

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

November 30, 1994/ 27 Kislev 5755

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

Volume LIX, No. 5

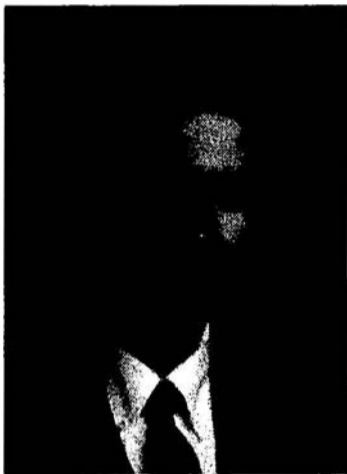
YC Senior Aaron Heller, 21, Dies in Ruben Hall

Valiant Hatzolah Efforts Unsuccessful

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

What began as a seemingly harmless stomach ache on Thursday night, November 13, resulted in a shocking tragedy. YC senior Aaron Heller, having felt stomach pains for the past few days, vomited several times in the bathroom, and entered his room hoping to simply relax and regain his composure. Less than two hours later, despite intensive physical and spiritual rescue efforts, he passed away.

The rescue efforts on Heller's behalf were set in motion primarily by one individual. Isser Elishis, Heller's dorm neighbor and friend, sensed something was terribly wrong. He followed Heller into his room, and, upon noticing Heller was hav-



Aaron Heller

ing difficulty breathing, smartly took charge of the situation. After instructing Heller to lie down, he sent his roommate downstairs to the pool to request assistance from the more readily equipped lifeguards.

One of them soon returned with an oxygen mask and began assisting Heller in his breathing. Hatzolah and Security were also summoned, as several friends rallied by Heller's side, urging him to "hang in there." At this point, Heller was both conscious and concerned. Complaining only slightly about the acute pain he was experiencing, he repeatedly asked the small, concerned group of people which had gathered to call his mother and inform her of the situation. The dorm counselor, Rafi Lipner, promptly complied.

At this point Hillel Weiner, one of Heller's boyhood friends and a Hatzolah volunteer, arrived at the scene. While reassuring Heller about the situation, he grew quite alarmed when repeated attempts to take his blood pressure were to no avail — no number registered on the blood pressure cuff. Realizing that time could very well be of the essence, another Hatzolah member, Yosef Levenbrown, telephoned Advanced Life Support (ALS) for further

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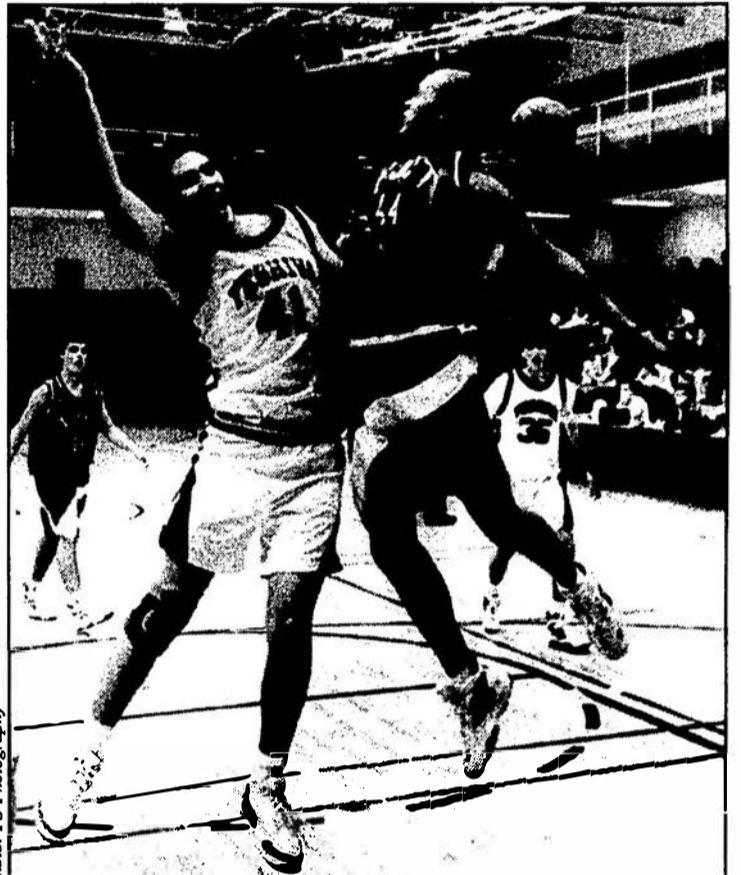


Photo: YU Photography

First YU Macs game of 1994-95 Season finds Macs losing to NJIT by 38. Pictured is rookie center Joel Jacobson in the paint.

Dean Choice Still Unofficial

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Now more than a week after *The Commentator* published its special edition revealing Dr. Norman T. Adler, the Vice-Provost of Northeastern University for Research and Graduate Education, as the next dean of YC, no public announcement has yet been made by the University as the new dean and the University continue contract negotiations through this week.

Adler, a prominent psychologist and the former Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, has served in his current position at the Boston campus of Northeastern since March 1993. At Penn, where he held his post from January 1989 to February 1993, he is credited with reviving the Freshman Seminar Program, creating a peer advisement center, and initiating a summer reading program. He also founded the Biological Basis of Behavior program, promoting a field which he has long held an interest in.

As reported in the Penn student newspaper *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, Adler's departure in 1993 was greeted with sadness by his colleagues. Current Penn students who knew him contin-

ue to praise his contribution to the College of Arts and Sciences. Also a prolific writer, his books include the titles *Reproduction* and *Neuroendocrinology of Reproduction*.

When reached at his Northeastern office this past Wednesday afternoon, Adler reiterated often in the brief telephone interview that it "would not be appropriate to comment at this time" on any issue concerning the YC deanship. However, he did pledge to be more open to *The Commentator* in the near future when, he said, "it would be an appropriate time to comment." He did not specify as to when and how that time would be reached. He referred further questions about the deanship to YU Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz.

Schwartz, however, intent on maintaining the confidentiality of the process, persistently refused to confirm or deny that he even knew Adler or had held any conversations with him about the position of YC dean. Said Schwartz of the dean search, "It ain't over till it's over." Moreover, he asserted that "it is totally inappropriate for information [about the process] to be transmitted to those not on the

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See Special Tribute to
Aaron Heller on
Page 8 in This Issue.

Dole, Wexner, & Rabin To Speak at Chanukah Dinner On Sunday

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The Republican leader of the US Senate, Robert J. Dole and Leslie H. Wexner, the internationally-renowned philanthropist and business leader, will address the 70th Annual Chanukah Dinner and Convocation of Yeshiva University being held this Sunday evening, December 4 at the Waldorf-Astoria in Manhattan.

Wexner, the founder and chairman of the board of The Limited Inc., will be the dinner's keynote speaker. He is expected to speak on the issue of Jewish communal service and education. Senator Dole will deliver the convocation address. In his first appearance in the New York City area since the recent elections, he is expected to deliver an address on foreign



Senator Bob Dole

policy.

Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of the State of Israel, will address the expected 1000 dinner attendees from his Jerusalem office.

The general chairman of the dinner is Edgar M. Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman and CEO of The Seagram Co. Ltd.

At the convocation preced-

ing the dinner, honorary doctoral degrees will be conferred upon University Benefactor Miriam Glaubach; Gladys Ritter Livingston, Benefactor of YU's AECOM; Morry Weiss, chairman and CEO of American Greetings Corp. and a University Board member; Rabbi Louis Bernstein, a long-time YU Jewish studies professor and two-time president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Zvi Kolitz, noted author, journalist, and film producer; Jeffrey J. Steiner, chairman and president of The Fairchild Corp., RHI Holdings, Inc., and Banner Aerospace, Inc., as well as a member of the Board of Directors of SSSB; and David H. Zysman, the University's Vice President for Development.

The Convocation will begin this Sunday at 5:30 PM.

EDITORIALS..EDITORIALS..EDITORIALS

YC Dean — The Religion Issue

With last week's special edition of *The Commentator* breaking the story on the finalist for the position of Yeshiva College dean, a veritable furor has erupted amongst the students and faculty on campus in the last week. The issue, of course, is religion, in this case referring to the level of observance of the prospective dean, who has been described by those who have met him as a 'traditional' Jew.

Frankly, it's a tough issue.

On one hand, many students, faculty, Roshei Yeshiva, and even administrators, argue that the dean of YC must be someone intimately familiar with Orthodoxy; someone who would feel at home in the "Torah U'madda" atmosphere of Yeshiva University. He must be a role model for the values that YU espouses and hopes to instill in its graduates, they claim. To them, the dean must be a committed, religiously observant Jew and an accomplished scholar in his discipline — and in this case, a capable administrator as well.

However, in light of the latest search process, the view of the Administration has been to deliberately search outside YU for an individual with superb credentials who will, in the words of a number of administrators, add sorely needed 'cachet' to the academic reputation of Yeshiva College. To those in charge of the process (and to a number of faculty and students as well), the dean's level of observance is utterly irrelevant to his ability to administer a liberal arts college, even one as unique as Yeshiva.

Ideally, the new dean of Yeshiva College would have been the perfect synthesis of these two concerns — a torah committed Jew with the credentials and experience to enhance YC's academic reputation. Barring such an option, however, we submit that the true function of a dean is not as a role model. Rather, the role of the dean is to administrate the college, and, if possible, to enhance its academic reputation. It appears, at least to the search committee, that such a dean has been found. While he may not be a paragon of Torah U'madda, his reputation as a solid and creative administrator bespeaks his ability to, perhaps, restore a little polish to the academic luster of Yeshiva College.

... Until It's Too Late

Aaron Heller's sudden death left our student body shocked, frightened, and confused. Those who prayed for him throughout the dramatic sequence of events were forced to deal with the immediate reality of unanswered prayers. And those who learned of the news later that evening or the next morning were in a state of disbelief, as if trying to stave off a bad dream. Unfortunately, the dream was quite real: for the first time ever, a student died in the dormitory of Yeshiva College.

