

The Commentator

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photo: YU Roman Kozzengurt

Out with the old and in with the new: New banners replacing the old Joel Jablonski signs were hung late last week.

President's Circle Gives \$7,500 to The Commentator

Money Used to Purchase New Equipment

by Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

Just before the semester's start, a unique alumni group known as the President's Circle donated \$7,500 to *The Commentator* for new computers and equipment. With the money, *The Commentator* purchased two new computer systems: a 486 DX2 66mhz IBM compatible computer and a 21 inch color monitor for layout, a 486 33mhz for editing purposes, a black and white scanner, and a fully functional three-computer network. Part of the gift was also spent in publishing *The Commentator's* first ever Back-To-School issue put out two weeks ago.

The President's Circle, formed in late 1989 and composed of young YC and SCW alumni, is a unique alumni organization that aims, in the words of one of its founders and Chief Executive Officer, Shalom Lamm, to "give something back" to both YC and SCW. Mr. Lamm, the son of YU President Rabbi Norman Lamm, graduated from YC in

the early Eighties. Like most of the alumni on the President's Circle, he actively participated in student affairs in his years on campus, serving on the YC Student Senate. After graduating, he retained his ties to YC and searched for ways to enhance the undergraduate college experience for students on the YU campuses. Then, in 1989, he started the President's Circle along with fifteen other young alumni who pledged to give \$5,000 annually towards the betterment of the undergraduate schools of YU.

Over \$200,000 In Last Five Years

Over the last five years, the President's Circle has given over \$200,000 to fund a wide-ranging variety of programs on both campuses. Among the many programs it has subsidized over the years are the rebinding of the Seforim in the Main Beit Midrash, the renovation of the Stern Lounge, the sponsoring of a number of prominent speakers on campus,

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Still No Dean

Socol Pushes for Non-Orthodox Candidate

by Moshe I. Kinderlehrer and Steven Miodownik

Three Orthodox Jews, two of them YU alumni, are considered the top prospects to become the new Dean of Yeshiva College.

Through several sources close to the proceedings, *The Commentator* has learned that YU professors Carl Feit and Bernard J. Firestone, and Dr. Claude Schochet of Detroit were approved by the Search Committee and are now undergoing consideration for the position by President Lamm. The deanship, left vacant when Dr. Norman Rosenfeld resigned at the end of last semester, has been temporarily filled by SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg.

Dr. Lamm's consideration of Feit, Firestone, and Schochet, results from strong recommendation from the presently adjourned Decanal Search Committee, convened

almost immediately after Rosenfeld's resignation and chaired by Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Search Committee, whose purpose was to thoroughly interview all the candidates and make a final recommendation of three names to the President, included faculty, student, and administrative representatives. The committee met several times in May, June, and early July before approving the three.

President Lamm Still Looking

According to committee member Raji Viswanathan, a professor of chemistry, the committee was under the impression that Dr. Lamm would be choosing solely from the candidates approved by it.

However, Dr. Lamm, in an interview with *The Commentator*, indicated that he does not feel

"bound" to the three candidates recommended by the Search Committee and that he is still actively pursuing other options in his quest to provide YC with long-term leadership. "I still feel that I want to have more of a choice," explained Dr. Lamm. He did emphasize though that he is still strongly considering the three candidates submitted to him by the Search Committee. Furthermore, he showered praise upon the efforts of the Search Committee in selecting the candidates and upon the merits and qualifications of the recommended candidates. However, he refused to confirm the names of the candidates approved by the Committee.

Dr. Schwartz, the chairman of the Decanal Search Committee, assured a group of student leaders assembled this past Friday morning for a question and answer session,

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YU Set to Announce Fourth Jewish Studies Program

by Ryan S. Karben

In an attempt to enhance the level of *talmud torah* in the yeshiva and expand the number of options available to *talmidim*, the University is preparing to announce a fourth Judaic Studies program that will begin next semester.

The program, to be called the Golding Beit Medrash Program, is the brainchild of MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldwicht, who says the program was designed to meet needs articulated by students in a Spring '93 survey of MYP students conducted by Eitan A.

Mayer.

The proposed schedule for the Monday through Thursday program begins with a forty-five minute *Halakhah shiur* on Mondays and Wednesdays and a Jewish Thought *shiur* on Tuesdays. The *shiurim* are followed by an hour and forty-five minutes of *sefer* and a one and half hour *Gemara shiur*. The programs ends at one o'clock, except for Thursdays when it ends shortly after noon to facilitate Bible attendance. The *Halakhah* and *Machshava shiurim* are optional.

The proposal has already attracted the enthusiastic

support of student leaders. SOY President Yitchak B. Book said, "I understand the Roshei Yeshiva support this... We are all about *harbatzas Torah*."

Rav Goldwicht says he hopes the program will give students a more organized program that will give them the opportunity to enjoy quality *limud haTorah*, while freeing up more of their time in the afternoon. By ending the day earlier, he says, there is a greater chance students will have a night *sefer*, since they can take a class or write a paper in the afternoon.

The program places significant emphasis on creating

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Rabbi Yonason Sacks, Rosh Yeshiva of MYP, is named to the new Guterman Chair in Talmudic Studies

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A new committee has been established to approve YCDS activities.

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The Road Less Travelled

From a 64 year old freshman to majors in classical languages: a look at a few unusual YU students.

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EDITORIALS..EDITORIALS..EDITORIALS

Who Cares?

Mark the date Feb. 1, 1995 on your calendars. On that day, the Yeshiva University men's basketball team will face NJIT in Madison Square Garden. Almost any YC student hoping to make the tipoff will undoubtedly have to cut classes. Despite the fact that Feb. 1 also marks the beginning of the second semester, expect a few hundred students or so to do what they must in order to see their beloved Macs play in the Garden, no matter how well the team has done up to that point.

On Oct. 13, 1994, signs were posted in the dorms at approximately 2:45 PM announcing a "prayer and protest" rally, organized earlier that day, for then-held captive Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman, z"l, outside the PLO building on the East Side at 5:30 PM. Only a few hours prior, over 30,000 Jews had come together at the Kotel to pray for this soldier's safe return home. Sadly, the numbers back home did not reflect the same outpouring of concern. Although a good number of students probably did not see the signs, it is safe to assume that far more did than the thirty who attended.

The problem lies not in the late announcement of the rally. Does anyone really believe that hundreds more would have shown up if signs had been posted the night before? Too many people on this campus simply do not care enough about Israel's day-to-day events. Denouncing the Labor government's willingness to negotiate away land demands little effort; keeping up with the people of Israel themselves and searching for related newsstories requires a far greater commitment. How many students went to brief late-night tehillim sessions on Waxman's behalf? How many people on this campus did anything at all?

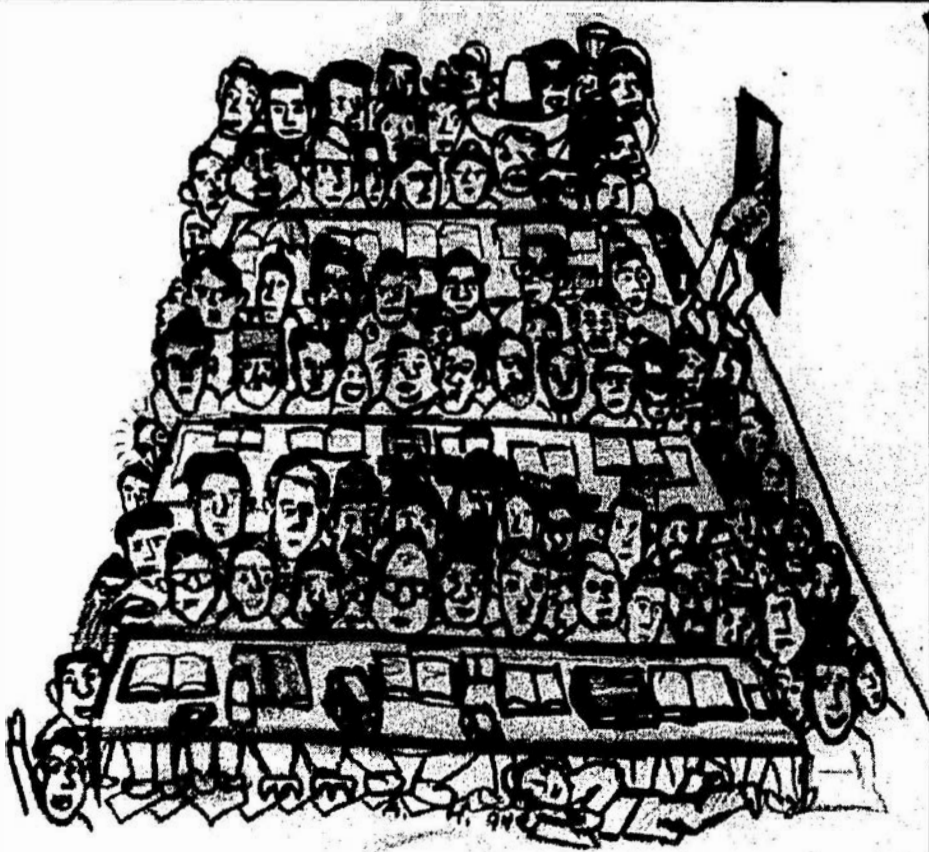
Of course, some students definitely knew about the demonstration but chose not to go for ideological reasons. Not everyone supports the method of public tehillim and political action; some prefer private learning and tefilla instead. Those students who opted for such alternative measures out of personal conviction should be commended. However, those who chose not to attend the rally simply because they did not want to miss class must ask themselves: will they be in the stands on Feb. 1?

Regardless of one's political views on the State of Israel, there is no doubting the country's centrality in our lives as Jews. It is our homeland. It is our people. Israel is simply too great, too important not to have our commitment and our concern 100 percent of the time. She demands it of us. We must demand it of ourselves.

Off to a Good Start

A hearty "yasher kochachem" to President Daniel Billig and the entire YCSC executive board for conducting their first meeting publicly, allowing participation and comments from any students in attendance. Although YCSC may not have officially closed its meetings to students in years past, this marked the first time in recent history that the executive board publicly announced the time and date of its meeting while simultaneously encouraging all students to attend. Only time will tell if the elected representatives will indeed serve the student body well; to their credit, however, they have marked their tenure in office with a genuinely positive beginning.

P I C T O R I A L



Find Waldo in Rav Parnes' Shiur

The Commentator

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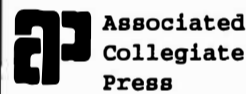
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RESPONSA

Double Standard At the Caf

To the Editor:

Anybody who has spent a Shabbos or Yom Tov in Yeshiva and has eaten in the cafeteria is probably aware that there are two different prices. There is a student price and a guest price. The latter of the two is astronomically higher than the former. This seemingly unjust price system which might lead to questions of "Ona'at Mamon" and a failure to perform the Mitzvah of "Hachnasos Orchim" is open for all to see. What is not so apparent is who the University considers a guest. A guest is not only a complete stranger to Yeshiva University, but can also be extended to include alumni, even if they graduated as recently as the previous year. Thus, for a recent graduate to return to Yeshiva for a Shabbos could become quite expensive. Also included on the Yeshiva University guest list are the Roshei Yeshiva. Recently, I was

informed that for a Rosh Yeshiva and his wife to spend Rosh Hashana in Yeshiva, officially cost \$160. This year, as it turns out, the manager of the cafeteria was accommodating and allowed them to eat at student rates; however, official policy is that the Roshei Yeshiva are guests. As such, SOY must pay thousands of dollars each year to make SOY Shabbosos which include the inviting of Roshei Yeshiva and their families. Are the Roshei Yeshiva simply guest speakers that visit the Yeshiva on a regular basis? I do not know who sets this policy, but it would seem to this writer that this policy is something that the University should be ashamed about and should therefore change it. The prophet tells us, "The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity."

Name Witheld Upon Request

Corrections

The article "MYP Hires New Assistant Mashgichim" printed in the Back-To-School issue of *The Commentator* contained a number of items requiring some clarification. The corrections: Rabbi Meir Orlian was officially appointed the head of a newly created Mentorship program in which he will arrange for members of the Kollel Elyon and other senior talmidim to become mentors to new students. Moreover, the article implied that newly hired Assistant Mashgichim, Rabbis Elchanan Adler and Jeremy Weider would report to Rabbi Orlian. This implication is false. In fact, all three of the newly hired staff members will serve equally as *Shoalim u' meishivim*. *The Commentator* apologizes if the article caused any misunderstanding.

From the Editor

Now that over 28% of YU male undergraduates attend the Sy Syms School of Business, the governing board of *The Commentator* has decided that it is high time to start a Sy Syms section or mini-section, if you will. The new mini-section, which will appear every two issues, will highlight SSSB events and feature stories pertaining to the business school.

