grand juries have become vehicles for prosecutorial abuse and alienating wastes of time for average citizens.

Grand jurors are amateurs -- average citizens -- endowed with the power to issue subpoenas, to call witnesses, ask questions, to compel testimony and to vote criminal indictments. For grand jurors to do their work responsibly, they must have access to a wide range of resources. In fact, Blank argues, prosecutors virtually have monopoly control of two of the most critical resources: the flow of information and the interpretation of information. Grand jurors have no researchers or staff at their disposal. Their knowledge of the rules and procedures is contingent on the information made available to them by the U.S. Attorneys who come to

grand juries seeking indictments and/or by the clerks working at the courthouses. Dr. Blank makes it clear that these people are not very forthcoming, do not always agree with one another about the rules and their interpretation; and manipulate the information they disseminate in order to achieve their goals -- goals that might range from obtaining convictions to avoiding doing a full day's work.

To maintain this control, virtually all information relating to grand juries and their operation is shrouded in secrecy. This secrecy has several negative consequences. Grand jurors are not made fully aware of their powers. Witnesses are not made aware of their constitutional rights. The public neither is told true costs of grand juries nor is given accurate information by which the productivity, efficiency or rationality of grand juries might be evaluated. (Blank estimates that the true costs of grand juries to be over \$42 million for 1988-89.)

Dr. Blank does not, however, come to the conclusion that grand juries ought to be done away with. Beyond the risks of tampering with the Bill of Rights -- which abolishing grand juries necessarily would entail -- grand juries have high public purposes and, on occasion, fulfill them. Blank notes, for example, that grand juries helped restore confidence in the public justice system during Watergate grand jury and in celebrated local cases of false charges inflamed by racial and religious tensions. Sadly, the number of celebrated cases in which overzealous prosecutors bamboozled grand juries into false charges and abusive processes seems to be much greater than the number of cases with noble grand juries.

Dr. Blank repeatedly makes a persuasive case that grand jurors are good and decent public-spirited citizens. Too often, they are abused, humiliated, have their time wasted, and are misled. The problems in the grand jury system are systemic and not the fault of the citizens who serve as grand jurors.

Thus, as a conclusion, Dr. Blank proposes a number of reasonable and realistic reforms of the process. Some of these reforms have long been proposed by scholars, bar associations, and civic groups. To these, she adds several based on her experience and research. In my view, the two most important of these are to reconsider the extent of the current secrecy requirements and to "provide for some type of court review... [to insure] that procedural niceties are consistently observed."

The Not So Grand Jury should be required reading for all who care about the quality of justice in the United States. It is clearly and cogently written, compellingly argued, and a pleasure to read.

Kenneth Sherril is a Professor of Political Science at Hunter College

Dr. Blanche D. Blank currently serves as the Acting-President of Hunter College. She retired last year from her position of Professor of Political Science at Yeshiva.

LSAT75
points

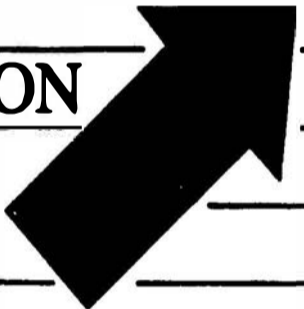
(range: 120-180)

GMAT72
points

(range: 200-800)

GRE214
points

(range: 600-2400)

MCAT
points(range: 3 sections,
each 15 points)**THE
PRINCETON
REVIEW**

For more information call:
(212) 874-7600
(718) 935-0091

PROVEN

The numbers you see are the OFFICIAL average score improvements of our students. These figures are based on a one-of-a-kind study conducted by a Big Six accounting firm. We, at The Princeton Review, know that the MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, and GRE can be tough, but we can help you dramatically raise your score! Small classes (no more than 15 students) and personal attention throughout the program make us the most effective, efficient and enjoyable way to great

S C O R E S !