An untimely death so quickly reminds those affected by it of how precious life is. Unfortunately, the heavy crunch of schoolwork and midterms has left many of us without a free moment to think. Even a tragedy like Aaron's death does not shut down our lives and responsibilities.

But it should make us more appreciative of what we have. We often take luxuries such as family and friends for granted, only recognizing their significance after they are gone. Many of us, by virtue of our mere presence in this institution, have been given an opportunity to maintain old friendships that often fall by the wayside as friends go their separate ways. The short time that we each spend on campus will soon be over, and we, too, will head off in our own, separate directions. Aaron Heller's memory should serve as a reminder of what good friendship are all about. Let his memory remain in our hearts forever.

The Commentator

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

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RESPONSA

IBC: No Stigma Attached

To the Editor:

Apparently, not all of YU's secrets have been uncovered by *The Commentator*. The top floors of Belfer were not condemned, the library was not built backwards, and (gasp!) there are no #2 pencils in the caf store. Yet no one, including *The Commentator's* editors, seems to know about IBC. How could a Judaic Studies program consisting of almost 200 students remain so hidden?

After a Dorm Talks session last year, we found it necessary to clarify some details about IBC. An inset in *The Commentator* read, "IBC has a lot to offer; why the stigma?" Our op-ed was primarily a response to Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Lamm's categorization of IBC students as those talmidim "who do not have a gemara kup." Given that Rav Goldwicht conducts the same shiur in IBC and MYP each day and that both programs have shiurim on different levels, we thought that we expunged this fallacy. However, it appears that this misconception is now continued by the students.

Two recent incidents have led us to believe that IBC is still seen as a lesser Torah program than MYP. Over the summer, only MYP students were notified that they must reclaim and/or register for their mekomot in the Batei Midrashot. IBC and JSS students who had also been learning there were not informed of this policy. Nonetheless, we signed our names to the seats we had been learning in for over two years. One rabbi actually said to us, "I understand

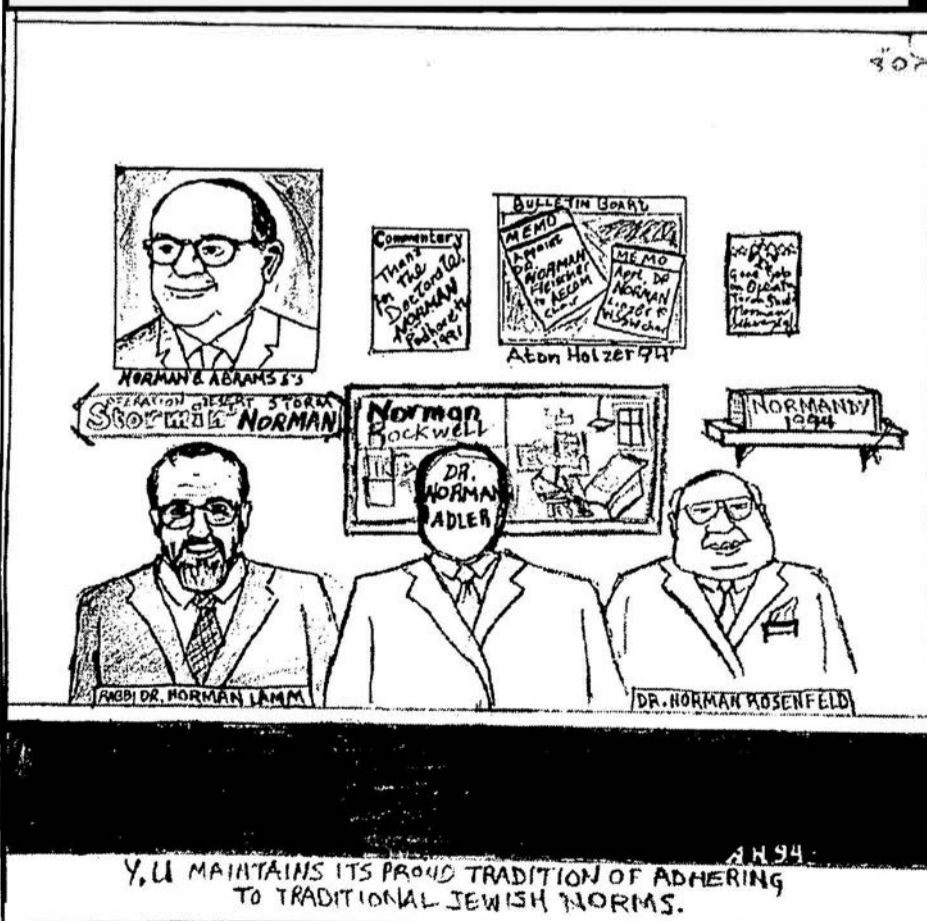
that it is nice to learn in the Beis Midrash, but you could learn in other places as well." The Rabbi explained that the seats were needed for MYP. We had hoped that we could blame a simple oversight for the letters we did not receive. We were shocked to find out that it is official policy to deem some talmidim unworthy of learning in a Beit Midrash.

Following the lead of the BM registration policy came a blow from our peers. In an attempt to promote *achdus*, last issues' editorials bemoaned Dorm Talks' MYP-style format and the lack of IBC and JSS students in attendance. It said that the "style and manner" in which Dorm Talks is presented is "something a student from IBC or JSS would have difficulty handling or appreciating." This grossly patronizing comment suggests that IBC and JSS students would come to Dorm Talks if only they could handle a good *chap*. Had the editors read the rest of their paragraph, the reason for the low IBC/JSS turnout would have been clear. This particular program was "an opportunity for MYP students to speak to their Rabbeim on topics beyond Gemara." IBC and JSS students do this every day.

The Commentator and the school have recently spent much time and effort to plan and study questionnaires which deal with YU students' learning preferences. Not surprisingly, most *talmidim* desire to learn *hashkafa*; *halacha*, *tanach*,

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PICTORIAL



Model UN: Focus on the Positive Rather Than the Negative

Letter to the Editor:

It seems from the article in the last issue of *The Commentator* titled, "YU Political Science Society Takes Part in Model UN," that the author of the article is at odds with his own opinion of the weekend. He also makes comparisons to previous years' experiences on Model UN with little knowledge of what actually occurred in years past.

The article also mentions that "the leadership amongst the members was weaker this year and the team didn't take the convention seriously," which I feel is an unfair comment, requiring substantial qualification.

I was a participant on both of last year's Model United Nations, one sponsored by University of Pennsylvania and one by Harvard. Our contingent then was far less serious and our leadership much weaker. One of the head delegates couldn't attend because of extenuating circumstances and half of the YU delegates didn't attend parts of the program that were not held on Shabbat. Food was also in short supply and Shabbat arrangements were not finalized until the last moment. I am aware that this year, the contingents submitted position papers and had actually contacted the consulates more than a week before the convention. They had also been informed of their respective committees and countries with ample time to prepare.

I had discussed the problems of last year's Model UN with both Political Science club presidents and an attempt was made to prevent a recurrence of last year's mistakes. The first decision made by the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society this year was that YU would only participate in only one of the two Model UNs that YU usually attends. UPMUNC was chosen over Harvard because of its

proximity and the generous hospitality of Penn's shomer shabbat community. As for the incidents that occurred during the weekend, all of them could not have been foreseen and prevented, i.e. the car accident.

YU's participation in Model UN serves a number of very important purposes. First, it allows the YU contingent to meet and learn from college students from all over the country, from diverse backgrounds. Second, the students get an opportunity to act out the part of a foreign country such as Bahrain, which most of our student body probably never heard about let alone be versed in its role in the world. These conventions also educate the contingent on the role of the UN, how it works and its global significance. Finally, by making a favorable impression at these conferences, we expose others who might not have been exposed to Orthodox Jews before. So too, we, the delegates, are exposed to others such as the young man studying to be a priest and a young Muslim woman.

It is imperative that YU continues to participate in this and other inter-collegiate conferences, despite the problems that often occur. Despite YU's absence for some of the convention, a few years ago someone from Yeshiva University won third place for best delegate, one of the most coveted awards for an individual. There is a definite place for YU at UPMUNC, despite the problems.

"The YU Model UN members had a great time over the weekend," the article states. I think that instead of focusing on the negative aspects of the weekend one should give Sandor Bak and Beth Posner a *yashar koach* for all their hard work as well as the rest of the delegation for representing Yeshiva University in a favorable light.

Elisheva Wohlgenuth - SCW '96

Smaller YC Departments Have Much to Offer as Well

To the Editor:

Jonathan Schloss's centerpage article, "Closet Majors" (October 19, 1994) was not only interesting, it made me curious about other smaller departments. (I found some.) That strong and unfailing administrative support is given to so many fields only testifies to the intellectual vitality of our university. (Still, Music and Classics are not usually considered nooks in academia; Sanskrit is a nook, and would that we could offer it.) What is surprising is that more students do not avail themselves of what plentitude our liberal arts programs provide. We faculty do our best to make these fields less "obscure", even when they are overlooked by students! But I must correct, or clarify, two points.

First, paraphrasing Twain, recent reports of the death of Prof. Ed Levy are exaggerated. Not only is he alive and well, he still chairs the Music Department. Second, my reported thought, that orthodox Jews have socioeconomic reasons in career planning that cause them to overlook music as a major, is not quite accurate. I believe I said - or meant - that (a) students are now behaving conservatively in regard to academic

fields and career choices at all liberal arts colleges (and at larger universities, too), and students at Yeshiva College are generally more conservative in their choices than students at, say, Brandeis University, (b) a majority of our students come to us from parochial schools (mostly orthodox yeshivas) that do not offer instruction and education in music (as the public schools do) with the result that we have fewer band and orchestra musicians at Yeshiva College than at other liberal arts colleges who field highly visible musical groups, and (c) the Yeshiva College curriculum offers students very few elective course choices. The number of undergraduate music majors at Yeshiva College, as a percentage of all undergraduate students, is only slightly smaller than at other colleges and universities. Of course, the Music Department welcomes any and all students who have already passed *The Sense of Music* into its academic courses in history and theory and urges all Yeshiva College musicians to enroll in our chamber ensembles, choir, and applied music programs.