This inaugural issue of the Sy Syms section features opening remarks from the President of SSSB, Ziv Mendelsohn (also known as the YCSC VP for

Business Affairs), who has encouraged and aided our efforts to win the students of SSSB some well-deserved recognition in the pages of *The Commentator*. Ziv, as SSSB President, has pledged his continued support to the SSSB section and with his help, *The Commentator* will continue to serve as the representative voice of the entire "Main Campus" student body, both YC and SSSB alike.

Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

Counterpoint: Turkey, A Success Story

by Nachum Lamm

For the past twenty years, the Counterpoint Program has brought YU students to such places as Australia, South Africa, and Canada to teach local communities about Judaism. This summer, the program was brought to Istanbul, Turkey.

Attention was last focused on the Jews of Turkey in 1992 on the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain and their subsequent welcome into Turkey. A number of programs commemorating these events were held in YU that year and the Turkish ambassador visited the YU Museum's exhibit on Sephardic Jewry. Then, according to Rabbi M. Mitchell Serels, the Director of Sephardic Community Programs, a recognition was reached that religion also had to be stressed for the Turkish Jewish community. Even the Turkish government saw the strengthening of Turkish Jews' Judaism as a positive idea.

The Jewish community of Turkey numbers about 25,000; the vast majority located in Istanbul. Outside of Israel, it is one of the largest Jewish communities in the Mediterranean area. It was there that third year RIETS student Naftali Haleva began teaching Judaism. Haleva, now studying in the Gruss Institute in Jerusalem, stated that his goal was to get the Jewish youth in Turkey to become more "enthusiastic and motivated" toward their religion, and to show that a religious lifestyle is not "primitive".

According to Rabbi Serels, the Turkish Jewish community is very integrated into general Turkish society, and one of the goals of the program was to show that people can be religious while, at the same time, participating in the

community around them. In January of this past year, Haleva approached Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, Coordinator of the Counterpoint programs, for help in "formalizing" the seminars he had been conducting for one and a half years. Rabbi Tirschwell pointed out that, as opposed to Counterpoints and Seminars, which occur during the year and in which students were brought to "vacation areas," this program would be held in the summer, when most of the Istanbul Jewish community would be vacationing in the "suburbs." Therefore, the program would be brought to them.

Haleva and six other students spent much of July and August teaching various topics of Judaism including Bible, Hebrew, Jewish Identity, and other subjects to about 800 children, as well as adults in the Istanbul area. The program was similar to that of the high school Seminars, but specially adapted to the Turkish community. In addition, Haleva said a goal was to teach young adults in the community to lead such programs, in the hope that Turkey's Counterpoint program would go the way of that of South Africa, which became "self-sufficient" in teaching Judaism to South Africans. Educational aspects of this program were arranged by Rabbi Serels, while Rabbi Tirschwell coordinated the more practical aspects. The program was jointly funded by YU, the Jewish community of Turkey, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Rabbis Serels, Tirschwell, and Haleva agreed that for a first time program, Counterpoint: Turkey had gone well. Many of the participants gained more enthusiasm for their Judaism, with one participant now considering attending YU. Haleva has a program prepared for next year, and he hopes that the Seminar will be repeated annually.



Dr. Sir Derek Barton describing the intricacies of organic molecular structure. Dr. Barton spoke as part of the annual Kukin Lecture Series that took place on Monday October 10 in Belfer Hall. His lecture was entitled "How to Win a Nobel Prize."

RIETS Registration Fee Skyrockets

by Meir Zeitchik

Of the various changes waiting for Yeshiva University students as they returned from their summer vacation, one of the more striking ones was a registration fee increase for RIETS students. The fee, which has held constant for the past several years, jumped this year from \$175 to \$500, an increase of almost 300%.

The exact reasons for this dramatic increase remain hazy. Neal Harris, Acting Director of Student Finances, responded to this question by simply saying, "We just implement, we don't make decisions," and Sheldon Socol, Vice President for Business Affairs, failed to return several messages inquiring into the matter.

Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, head of the RIETS program, attempted to explain the situation: "There has not been an increase in many years," he explained, and suggested that due to the budget deficits in the university, RIETS "must hold up our end in registration offices, administrative offices and the like."

Many students, however, remain skeptical about this sudden need to support various offices in YU. "This increase is both unfair and unjust," commented one RIETS student who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Students who wish to dedicate themselves to learning Torah on a full-time basis should not be subjected to these absurd fees." Rabbi Charlop responded by saying that "I can't believe this fee is prohibitive in this day and age, but if it's really a problem for someone, we would find a way to try to help him." Another RIETS student remarked that while he was angered by the increase, "this is the only yeshiva in the world, as far as I know, which grants stipends to

unmarried Kollel students. While the registration fee is frustrating, it must be kept in perspective."

However, there is more at stake here than the relatively simple issue of an expensive registration fee. There is a growing sentiment among many students that a more serious tuition is in the works, and this increase is simply the administration's way of readying them for more draconian measures. "I recognize and appreciate the commitment of the yeshiva in general and Rabbi Charlop in particular for covering all smicha students' costs as well as bending over backward for students who wish to attend Gruss," noted second year Smicha student Eitan Mayer. "Still, I am concerned that the escalating cost of registration is a precursor for more serious increases in the future."

Rabbi Charlop, however, insists that this is not a cause for alarm. "I don't see [registration fee raise] as a precursor at all. On the contrary, this is a reasonable response on the part of RIETS to avoid implementing a tuition. It's unconscionable for the University to be carrying such a large deficit while we say that we're not going to budge no matter what."

Some students recognize the conflict the university has in attempting to support Torah scholarship while reducing their deficit, but still disagree with the approach it has taken. Third year smicha student Yaakov Blau commented, "I acknowledge the need for a tuition of some sort; after all, the yeshiva does provide for an excellent opportunity to learn as well as assist smicha students in finding jobs. But call a spade a spade. One hundred and seventy-five dollars more than covers the cost of registration; this is a tuition fee."

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CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Sunday, October 23

YCSC Fall Student Council Open Meeting, 9:00 pm - Morg 201

Monday, October 24

Sy Syms Reception, 8 pm

Thursday, October 27

Freshman Elections, Club Hour

Tuesday, November 1

Last Day to Drop A Course Without Notation On Record.

Last Day To Withdraw with Partial Tuition Refund.

Election Day



photo: YU Norman Goldberg

Rabbi Lamm (right) presents Abe Guterman (center) with a symbolic chair in appreciation of his endowing a Chair in Talmud. The newly endowed Chair will be occupied by Rabbi Yonason Sacks (left).

YU Students Join Rally for Israeli Soldier

Over 30 YU students took part in a late afternoon demonstration on behalf of then-held captive Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman z"l last Thursday. Standing in front of the PLO building on 65th St. on the East Side of Manhattan, the demonstrators joined together in Tehillim and songs, praying for the safe release of the soldier. They also held up Israeli flags and signs for all the television cameras present and local passers-by to see, both calling for Waxman's release and denouncing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Rabbi Avi Weiss, president of Amcha - Coalition for Jewish Concerns, the rally's sponsor, stated, "We are here to offer prayers on behalf of our brother, and to tell him and his family that we are one with them." He also called on President Bill Clinton to intercede on behalf of Waxman, an American citizen, just as he had earlier for Michael Fay, the American caned in Singapore. "The eyes of the world are upon you, Mr. President" Rabbi Weiss announced. "Pick up the phone and tell Arafat, 'Tell your terrorist friends to release Nachshon Waxman now.'"

Yaakov Falk, a YC freshman, remarked that the demonstration's actual chances of political impact did not affect his decision to attend. "It's every Jew's responsibility to do whatever he possibly can to save the life of another Jew," he said. YC Senior Daniel Rothner agreed that "it's important for us to do as much as we can," noting that Waxman's plight had seemed to unify all of Klal Yisrael. "It's unfortunate," he said, "that we need a tragedy to unite us."

-- Commentator Staff

Rabbi Sacks Named to Guterman Chair

by Josh Epstein

Rabbi Yonason Sacks, a YU musmach, and Rosh Hayeshiva in MYP, was honored in historic ceremony, in the Main Beit Medrash this past Tuesday morning. Rabbi Sacks, the former YUHSMasmidim Shiur Rebbe and the Rav of the Agudath Israel of Passaic, was appointed the first occupant of the Rav Elchanan Tzvi Guterman Distinguished Lecturer in Talmud Chair, donated by Mr. Abraham Guterman in observance of the yartzheit of his father. As President Lamm pointed out in his address at the ceremony, the occasion marked the first time an alumnus of YU has endowed a chair in honor of an alumnus, to be occupied by yet another alumnus.

The Gutermans have had a long association with Y.U. Rav Elchanan Guterman was a member of the first Smicha class of RIETS in 1907. His son graduated in the second class of Yeshiva College in 1933, and went on to become the first Yeshiva University student to be accepted into and graduate from Harvard Law School. Currently, he is a practicing lawyer in Scranton, Pa., the community in which his father served as a Rav for fifty-seven years. Mr. Guterman has been a long time benefactor of the University and is a member of the Board of Trustees. He previously dedicated a chair for English Literature in memory of his wife.

Chair First of Expected Four or Five

The endowment of a chair, as explained by Rav Charlop, Dean of MYP, involves the contribution of a sum of money sufficient to defray a percentage of the salary and benefits of the individual holding the chair over a number of years.

The amount of endowment varies, but in Mr. Guterman's case, *The Commentator* has learned that the contribution approximated "\$1 million plus." This is the first of four or five chairs that are expected to be donated this year in MYP and RIETS. President Lamm was responsible for the decision to activate a chair and allot it to a worthy individual, after consulting with the dean of that school. Often the donor will aid in the decision, wishing to support a certain type of teacher or Rabbi. Mr. Guterman praised President Lamm's appointment of Rav Sacks by saying, "If my father were here he would be delighted at the selection of Rabbi Sacks for he will honor and glorify the memory of my father, as a scholar fit to carry on the Guterman tradition."

The ceremony was attended by virtually all of Rav Sacks' colleagues, the Rabbeim of MYP as well as many guests and students. Rav Charlop and President Lamm both spoke, extolling the virtues of Rav Sacks and wishing him much success and *Harbatzos Torah* in his new position. Rav Sacks then spoke of his philosophy to use his learning as more than an intellectual pursuit, but rather as an opportunity to share his insights and teach others. He also thanked Mr. Guterman for giving him the opportunity to pass the torch, and disseminate Torah to the masses as the late Rav Guterman had.

After he was presented by President Lamm with a glass-encased mini-chair as a symbol of gratitude from the institution, the dedication was concluded with a description by Mr. Guterman of some of his fondest memories of his father.

YU'S Low Rank "Deceiving"

by Daniel Rubin

Yeshiva University's academic reputation has dropped sixteen notches, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual survey of America's colleges. After ranking 91st last year, YU now ranks 107th out of 227. University officials say the statistics are of no consequence.

The ratings were achieved by taking six factors into consideration: selectivity (acceptance rate), faculty resources, financial resources, graduation rate, and two subjective determinations: academic reputation and alumni satisfaction. The survey then employed, according to Director of Public Relations David Rosen, "a voodoo formula that is supposedly scientific," through which a percentile was created, and the colleges were placed into one of five tiers. Harvard ranked first, with a percentile of 100.0.

Rosen and YC Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz both gave numerous explanations for their limited concern over YU's poor showing. Rosen dubbed the rankings a "national beauty contest," having almost no mathematical value at all. He suggested that some academics who vote for the magazine's study have their secretaries fill out the ballots if they are too busy.

Additionally, Horowitz and Rosen claimed that it is illogical and unfair to compare the relatively minuscule YU to colleges that have enrollments of over fifty thousand students. They felt confident that YU's target audience, G-d fearing Jews seeking a top-notch education in *limudei kodesh* as well as in secular studies, would be undaunted by the survey, since for them YU is the best choice anyway.

Among the other statistics included in the *U.S. News* probe was the average SAT score for all students in a given college. YU's average score last year was 1188, a figure similar to those of first tier colleges. Another staggering statistic was the amount of money spent on the educational program per student at YU: \$22,724, a figure on par with a Top 25 college.

Poor Graduation Rate Attributed To Israel Non-returnees

The survey, which did not list the percentage of a university's graduate school applicants accepted to professional schools, did put YU's graduation rate (percentage of freshman from YU who graduate from YU) at an alarmingly low 61 percent. Horowitz immediately called the number "a joke," citing that many students who go to yeshiva in Israel through YU officially become freshmen of YU. Upon return to America they take their credits elsewhere, thus having a dramatic and deleterious effect on the graduation rate.

New Registrar Upgrading System

by Menashe Schapiro

In what could prove to have a major impact on student life, the University is now drafting proposals for a new computer system that would replace the antiquated systems currently in place, and pave the way for possible telephone registration system. The current system has separate systems in every major office operating without a direct computer hookup between them, causing a person to have to shuttle between offices to obtain the most basic information. The proposals all call for an integration of all the main systems, enabling more efficient operations, as well as enhancing student services.