\$ 1 0 0 D I S C O U N T

Enroll in our MCAT course today and receive a \$100 discount!
Please attach or fax this coupon with your enrollment form.

*Offer applies to Full-Time Yeshiva University and Stern College students only.
Good only for Princeton Review MCAT classes in New York City area.*

New Course Catalog Delayed

Leaves Students Confused

by Gershon Seiferas

The release of Yeshiva University's revised undergraduate catalog has been delayed. The catalog contains course descriptions, general graduation requirements, and requirements for each major, important rules and policies, as well as the educational backgrounds of the Administration and faculty.

Due Out This Past Fall

A new version of the catalog is scheduled for release once every two years. An updated edition was due out before the current semester, but has yet to be released. Requirements have changed for certain majors and the lack of a new catalog has left many upperclassman in the dark. Because of the lack of an authoritative source, students have been basing their scheduling of courses on outdated requirements and occasionally, on the basis of rumored changes. Another problem with the delay is that numerous courses have been introduced since the brown 1991-1993 catalog was published; without a course description, many students were clueless as to the full course offerings at the January 1994 registration.

Judith Bernstein, an administrator in the Academic Vice President's Office says that a new catalog will be distributed in "about three months." The delay, she claims, "was caused by the backlog that resulted from the change of administration, namely the change of [Academic] Vice-Presidents." She also down-played the consequences of the delay with regard to the use of the catalog as a public relations tool. Explaining the purpose of the catalog, she said that

"the book is primarily for those students presently enrolled in Yeshiva University. We do try to make it aesthetically pleasing but it serves more important purposes. One should realize that most other universities publish a guide book filled with newspaper print."

Like Bernstein, Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler did not see the postponement as a problem for recruitment at Yeshiva: "We are ecstatic that the book is so close to its correct date." Kranzler offered a rationale for the course guide's delay, saying that "The true purpose of the guide is to give a feel for the course selection. The courses listed are not the same ones that are offered each semester anyway. Being off by one semester does not really effect the Office of Admissions."

Yet faculty and students felt that the delay was troubling. Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, head of the Political Science Department, could not understand why the requirements for each major and the course selection for its field were separated in the last catalog. "I mean, logically it would seem that they should be all together," she asserted.

Bernstein responded by noting that the wait will be well worth it because "the new guide will include important changes and [will] be more user-friendly; the layout will be far more enjoyable."

However, Bevan's frustration is more deeply rooted than in such particulars. The sudden rush to complete something so important that had such an obvious deadline also upset Bevan. "During finals," she said, "the faculty was notified to compile a list of course descriptions by the beginning of February. Why hurry it? Why didn't they notify us in September?"

ERNST & JULIO DOWN BY THE SCHOOLYARD

"It's not easy being green."

--Esther The Malkah

We're all so busy making marzipan into exotic fruit and other highfaluting shapes, that we've lost sight of the true shape of marzipan.

The P.P.C. (one of whose products is "Haredi Matzoh"--actual matzohs that have been thrown at cars travelling on shabbos) has begun its campaign to supply every interested Y.U. student with all the equipment necessary for a successful Passover. But aren't scientists trying to rid the atmosphere of P.P.C.'s? Aren't they bad for the environment? Does Y.U. want to be seen as pro-P.P.C.?

Along the same lines, is S.O.Y. an organization with which Y.U. wants to be publicly linked? First of all, there are no periods in "soy." Second, do we really need an organization devoted solely to that bean, as mutable and flexible as it may be? Maybe we do; after all, many people hold that S.O.Y. (let them keep their spelling) was the legendary "manna from heaven." Others believe that the manna was marzipan. Still others believe that it

was *mon*, the poppy seed-based *hamantashcen* filling that I mistake for chocolate every Purim, take a huge bite of, and spit violently out. All this notwithstanding, isn't a huge book sale devoted to the bean a bit much? Is a S.O.Y. *chagigah* necessary?