Noyes Bartholomew, D.M.A.
Associate Professor



From the Editor's Desk

MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Late on Thursday night two weeks ago, our campus was rocked by the death of Aaron Heller, a YC senior, late two Thursday nights ago. Though the shiva is now over, he is still on the minds of many.

I did not know Aaron. But that did not deter me from waking up early last Wednesday morning to travel with a small group of student leaders to pay a *shiva* call to Aaron's home in West Orange, NJ. After we davened *shacharit*, his mother came downstairs, eager to meet and talk to us, taping every word of our exchange as a way to record her own memories and the recollections of Aaron's friends. In a way, it was an awkward situation. None of us there knew him well.

Truth be told, I did not even know what Aaron looked like until I saw his high-school graduation picture sitting in the Heller's living room. It was a familiar face staring back at me. His face I knew from the halls, the lines in the caf, and from walking the campus. And, it turns out, we had a good number of mutual friends from his neighborhood and YU.

But sitting there that Wednesday morning, uncomfortable in the unfamiliar surroundings and battling the heavy mood that hung over the house, I introduced myself to his mother. His mother was calm and composed, her eyes sad; yet she was eager to make us

feel comfortable. We spoke at length about Aaron and the response on campus to his death. She was quite interested to learn of my involvement with *The Commentator*, as well as curious to know how we were going to treat the issue. I explained it to her as best I could and promised to send her this issue. She recalled how she had urged Aaron to write for the newspaper, but he had never wanted to. The group sat there for a while, listening intently to his mother describe for us the events of the past few days and of Aaron's life in YU — his dorm room, Rubin Hall, his professors, etc. She put us at ease with her engaging manner and gratefulness at our visit. She did not mind a whit at the little connection we had to Aaron.

As the time came for us to go, we gathered up our jackets and *tefillin*, said *Hamakom Y'Nachem*, and went to the car outside. On the whole way back, I went over the events of the past two hours. I certainly did not regret coming; it was, after all, a *mitzva*, as well as an obligation I felt keenly about. I only wish I could have stayed longer. Because strangely, this *shiva* visit, more so than any I have ever made, was the first one where I felt that just my presence, just to sit and listen, was enough to give the mother consolation and fulfill my obligation as well. I only hope I'm right and my feelings are true. It was a visit I will not soon forget.



A Message from the YCSC President

Over the last few weeks I have spent time representing you not to the administration or faculty, but to the outside world. On Sunday, November 6, I was at Wagner College in Staten Island attending a conference for Student Council presidents from the metro area. I had the opportunity to meet with my peers at Seton Hall, Marymount, Pace and others. At that conference I gave a workshop on Motivation and Organization, two important elements of running a good organization that can never be taken for granted. We had a good time discussing similar problems and offering solutions.

On Tuesday, November 15, I went with David Price, from our Council for Racial Harmony, to Albany. I testified in front of the State Assembly Committee for Higher Education. The Forum was Freedom of Speech on Campus. My testimony, "Why Hate Speech is not Higher education", was well received by the committee. The testimony outlined the general conflicts of free speech vs. hate speech and encouraged a broad education. As a Yeshiva College representative it was important to differentiate a political speaker from a hate speaker by labeling a hate speaker's technique as "negative speech". I disagreed with the lady who had spoken before me (representing a black cultural group in the University of Al-

bany) and said that every word has meaning; it is impossible to take the message of unification that a speaker preaches without being affected by the message of hate he/she spews (for example, calling for the unification of African-Americans as a nation while calling Jews bloodsuckers and the root of all evil). No true leader blames a whole group of people for all his/her group's problems and sees their destruction as a solution. Finally, I asked that it be made clear to all speakers that they must come with clear and positive points when they speak or they won't be accepted because everyone knows that if they are spreading hate then they are just trying to take our money. (Speakers can cost thousands to perform).

I believe this time was very well spent and a lot stands to be learned from these experiences. Feel free to discuss these matters or any others with me. 781-8139, Mo 224.

Over the next four weeks representatives of the student council will be coming to your rooms to tell you what we are doing and ask for your suggestions and/or complaints. Please give them fair consideration as they are volunteering their time to help you.

Thanks,
Daniel Billig
Y.C.S.C. President
1994-1995

CAMPUS NEWS

CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday, November 30
Philanthropy Society — YCSC
Chanukah Chagiga for Russian
community
7-11:30 PM — Weissberg Commons

Thursday, December 1
YCSC, SOY, IBC, JSS, TAC, SCWSC
Chanukah Chagiga and Concert
8PM — Weissberg Commons
YC Wrestling vs. St. John's U.
7:30 PM — MSAC

Saturday, December 3
YC Basketball vs. Mass. Pharmacy
9:30PM (Away)

Sunday, December 4
YU Chanukah Dinner
Waldorf-Astoria - 4PM
YC Basketball vs. Mass. Pharmacy
9:30PM (Away)

Tuesday, December 6
YC Basketball vs. Cooper Union
8PM — MSAC

Wednesday, December 7
YC Wrestling vs. Wesleyan
6PM — Away

Thursday, December 8
Chemistry Club Speaker — Dr.
Regenstein of Columbia U.
Belfer 1610—Club Hour
YC Basketball vs. SUNY Maritime
8PM — MSAC

Friday-Saturday, December 9-10
Political Science Shabbaton at SCW

Sunday, December 11
Fourth Meeting of YCSC
10:30PM — Mo. 201

Monday, December 12
YC Basketball vs. Baruch
8PM — Away

YU

Commemorates Churgin's 100th Birthday

On Tuesday, Nov. 29 YU held a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Pinchas Churgin, who passed away in 1957. Dr. Churgin served as a YU dean and professor for 35 years before settling in Israel, where he founded and served as the first president of Bar Ilan University. Among those offering remarks were YU president Dr. Norman Lamm and Bar Ilan Chancellor Dr. Emanuel Rackman.

Highlighting the program, which took place in Furst Hall at 10:30 AM, was the official establishment of the annual Dr. Pinchas Churgin Prize in Jewish History.

-- Elie Borger



Morg Mart is now open for business, as this picture indicates

Morg Mart Finally Opens

BY SETH DYM

Hungry students from YU's largest dorm no longer have to make the trek to Rubin in order to get a bite, thanks to the November 20 opening of the "Morg Mart" in the basement of Morg. The small snack shop, open nightly from 9:00 PM until 1:00 AM, features many of the same items found in the Rubin Caf Store at substantial savings.

The store got off to a late start this year due to uncertainties with its SSSB funding. These uncertainties were understandable given the fact that in the past "Morg Mart" has not turned much of a profit. In order to alleviate this problem, extra funding was requested for a refrigerator, freezer, microwave, and coffee makers in the hope that the new equipment will keep the "mart" competitive with the Caf Store, which not only already boasts this equipment but also has the important advantage

of accepting the near-universal "caf card" as a method of payment. Because it is run by the student-led Joint Business Society of SSSB and not the administration, the mart cannot accept the "card."

The store will have to overcome other obstacles if it hopes to survive against their stalwart competition. Due to limited funding, publicity for the opening was limited; a few hand-written signs announcing the opening clearly paled in comparison to the polished menus and fliers widely distributed by the Caf Store. And the relatively inconvenient location in the basement (past the laundry machines and around a corner) only exacerbates their difficulties. Through no fault of their own, the "mart" is at a clear disadvantage, and unless the management can come up with some clever marketing ploys, it could be a long year for these young entrepreneurs.

Fresh Plans for Shenk Shul

BY NACHUM LAMM

It is the second-largest room on the Main campus, with the capacity to seat over three hundred people. Its architecture and design are magnificent. But the Florence and Sol Shenk Synagogue in the Schottenstein Center is today in a state of decay and disrepair, serving only as a storage room.

All this, however, could soon change. Upset with the current state of affairs, the Student Committee for the Restoration of the Shenk Synagogue (SCROTSS) has been formed for the express purpose of refurbishing the shul.

In conjunction with the Committee for Jewish Affairs, this group of students led by SSSB sophomore Michael Resnick has drawn up an outline of their plans for a newly refurbished shul as well as letters to various administration and board members requesting their support.

Stressing that the synagogue's current state was not in keeping with the "kavod" a shul deserves, Resnick delineated his plan to begin with an 8:00 a.m. minyan Monday through Thursday, with other *minyanim* and *shiurim* to come later. Resnick also hopes that the shul can once again be the home of the Rav Moshe Soloveitchik minyan, which was previously held in the build-

ing before YU bought it in 1983. This will hopefully lead to an increase in the use of the entire building.

Echoing Resnick, SOY President Yitzchak Book stated that the current state of the shul is a "disgrace", and, at the very least it should be cleaned up and maintained as a shul. He quoted an article in *The Commentator* which stated that YU had bought the building to keep it from being turned into a church and questioned whether the shul's current function as a storage room was indeed a more respectful use. In a meeting of the Student Life Committee, Book pledged SOY support for the students' goals and raised the possibility to the administration. Their response was that plans for repairs were already underway, and, while the University had some of its own ideas about possible uses for the room, it would be open to student ideas as well.

Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau stated his belief that most people, faculty and students alike, agree the shul should be restored and added that the issue had never before been actively "pushed" as it is now. Rabbi Blau also mentioned that a proposal had been made to relieve the overcrowded Batei Midrash by establishing one in this shul, and if the shul was indeed to be repaired, this would indeed, be a viable option.

Science Lab Upgraded

BY BENYAMIN COHEN

The science laboratories at YC and SCW have just begun to reap the benefits of last year's \$40 million Golding endowment. The \$50,000 of that endowment thus far made available to each campus has been used at YC for the purchase of a Carbon Dioxide Incubator and a Thermocycler, which will allow students to conduct DNA fingerprinting next semester. In addition, the labs in Furst Hall have been the recipients of more comfortable stools and a fresh coat of paint.

According to Dr. Carl Feit, chairman of the division of natural sciences and mathematics, an additional portion of the Golding endowment was designated "to enhance and support undergraduate biomedical sciences at YU." The science faculty in conjunction with the deans of YC and SCW are deciding how to use that money. The \$100,000 that has been forwarded to the science departments so far is only the first installment of the funds Feit hopes will be invested in undergraduate sciences. "We are hoping to set up committees that will determine priorities in spending for all the sciences and undergraduate laboratories," he said.