Spearheading the search for an adequate system is former YC and RIETS graduate Melvin H. Davis, recently appointed to the newly created position of Director of Enrollment Management. Since he assumed his duties, small changes in the current system and registration process were instituted, like being able to call in or fax a change of courses during the summer, as well as enhanced academic advisement. Compared to what is needed though, these are just minor adjustments. According to Davis, "The entire student service system is in desperate need of revamping" with the slowness of the existing hardware a major complicating factor. For instance, he and YC Associate Dean Horowitz currently share the same port, which means that they cannot access their computers at the same time. Davis would like to see the installation of a system that would handle numerous functions simultaneously, with a focus on student advisement modules that would provide each student, prior to registration, with a printout of what he needs to take to fulfill his course obligations. The student would be made aware of where he stands within the university, and his burden to seek course approval will hopefully be lessened.

Phone Registration -- Not Yet

Already two major companies have made presentations, with further discussions expected in the near future. However, it would still take time to institute the plan. "The phase-in process should take over a year to complete,"



photo: YUPR

New YC Registrar and Enrollment
Manager, Melvin H. Davis

explains Davis, with many details to be ironed out. The most important detail, funding, is not a question mark, for Davis has been assured by the Administration that it "Supports the idea and recognizes the cost involved." With all that is planned, however, he feels that significant progress can be made without phone registration. "I see phone registration as a luxury down the line," he stated, noting that telephones do not make suitable substitutes for the various academic deans, thereby being of little assistance to those who need personal guidance, or to those who have been locked out of a course and need to over-tally, like seniors who need a specific course to graduate. Even without phone registration, Davis feels major strides can be made in alleviating the jungle of bureaucratic paperwork that seems to be commonplace for anyone needing assistance from any of the main offices.

YCSC President Daniel Billig feels that phone registration should be, in his words, "pushed to a priority," and suggested that "in addition to studying different proposals we should study how other universities deal with it." If funds are short in the total package to include phone registration, Billig would like to offer ways to help fund it. "In terms of money we can raise it," says Billig expressing its importance to the future of student life. He wants to impress upon the Administration that the benefits of a telephone registration process far exceeds its potential problems and that any system would be incomplete without it. Billig expects to continue to vigorously push for its implementation, but he regrets that in all probability the new system will be in place only well after his tenure.

WYUR Slow To Air

by Michael Spivak

Since its inception, YU's official student radio station, WYUR, has been faced with a serious problem common to many university radio stations: not enough listeners. One of the causes of the problem, admits station director Steve Unterberg, has been the "lack of a serious atmosphere" in the broadcasting booth over the years. Unterberg promises that this year's WYUR will be "an energetic new" student radio station which will capture the student body's imagination with alternative music and more lively shows such as the popular "Fill-in-the-Blank" show with Eli Duker, and "Levphones."

When asked for a target on-air date, Unterberg stated that he had originally hoped for a starting date sometime this week, but said that damage to electronic equipment would force him to postpone the date for at least another week. Unterberg said that a technician had examined the damage to an amplifier and said that it had been completely "sizzled."

Confusion About Cause of Damage

However, there was some confusion as to what had caused an important electronic board in the studio to short out. Program Director Aron Rabinowitz told *The Commentator* that "somebody might have been irresponsible and left the window open," and that "someone got into the room and messed around with a lot of things."

Faculty Adviser Hal Tannenbaum, however, gave a completely different version of events. He categorically denied that anybody had gained entry to the broadcasting booth during the summer, and also stated that "no windows were left open, nor did anyone come through any open window." He said that the damage to the electronic board in question was some "wet wires" but would not say what the cause of this

moisture was. In addition, he said that all keys to the room had been accounted for, and that "nothing is missing from the studios of WYUR."

Program Director Rabinowitz said that at the October 10 WYUR board meeting many halachic issues were discussed regarding the music selections to be played this year. "There is one Rabbinic opinion that music is not allowed at all," says Rabinowitz. It was agreed that there would be no "znus" (which Rabinowitz says is a very vague term) and no "avoda zara" on the air. In addition, Rabinowitz stated that songs with sexually explicit lyrics would not be played.

One of the many new features to WYUR this year, says Rabinowitz, is the addition of a news director, who will direct the broadcasting of periodic bulletins concerning YU news as well as national news. WYUR also plans to air a monthly address by the Student Council presidents of both YC and SCW. As well, another telephone line has also been installed in the WYUR studio.

Station Director Unterberg explained some of the intricacies of the WYUR broadcasting system and cleared up some misconceptions about the method the station uses to bring the signal to the student bodies of both YC and SCW. The signal from the broadcasting booth, explains Unterberg, is sent to Belfer Hall. From there it is sent via telephone wire to the basement transmitters of the three Main Campus dormitories and to Brookdale Hall in midtown Manhattan. From the basement transmitters, the signal goes through radio wires (not telephone wires, as is widely thought by many students) in the wall. Therefore, a radio receiver which is plugged into the wall would get a superior signal relative to a portable Walkman. Unterberg also stated that students who wrap their radios in telephone cords to better their reception are accomplishing nothing by their actions.

YU Course Catalog Way Overdue

by Michael J. Belgrade

As YU enters the 1995 academic year, students at both the undergraduate and graduate schools still have no choice but to use course catalogs with outdated descriptions, major, and minor requirements. The new undergraduate catalog should have come out over a year ago; unfortunately, it will not appear for another six months.

Students and professors have suggested that the absence of the catalog shows a general disregard for academic concerns in a period when the University is seeking to develop a better academic reputation. The technical aspects of writing the catalog have also been criticized. Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, chairperson of the Political Science department, has said she would have liked more time to have thoroughly checked through the old catalog in revising it.

New Catalog More "User Friendly"
Bert Jacobsen, the project coordinator for the catalog in the Public Relations

Department, says that changes have been made in order to make the catalog more "user friendly" for the student, with specific attention to the sections on major requirements and course descriptions. Students using the old catalog have to refer to one section for course descriptions and another for the requirements of the various majors. To minimize the confusion, the new catalog will consolidate these sections. A new list of course descriptions, eliminating the names of courses that no longer exist, will also be provided.

Former Dean Rosenfeld Assigned To Task

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz has assigned Dr. Norman Rosenfeld, the previous YC dean, the task of editing the catalog in its final stages. The catalog will then go back to Public Relations where, after all the changes are made, it will be published. Jacobsen says he will be "quite surprised" if his department finishes its work by mid-November.

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Open YCSC Student Council Meeting

by Oren Keiser

Without much fanfare, a momentous event in the annals of YCSC history took place in the second floor lounge of Morgenstern Hall on Sunday, October 9, when twenty students attended the first open board meeting in recent memory, kicking off what YCSC President Daniel Billig promises to be a very different kind of student council.

Central to Billig's agenda is increasing communication between students and their elected leaders. He has proposed creating a "room-to-room" information service, in which the sixteen members of the YCSC board will visit one floor of the residence halls once a month and spend some time talking to as many students as possible. Each month, the board members would inform the students about what issues were being addressed by YCSC and, Billig hopes, to find out what issues are bothering the students. He further hopes that the visits will give the students a chance to meet their student leaders, making the leaders more visible and effective.

The meeting also included discussion of a new oversight and audit system, suggested by Billig and YCSC Treasurer Chaim Leffel, for funds distributed to the various clubs and

student activities. The council members also addressed student representation on the Academic Standards and Curriculum committees and proposed amendments to the YCSC constitution to ensure smoother elections.

Billig offered ideas on how to provide study areas that will remain open later than the library, such as moving the TV lounge to the Morg Basement and converting the present TV room into a study hall. Additional hours for the pool and MSAC and a proposal for a new phone system are also being investigated.

The student council's new assertiveness is drawing praise from students. Ronn Yaish, an active member of the student body, left the meeting calling Billig, "a breath of fresh air." He continued, "I think Billig has the ability to shake things up around here. Change will have to be slow because no one has tried to do anything here in a while. But, I think Billig has the attitude, personality, desire and ability to make positive things happen around here."

SSSB Junior David Ruditzky said, "I truly expect YCSC to be more vocal this year. I'm not sure if anyone will listen, but they will be around and making noise."

YCSC Shabbos A Success

Nearly 200 YC students stayed in for the first Shabbos of the year -- the YCSC-sponsored Orientation Shabbaton. Highlighted by a Friday night *tisch* hosted by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Goldwicht, the students attending the Shabbaton were able to hear *divrei Torah* from Rav Yitzchok Cohen and MYP Mashgiach Rav Blau. Also, YCSC President Daniel Billig and *The Commentator's* Editor-in-Chief Moshe Kinderlehrer delivered the *divrei Torah* at Shabbos lunch and

Friday night supper respectively. After *havdalah*, a *Melave Malka* with dancing, music, and food was held in the Morg Lounge.

Billig, attending his first-ever Shabbos on campus, expressed tremendous satisfaction with the turnout at the YCSC-sponsored Shabbaton and strongly registered his desire to sponsor more Shabbatonim in the future.

--- Commentator Staff

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Reunion at Board Dinner to Continue

by Ephraim Leibtag

As donelast year, the 25th anniversary alumni reunion for Yeshiva College will again take place this year in conjunction with the annual Yeshiva University Board of Directors dinner. The dinner will take place the evening prior to the University's commencement exercises. Taking the lead from other universities with similar arrangements, Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs, initiated this new plan to encourage financial contributions from the alumni attending the 500 dollars per couple dinner. This arrangement also made it more convenient for those alumni coming from outside the New York area to attend the reunion, Board of Directors dinner, and graduation ceremonies all in one twenty-four hour period.

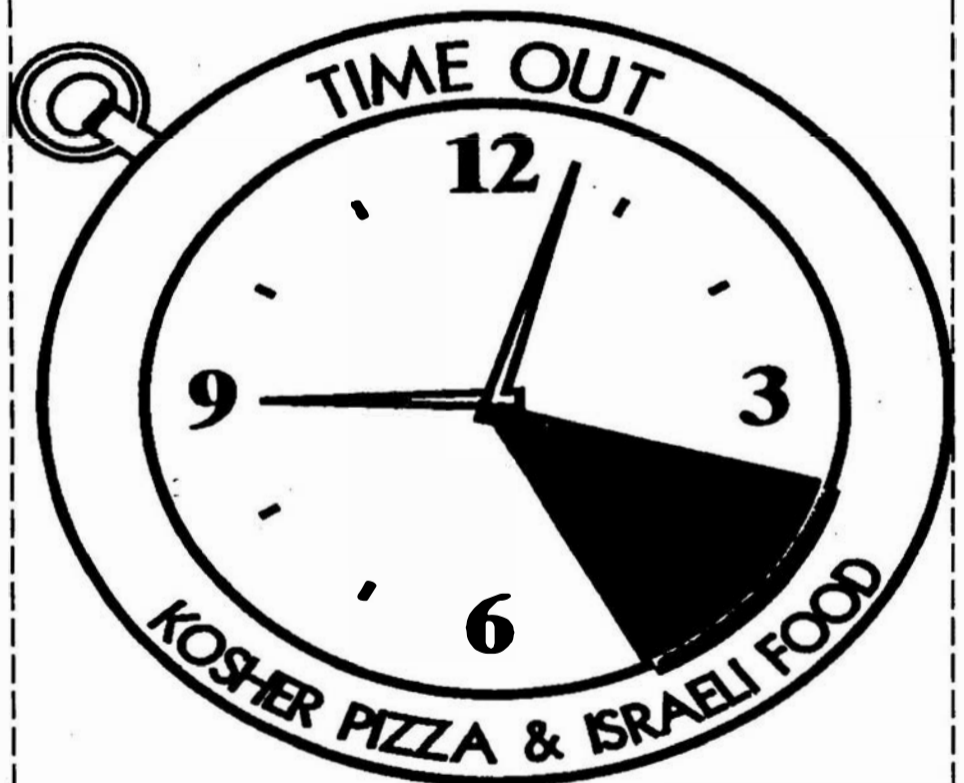
In previous years, the reunion was held on the YU campus at an earlier date and included a campus tour and a reception in Weissberg Commons at a cost of 50 dollars per person. Director of Alumni Affairs, Mrs. Toby Weiss, believes that "this new arrangement of combining the reunion and dinner was done in order to give the alumni an opportunity to meet the YU personnel and Administration," and that "the

alumni can and should support the University." This past year, Dr. Lamm spoke to the alumni at their reception, held right before the Board of Directors Dinner, and several the alumni were recognized and honored at the dinner itself.

69' YC Alumni Upset Over Reunion

Many members of last year's 25th anniversary class were upset by this new arrangement. One member of the class deemed it "a horrible idea" and feels that a "reunion should not be a fundraiser." The two main complaints were the high price of the dinner and the scheduling of the reunion on a weekday in the early evening when many alumni are still at work. Attendance at the dinner-reunion was low, with less than 25% of the alumni attending as compared to the 50% attendance rate at reunions in previous years.