Speaking of the *chagigah*, I heard from a friend, who heard it from a friend, who heard it from a friend, and so on and so on...that the location of the festivities has once again become a source of bickering and complaining. Perhaps the *chagigah's* motto should be "Music, Dancing, and Whine" instead of "Music, Dancing, and Wine." Man, now *that's* a joke.

In conclusion, I would like to express my fervently held opinion that the Megillah does not intend to suggest that *all* women who sprout a tail and mustache are unattractive and should refuse to leave their rooms as a result of these growths. I believe that Vashti made a decision about her own attractiveness, and not about that of all mustachioed women with tales. Also, I would like to thank Haman's sons for having names strange enough to keep that "all-in-one-breath" thing exciting from year to year.

All the best.

¹The Jhermac Principle.

Ernst & Julio UNPLUGGED

"HAPPY PURIM, BABY"

Advertisement for Ernst & Julio featuring a large graphic of a catalog cover with the text "Three Generations of Family Ownership Since 1905" and a list of bullet points.

YESHIVA

sports

YU Volleyball Team Makes Trek to Bard

by Commentator Sports Staff

When the Volleyball team boarded the bus on their way to the Bard Invitational tournament, they realized that it would be a tough road ahead of them. Not only would the two and a half hour ride take a lot out of the team, but they were also scheduled to play four matches (each being best out of five). Furthermore, they were departing without one of their starters and leaders, Avi Marocco. The odds were stacked against them as they prepared to play their first match of the season. The rookies had doubts, but the veterans knew that this team had a lot of potential; something that could not have often been said about the YU volleyball program in years past. The strong hitters this year are Ralph Jakoel and Avi Vogel. The middle hitters are Avi Marocco and Noam Geft. The team's setters are Noah Lindenberg and Vlady Peterzeil. Substitutions include Moshe Joshua, Nachi Strudler, Boris Khodorkovsky, and Josh Guedalia. Leaving an hour and a half late without food and equipment due to a mix-up, the team reached Bard College late for its first scheduled match. Fortunately, Bard's Athletic Department was generous and rescheduled all the matches, preventing a forfeit.

The team first faced tournament favorite NJIT, and lost. It was their first match of the season and finals of 15-9, 15-4, and 15-8 were respectable against such

a strong team.

The first match was a learning experience for most of the players. In the second match versus a small Mt. Saint Vincent team, YU destroyed them 15-4, 15-3, and 15-8.

In the third match, Stevens Tech was the opponent. After watching them play in previous matches, the consensus was that "they were good but could be beaten." The first two games were ugly, with the YU team committing countless errors against a nearly flawless Stevens Tech. But in the third game YU rebounded from the two embarrassing losses and won. Unfortunately, it was all for naught as Tech then blew YU out in the fourth game to take the match 3-1.

By the fourth match, the signs of fatigue were evident. At that point, they faced the host team, Bard College. The games were close, but YU won the match in three straight, thanks to the timely hitting of Ralf Jakoel.

YU finished up in third place at 2-2. Coach Vargas, reflecting on the team's performance, said that he was happy with the teams overall performance but there was much to work on. He praised the strong play of Avi Vogel, the tenacious defense of Noam Geft, and the consistent setting of Noah Lindenberg. He also remarked upon the awesome serving of Vlady Peterzeil, and Moshe Joshua. Despite the difficulties, the YU team was a force in the hotly contested tournament.

Hockey Intramurals Underway

by David Lawrence and Chaim Leffel

Hockey Intramurals started up again following a prolonged All-Star break and an extended vacation for the commissioner. The standings from last semester were as follows: Borenstein 5-1, Fruchter 4-2, Leffel 2-3 and Schreiber a dismal 0-5.