Nightmare In the Library

BY YOEL MAYERFELD

This past Wednesday night, November 16, a YC senior was mistakenly locked in the library after closing. After an hour in complete darkness, the senior, who requested that his name not be mentioned, found a phone and called 911. The lock-in occurred at 1:00 A.M., the library's closing time, when he was prevented from leaving the library with a reference book that had not been checked out for the night. As he was replacing the book on the fifth floor he noticed the lights go out. He then hurried to the elevator and took it back to the ground floor only to find it deserted and the doors locked. He felt his way behind one of the library's desks to use a phone, being that he had no change for the pay phones. He did not know the code for security (200) and the phone would not dial a seven digit number so he was forced to dial 911. The local police acted quickly and were on campus within the next ten minutes (approximately 2:10). Police informed security of the situation and he was released. Upon his belated exit from the building, he said, "I thought I'd be spending the night there".

The security guard on duty explained that this was a fluke. He explained that "the student was on a floor that had already been checked for people, while the library was being locked up".

Computer Room Needs Upgrade

BY MENASHE SCHAPIRO

In today's day and age the number of students needing access to adequate computer facilities increases almost as rapidly as the technology develops. It is therefore quite distressing to a growing number of YU students that the computer facilities in Belfer Hall have failed to meet to what they perceive as their current needs. For these students, ex-MIS professor Salb may have put it best when he quipped to his students last semester that "the computer room is state of the art — seven years ago."

Among those most affected are the computer science majors and S/Sy r

puter advisor Leonard Brandwein remains optimistic about the future of the computer facilities. He stated that Dean Nierenberg is considering filling room 1111 in Belfer Hall with 486's (which will be designed to run Windows.) He also noted that efforts are being made for a full time advisor in the computer room to oversee operations.

Lack of Hardware

The problem of backward technology lies mostly in the lack of updated hardware. Most of the current computers are not the industry standard 486 which are needed to run programs like Windows efficiently and with the emergence of

the cutting edge in computer technology is an absolute must. MIS major Uri Schechterman explained that "Sy Syms students have to be familiar with the latest software, and with other universities updating their systems, many [students] are one step behind the competition."

One of the clearest examples of primitive technology affecting performance is the case of viruses. As the technology advances, so does the sophistication of the viruses, necessitating a more refined method for weeding them out. These dangerous viruses infect disks and often cause irreparable damage. In fact, MIS professor Teich instructed his classes not to use their marketing and research disks in the computer room for fear of infection.

To alleviate this problem, computer room operator Daniel Ritsma noted that "we need to install a menu system on the computer, so that students can more easily navigate through the system. The organization and people will have an easier time scanning disks for viruses." Ritsma also suggested that more on-site operators should be available to "maintain and clean up the computers," which would help control the spreading of viruses.

Despite the complaints, faculty com-

are lagging even further behind.

Another common complaint is directed at the printers. The lone laser printer on the 11th floor is constantly inoperational, while the other laser printer in the Sy Syms office on the fourth floor of Belfer is not always available due to its use by the office for campus recruiting. "How is a person supposed to properly present a resume without access to a laser printer," lamented Schechterman. He also added that "these are things that need to be readily available if we are to compete with other schools for the top jobs."

According to Brandwein, efforts are being made to purchase near-letter quality Epson dot matrix printers along with the possible order of 486's. "These will be beneficial to all students, because the computers will be available to all when classes are not in session," he explained, and expressed his hope that the new order will be in place by the spring semester. But for many students, the computer room is still substantially lacking important elements. MIS major Jay Koffsky may have summed up the prevailing sentiment best when he stated that "in order to attain certain educational goals, one must buy his own computer."

Philanthropy Society Struggles to Keep up Programs

BY AARON KLEIN

Many students at YU take the availability of food for granted. No one imagines walking into the cafeteria for dinner only to be told that no food is being served that night due to a shortage of funds. But for many beneficiaries of YU's Philanthropy Society programs, this nightmare is becoming a grim reality.

Every Sunday, representatives of the Philanthropy Society of Yeshiva University, through a program known as "Meals on Wheels," distribute food to homeless Jews in the Chelsea section of Manhattan. However, due to the lack of funds, the club has recently faced severe problems in financing the program.

The "Meals on Wheels" program, which also delivers Shabbos meals to 20 homebound elderly people in Washington Heights, costs over \$5,000 a year. Considering that the Philanthropy Society has only been allotted \$4,150 by the student council, the reasons for the Society's financial problems are eminently clear.

The Philanthropy society also runs other worthwhile programs which re-

quire many more thousands of dollars. They include projects such as the annual Chanukah *chagigah* concert for Russian Jews being held tonight in Belfer, as well as classes held for these recent immigrants four nights a week in Furst Hall. YC students also visit homebound elderly every week.

Despite the shortage of funding, the club, led by Ziv Mendelsohn and Dovid Meisels, insists that all current programs will be preserved and that there will even be some new ones instituted. To uphold this promise, the club has turned to other sources for funds. They have solicited donations from alumni as well as collected tzedakah from around the university. They have also begun to cut costs and are trying to get organizations to donate the food for their "Meals on Wheels" program. However, the club is still in desperate need of financial assistance to insure the continuation and enhancement of their ongoing programs. As Raphael Gross, treasurer of the Society, noted: "Jewish people...depend on us, we hope we can depend on the YU community's generosity to keep us afloat."

Senate Applicants Dissatisfied Over Handling of Selection Process

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

Last month, the YC Senate selected three new members to its group, Avi Miller, Dov Kalton and Ari Hirt. The application process included the submission of an essay on an "academic topic" by the approximately forty prospective candidates, followed by interviews given to a select group of 15 to 20 students. After long hours of meetings and discussions, along with second and third interviews of many of the applicants, the final choices were made.

But some applicants were unhappy with the process, which they felt could have been dealt with in a more professional manner. "I was told that I would be given an interview, and be notified of the time and place of the interview within the next few days. Instead, two weeks later I was notified of the selection of other students into the Senate and [told] that this selection had taken place the week before," commented YC Junior David Merklin. "I understand now that it was most likely a misunderstanding or miscommunication, and I hold no grudge against them, but I just wish the whole process would have been handled more professionally."

Also, one of the applicants interviewed resented the fact that many of the ideas he had developed in the interview were now going to be used without

his participation. "If they liked my ideas enough to follow through with them, then they should have realized where they were coming from and acted accordingly," noted the anonymous applicant. Another applicant was given an interview on very short notice and consequently felt that he was not given sufficient time to prepare.

Despite these criticisms, Chairman of the Student Senate Richie Socloff feels that "the selection process is one of the most professionally run in the college." He added that "by requiring an essay before we give out interviews, we are able to better gauge the benefits to be gained from each of these applicants, and give them a more formal means to express their views." As far as the specific concerns stated here, Socloff agrees that even though in the end there may have been some misunderstanding, every effort was made to ensure full communication between the current members and the prospective ones. As an example he cited a letter of thanks sent to every applicant. Socloff is also pleased that students were open with him about their feelings on the process and encouraged students to continue voicing their opinions in the future. "The Senate welcomes advice and comments on any act that we do, especially when these comments lead to a more efficient Senate and therefore more benefits for the student body as a whole."

WYUR Back on Track

BY MICHAEL SPIVAK

After a month-long delay, WYUR finally hit the airwaves on Sunday evening, November 13. The first week's shows were varied and ranged from hard-core conservative political rhetoric to an Arabic music pageant. Most students expressed satisfaction with the station's program lineup, and WYUR's phone line was heard in the background of most shows to be ringing off the hook.

Sunday's program lineup featured the return of the "What Are You Hocking About?" show with hosts Eli Duker and Ilan Haber. Many interesting halachic questions were raised, including one caller who asked if a man could be *mekadesh* a woman over the Internet.

On Monday, "Shirim V'Shiurim," a show produced by the Israel Club, premiered. The show featured popular Israeli songs and some Hebrew conversation as well. Many YU students who had spent a year in Israel experienced a sense of nostalgia after hearing the rapid-fire Hebrew over the airwaves. The Arabic Music Show was next. It featured songs with exotic Arabic chants and unique Middle Eastern melodies.

The biggest surprise of the night was the premiere of "The Right Stuff," a political talk show hosted by Aaron Leff and Eric Heine. The hosts took a decidedly right-wing point of view and were challenged by various callers. Their first show featured an impassioned debate with a caller who asserted that Leff and Heine's extreme brand of conservatism verged on neo-Nazism. The hosts vehemently denied the charges and stated that liberals were more of a threat to Orthodox Judaism than conservatives.

Leff argued that "the majority of students at YU do consider themselves conservatives" and said that he believes Orthodox Judaism has goals "which are similar to the Republican-conservative movement." He conceded, however, that there were some politicians in the conservative movement who many people would call anti-Semites.

Leff admits that he is pleasantly surprised at the response to his show by the YU audience: "I'm very happy with the two shows that we have had so far...I was warned in the beginning of my radio career at WYUR that I shouldn't depend on phone calls, but so far, the student body has been very supportive of the show." Leff also gave credit to the other right wing conservative talk shows on WYUR that he said were turning WYUR into a "really great radio station."

Another show which produced instant controversy was "Chatting It Up With Susan And Beth." The hosts discussed many sensitive topics, including the issue of condom distribution on college campuses, which led many irate listeners to phone in with their comments.

By far the most entertaining show of the week in the eyes of many students was Tuesday night's "Reality Check" with Daniel Brody and Daniel Ehrenreich. Listeners said that the chemistry between Brody and Ehrenreich was perfect, and the show instantly gained the reputation of being the funniest program on 640 AM.

As WYUR entered its second week of broadcasting, it introduced a new feature to its lineup: five minute hourly news segments, consisting of the latest global and national issues, sports, weather, and campus news.