To try to increase the turnout this year, Dr. Dobrinsky and Mrs. Weiss have decided to reduce the price of the dinner for the alumni to half of the regular price, making it 250 dollars per couple. They hope that through this gesture they will have a larger attendance at this year's dinner and make people more comfortable in supporting their alma mater.



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Dr. Beukas, Faculty Advisor to YCDS

New Committee to Govern YCDS

by Benjamin Cohen

In a radical departure from previous policies, the University Administration has created a committee to determine which productions the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society will be allowed to perform, attempting to put to rest some of the ongoing controversy stirred by YCDS in last year's January 1994 production of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart."

Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz claims that the Administration has a right to form this executive council. Citing the fact that the Drama Society's production is included in a credit-bearing theater course, Schwartz says, "We treat the presentation by the Drama Society technically and realistically as an academic exercise."

He also points out that the "controversies of the past were distractions" and by forming this committee, it will prevent the "possible threats to the ideology and sensitivity of Yeshiva University and what it stands for."

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart" touched on the theme of AIDS awareness, drawing harsh criticism from some students and Roshei Yeshiva who deemed the topics to be inappropriate for a YC production. One rosh yeshiva was even reported in *The Commentator* as having urged his students to boycott the play. Though posters were vandalized and students were harassed, the production did sell out to pleased crowds.

Aims To Stop the Backbiting

Schwartz says he wanted to stop any backbiting nastiness that surrounded YCDS. "You did have some concerns in the University expressing dissatisfaction in grave concern about the production," he noted.

Supporters of YCDS are surprisingly upbeat about the new council. Dr. Edward Levy, co-chair of the Humanities Division at the

time the decision was reached, feels that the committee will give the Dramatics Society more legitimacy. "It will protect the academic freedom of the Dramatics Society," he said during a phone interview last week. Levy, himself a member of the committee, believes that the new system will protect YCDS against censorship and university backlash.

Dr. Anthony Beukas, the faculty advisor and artistic director of the theater program at Yeshiva College since its onset, is quite optimistic about the Drama Society's 30th anniversary season. In the past, Beukas has been the target of scathing personal attacks and harassment for his commitment to artistic freedom. He hopes this year will be different.

"I'm just doing what I always do," an enthused Beukas said, "I think it's going to be a very positive year. I just feel it in my bones."

Money Still A Problem

In conjunction with the confusion and complexity of the new system, another problem arose. According to the YCSC constitution, "funds for the production of Dramatics Society presentation shall be obtained by allocation in the annual budget of Student Council." Apparently, due to a severe miscommunication between YCSC President Daniel Billig and Schwartz, Billig was concerned that the Administration was unlawfully tampering with YCDS's budget. YC Interim Dean Harold Nierenberg was rumored to have cut off some of YCDS's budget.

During an open YCSC meeting on October 9, YCSC Secretary Jeremy Lustman and Junior Class President Eric Berkowitz were chosen to meet with Dr. Schwartz to resolve the situation. During a closed conference between the three on Wednesday afternoon, Schwartz insisted that the Administration was not changing YCSC's budget. He says he assumed, in speaking to Dean Nierenberg, that YCDS was either searching for advice or for more funds, in addition to those already allocated by

continued on page 13

Rav Kahn: Best Dean Would Bridge Two Worlds

continued from page one

that the Decanal Search Committee would indeed be reconvened if Dr. Lamm met with other prospective deanship candidates.

According to sources within the Administration, Vice President for Business Affairs Dr. Sheldon Socol, also a committee member, has strongly pushed for the selection of a non-Orthodox candidate, in the hopes that such a dean would lend greater prestige to YC and its academic reputation. Repeated calls to Dr. Socol for comment were left unreturned.

MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Aharon Kahn was unsure what the consequences would be if a non-religious Jew occupied the office of dean. While it "would be sending mixed signals, which [YU] is expert at doing," the only detriment Rav Kahn foresees is if such a dean were viewed as a role model.

Rav Kahn admitted that by his standards even someone Orthodox "who happens to have his feet in both worlds [of Torah and Madda]" would not necessarily be a good role model. The best dean would be someone who "manages to bridge the two worlds successfully in the eyes of Hashem and people." If no one could be found to meet those requirements, Rav Kahn "would rather have a goy," who would neither be viewed as a role model nor mistaken for a representative of Torah U'Madda.

Brooklyn-born and raised with a yeshiva background, Dr. Carl Feit, a *musmach* of RIETS, 48, has been teaching Biology at YU for ten years. He currently holds the position of chairman of the Math and Sciences department and is a mentor for the Max Stern Scholars program. A Westinghouse winner in his youth, Dr. Feit attended Yale University, and later received a PhD from Rutgers.

Feit, who now resides in Teaneck, NJ, was praised by a family friend for his modesty and compassion. One associate described him as having a good feel for yeshiva students.

Though Dr. Feit would not comment on his candidacy, he admitted that as a faculty member it was "awkward" to commence the semester with no permanent dean in place. He said that most YC professors had expected to return from the prolonged summer break to find a permanent dean already installed. Feit expressed confidence in Dean Ad-Interim Nierenberg and recognized that "it is far more important" to choose the right man for the job than to rush the process.

Political Science expert Bernard Firestone, 45, was editor-in-chief of *The Commentator* from 1969-70. During his editorship the YU community witnessed an outbreak of the perennial Torah vs. Madda controversy as students vociferously protested the construction of Belfer Hall and the invasion of foreign elements into the Yeshiva campus. Anger was sparked when one professor made some disparaging remarks about the historical significance of Chanukah. The increased student activism of the Vietnam War era resulted in the formation of a Senate, granting students more control over their education.

Firestone, who continued his education at the City University of New York, is now a popular associate dean at Hofstra University while also teaching one class a week in international politics in YC. He has written extensively on Middle East affairs and lives in Kew Garden Hills, Queens. He would comment neither on the search proceedings nor on his candidacy.

Claude Schochet, originally of Southfield, Michigan is chairperson of the Math Department at Wayne State University in Detroit. Attempts by *The Commentator* to contact Dr. Schochet were unsuccessful.

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Who Lives There?

Students From Less Travelled Regions

by Jeremy Fine

Ever stopped for a cocktail in Champaign, Illinois? Joel Jacobson has. How about flagging down an elephant to take you to school instead of a taxi? Richard Rubin has.

Yeshiva University has always boasted an eclectic array of students in the past years. However, this year's is more diverse than ever before. Students from distant and unusual places including South Africa, France, Syria, Switzerland, Sweden, Tennessee, Indiana and Texas, opted to journey far from home to the lavish suburb of Washington Heights and take advantage of the countless fringe benefits that Yeshiva University has to offer. Let's meet some of these unique individuals and take a quick peek into the windows of their lives.

A Jew from South Africa is not so unusual. That is only true if they are from Johannesburg, but what about Durban? Durban is a small town near the coast of Africa that accommodates 1000 Jewish families with shuls and schools for Jewish children through high school. Although the number of orthodox Jews in Durban is sparse, Richard pronounces that the *Baal Teshuva* movement is growing. Rabbi Ian Azizollahof, who received his Semicha from RIETS, is the man responsible for the town's phenomenal religious growth. It was Rabbi Azizollahof who encouraged Richard to attend YU. Richard, who comes from a place where soccer is football, football is rugby, and baseball is cricket, Rubin admits that YU

is quite a culture shock.

Just last month David Bolog was skiing over the lake in the backyard of his home in Zurich, Switzerland, this month he has been racing down the subway steps to make the next train.

Zurich is a beautiful, quaint town in Switzerland whose 6,000 Jews are split into three distinct communities - the Agudaniks, the Yekkes, and the traditional. With shuls, shteibels, youth groups, two Jewish high-schools, two kosher restaurants, and one kosher bakery, Zurich is most amenable to Orthodox Jews. The Bolog family owns and operates the bakery, a factory of baked goods which services the entire Swiss Jewish community.

Although Zurich doesn't lack appeal, David points out that the trend in his generation is to leave in search of greater excitement. Those who leave go to England, Israel, and America. David likes New York and YU, for he states, "I enjoy being with Jews, many relatives, and I like the fact that I got a year's credit for my year in Israel. However, with water skiing and all varieties of snow activities available to him in his backyard, David definitely intends to return to Switzerland.

He Hails From Champaign

Champaign, Illinois? Where's that? Don't worry, you're not alone. Joel Jacobson comes from one of three Orthodox families living in Champaign, a city of approximately one-hundred thousand people. Unfortunately, there are no Jewish schools in the city. As a result, Joel's parents were forced to

educate him in limudei hakodesh at home. The most popular (and probably the only) shul in Champaign, is in the Hillel House at the University of Illinois. Joel walks forty-five minutes to and from shul, not to condition himself for the basketball team, (although it is an added incentive), but rather to maintain his identity as a frum Jew, of which is less than .0005 percent of his city's population. Joel has adjusted well in New York and is especially pleased to be able to socialize with so many people like him, instead of always being that one person standing out in the crowd. "My favorite aspect of Yeshiva University are the people and the friendly atmosphere...just being with so many Jews is incredible."

Just east of the Mississippi River lies South Bend, Indiana -- the home of Notre Dame. The size of the city is similar to that of Champaign, but it has thirty to forty Orthodox families, a Jewish day school and even a Beit Midrash. Aaron Lerman, a junior, grew up in South Bend. Aaron attended the Jewish school there, but after eighth grade went to a religious high school in Milwaukee. "I was considering a few universities, but I for the most part I knew I wanted to attend YU." The Jewish community in South Bend is close knit and the relatively few frum families there work together to maintain their frum lifestyle.

The United States of America bears the nickname, "the melting pot of all nations," likewise, Richard Rubin, Joel Jacobson, Aaron Lerman, and David Bolog are among the many defining YU as the "the melting pot for all Jewry."

A Tale of Time Management -- Two Unusual Schedules

by Isaac Sasson

Among students, faculty, and administrators of universities across the United States, Yeshiva University students are often noted with distinction. This does not stem from our non-existent ivy covered buildings, or from our undefeated football team, but rather from the unique dual curriculum which all undergraduate students must impressively satisfy. However, on campus, some have accepted responsibilities above and beyond the daily routine which distinguish them from the rest.

Jake Rosenberg, a YC Junior, has much in common with many other YC students: he learned for a year in Israel, he spends his mornings in Rav Bronspegel's shiur, and he is a biology major. What makes Jake different is his schedule. "A lot of people call me crazy for taking Organic chemistry and Physics in the same semester," comments Jake. "But the truth of the matter is I am only taking three classes - bad classes - but not that may." This may not seem very impressive unless you know that Jake is also plays on the varsity basketball team. Jake's day begins at 8:00 AM and ends nineteen hours later at 3:00 AM.

Each day after shiur, Jake completes his classes by 5 and does homework until basketball practice at 7:30. After practice the studying begins. Jake admits that the still has time to talk on the phone and 'mess' around, but he expects that in the future his social life will suffer. "Basketball has a set schedule and I cannot ignore my school work. I guess that I will just have to make my phone calls at 2 am."

Most people probably think that Jake has bit off more than he can chew. Jake, however, seems confident in his abilities. "I am not sure how this whole thing is going to work out. I have complete confidence in myself. 'I am taking a class and I am going to do well.' That's the way you have to think of it."

"Chaim" (a pseudonym), is making his debut on the uptown campus after spending two years in Yeshivat Sha'alvim. He is an Economics major who plans to attend medical school after completing YU in two years. Aside from his full course load, Chaim has set for himself a four-hour night seder - a formidable goal for even the bravest of students.

After the completion of Rav Rosenzweig's shiur at 3:00, Chaim attends classes until 6:30 pm. "I waste some time during the day," commented

Chaim. "Between 6:30 and my first chavrusa at 8pm, I should be studying. It hasn't worked out that way." Between 8:00 and midnight Chaim has two chavrutas, and by 3AM he is in bed.

As the year progresses and the intensity increases, Chaim does not plan on cutting into his night seder. "You can never tell, but I hope not to," adds Chaim. "I don't think it is a realistic goal to begin homework at midnight. The way I see it, is if I push myself now, even if I cut into night seder down the line, I will still be left with some substantial time for learning."

Chaim does not think very much of his accomplishment. "There must be more than 100 guys in the Beis Medrash from 8 to 12. Right now it is easy to do when there is no work. I don't know if I will be able to keep it up, but people do it."

As much as Jake and Chaim downplay their time management feats, they are in equal disbelief when notified of each other's schedules. Jake could not believe that someone on campus has a four hour night seder. "After my four hours of homework - I'm done, but he didn't even begin." Similarly, Chaim, being pre-med, could not imagine that someone is able to tackle Orgo and physics and still have time for basketball.