Game One of the new semester was a face-off between Team Leffel and Team Schreiber. David Lawrence got off to his usual quick-start, scoring the opening tally of the game for Leffel. Before long it was Larry again, this time with a slapshot from the point. Moshe Schreiber scored to narrow the margin to one. Later, an errant pass led to Jonathan Landa's first goal of this season. Soon after, David Mark, playing in his Y.H.I.L. debut wound up and scored

from his own zone, stunning goaltender Marc Mandel. Larry completed his hat trick and the icing on the cake was provided by Barry Habib with a great individual effort. Steven Kupferman played solid on the defensive end, while "Norm" Fertig was superb in the net.

Game Two featured the top two teams in the league, Team Fruchter and Team Borenstein. Fruchter's team had lost in two previous meetings with Borenstein's. Borenstein's only loss had come to Leffel in the second week of the season. It was a hard-fought battle as Fruchter and Mendelson both scored during regulation. For Team Borenstein, it was Borenstein and Bryskin. But in overtime it was Fruchter who ended it with a stunning goal that brought Team Fruchter into a tie for first place in the league with Team Borenstein.

Macs Rolling Along

by Adam Melzer

Since their heroic effort against NYU, the Macs (11-7) have been on a roll. They were victorious in five of their last six games, and presently have the best-rated defense in NCAA Division III. In addition, Daniel Aaron (19.3 ppg and 12.0 rpg) is currently eleventh on the list of rebounding leaders in the country, and he is nearing the one thousand point mark for his career.

The Macs have been winning because of terrific defense, a newly discovered intensity, and team play. Guard Israel Wallach has stepped up his play of late with solid contributions against Polytech (13 points) and St Joseph's (13 points). Michael Dube has also contributed mightily in place of injured starter Miko

Danan. Moreover, the Macs have received good minutes from their bench; Jacob Rosenberg and Issac Newman are getting quality playing time.

The recent Macs winning streak was capped off by an outstanding 50-48 win over Stevens Tech in the Macs home finale. It was an emotional win for the Macs and the vocal crowd behind them. The Macs led by as many as 11 points until Stevens Tech went on a furious run to take a one point lead with 1:03 remaining. But the Macs responded with some tough defense and timely free throws by Daniel Aaron, Israel Wallach, and Alan Levy. Hopefully, the Macs can keep up their stellar play in the upcoming IAC tournament and keep alive their hopes for a possible ECAC tournament bid.

Schick Tournament Draws to a Close

by David Goldenberg

The field began with 28 teams, all pursuing the Schick 3-on-3 championship title and a chance to represent YU in the regionals at Columbia. After months of bumping, grinding, pushing, shoving, and fighting, the dust cleared and the field had been sliced to three teams. The "Favorites," featuring Arkady Abraham, Ari Cement, Sam Maryles, and Barry Aranoff lived up to their name by breezing through the tournament. They were the first team to advance to the final game. The other two teams took rather different routes. Adam Melzer's team, "The Fan," began with Adam and three teammates. By the semi-final game, his team's roster had changed radically. The "Mary Jays," led by the Aronson combination of Tuvia and Akiva advanced to the semi-finals after a controversial win over "Miami Connection," which took a week to finish.

The brothers' three-point bombing was their advantage.

The semi-final game took place on Monday night, February 14. In the first half, and for most of the second, the "Mary Jays" controlled the tempo and led by 6. However, the "Fan" came back behind the shooting of Brian Galbut and Melzer, and the rebounding and assists of Avi Vogel and Burt Katz. The "Fan" won it 51-45.

On Wednesday night, February 16, the championship game was played. Most of the time, it was a seesaw battle. The "Fan" actually led 10-8 at one point, but that would be the last lead they would see, as the "Favorites" went on an absolute tear erupting with a 26-8 run led by Ari Cement and Sam Maryles. Starting the second half down by 16 points, the "Fan" tried to make a run but just couldn't make a dent in the "Favorites" lead. Instead the "Favorites" extended their lead behind Aranoff and Abraham. The "Favorites" won it easily, 63-38.

The Commentator
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033