Twenty Students Going To Chanukah Dinner

BY JOSH ENGLAND

Although the guest list of YU's annual gala Chanukah Dinner, to be held December 4, is always replete with well-known individuals from both the Jewish and secular worlds, there is a group of attendees who do not receive as much attention. This group, composed of 20 YC and SSSB students, represents the student body and was chosen solely by YCSC President Daniel Billig. The figure of 20 students, double the amount invited last year, was made possible by the purchase of five tables by a donor.

Why invitestudents to what is ostensibly a fundraising event? Billig explained that "students make up what goes on and should be present at any official ceremony to make it complete." The dinner enables the students to come together with the other parts of the university. Efrem Nulman, YC Dean of Students, commented that "these students are the heart and soul of the Yeshiva and it is our achrayus and responsibility to invite them."

Although hobnobbing with the YU aristocracy sounds enjoyable, the dinner is not just food and fun for these students. They assist with the academic convocation — particularly the robing of the doctoral degree recipients. But according to Dean Nulman, they will

still have time to sit and eat.

In determining the invitees, Billig felt it was important that the different parts of the university be represented. Thus, he invited the president and vice-president of SSSB, SOY, IBC and JSS, as well as all of the class presidents. Also receiving an invitation were the executive members of the YCSC board, the Student Court, and the Student Senate.

Another interesting point was the fact that not one invitation was offered to a president of one of the many student clubs on campus. One YC senior complained that "something is clearly amiss when the Student Senate receives two invitations while not one of the major active clubs on campus will be represented at the dinner."

The final list of students invited read: Daniel Billig, Yosel Helft, Chaim Leffel, and Jeremy Lustman from YCSC; class presidents Ezra Cohen, Eric Berkowitz, Jason Buskin, and Jonathan Klein; Ziv Mendelson and Daniel Gibber from SSSB; Yitzchak Book and Daniel Davis from SOY; Adam Cohen and Steven Gordon from IBC; Jake Freiman and Ronn Yaish from JSS; Moshe Kinderlehrer, editor-in-chief of *The Commentator*; Brian Grosberg, chief justice of the Student Court; Richard Soclof and Isaac Sasson, chairperson and secretary, respectively, of the Student Senate.

JSS Student Council Taking Action

BY OREN S. KEISER

In an attempt to fully meet the needs of its diverse student body, JSSSC has begun the year instituting new programs and improving current ones.

The activities of the JSS student council began even before the school year did, as JSS student leaders spent time during orientation assisting new students with schedule planning. The goal of the program was to eliminate much of the confusion endemic to registration. JSSSC continued its activities into the first few weeks of the year by selling *gemarot*, resulting in an overflow of students in its office looking to make purchases.

One of the most successful programs run by JSSSC is its daily minyan. Under the auspices of Rabbi Jacobson, some of the special features of this minyan include a free breakfast and the allotment of extra time after davening to allow those students new to the prayers additional time to complete them at a reasonable pace. JSSSC has also helped improve the students' davening by convincing the Office of the Dean to end JSS classes ten minutes early to allow the students sufficient time to daven mincha.

Other programs initiated thus far by JSSSC include a Tzizit sale and a mezuzah and tefillin check by a qualified *sofer*.

For Chanukah, JSSSC will be giving out thick candles to light on Friday night, to insure that each student's candles will remain lit long enough to fulfill his obligation. Members of JSS have also been instrumental in the planning of the



JSS Student davening at JSS Minyan

upcoming Chanukah Chagiga for Russian Jews to be held in Weissberg Commons Wednesday, Nov. 30.

The JSS student council, however, is not content to rest on their laurels. Several major programs for the spring semester are currently in the works. Among them are a reasonably priced trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC and a seminar on *yeshivot* in Israel.

With all these various programs, JSSSC is well on its way to meeting the needs of its varied student body. JSS student leaders are hopeful that their initial successes will help set the tone for the rest of the year.



Dr. Israel Miller was feted at a private farewell ceremony thrown in his honor by the Yeshiva College Alumni Association on November 15 in Belfer Hall. Shown here is Dr. Miller at last year's RIETS Board Dinner.

New Masmid Editors Chosen

BY STEVEN MIDDOWNIK

The release of Masmid '94, the yearbook of Yeshiva College's graduating class of '94, is expected in January, seven months after graduation. The newly appointed editors of Masmid '95, David Schertz and Jonathan Landa, are confident that the fruit of their labor will be ready for release in a shorter amount of time, certainly before January 1996.

Schertz is optimistic because work on the yearbook has actually begun in the

fall semester, unlike last year. The two editors have met with the publisher, the photography staff has been chosen, and other staff members are soon to be chosen. Additionally, the editors asserted that "the Masmid offices in Schottenstein are asbestos-free" and that "they would not be recruiting anyone of questionable religious affiliation who would promote the secularization of Masmid."

Yearbook picture-taking has been scheduled for Dec. 12-15, and all seniors are urged to avail themselves of the photographic service.

Sophomore Class Holds Midtown Scavenger Hunt

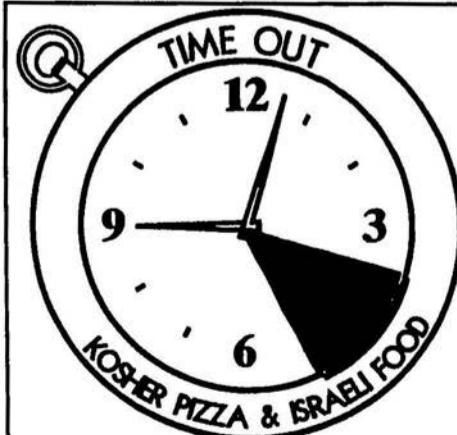
BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The sophomore class sponsored its first event of the fall 1994-95 semester on Thursday night, November 17, holding a scavenger hunt in the middle of Midtown Manhattan.

The evening's activities, planned by YC and SCW sophomore class presidents Jason Buskin and Debbie Bielory, began with pizza at Jerusalem II. There was an impressive showing, with over 100 people in attendance. After dinner, more than 50 students participated in the scavenger hunt which sent people all over the city looking for such items as "the flags that surround Zion," the frequency of the revolutions that the Marriott Marquee hotel restaurant "The View" makes, and the number of benches at the 54th St. entrance to Rockefeller Center.

Buskin was very pleased with the turnout for the event. He remarked that he and his counterpart at Stern had tried to come up with an unconventional social activity, one that had not been done before. Buskin said that most of those participating brought back a significant percentage of the items requested. The winning team, which consisted of SCWSC President Laura Gross, Samson Fine, Josh Fine, and Owen Cyrulnik, was able to find nearly all of the 74 items requested on the four sheets.

Each student who attended the scavenger hunt was given a tee-shirt that was included in the \$7 fee. In the end, the student councils of Stern and YC took home a several hundred dollar profit. The winning team will be treated to dinner at YCSC and SCSCW expense some time during the semester.



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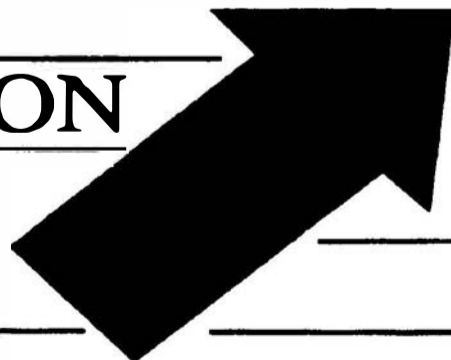
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Remembrances: Aaron Heller z"l

The following are contributions by Aaron's closest friends meant to help preserve his memory:

The Levayah

Even the heavens cried at Aaron's levayah. They had perceived the elderly, the critically ill, and the infirm arriving at the final resting place, now observing a strapping twenty-one year old, in the prime of life, This scenario was too much even for the heavens to bear.

It was erev Shabbat, with only three hours to the time of candle lighting. This was a unique erev Shabbat -one in which friends, relatives and classmates gathered at Old Montefiore Cemetery to bid farewell to a lovely young man - Aaron Heller.

From the YU administrators and rebbes, to his college classmates, family members, West Orange neighbors and friends who gathered that Friday, the consensus was clear.- Aaron Heller's soul was a most gentle and kind one. All could agree that his "derech erez" for others was exemplary, and, that indeed a "Neshama Tehorah" had been summoned back to its maker.

Those of us who knew him well, knew him as an avid Yankee fan and movie aficionado. The coincidental confluence of the baseball strike, with the Yankees clearly headed for the pennant was a cause for dismay to Aaron.

He enjoyed working with children. For the past five years, he had worked summers in a local day camp. As an unapologetic sports enthusiast, he loved baseball and basketball. Aaron had the unique personality that allowed him to have friends both older and younger than himself.

His sudden and unexpected passing was a source of unfettered grief and bereavement to the many who had come to admire and respect him. Throughout his few and tender years, no one had ever heard a word of despair or witnessed any diminution of his faith in Hashem. As one who gracefully accepted his fortune in life, he fulfilled the Mishnaic definition of the rich man.

What lesson can we learn from this twenty-one year old who has left his earthly classes for the "Yeshiva shel maalah?"

Aaron's legacy to us is clear. one's faith in G-d should never waiver nor diminish even when faced with disproportionate adversity. This is the sacred teaching of dear Aaron that we shall cherish in our collective memories, and, one which he bequeathed to us with his very life.

As one friend put it with tears of grief, "He was an all around great person with whom to be friends."

Those, of all ages, who knew him will very much miss him.

Reflections by Friends

Thank G-d, I am very lucky to have many good friends.. There's nothing like sitting around with a couple of good friends and shmoozing about life. But who has time for that in college. Everyone has different schedules: classes, chavrusas, girlfriends, etc. Good friends are fun to be with, but they can rarely leave one with an impression of themselves when they are not around.

A best friend transcends distances of time and space which can preclude communication and bonding. A best friend is someone who can make himself felt even when he is on the second floor and you are on the seventh or when he is in Sociology and you are sitting in a History class. It's about feeling someone's presence and Hashpa'a and seeing him, even when he is nowhere in sight.

Aaron, I was very lucky to have you as a best friend. You were always there for me. I never had to wait. No class, report, assignment, or scheduling inconvenience was more important to you than our friendship. You were always in sight. No one will ever know the type of Hashpa'a you had on my life.