The Road Less Travelled:

Students Outside the Mainstream



Dr. Louis Feldman teaching Greek to his three students

Closet Majors: Music & Classics

by Jonathan Schloss

"Yes, he's conducting a class right now."

"Two guys?! They're really getting their money's worth!"

For those who sit in relatively large business, psychology, or political science courses, a class with less than five people may seem foreign. For music and classics majors it is the norm.

What makes people do it? "Basically, I get two kinds of students, brilliant and insane," explains Head Professor of Classics Dr. Louis Feldman. "Often they go together...since both are rare, I've had few students over the years."

Presently, only two YC students have either declared or are considering classics as their major. Classics majors study two years of both Latin and Greek and study ancient texts in their original language. The "TBA" classes on the schedule often run until 10 o'clock on Thursday nights.

Zvi Ish-Shalom, an undeclared Classics major, is fascinated by the influence ancient Greek has had on Jewish thought; for instance, there are over 3,000 Greek words in Rabbinic literature. He is also excited about being able to study the Septuagint, the first translation of the bible, in the original text.

Ish-Shalom and Michael Sussman, a YC freshman double majoring in classics and philosophy, both cite practical reasons for studying classical languages. Nearly all of the English language has either a Latin or Greek origin. By looking at the roots of difficult words, any word will be within grasp of understanding. "It will increase my vocabulary by 100%... and will also help me learn medical terminology," said Ish-Shalom.

Sussman, an aspiring writer, mentioned that Dr. Feldman's academic stature also attracted him to the department. "He makes you work hard but he's here and he's accessible. If I don't take courses with him, I'll regret it," he said. Dr. Feldman is a world-renowned authority on Josephus and has been teaching classics for over forty years.

While a music major is not considered "obscure" at other universities, YC and Stern combined have about ten majors in the field per year. Department head Noyes Bartholomew poses a socioeconomic reason for this disparity. Within orthodox Jewish circles, preparing oneself for a line of work which offers security is what is expected. "Music doesn't do that," says Bartholomew. Students that may be inclined to pursue a major in humanities tend to drift toward a more career-oriented major.

Officially called the Philip and Sarah Belz Program, the YC music major focuses primarily on the music's academic side. The rigors of a dual curriculum do not afford YC students the opportunity to concentrate on a full-time instrumental program. "We try to prepare people with a love of music...and foster [this love] with a profound understanding of what is aesthetically valuable so they can enjoy it later in their lives." The major includes courses in music history and literature, music theory, musical performance, and applied studies.

Interest in the discipline is a common motivation among the music and classics majors. Some of these students also name their desire to stand out and be unique as an impetus for their choice of major. "When medical schools see YU guys' applications, biology and psychology majors are a dime a dozen," said one pre-med music major. "I'm gonna stick out."

Our Eldest Freshman

A 64 Year-Old Man Pursuing His Dream

by Ari Hirt

Meet Maurice Torgoman, a freshman at Yeshiva College. He takes JSS courses in the mornings and studies Principles of Biology, Freshman English Composition and Computer Science in the afternoons.

Wait a minute! Can anyone bear to read this article about a boring freshman undergraduate at Yeshiva University? Who really cares? Maybe, though, one additional fact should be mentioned - one tiny, insignificant detail. Maurice Torgoman is 64 years old; sixty-four years of age and starting his first of an expected four years at Yeshiva University.

Forty-six years ago Maurice was enrolled in a five-year medical program known as PCB (physics, chemistry, biology). Two years before completing the program, Maurice and his family were forced to move to England. He wished to complete his medical degree in England, but the local English university was only willing to grant him one year's worth of transfer credit from France. Maurice, unwilling to repeat two years of classes, said "no thank you," and abandoned his science education. Torgoman promptly enrolled in a Textile vocational school, and till today Maurice has been an employee of the textile industry.

Maurice Torgoman, married with three children, has always carried two goals in life. One - to strengthen his religious discipline through education; and two - to finish what he began. By enrolling as a full-time undergraduate student in the James Striar School and Yeshiva College, Maurice feels that he could complete both aspirations.

Torgoman calls the morning Torah classes in JSS his "main project." "Unfortunately, where I come from," Torgoman explains, "following my religious needs was very difficult; I never had the opportunity to delve into the religion the way I have allowed my children."

In his afternoons, Maurice is busy juggling the full slate of secular classes. On Mondays and Wednesdays he labors over English Composition and concludes the day with Dr. Carl Feit in Introduction to Biology. On Tuesdays and Thursdays his fingers punch the keyboard in Introduction to Computer Science and then teaches his tongue to speak a new language in Elementary Arabic. On Thursdays he also takes Biology lab from 6:30 - 10:00 PM, making it his longest of days.

However, Maurice is taking the required pre-med courses on the hopes that it will be temporary. Torgoman's transcripts from France are presently being translated and evaluated for credit. However, Maurice intends to complete all the requirements if necessary.

When a student with an unusual background enrolls at any undergraduate school, it is a concern as to how the student will be treated and

accepted by the administration, faculty, and fellow students. Thus far, Maurice lauds his treatment so far. His family is also very supportive of his undertaking. "They are flabbergasted," exclaims Maurice, "because they know I want this, but they did not expect me to fight so hard to get here."

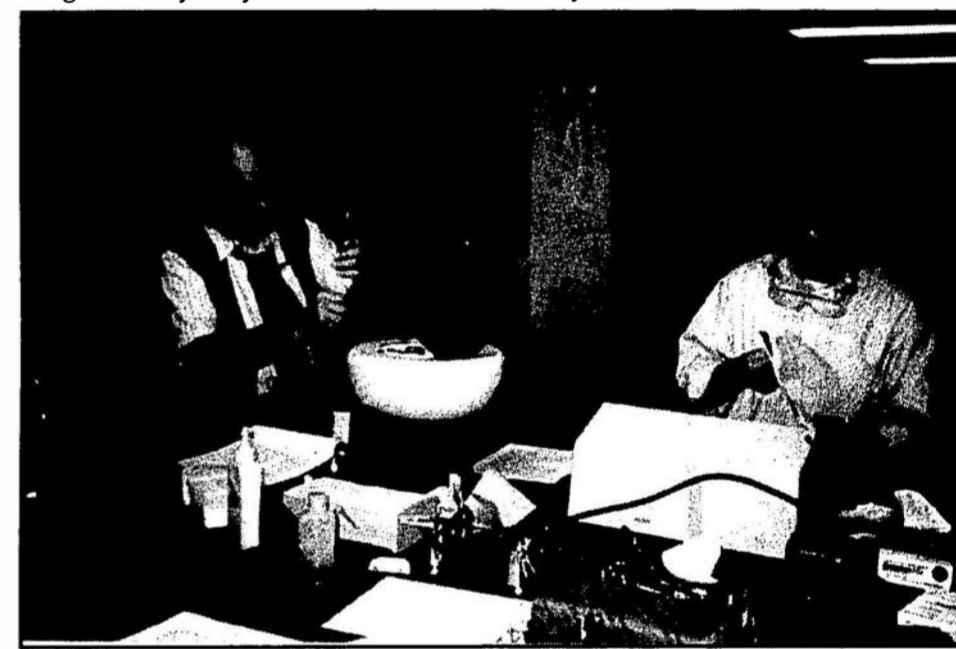
Although Torgoman is a husband and a father of three, he refuses any special treatment or leniencies on his behalf. In fact, Maurice even wishes to fulfill the regular physical education requirement. He is currently enrolled in volleyball. "There is only one problem," decries Maurice, "volleyball is given too late at night!"

Volleyball is too late for Maurice, not for reasons of sleep, but because he has a wife to go home to in Merrick, New York. Maurice commutes each day by train - a ride of two hours each way. Torgoman, by way of his inordinate

enthusiasm and optimism does not allow for the enduring train ride to act as a deterrent. Excitedly he exclaims, "I prefer the public transportation. This way I am able to study on the train, do work on the train, and even daven on the train."

The question everyone asks is why? Why would a man who has been working in the textile industry for more than forty years enroll at Yeshiva College? To Maurice, the answer is simple: for the education. To many this idea is baffling and at the same time very refreshing.

As Maurice concluded the interview and stepped into his Biology Laboratory at 6:30 in the evening, he agreed to have his picture taken while in action. But then he turned around and with a playful laugh exclaimed, "maybe you would like a picture of me in action while smashing that volleyball."



A late night for Maurice: YC's oldest freshmen (left) in Thursday night biology lab.

New Program to Alleviate Pressures

continued from page one

a Torah experience that will serve the *talmid* well throughout his life. The *Halakhah* courses will address current topics, such as *taharat ha-mishpacha*, *shabbat* and technology and *frumkeit* in the workplace, through lectures by prominent Torah personalities. Those involved in shaping the program hope that students will benefit from the exposure to a wide variety of perspectives and styles.

The *Machshava* component will focus on texts by both early and modern Jewish thinkers, from the Rambam to the Rav and will include guest lectures by prominent scholars. In the evenings, the Golding Beit Medrash will offer a "Bayit Ham" (home hospitality) program with informal study sessions for small groups with Kollel fellows living in the YU area.

Rav Goldwicht says that the pressures of the dual program, especially studying for standardized tests for graduate school, often take a toll on a *talmid's* learning. He believes the program will enable students to "do both programs well," offering the *yeshivish-style gemarah* of YP in a more

compressed time-frame.

The administration of the program was unclear as of press time, though *The Commentator* has learned it may involve joint administration by MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop and IBC/JSS Dean Rabbi Michael Shmidman. Rav Goldwicht will continue to give his *shiur* in MYP.

Rav Goldwicht says his vision of the program has developed over the past four years as he has developed closer relationships with many *talmidim* on campus. Furthermore, he says his regular *shiurim* for over a hundred alumni at Congregation Ohav Zedek on the Upper West Side and SCW and Columbia have given him an appreciation for the challenges facing American Jewish students in the 1990s.

In a question and answer session with student leaders this past Friday morning, Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President of Academic Affairs, threw his full support behind the initiative and expressed the hope that the new program will attract students from all of the Judaic Studies divisions. University officials also view the program as potential enrollment booster.



Editor-in-Chief Moshe Kinderlehrer and YCSC President Daniel Billig thanking President's Circle Member Shalom Lamm

President's Circle Eager to Help

continued from page one

the *Shavuos* programs, and funding a so-called *Chesed* fund run by the Office of the Dean of Students for students who cannot afford to pay tuition. Recently, the President's Circle just committed \$18,000 to help pay the tuition of foreign students and sponsor the breakfasts provided after the JSS Minyan, as well as to pay some of the expenses for the regular Shabbos minyan in the Main Beit Midrash.

With the help of YCSC President Daniel Billig, *The Commentator* contacted the President's Circle at the beginning of the summer and submitted a detailed proposal for upgrading the newspaper's aging equipment, bought two and a half years ago with money also provided by the Circle. The request was approved by Lamm in late August and the money was received in late September, just in

time to buy and install the new equipment for use on the first issue.

Awareness of President's Circle Stressed

Lamm wants the student body of YC and SCW to be aware of the President's Circle and he welcomes student input in allocating the money raised by the Circle. "We're not very strict about collecting membership fees," explained Lamm, "We have plenty of money, we just have to find places to spend it. Our biggest problem is in figuring out how to spend the money that we have now." Students and student clubs with promising ideas, he said, are more than welcome to submit proposals to the Circle. If the Circle approves the proposal, "We just call up and the money is there," claimed Lamm.

Furst Hall Renovations Near Completion

by Stuart Milstein

Now that the hammers and nails have been put away, the almost completed renovations of Furst Hall have stirred mixed reactions. The construction, which began during the summer, has now shifted from the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) to Office of Student Services' former location; moved the Office of Admissions upstairs with the Office of Student Services into the old MSDCS office; and expanded the Office of the Registrar across the hall to where Admissions once was. According to Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, the renovations should be complete within the next six weeks.

The Office of Admissions is extremely pleased with the new arrangement. Their new location allows them to show prospective students and parents a more attractive and prestigious office. "It's nice, bright, and large, so I'm very happy," said Joan Friedman, a member of the Admissions staff, adding only a minor complaint: "I am one who likes the students, and the fourth floor is a little farther from them."

MSDCS Fears "Phase-Out"

Some of the departments involved with the move had more than minor complaints. Major discontent came from the MSDCS office whose new location is significantly smaller than its previous one. Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, the Coordinator of Youth Services, explained that "we understand the reason for the change, but this facility is too small and inadequate; but we're managing." One MSDCS staff member fears that the move represents the beginning of an attempt to "phase out" the department, and that it indicates "the administration's impressions of the division."

Rosengarten explained that the MSDCS has changed since it began and they do not need the same amount of space that they originally used. "Their complaints are understandable," he said, "that's human nature." He added that he is sorry that people are upset by the moves but "the aim is to have things work out for the students."