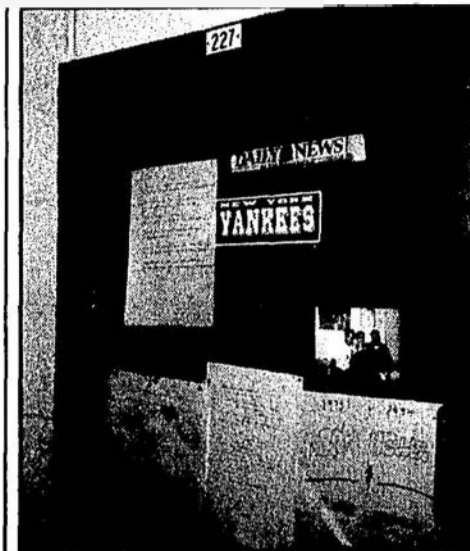
I will always love you, "Von Garon"

In each setting Aaron encountered, he set up the most comfortable accommodations and adopted the place as his own. Whether it was at Camp Kehila (Union, NJ YMHA Day Camp), his shul, Rubin Hall, the local ball field, or Yankee Stadium, Aaron always found his niche. He sat either behind first base or in the right field bleachers and knew the "Bleacher Creature" by name. Aaron took first base like Mattingly and wished he shot baskets like Bird but above all, he played sports with an indescribable menschlachkite enthusiasm.

I've never seen anyone set up a room as cozily as Aaron Heller. From the time I dormed next door to him two years ago until this year, his room doubled as a lounge. Far removed from the YU rat race, this quiet kibbitzer, hospitable shmoozer, and quality friend was cut out for social work. Aaron started his fourth year on campus knowing what he wanted out of life. "I'll work with people", he once told me, "I know I won't make a lot of money but I'll be happy." While he did not have any siblings, he certainly had many brothers. Thanks for the memories, big guy. A Friend.



Aaron pictured at Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield Massachusetts



Aaron's door in the Rubin dorm -- decorated with messages from friends

Cause of Death Unknown

continued from page one

assistance. The team of Weiner, Levenbrown, and Elly Berlin, also a Hatzalah volunteer, then attempted to move Heller downstairs, and were surprised by his tenacity; despite his weakened state, he managed to slide over onto the stretcher and assist the Hatzalah volunteers in aiding him. Berlin, Levenbrown, and two security members then physically carried him downstairs, where a paramedic waited in an ambulance to administer full life support. But as Heller was being transported downstairs, the technicians were shocked to see that his breathing had come to a halt, as his complexion quickly went from a pale white to an eerie shade of purple. Realizing that emergency treatment was called for, they laid him down on the floor in the Rubin lobby and began administering it there.

As the team labored desperately trying to revive him, a small crowd gathered to witness the horrific scene. But most students were not content to simply look on; a spontaneous group crowded into the nearby Rubin Shul to say *tehillim* and pray on his behalf. Some of those students included Heller's close friends, who wished they could do more, but were forced to be content with their small yet significant role. Other students who didn't even know Heller, let alone the current state of affairs, joined in the prayers without asking questions. Only after a pause in the *tehillim* did they find out how dire the situation really was.

Meanwhile, after several minutes of feverish efforts, the Hatzalah technicians transferred Heller into an ambulance, where an experienced paramedic quickly went to work, administering both basic and advanced Life Support.

In the short two minute ride which Elishis described as "seeming to take seven hours," the ALS technician continued his efforts by administering injections, while students back at YU attempted to provide their own injection of faith with their *tefillot*. After the ambulance reached Columbia-Presbyterian, doctors worked behind a closed curtain trying to save Heller, while the technicians and small group which had accompanied Heller to the hospital waited anxiously. After twenty agonizing minutes, doctors emerged and confirmed everyone's worst fears —

Aaron Heller had passed away.

Shortly after 1 AM, word reached the packed Rubin Shul as a student solemnly announced Heller's passing. An instant silence overcame the room; many students stood frozen in place while others, numb and in shock, simply sat down and buried their heads in their hands.

At the hospital the small group was then faced with several formidable tasks, not the least of which was informing Heller's mother of what had transpired. There were other matters to be taken care of as well, such as arranging for a bus for students to the funeral the next day. Taking charge of the situation was Dean of Students Efram Nulman, who one student noted did "a fantastic job." Arriving at the hospital shortly after the ambulance did, he not only took care of the practical aspects such as the bus, he provided the much needed moral support both at the hospital and later back on Heller's floor in Rubin Hall, where Heller's roommate and several friends were first beginning to come to grips with what had occurred.

Cause of Death Unclear

Heller was afflicted with a rare in-born condition known as Wilson's disease. Characteristic of this disease is the body's inability to metabolize copper, causing it to build up in several places, particularly in the liver. Also related to the disease is a low platelet count, which can very often lead to a failure of the blood to clot. While Heller was on medication

the effects of this condition, it is speculated that its failure to work properly on that fateful day caused a copper build-up, which resulted in subsequent internal bleeding. And because of the ineffectiveness of the platelets, the blood failed to clot normally. Yet *halacha* prohibits any investigative method beyond a mere visual autopsy, and as a result, the exact cause of Heller's death will probably never be known. Students are left to contemplate only that on a cold November night, despite a strongly united YU student body and some tremendously courageous efforts by both a patient and his friends, Yeshiva University lost, in the words of someone who knew Heller well, "a great friend and a great guy."

Local Hatzolah And Students Serve University & Community

BY ARI HIRT

Until now, our sight has been myopic; all we would see were six students running in and out of classrooms carrying walkie-talkies. Unfortunately, it took the tragic passing of fellow classmate, Aaron Heller to broaden our perceptions. We can now look beyond the walkie-talkies and see the students tending to YU's Main Campus emergency medical needs responsibilities for who they really are.

In addition to being Yeshiva College students, Yosef Levenbrown, Yossi Schenker, Eli Berlin, Avi Hornstein, Hillel Wiener, and Motti Edelstein are also Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who volunteer for Hatzolah, the Jewish volunteer organization that provides pre-hospital emergency medical care. These students, along with more than twenty other members of the local Breuer's community, help constitute a team, independent of YU, servicing the emergency medical needs of the entire Washington Heights area. "In fact, very few of our calls come from YU; the majority of our calls come from Breuer's," remarks Yosef Levenbrown, who, along with Yossi Schenker is the most senior of the six members.

The number of calls per week varies. Some weeks each member may only answer one call, whereas other weeks they each may have five calls in one morning. No matter how slow or fast the week may be, they are on-call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. "I could be sleeping for over an hour," tells EMT Hillel Wiener, "and then BAM, I get a call and I could be up for the remainder of the night." It is such uncertainty that prevents the Hatzolah members from setting too many appointments.

Hatzolah, originally founded by Sattmar Hasidim twenty years ago, is a Brooklyn-based organization which provides pre-hospital care for the sick and injured in the New York area. The EMT's responsibilities include arriving at the scene and finding out what is wrong - whether the problem is a medical illness or a traumatic injury? They then take the necessary measures to insure that the patients make it to the hospital in stable condition. All EMTs are equipped with duffel bags which contain trauma and oxygen kits. When the situation demands for a procedure to be performed by a paramedic, one of the three Hatzolah paramedics in the Washington Heights area is called to the scene.

What differentiates Hatzolah from the NYC EMS, the municipal emergency medical service? "Our response time is superior," answers Hillel Wiener. In Hatzolah there exists a 90 second rule. When the first call goes out, only those EMTs within 90 seconds of the scene are encouraged to answer. The closest technician responds directly, while the other EMTs arrive on the scene with an ambulance. The average response time for EMS in this area is 8 minutes for priority life threatening calls, whereas Hatzolah

facilitates a quick response with its 90 second rule.

The reason why Hatzolah is capable of implementing such an efficient "90 second rule" is because it is a localized, neighborhood-based volunteer service. In any given Jewish community in New York, a certain number of technicians are stationed over a particular number of blocks. Therefore, they are very familiar with the homes and immediately recognize the addresses in the neighborhood. Yosef Levenbrown tells how five Hatzolah people could conceivably be on the same block from where the call is emanating - making the response time thirty seconds or less. Undoubtedly, achieving positive results is directly related to Hatzolah's well noted quick response time.

Even though Hatzolah operates in the Washington Heights area and is particularly prominent within Yeshiva University, many students wonder why YU does not manage its own official emergency medical personnel and facilities. Shouldn't YU be taking more of an active role on-campus addressing the students' medical needs? YC senior and Hatzolah member Avi Hornstein feels that such measures are unnecessary. He explains, "the fact that we are a small university, located in Washington Heights - a community with an active Hatzolah - I don't think that it makes sense for YU to have something of its own." YC junior, EMT Hillel Wiener, though, suggests that YU should organize a database containing every student's medical records. Since YU security is operational at all hours of the night they would man this database. Then, while one security guard spells out a patient's Social Security number over the radio, the guard by the database could press a button, print out the record and bring it to the scene. Such a record, which describes the patient's medical history would surely assist Hatzolah in knowing how to treat the patient.

While these six students direct their time, effort, and emotion towards helping other Jews, many of them feel at times that fellow students treat their duties lightly. Hillel Wiener recalls one incident when he received a call while riding on the Belfer elevator. Students on the elevator began to mockingly comment, "Do you want us to stop the elevator for you? Come on, jump."

Even though such incidents may be rare, these occurrences still bother the Hatzolah members. After all, they are sacrificing their time for others. "When we miss class, we must make up the work," adds Wiener. Though "most teachers are understanding and accommodating but at the same time they can not say - 'Oh, I understand so don't worry about the midterm,'" noted Wiener.

They aren't asking for special treatment or demanding extra respect and recognition. They just want to do their job without any hassles and with the professional courtesy they deserve.

The Value of the Faculty

Second in a series on Yeshiva University's academic reputation

BY JOSH FINE AND DOV SIMONS

It is clear that a university's academic reputation is dependent upon its faculty. Professors must possess adept teaching skills, publish papers, and deliver lectures to the public. However, in order to obtain and maintain such a faculty, a university administration must insure that their professors are satisfied and content.