Registrar To Become More Accessible

A primary motive for the restructuring was to make the Office of the Registrar more efficient. According to Rosengarten there have been many complaints that the Office of the Registrar was not providing the students with proper service. Those complaints, combined with the expansions of the Dean of Students and the growth of the Office of Admissions caused the Department of Facilities Management to draw up plans to improve the situation. "Our objective," said Rosengarten, "was to find the best way to solve the problem with the least expense; we were successful."

The renovations mean that prospective students will now be guided to the fourth floor, into a large spacious office where they can meet with the Admissions office. The major change for current students will occur when the Office of the Registrar expands, providing more student service space and quicker, easier access to files. With all the improvements, however, the Office of the Registrar will still not hold the major registration at the beginning of each semester. Room 501 in Furst Hall will still be utilized for that purpose.

Future plans in the renovation of Furst Hall include creating storage space for MSDCS and remodeling the fourth floor to make the entire hallway much more attractive.

Academic Advisement Off To Good Start

by Oded E. Dashiff

With the start of the 1994-1995 academic year, the newly established Academic Advisement Center of Yeshiva College opened its doors for the first time under the direction of YC Assistant Dean Dr. Avery Horowitz. All first-time-on-campus (FTOC) students were required to meet with a faculty advisor prior to registering for their courses.

Although formal academic advisement may be new to YC, it is a program that has been in existence at the Sy Syms School of Business almost since the school's inception. SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll, who directs academic advisement at Sy Syms stated that advising FTOC students is, "very important and significant and is a step in the right direction." SSSB always required new students to meet with

Assistant Dean Jaskoll prior to registration. Jaskoll explained that "if you advise now, there are less problems later. It is very important to spend time with each student and help him work out his schedule and major."

Dr. Horowitz explained that the academic advisement itself proceeded satisfactorily, but "the goal is to make it an ongoing part of campus life." While the primary focus of the center at this point in time is to assist new students in the selection of courses, Horowitz hopes that in the future, all students "will be able to come down with any problem." Faculty advisors include Professors Cwilich, Fulda, Karpishpan, Lee, Otway, and Viswanathan.

Both YC as well as SSSB plan to make the center accessible to all students and able to offer assistance in a multitude of areas in the near future.

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New High School Program Taking Shape

by Nicolas D. Muzin

Many students may have thought their classmates wearing ties on the first day of this semester were merely showing respect for Rosh Chodesh, but seasoned observers knew that it marked the kick-off of a controversial new program allowing MTA students to take courses in YC. The forty-eight student program has drawn criticism from the current president of YCSC as well as from many students who feel that the initiative is an attempt to bolster the standing of the high school at the expense of the college.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz dismisses the complaints. "Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come," he said, quoting Victor Hugo. "MTA as a high school predates Yeshiva College, and since the two institutions are on the same campus, it is only a logical extension of the feeder-school notion to allow the high school students to partake of the vast resources available in the college."

The program involves students who are taking a variety of elementary-level courses in YC and SSSB, ranging from computers and physics to the social sciences. They participate in MYP shiurim, as well as in IBC and JSS. The applicants were assessed on the basis of ability, maturity, and commitment to learning. In order to qualify they had to have a minimum average of 85 and SAT score of 1200. They were then screened in two separate interviews, first by departing MTA principal Rabbi Gedalyah Finkelstein and Vice-Principal Rabbi Block, and then by Rabbi Michael Shmidman, Dean of IBC/JSS and the program's coordinator.

The motivation for the program was to improve the percentage of students who go from MTA to YU by bringing them into

the system early. Approximately 40% of MTA students plan to go to YU upon their graduation from high school, but Rabbi Block points out that the percentage of students that actually come might be significantly higher because many students who had planned on going to a secular college change their minds during their year or two in Israel. However, the program can have negative effects as well, he explained. "While the idea is to let the students see the best of YU, there is also the possibility of them seeing the worst and writing the place off," he said.

YCSC President Daniel Billig told *The Commentator* that when the program was formulated in the spring, he raised strong objections. He says he has two major concerns: first, there is the possibility that the high school students are getting preferential treatment because they were able to register in May, while some college students registered as late as last week. While the Administration has promised to open new sections of courses to ensure that no college student is closed out of a course due to the registration of a high school student, this remedy involves new teachers, new timetables, and possibly new conflicts.

Secondly, there is the concern that MTA students are receiving the same education as college students at a radically lower price. YC tuition is \$17,106, while MTA tuition is \$10,400. Schwartz says that this imbalance will not last long because the high school will be charged an allocation for these courses which its board will have to raise, probably through a tuition hike. "We do not expect a system of justice to be perfectly equal, but we do expect it to be perfectly equitable," he said.

Rabbi Finkelstein said that college students should not be over-protective.

"We must get away from this feeling of fear for our own turf," he said. "The idea of *kiruv* is Jews helping other Jews. MTA is the largest Jewish all-boys high school in the U.S., and if we can help show them the greatness of YU, it hurts no one and it ultimately helps everyone". Rabbi Block calls students who object to the program "narrow-minded and self destructive."

Schwartz says that college students are actually benefiting from the inclusion of the new students because the standard for these students to get in was much higher than the early-admission standards, which ultimately results in less high school students taking college courses. In addition, more course sections are opening.

In the *limudei kodesh* department, *Mashgiach Ruchani* Rabbi Yosef Blau explained that "level of learning has never been contingent upon age, or level of ability in secular studies; only on ability in Torah, commitment to *Yiddishkeit*, and maturity. Assuming that the boys are on the same level of learning as those in the college, there is no reason not to admit them to first-level *shiurim*."

As for the students found in IBC and JSS, Rabbi Block explained, "in this case the selection was not always on high level of achievement, but rather on the basis of choosing students who were not flourishing in the YP-style shiurim at MTA and introducing them to the more departmentalized courses found at IBC and JSS, a format which doesn't exist at MTA." Rabbi Block also stressed that students were under no circumstances admitted to a secular studies course merely because of their proficiency in learning, or vice versa.

Although he says it is too early to tell, Shmidman believes that so far the program seems to be working out well, and that the

rebbeim with whom he has spoken "saw no problem whatsoever and were quite pleased with the caliber of the MTA students in their shiurim."

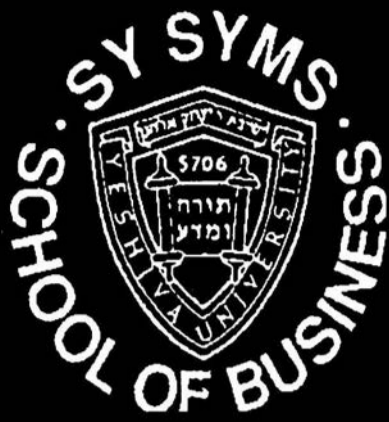
Not all MTA students are pleased with the program. Many students did not gain admittance to the program, and many who were admitted were closed out of courses they wanted to take. Last week security guards in Belfer Hall prevented a few high school students from making it to their courses because they did not have college identification.

Rabbi Bloch said that it is a possibility that these students will be issued college IDs so they will have access to the Gottesman Library and the Max Stern Athletic Center, including the pool, which "is empty 3/4 of the time." College students promise to battle that proposal. "I didn't graduate from high school, go to Israel for two years and come here to have seventeen year-olds in my classes and in the gym," one student said. "It's ludicrous."

Not all students who were qualified for the program wanted to take advantage of it. Some saw value in four years of high school, perhaps for leadership opportunities as a senior. Others felt that they were not disciplined enough and needed more supervision.

Ultimately, the success of the program will be measured by the rate of MTA students who succeed in the program, as well as their general opinion of YC. Rabbi Bloch mentioned that the high school expects some students to feel overwhelmed by their courses, adding that if none did, "it wouldn't say very much about the college."

Finally -- if there are any college students wishing to take a course in the high school, the door is open...but don't forget the ties.



A Message From the President

Dear fellow students:

I am very pleased to be writing to you in this first ever SSSB section of *The Commentator*. This section is a useful vehicle for communicating information pertinent to the SSSB and its students.

I hope all new students are acclimating themselves to the program and that the returning students have remained as conscientious as ever. I would like to inform you about some current programs and upcoming events. Your participation in our programs is important, as the student life is only as good as the students make it. There is a lot for you to be involved in and you can have an impact on the school (not to mention on your resume).

Our tutoring service has begun in which we provide a free service to students who need assistance in first year SSSB courses (tutors get paid by the school). The sooner you sign up, the faster we will be able to make these matches. A "Big Brother" program is being initiated this year (with the help of the Accounting Society), in which all first year students are assigned to a senior in their major. This is a good way

to gain an "inside-scoop" on courses and majors. Writers and editors are needed for the *Business Review*, our publication of business-related articles and studies. A student reception is scheduled for Monday Oct. 24 at 8:00 P.M. in Weissberg Commons. You will hear from our deans and student leaders and even receive a free gift (no strings attached).

Please contact either myself or the board to express interest in our programs or any new ideas. I hope to serve you well this year and am sure that you will improve our school's already credible reputation. Good luck with your studies and I look forward to working with each of you!

Sincerely,

Ziv Mendelsohn

SSSB Student Board:

Ziv Mendelsohn, President SSSB
Daniel Gibber, V.P. SSSB
Glenn Pfeiffer, Treasurer SSSB
David Ruditzky, Secretary SSSB
Moshe Jacobs, Pres. Accounting Society
Jack Berlin, President JBS

SSSB Boasting Record Enrollment

by David Rosenfeld

The Sy Syms School of Business, founded in 1987, has expanded its enrollment to a record 280 students, representing 30% of the current student body at Yeshiva College.

The popularity of the business school, according to Dr. Harold Nierenberg, Dean of Sy Syms, is attributed to its "outstanding curriculum, excellent faculty, and a challenging and demanding program." Nierenberg also explained that the experience most professors bring into the classroom is based on their personal involvement with the business world. This unique exposure provides students with a view of what awaits them upon their graduation.

A further attraction is the effort exerted on behalf of students by the Office of Placement and Career Services. With the help of that office, many recent graduates have found their desired business positions, with many students receiving top offers. Nierenberg also pointed out that the performance of these alumni helps to earn SSSB the respect that it deserves, evidenced by the active

on-campus recruitment by many large firms.

In response to anticipated growth, last year SSSB added a new management major, along with new courses in existing majors. Although this year's increase of 28% was above expectations, SSSB has dealt with the situation by opening new class sections for popular courses, and hiring additional faculty. Ira Jaskoll, Assistant Dean of SSSB, views these adjustments as a "response to the needs of the business community and to the interests of the students."

However, Jaskoll maintained, SSSB is not intending to overshadow the liberal arts program at Yeshiva College. He contends that the current interest in business is a result of the improved economy. It is expected that if the economy should worsen, students will become less interested in business and more concerned with furthering their education in graduate schools. Nonetheless, if the business school maintains its popularity, Nierenberg assures that "within the realm of reason, and as long as we have the resources, our students will be accommodated."

SSSB Students Spend Summer In Israel

by Andrew Davidson

While Israel was a popular destination for YU students this past summer, not many ventured there to continue their higher education. However, four YU students were among the eighteen American collegiates who participated in the Geshar Internship Program, working in Israeli businesses and banks, gaining practical work experience.

Ezra Lightman, Kalman Topp, Phyllis Roth, and Tammy Lightman all emerged from their summer of work with positive feelings. Each had applied to the five-year-old Geshar program through the Sy Syms School of Business and was chosen based on the individual companies' needs.

In addition to the YU applicants, students from UCLA, Cornell, Wharton, and Columbia, among others, vied for openings. "We were competing with a very high caliber of school," stated SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll, "and our students handled themselves very well."

The internships began at the beginning of June and lasted for approximately eight weeks. Individual jobs ranged from analyzing mutual funds, to working in the bottling plants management office at Coca-Cola, to

assuming a position in the marketing office of Bank Leumi. Other participating businesses included clothing and textiles, information systems, image processing, pharmaceuticals, and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The only drawback to the program, participants said, was that upon entering Israel, each student was faced with the challenge of finding his or her own permanent housing for the summer. They felt that had Geshar provided additional help, the interns would have been more relaxed.

But according to Ezra Lightman, such a drawback was minor when compared to the benefits of Geshar, which provides "invaluable experience and contacts to both those who are and are not interested in living in Israel, as well as offering a great opportunity to gain experience in a field of interest in an overseas country." Lightman added that he now has "a greater understanding of financial markets on a global scale. Additionally, the program gave me the chance to get a feel for the realities of living and working in Israel."

The atmosphere in Israeli businesses varies slightly from that of their American counterparts. Phyllis Roth

continued on page 13



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STUDENT NOTEBOOK

Elul Zman the YU Way... Not in YU

by Steven Miodownik

The astronomical phenomenon of an eleven-day inconsistency between the lunar and solar calendars, coupled with the biblical imperative that the vernal equinox precede the Passover festival, recently provided YU's student population with a unique opportunity to flock eastward and spend time in Israel for *Elul Z'man* and the *chagim*.