Faculty financial stability is an issue of major concern and cause of much dissatisfaction amongst YU professors. According to a report by the Humanities and Social Sciences Division *Ad Hoc* Committee on Faculty Compensation comparing YC and SCW 1991-1992 Faculty Salaries, YU pays its faculty significantly less than most other comparable institutions. Out of four-year, private colleges in the New York City metropolitan area, only Concordia University, a former Lutheran junior college, consistently pays its staff lower than Yeshiva University. Furthermore, no university from the Mid-Atlantic area with SAT scores similar to Yeshiva University, comes close to the low salaries of the YU faculty.

As degrading as the low pay may be, the fact that teachers possess no means to ameliorate their situation makes matters even worse. In 1980, the Yeshiva University Faculty Association (YUFA) attempted to form a union, and were recognized by the NLRB. The YU administration opposed YUFA by hiring top attorneys and bringing the teachers to court. The landmark case eventually made its way to the Supreme Court under the title *National Labor Relations Board vs. Yeshiva University*. The Supreme Court ruled that the faculty of Yeshiva University are considered part of management because they participate in the decision-making processes of the University, particularly standards for admission and graduation, as well as budget allotments. Due to their "managerial responsibilities" YUFA could not be protected by the NLRB, and a YU faculty union could only form if the administration agreed. As a result, the teachers were unable to join forces and YU became known around the academic community as the university which does not allow unionization.

The American Association of University Professors still blacklists Yeshiva University because of *NLRB vs. YU*. "New professors may be hesitant to choose to come here," said Political Science professor Dr. Ruth Bevan, "Professors think twice before coming here." However, lack of professor positions in the New York area often forces young scholars to consider coming here. "If offered a position, they would consider it," commented Psychology Professor Dr. Michael Palij. He also noted that a professor's personal beliefs cannot conflict with the unique philosophy of Yeshiva University, adding a fur-

ther constraint on the list of possible candidates for YU professorships. Still, English Professor Dr. Will Lee, a member of the Faculty Welfare Committee stresses, "YU must remain competitive if it hopes to attract the best new scholars."

The recent 3% pay raise is a lucid example of the faculty's lack of leverage in bargaining for improvement in procedures for tenure, retirement, or pay raises. According to Vice-President Schwartz, the Administration was debating a raise "from 3% to 5%," ultimately deciding on the lower end of the scale. However, a faculty report claimed the Board had mandated a 4% raise, and stated that even those numbers would be insufficient. Even though decisions by the Federal Reserve Board this past year have kept inflation at a relatively low level, holding off a greater disparity between the cost of living and faculties' salaries, the issue of health care still remains.

Schwartz understood the need for a pay raise, saying, "To the extent we can afford it, I am for it. We want faculty morale to be high, and to recognize the faculty in tangible ways." Obtaining funds specifically for the purpose of raising faculty salaries may be the solution. Professor of Music Dr. Noyes Bartholemew, a member of the Faculty Welfare Committee, said, "What is needed, and the need is great, is a substantial commitment by the Board and by fund-raisers over the years." Citing such universities as Dartmouth and Middlebury, he called for fundraising for faculty raises, salaries competitive enough to attract young teacher-scholars, and endowing professorial chairs.

Administrators insist that distinguished professors come to Yeshiva University, such as the recent arrival of SSSB professor of management Dr. Ivar Berg, a former professor at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Schwartz is set to announce the arrival of two well-known scholars over the next two years; Jewish History Professor Steven Katz from Cornell and Chemistry Professor Roald Hoffman, a Nobel Laureate, with the latter staying for two semesters. But many professors feel the University is giving up on the permanent faculty in exchange for high profile visiting professors. Dr. Lee commented, "bringing them in is a great idea, but not if it takes money away from the salary of regular, permanent professors."

Dr. Lee and other professors feel that the University should concentrate on attracting talent by offering more attractive salaries. Such efforts would also help retain high quality staff members. Professors could then afford to be more focused on YU students, and the course offerings Dr. Lee concluded, "It is not so important that we have merely an academic reputation. We don't need to be Harvard. We do need to maintain a high level of education."

Dean Announcement Delayed by Contract Negotiations

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[Decanal Search] committee." When Adler's name came up a few times in the course of the interview, Schwartz would invariably ask, "Who?" or "Do I know him?" Schwartz did note that he hopes to make a public announcement on the issue in the next few weeks or so.

The *Commentator* was able to learn from a number of high-level administrative sources that among the issues still undecided in talks between Adler and YU is the matter of when he will be taking over the position. The sources indicated that YU hopes to have Adler installed as early as the start of the Spring 1995 semester. Obviously, the issue revolves around how soon Adler would be able to vacate his current post at Northeastern. However, as of press time, the details are still unclear.

A "Traditional" Jew

However, members of the YU community are elements are concerned about Adler's level of religious observance. Though one high-level administrator called Adler "a traditional Jew who will be sensitive" to the unique religious atmosphere of YC, a number of faculty members raised concerns that the choice indicates, as one YC rabbi put it, "a secularist takeover" of YC.

Indeed, the decision to choose Adler is seen by some as an attempt to sideline the role of religion in the administration of YC. Others considered by the Search Committee, including, among others, YC professors Carl Feit and Bernie Firestone, and Dr. Claude Schochet of Wayne State University were all, "models of Torah U'maddah," said one YU administrator.

Some faculty members and Roshei Yeshiva say that Adler's level of observance is relevant, as some view the dean as a role model for the students. However, one longtime professor, speaking anonymously, dismissed the religion issue as "absolutely irrelevant...the dean is an academic officer, not a theologian."

A vocal minority, though, angrily maintains that Adler was chosen to advance the "agenda" of Dr. Sheldon E. Socol, the university's Vice President for Business Affairs who has reportedly pushed for a non-Orthodox candidate during the entire dean-search process. They explain that Socol believes the col-

lege's academic reputation would be enhanced by the selection from outside the university community. Indeed, the decision to bypass professors who know the campus for an outsider is viewed as a victory for those who have advocated focusing on YC's academic strength in its recruitment efforts.

A Tough Job Ahead

When Adler does assume the deanship, taking the reins from the YC Dean Ad Interim, SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg, he will quickly face decisions on personnel and on other longer-range issues. Though Nierenberg, as YC dean, has been making virtually all of the decisions necessary for the day-to-day operations of YC, he has held himself back from initiating and implementing a few long-term projects and decisions. "I'm just not going to get involved in things which I will be unable to see through to completion," explained Nierenberg. He anticipates being able to, once again, resume his full-time duties as SSSB dean early next semester, though he did indicate his willingness to stay on at YC if YU would require his assistance.

Student Response

Overall, student response to news of the new dean has been decidedly mixed. Ilan Haber, a YC senior and executive editor of *Hamevaser*, explained his viewpoint, "I think it [the dean's level of observance] makes a difference, but I don't know the man. It's hard for me to comment."

JSSC President Jake Freiman, however, took a stronger position on the issue of religious observance. "I think there is nothing wrong with having a non-observant dean...He'll definitely be more compassionate for the students [at YC] because of the structure with the double program...a religious dean may take the Judaic studies for granted," he said. He concluded by stating, "No one can please everyone."

YCSC Vice President Yosef Helft concurred with Freiman. Explained Helft, "He [the dean] doesn't have to be religious... just as long as he understands that Torah comes first."

YC senior Yosef Crystal, on the other hand, sounded a cautionary note, "I'm unsure what this will mean for the future of the college."

RESPONSA

We Were Never Asleep

To the editor:

The intent of this article is not to refute the opinions expressed in "Wake up, MYP" of the previous issue of the *Commentator*. However, I feel obligated to explain that MYP is currently wide awake. The serious students of MYP start their morning seder between 9 and 9:15. At 12:00 the lunch period begins. It ends for all shiurs at 12:45. No shiur imposes a one hour break for lunch; only a couple of shiurim have another 15 to 45 minutes which is used as an extension of the morning seder in order to give the talmidim proper time to go about their shiur preparation. There are many students who take breaks for lunch that last significantly less than the allotted time. In addition, most shiurim end at 2:45 and then daven mincha. Most of these serious students have night seders which last at least as long as two hours and as long as ten hours.

MYP also has incorporated hashkafa and halacha inyanim into its curriculum. Its Rebbeim discuss these issues when the need arises. The Wednesday night shiur in the Main Beis Medrash also addresses these issues and is attended by many MYP students. Thus it is evident that longer learning time can be combined with these important inyanim without any real need to create any new programs.

One of the statements by Shmidman which hurt me the most was the fact that he quoted a doctor to prove that there is a major sleepiness problem during shiur. His claims attempt to prove that all MYP talmidim except those of Rabbi

Parnes's shiur are not fully alert during their respective shiurim. This claim is absurd since a person with the proper amount of sleep will be able to stay alert during a shiur no matter what time it is given at, and a person who has had insufficient sleep will be unable to function properly at any time.

Sunday is an essential part of the week of the MYP student. There is an obligation to learn Torah every day and there is no reason why Sunday should be different. If a student wants to have Sundays off then he could go to IBC or JSS; the Yeshiva does not need another Sunday-less program.

Moreover, I feel that even after Shmidman in his article has cut the difference between MYP and GBMP from two hours to thirty minutes, that the extra 2500 minutes, or 42 hours per year, not including the Sundays and night seder of the MYP student, is definitely something to worry about. The many serious students of MYP should not have a hava amina of switching to GBMP even b'dieved, as opposed to the "I'chatchila" din which Shmidman claims "will push many YU students' Torah education from good to superb." Less learning can not be "superb." Therefore, I believe that GBMP would only be suitable for those non-serious students in MYP whose learning is minimal and can be increased. It is those students who make MYP look like a sleeping bum, whereas it is really awake in Torah learning at all times of the day everyday.

—Joseph Markowitz YC '96

The Only Difference is the Name

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as well as the *shakla v'tarya* in less applicable *gemaras*. All of these areas are necessities for life outside the Yeshiva. The surveys also showed that the majority of students are aware of the difficult realities associated with a three hour morning seder followed by as much as seven hours of college courses. Students preferred less unsupervised seder and more productive use of the remaining time.