Approximately every three years, when the intricate Jewish calendar fixes Rosh Chodesh Elul in the beginning of August, and fills the month of September with three *yomim tovim* and the obligatory off-days associated with them, YU traditionally opens its doors for the fall semester in October. While this increases summer vacation to a handsome four months, perhaps more significantly, it effects a mass exodus of students from the country.

This time around proved to be no exception, as an overwhelming number of YU students, men and women alike, found ways and means to spend various amounts of time in Israel before this semester.

Why did so many (over 250 at last count) choose to forsake their current yeshiva, leaving it bereft of talmidim during its own *Elul Z'man*? Why did a significant percentage of the student population find it necessary to return to the sweltering heat of a Middle Eastern summer, when they could have been savoring the cool breezes wafting over from the Harlem River?

A cursory survey of *Elul Z'man*ers revealed a strong belief in Israel's therapeutic nature.

One student said he regarded his sojourn as a "coming up for a gulp of fresh air" before descending once again into "the depths of galus." While others did not express such disquietude over the exiled status of the Jewish nation and its institutions in this pre-messianic era, only praise for Israel could be offered by them. For instance:

"It was great."

"It was really good."

"It was really really good."

True, the sophistication of these students, who did not pass the summer engaged in any formal academic pursuit, could be questioned, but their terseness reflected an inner peace, and a *Weltanschauung* that could only have been acquired through prayer, quiet meditation, and a *schwarma aishtanur* with extra *charif*.

Such remarkable nirvana, however, was not merely the product of a return to yeshiva. The full days of learning were supplemented, if such a notion is possible, by a Succot vacation filled with Jerusalem's famous *Simchat Beit HaSho'evahs*, at which the men danced all night to six-piece bands, and the women were able to peer at the men dancing through a small grating in the ceiling.

One other musical venue which many of YU's finest attended was a Mordechai Ben David/Avraham Fried concert on a large tract of dirt near Sha'alvim during *Chol HaMoed*. Reviews ranged from a more subdued, "It was a real bal hagan," to a more pronounced, "It was the biggest *Chillul HaShem* I have ever seen in my entire life."

The concert was not well-received.

The presence of two MYP Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Herschel Schachter and Rav Meir Goldwicht, was especially felt on Succot in *Yerushalayim*. Rav Schachter, who maintained his relentless speaking schedule by delivering frequent shiurim at Sha'alvim and Kerem B'Yavneh and talking at numerous other yeshivot and shuls, spoke at the Gruss Institute to a room packed with YU students on *Chol HaMoed*.

Rav Goldwicht's *tisch* in his succah in the Old City, with its notorious abundance of singing and *divrei torah*, was an event that paralleled the *tisches* in his apartment on 186th Street. And just like that succah lay just yards from the Kotel, so too the apartment is situated just yards away from our very own "Beit HaMikdash," Belfer Hall.

YCDS Play Finally Chosen

continued from page 7

YCSC. His speculation was, in part, based on the fact that the cost of the 30th anniversary production could possibly exceed the funds already allocated by the student council.

"The Student Council is committed to the partnership that we have created with Dr. Schwartz," Billig told the *The Commentator*. "It was necessary for us to clarify how the budget will work."

Once the confusion was straightened out, Billig met with YCDS President Steven Kaye to discuss this year's budget. The amount of the budget was not disclosed.

"Enemy of the People" Chosen

After weaving through a three-part selection process--first by the new executive council, then by Interim Dean Nierenberg, and finally by the Office of Academic Affairs -- "An Enemy of the People," by Henrik Ibsen was

unanimously chosen for the upcoming production. Dr. Schwartz feels that this will be a "very worthwhile production." He also believes that "it's not enclosed by collateral issues like a production or two in the past."

Steven Kaye, the only student on the seven-member council, is excited about the production. Most thrilling is the fact that this play requires a dozen main characters and at least ten extras.

Almost ironically, the play's main theme is administrative corruption and what power can do to a person. The moral dilemmas in the play strike a chord with YCDS members, one that really hits home. As the chilling last lines of the play prophetically announce, "You are fighting for the truth, and that's why you're alone. And that makes you strong -- we're the strongest people in the world...And the strong must learn to be lonely."

Torah Tours Sends YC Students Across the Nation

by Gershon Seiferas

From NCSY to YUSSR to Counterpoint, YU students have always been involved in a multitude of community and outreach projects. No organization reaches out to as many communities in one holiday, though, as the Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours.

The program, as its name denotes, is designed to allow university students to take their mission of outreach on the road cities as close as Mt. Vernon to others as far away as Baton Rouge are included. The students attempt to bring heightened spiritual awareness to communities that, because of location or demographics, have become strangers to thriving Jewish life.

While known for their Simchat Torah, Shavout, and Purim programs, Torah Tours conducts programs on Shabbosim throughout the year, though on a smaller scale. Their standard program consists of shiurim, study sessions, and plain interaction.

Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, the Director of Torah Tours and Coordinator of Youth Services, contacts some of the communities that are potential candidates for the programs. He relays any interest to the student coordinators. Tirschwell says that this year was an exception to the regular growth of Torah Tours since classes started after Yom Tov. As a result, there were not enough volunteers. "However because of the dedicated efforts of the coordinators--calling close to 300 students--we managed to scrape together programs for seventeen synagogues while we originally projected that we could only do five," Tirschwell said.

Unfortunately for those interested in volunteering, it's not usually so easy to find a spot. Although there is a waiting list for participating regularly in the programs, Iris Ofer, a Student Coordinator of Torah Tours, said she does "encourage people to sign up." Furthermore, she promised to try to accommodate everyone in their choice of location so seasoned travelers can forego the trouble and stay close to NYC while the wondrous-eyed and adventurous can go where no YUer has gone before.

Torah Tours Growing

Throughout the year, Ofer and the other Student Coordinator, Ranan Zackai, communicate with prospective communities and try to plan programs that are within the best interest of the communities. "Communities that are

mostly composed of elderly Jews have different goals...than communities that have a sizeable youth population who go to public school," she said.

The size of Torah Tours in terms of both communities participating and the number of students involved has been steadily growing. Last year over twenty-five synagogues were visited with more than seventy programs.

What may look rosy and cheery on the outside has caused some to voice criticisms. Aryeh Tuchman, a YC Junior, says that when guys participate in projects like Torah Tours, they may be harming the Simchas Torah of their own communities. "For the past two years nearly everyone of college age has left Oceanside for Simchas Torah, to bring the festive spirit someplace else. But charity begins at home; what are our town's children learning about Simchas Torah when only five guys stay home to energize the hakafof? I'm not against Torah Tours conceptually but a student must remember that his own community is suffering his absence."

Ofer responded to this criticism by stating that a large segment of people "flock" to already "happening scenes," accounting for some communities shortage of bodies. She recounts that Great Neck normally did not attract a large group of youthful people for Simchat Torah but they overcame the problem by taking the initiative to invite 20 bodies to help with "ruchniyus." "If a community takes the initiative, a rewarding and wild Simchat Torah is within their grasp," she commented.

Other Yeshiva University students question the need of Torah Tours going to far-away communities while nearby communities such as the Lower East Side and Brighton Beach could also benefit from additional outreach. Ofer responded that indeed some programs are run close to YU such as Mt. Vernon in Westchester County. Furthermore, she made it a point that Torah Tours doesn't force itself on any community but rather only responds to requests by communities, synagogues, and schools. In fact, the host synagogue takes the responsibility of paying for transportation costs.

In sum, both coordinators point to the feedback of the community as ample evidence of the accomplishments of Torah Tours. Zackai noted that the rabbis and members of the respective congregations almost always thank the Torah Tour leaders profusely for a "Yom Tov that would have been nothing and was transformed into a tremendous holiday."

Geshher Program

continued from page 12

observed that "the Israeli business philosophy is more laid back--not in the competitive aspects, but in dress style. Suit jackets are unheard of, and ties are rare."

In order for the interns to interact and share their work experiences, Geshher sponsored a social event each week of the program. Some weeks a speaker addressed the students while at others, tours of Osem and Bank Hapoalim were given. Tammy

Lightman, next year's National Coordinator, said that "the program surpassed any expectations that I may have had going in, and could be a very positive experience for someone who is looking for a solid foundation in business."

Underscoring the future benefits of a Geshher summer, Dean Jaskoll remarked that "international business has tremendous value--companies view it in a very positive light."

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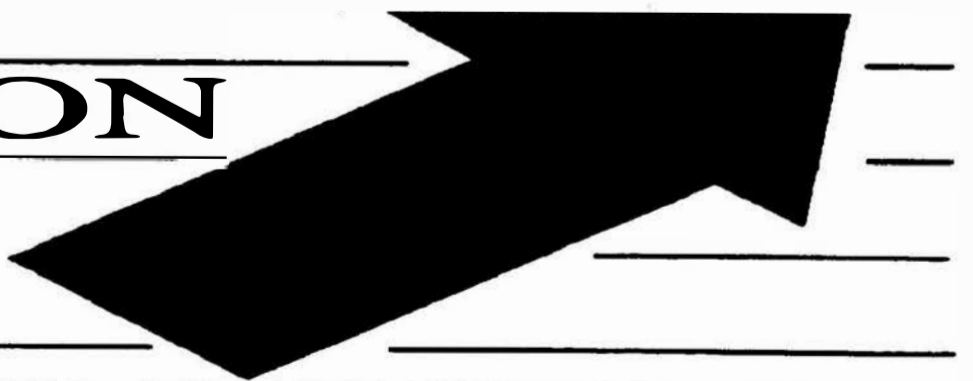
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Intramurals Begin

by David Goldenberg and Adam Melzer

With some big names in the intramural league, including some former Macs, the '94-'95 draft took place behind closed doors on Monday night, October 10. With the first pick in the overall draft, Captain Ephraim Gerszberg selected Miami's Ari Ciment. Donny Davis drafted 1993-94 all star Arkady Abraham, and Memphis native Kevin Rosenberg chose 6'4 center Steven Kupferman to round out the top three. Former Mac Michael Dube was selected fourth by Noah Lindenberg, Sid Singer picked Noam Geft fifth, and Eitan Butler drafted highly talented guard Chaim Zakheim at the number six slot. Mikey Fruchter, Hillel Olshin, Steven Bransdorfer, and Shlomo Kimmel rounded out the first round.

Without wasting any time, the season began the following night. Daniel Lerer and his Rapid City Thunder (CBA) took on Sid Singer and his Oolinic Owls. The game started slowly, and at halftime it was 16-8 Owls (a real thriller). In the heavily awaited second half, Avi Dzik scored 9 consecutive points to bring the thunder within one at 24-23. But the

Owls, led by Eli Grunstein, Ari Rockoff, and Noam Geft held on for a 37-30 win.

With the butterflies gone, a main affair took place the following night when Noah Lindenberg's Charleston Chiefs and Eitan Butler's South Bend Central Bears (Hoosiers) engaged in a thrilling game that went down to the wire. The Chiefs, led by Former Mac Michael Dube, Sol Genet, and Hillel Cohn, took a one point lead with 50 seconds left when Cohn hit a big three pointer. Chaim Zakheim answered with a basket, but Dube's three-point play put the Chiefs up by one with just 7 seconds remaining. But the Bears were not through yet. The ball was given to their go-to man, Zakheim, who after showing flashes of brilliance throughout the game, took the ball and eluded the entire Chief defense as he drove to the basket. However, his buzzer beating lay-up finger rolled out, and the Chiefs hung on for a 35-34 victory.

Intramural Notes: Steven Kupferman of the Terhune Tigers has opted to play for the Macs. Daniel Lerer of the Rapid City Thunder traded 1st round pick Mikey Fruchter to Ephraim Gerszberg's Miami Juice for Andy Davidson and David Ruditzky.

Mazal Tov

Barry Lebowitz & Meira Drazen

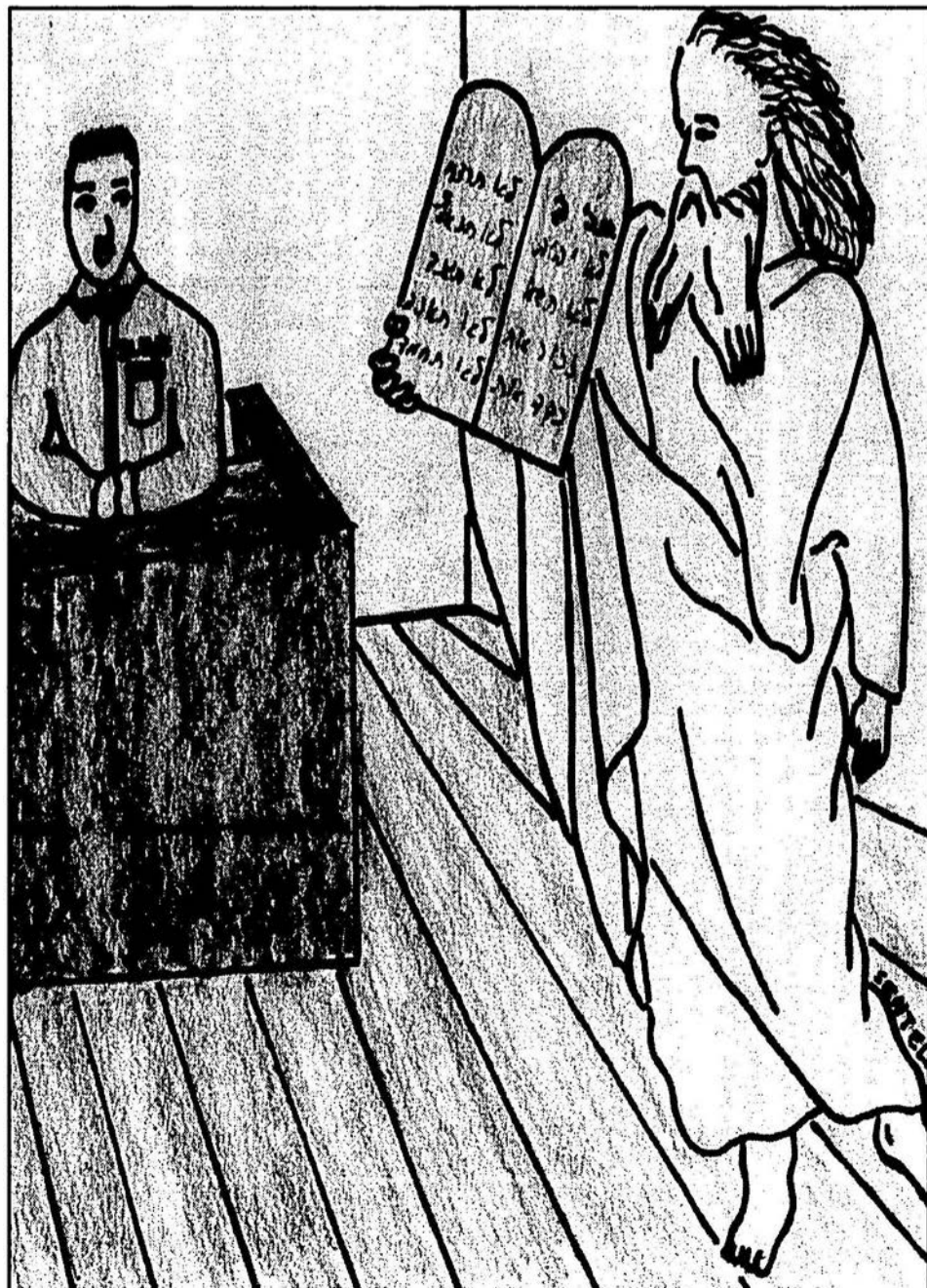
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Yeshiva Sports

Macs: A Rebuilding Year?

by Adam Melzer

A lot has changed since we last left the Macs. Key players such as Daniel Aaron and Miko Danan have graduated. In addition, the Macs received more bad news over the summer when their assistant coach, Steve Podias, elected to take over the head coaching job at Brooklyn College. Podias was vital to the team because he orchestrated its defense, the best in Division III.

At first, this reporter was going to calm all of those Mac fans by writing about the multitude of prospects lurking about that would truly make the Macs into a force to be reckoned with.

Forget it. Almost all of those prospects have vanished for various reasons, much like the famous nursery rhyme, "Ten Little Indians" ("And then there were eight, and then there were seven...and

then there were none."). Highly touted prospects Arkady Abraham, Ari Ciment, and Chaim Zakheim, have all elected not to try out for the Macs. Former Macs Michael Dube and Steven Kupferman have declined to play for the Macs. Mt. St. Vincent? NJIT? Suddenly, I start to wince and cringe.

Remaining top prospects include Barry Aranoff, Mark Seyda, Joel Jacobson, and Dovey Foreman. Will the returning veterans, combined with these newcomers and other potential surprises, be enough to produce a successful season? Find out in the next edition's preview of the Macs.

By the way, it should be noted that all of the former top prospects mentioned above will be playing in the YU intramural league. The intramural all stars vs the YU Macs: Hm... I wonder who would win.

New Big Man on Campus: Joel Jacobson

by David Goldenberg

With the 94-95 season just around the corner, many questions about the Macs are circulating around campus. Following last season's roller coaster ride, which included two sensational games at home against arch-rival Mt. St. Vincent and NCAA Division III tournament runner-up NYU, the Macs have people wondering who will replace the starters who have left, and if they can repeat last year's performances when they travel to Vincent and NYU on December 1 and January 9 respectively.

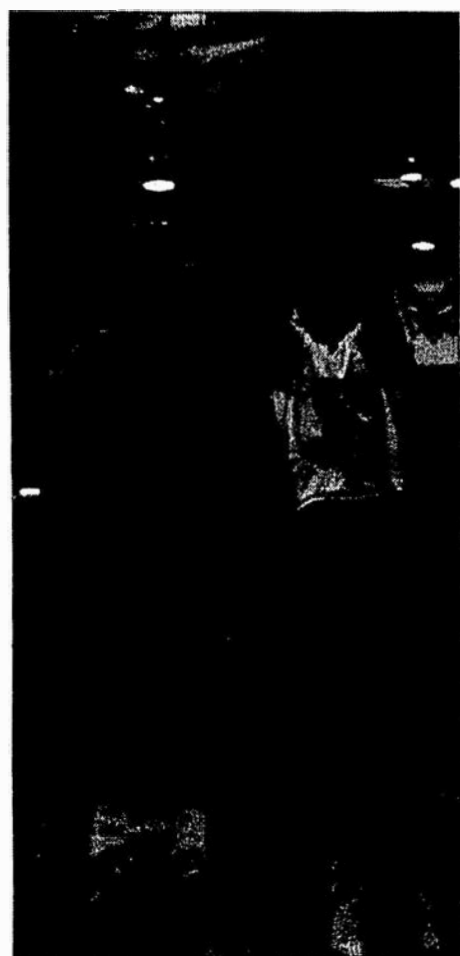
With Alan Levy back as the only full-time starter, no one knows what to expect on Opening night, November 22 versus NJIT. While big names like Aaron and Danan are gone, there are returning players and some new faces.

One in particular is 6'7" freshman center Joel Jacobson. Although Aaron's shoes are tough to fill, YU is hoping that Jacobson will help them succeed in the near future. Jacobson resides in Champaign, Illinois, where he played high school varsity for three years. His finest season came during his senior year in 1992-1993 when he was selected as an All-Star center, leading his team to the Illinois High School State Tournament while pouring in 20 points, grabbing 15 boards, and blocking 3.5 shots per game.

Following graduation, Joel went to Israel and learned in Yeshivat Shaarei Mevasseret Zion. Joel was the MVP of the Yeshiva Basketball League, in only its second year of existence, averaging 22 ppg and 14 rpg. At the end of his year

in Israel, Jacobson was on his way to Brandeis; however, the desire to learn on a regular basis, study to go to medical school, and play basketball led him to YU.

Joel is not the first Jacobson to play at YU. Joel's uncle, Kenny Jacobson, played for the Macs back in the early 60's. Hopefully, Joel can carry on that family tradition with great success.



Joel Jacobson taking a jumper in the MSAC



The 1994 - 1995 YU Track Team

Track Team Off to a Good Start

by Josh Fine

The Yeshiva University track team participated in its first competition of the year, a five mile track meet held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, this past Sunday, Oct 16. Coached by Stan Watson, the track team made a strong showing, placing three of its ten runners among the top twenty.

While the dominant runners were from CCNY, Hunter College and John Jay College, Coach Watson pointed out that "most of these schools have had a head start...considering that they've been practicing for this meet since September, and our guys have only had two weeks to prepare."

Despite its practice time deficit, the track team seems to be off to a good start. Meir Zeitchik, running in his first track meet as a YC team member, placed first among YC runners with an impressive time of 36:24. Akiva Davis, YC's second place finisher, crossed the finish line at 37:17, and Jonathan Schloss came in third with a time of 37:48. Co-Captain Chaim

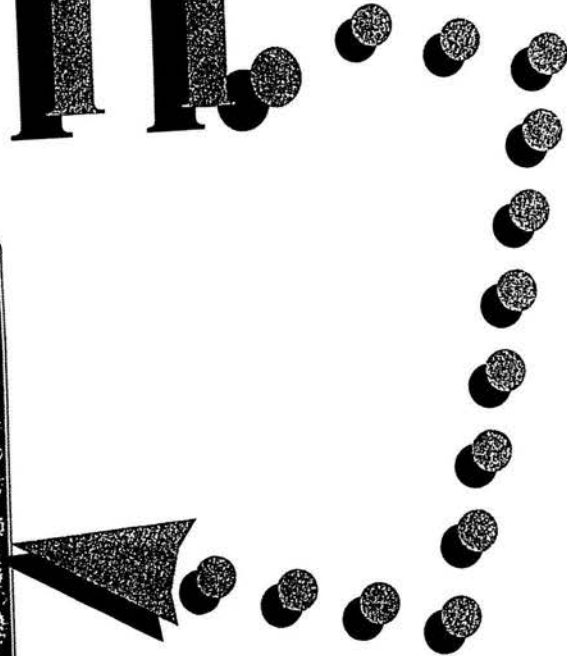
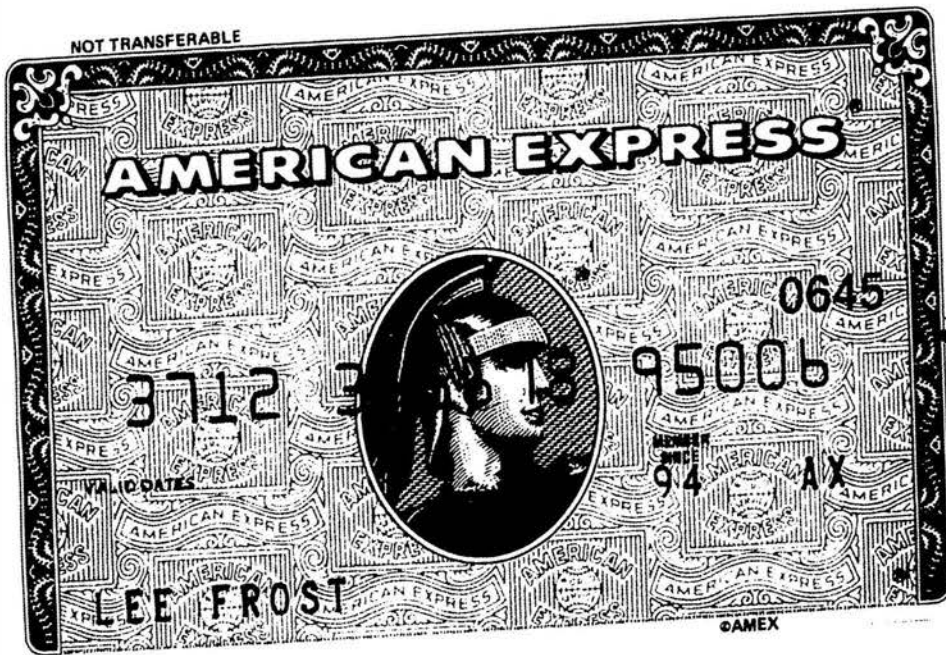
Motzen, who placed fourth among YC's runners, praised Zeitchik for his first run, saying that "he helped the team with his great run," and that "he is a runner with a lot of potential." Other YC runners who finished the five mile run include Joe Markowitz, Gili Houpt, Simcha Jacobs, Aryeh Mandel and Meir Pollack, and Joshua Epstein, who returned to the course after learning in Israel for a year.

The track team, which regularly practices on Monday and Wednesday nights and uses the George Washington Bridge as its track, will now begin to prepare for their next meet on Sunday, October 30. It will be the third annual Polytech-Yeshiva College Invitational, where plaques and trophies will be awarded. After all the runners crossed the finish line this past Sunday, Coach Watson said, "I'm enthused for the 30th. I think that with the hard training that these guys will put in over the next two weeks, we have a shot at a team medal." Track team fans look forward to the realization of Coach Watson's dream.

The Commentator

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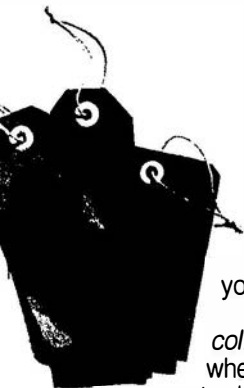
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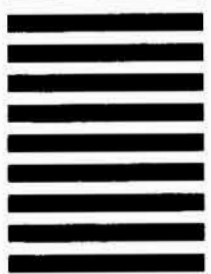


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