The result of these studies is The Golding Beit Midrash Program. Only one-and-a-half hours of supervised seder with

hashkafa and *halacha shiurim* are ingredients of an existing program—IBC. The only tangible difference between IBC and GBMP is the name. One is called a college, the other a Beit Midrash Program. The name fosters the infamous stigma. Some students cannot come to grips with going to Yeshiva University without attending a Yeshiva program. The Golding Beit Midrash Program has tremendous potential. It is unnecessary to look elsewhere to reach it; now is the time to accept IBC for what it is.

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RESPONSA

YC Needs

Interdisciplinary Majors

To the Editor:

Traditionally, in order to major in a subject at Yeshiva College, students are required to take 30 or more credits primarily in a single subject. However, today in our global society, we know that knowledge in various disciplines is necessary in order to be truly educated in most fields. Also, educational research shows that students retain more when courses are interrelated.

In order to break the paradigm in which students must concentrate a large number of credits in a single academic discipline, Yeshiva College should adopt a policy of designing interdisciplinary majors. Such a change would require a reorientation of college guidance personnel and department heads.

Some interdisciplinary majors would be easy to design. For instance, a major in American Society Since World War II would naturally include courses in history, economics, political science, sociology and Modern American Music. A major in Marketing, might include courses such as "Writing Copy for Marketing and Direct Advertising", from the English Department, "Entrepreneurship",

from the Management Dept., "Statistics for Business," and the "Psychology of Buyers' Behavior."

Other interdisciplinary courses of study may be harder to design. Therefore, it would be necessary to develop variations of current course offerings to meet students' needs, to develop new courses and to establish a system of mentoring for students with independent research interests. The latter would be particularly necessary for cases, in which providing a course for too few students would be prohibitive financially and for topics for which mentored independent research would be a preferred approach to learning.

Since our Senate has constitutional jurisdiction over academic curriculum and requirements for degree, it behooves them to facilitate a more flexible, interdisciplinary course of study, for their fellow students who would benefit from this program of courses and who are disadvantaged by the traditional course program. I urge the Senate to make this change a top priority issue in its deliberations this term.

Josh Fine YC '96

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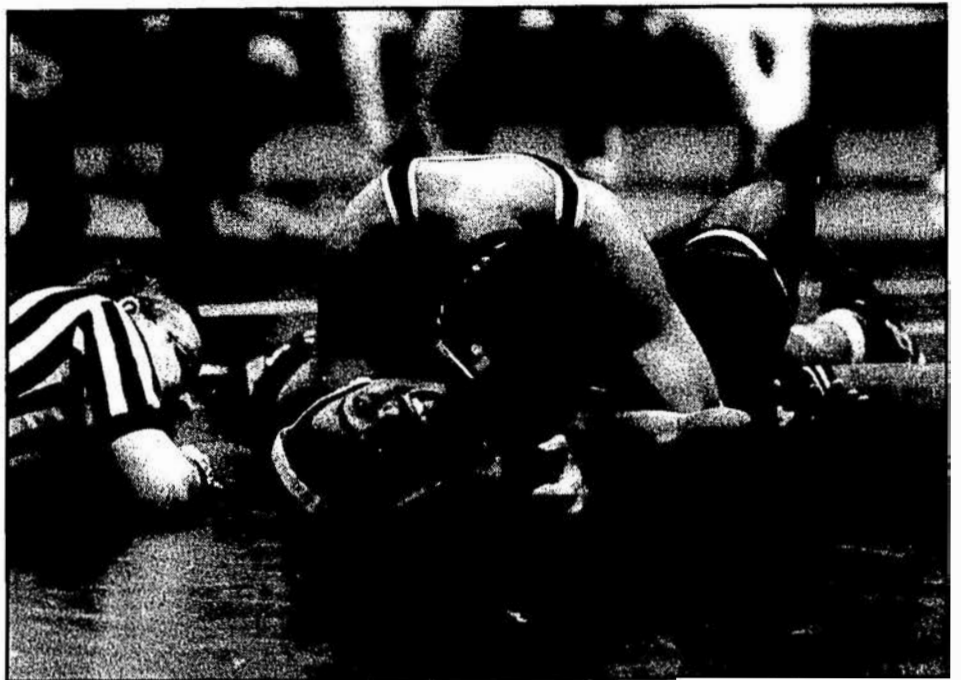
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Yeshiva Sports



Coach Halpert addresses the team late in the game, during a time-out



YC Wrestling captain Albert Sebag scoring the only Macs pin of the afternoon

MACS Overwhelmed By Upsala

Fall to 1-1

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

In a disappointing performance two Sundays ago at the MSAC, the YU wrestling team lost virtually every match but one to a dominating Upsala College team. Captain Albert Sebag was the only one who came through, with a solid pin, stuffing his opponents face into the mat.

However, in the rout, the YU team was upset at the larger weights of the Upsala wrestlers. To many on the team, the Upsala wrestlers appeared heavier than their listed weight classes and

blamed many of the losses on the size disparity. Coach Ellman was overheard discussing the problem with the Upsala coach after the match but no specifics were disclosed.

The MACS won't be down for long, though. This Thursday is a rematch against St. Johns, who the MACS destroyed in the first match of the season 48-16. This is another home match which should help bring the fans faith back in the team. According to Sebag, "The team is hungry. They will prove themselves again."

Macs Trounced by NJIT in Home Opener

BY ADAM MELZER AND DAVID LEVINE

The Macs home opener against NJIT can best be characterized as an up-and-down affair for the Macs and their fans. For a while, this game looked as though it was going to be interesting. Despite their multitude of turnovers and lethargic play, the Macs remained close to NJIT till about four minutes to play in the first half, trailing by only six points. But in the last four minutes, the zebras silenced the MSAC as they sent NJIT to the foul line eight times, resulting in a fourteen-point halftime lead for the nationally ranked visitors. The end of the first half was punctuated by a tremendous block by the NJIT big man, Christopher Kelly. (The ball is probably still rolling over the George Washington Bridge.)

In the second half, NJIT turned up the heat, opening with a 12-2 run which signaled the end for the home team; NJIT romped to a 96-58 win over the out of breath Macs.

Bright Spots

The Macs did show some bright spots,

however. Starting point guard Barry Aranoff poured in 13 points on 6-7 shooting. He showed tremendous confidence and exhibited to all in attendance why he is capable of anchoring the Macs at the guard position. Neil Bronstein (6 points) also showed signs of becoming a very solid force for the Macs in the future. Joel Jacobson displayed a nice shooting touch as he put in 12 points while grabbing seven rebounds.

Unfortunately, the strong individual performances could not make up for the Macs' lackluster fast break, and they also could not prevent the home team from consistently being beaten down the floor on defense. The Macs seemed fundamentally unsound as they repeatedly ran back on defense with their backs to NJIT, rather than backpedal properly.

Notes: Ohr Rose did not play due to injury, and Alan Levy played only sparingly due to the flu. David Ruditsky, a shooting guard with a nice outside touch, has joined the Macs in place of Issac Neuman, out due to knee surgery. And Daniel Blanc has joined the Macs practice squad.

Basketball Macs '94 Schedule

Tue 11/22/94	New Jersey Tech *	8:00pm/HOME	Thu 12/22/94	St. Joseph's College	8:00pm/HOME
Tue 11/29/94	City College of New York	8:00pm/HOME	Thu 1/5/95	John Jay College	8:00pm/HOME
Thu 12/1/94	Bard College *	8:00pm/AWAY	Mon 1/9/95	New York University	8:00pm/AWAY
Sat 12/3/94	Mass College of Pharmacy	9:30pm/AWAY	Tue 1/31/95	St. Joseph's College	8:00pm/AWAY
Sun 12/4/94	Mass College of Pharmacy	TBA/AWAY	Wed 2/1/95	New Jersey Tech **	6:30pm/AWAY
Tue 12/6/94	The Cooper Union	8:00pm/HOME	Sun 2/5/95	Mass. College of Pharmacy	4:30pm/HOME
Thu 12/8/94	SUNY Maritime *	8:00pm/HOME	Tue 2/7/95	City College of NY	7:30pm/AWAY
Sat 12/10/94	Stevens Tech *	8:15pm/AWAY	Thu 2/9/95	Polytechnic University *	8:00pm/HOME
Mon 12/12/94	Baruch College	8:00pm/AWAY	Sat 2/11/95	SUNY Maritime *	8:15pm/AWAY
Wed 12/14/94	Mt. St. Vincent *	8:00pm/AWAY	Mon 2/13/95	SUNY Purchase	8:00pm/AWAY
Sat 12/17/94	Polytechnic University *	8:00pm/AWAY	Wed 2/15/95	Stevens Tech *	8:00pm/HOME
Mon 12/19/94	Brooklyn College	8:00pm/HOME	Mon 2/20/95	IAC TOURNAMENT	8:00pm/TBA
			Tue 2/21/95	IAC TOURNAMENT	8:00pm/TBA
			Thur 2/23/95	IAC TOURNAMENT	8:00pm/TBA

Three-on-Three Tournament Returns

BY ELIE BORGER

The largest 3-on-3 intramural basketball tournament in the nation, in which 200,000 students from 800 colleges participate annually, returns to YU this week. The Schick Super Hoop competition is now in its eleventh year and has been at YU for the past 5 years since its introduction by Intramural Director and Assistant Director of Athletics Stan "the Man" Watson. The tournament is the official 3-on-3 collegiate basketball tournament of the National Basketball Association.

Last year, the team representing YU went 4-0 before being eliminated in regional action at Columbia University. This year's undisputed favorite team, the "Underdogs," is composed of Chaim Zakheim, Ari Ciment, Arkady Abraham, and substitute Hillel Olshin. Interestingly enough, all the aforementioned starters have declined offers to play for the Macs. Members of an opposing crew, "The Old New Caravaners" have threatened to "send the underdogs six feet under." The trash talk has begun and the competition is expected to be fierce.

The Commentator

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