

# The Commentator

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photo: YU Photography - Gary

## Dole Pledges Support for Israel at Channukah Dinner

### YU Announces \$65 Million Raised in 1994

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Two Sundays ago, YU held its annual Channukah Dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, bestowing honorary doctorates on incoming Senate majority leader Robert Dole and eight others. Over one thousand people attended the event.

At the Academic Convocation preceding the dinner, Senator Dole, in his first appearance in New York City since the recent elections, began by extending congratulations to YU President Dr. Norman Lamm for reaching the 18th year of his presidency. Noting the symbolism in the number eighteen, Dole went on to wish both Dr. Lamm and the University "long life and continued success."

Speaking softly to the packed room, Dole utilized the podium to pledge continued US support for Israel in the incoming Republican-led Congress. Drawing much applause, Dole noted, "Simply put, we have no closer ally than Israel...And



Senator Dole receiving honorary doctorate from Dr. Lamm

there can be no doubt US assistance to Israel has advanced our shared interests and values in a region unfortunately not noted for freedom and democracy."

Raising the issue of the ongoing peace talks, Dole first praised the "historic progress" achieved so far with the Palestinians and Jordan's King Hussein. He then went on to qualify

the steps taken so far, pointing out that "Israel still faces many serious threats. Many Palestinians still do not accept the right of Israelis to live in peace and security...The benefits of peace with the PLO remain illusive."

Citing serious concerns about the fiscal accountability of the Palestinian Authority in administering the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged by the international community, Dole suggested that ways be developed "to deliver aid directly to the Palestinian people." He did not divulge any details describing how such a procedure would work.

The senator also noted that any peace agreement reached with Syria would have to be backed up by "deeds and not words," calling upon Syria's President Hafez Assad to pursue peace as a "strategic course rather than a tactical opportunity." As for US involvement in maintaining any peace agreement reached with Syria, Dole

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## Dean Finally Official

### Norman Adler Next YC Dean

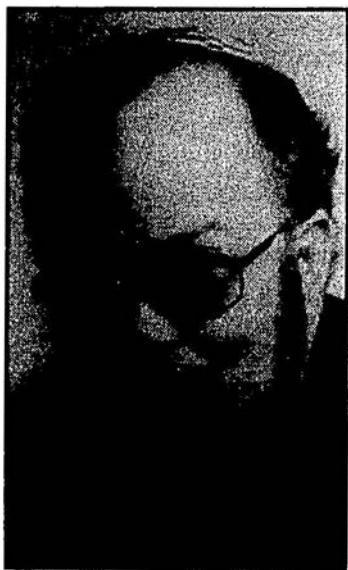
BY RYAN S. KARBEN

On Monday, Nov. 28, the University officially announced the appointment of Dr. Norman Adler to the Yeshiva College deanship.

The appointment, effective in March, has been well received by members of the YC student community. Though confusion still reigns with respect to Adler's level of religious observance, most students interviewed deemed the issue irrelevant, saying that the task before the Northeastern University provost is to raise the academic standards of the college.

Prior to coming to Northeastern University in 1993, where he currently serves as vice provost for research and graduate education, Adler was the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, where he had served on the faculty since 1968. He has also been a visiting professor at Swarthmore College and the University of Texas, a research professor at Drexel University, and a visiting scientist at the University of Edinburgh.

In a university-wide press



Next YC Dean Dr. Norman Adler

release issued on Dec. 5, President Norman Lamm described Adler as "ideally suited for the position by virtue of his immense academic achievement, his record of innovation as an administrator, and his commitment to preserving and advancing the College's distinctive mission and curriculum."

The same press release relates Adler assaying that Yeshiva University "has always represented the very highest ideals of the Jewish people....As I dis-

*continued on page 12*

## Hundreds Turn Out for First Ever Joint YC-SCW Channukah Chagigah

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Thursday night, December 1, nearly 800 students joined in the first annual joint YC-SCW Channukah Chagigah. The event was sponsored by all of the undergraduate student councils, including YCSC, SCWSC, SOY, TAC, IBC, and JSS. Neshoma Orchestra played throughout the evening, and the program also included a performance by Avraham Rosenblum.

The chagigah replaced the annual Channukah Concert which had traditionally been sponsored by YCSC. The concert was cancelled in favor of the chagigah due mostly to the fact that the concert perennially resulted in a loss of thousands of dollars. Additionally, the chagigah provided dancing and food in addition to the music that the concert traditionally included.



Avraham Rosenblum performs at the joint Channukah Chagigah

The spread of food that was provided included bagels and cream cheese from H & H, donuts from Dunkin Donuts and Latkes from Joseph's. The chagigah also proved to be a more enticing option because students were not charged for admission where-

as in recent years, concert tickets sold for over \$15.

There was near universal consensus among those who attended the chagigah that it was probably the most successful student council event in recent history. Student leaders, who dedicated enormous amounts of time and effort to planning and coordinating the Chagigah, were extremely satisfied with the results. YCSC President Daniel Billig commented that "This was one of the best events in five or ten years."

The real driving force behind the chagigah was YCSC President Yosef Helft, who dedicated time weeks before the event to hire the band, arrange for the food, and rent the rooms and equipment from Yeshiva University. YC Senior Samson Fine commented that "Helft's dedication

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## A Dose of Discipline for Midterms

The recent period of midterm examinations which unofficially began in mid-November and still continues for some, clearly illustrated how the absence of some form of schedule for these tests hurts the student body. Aside from the imbalance - when one student faces five exams within five days while another faces five within five weeks - problems of a different nature arise. Many students virtually eliminate their social lives during this four or five week period, since an exam "is always around the corner." Attendance in *seider* and *shiur* tends to decline somewhat as exams loom closer. Students often spend valuable research time for papers due later in the semester on late-November or early-December midterms, even during a regular academic year. And, as any club leader or elected student official will attest, finding an event date convenient for even a significant portion of the student body can prove quite challenging, if not impossible.

The current format benefits the faculty by offering them the flexibility necessary for some courses. But enough is enough. The few classes that truly require the extra time do not justify the unnecessary burden placed on students. We propose that student leaders and the Administration work together quickly to develop a plan which will designate two weeks in November and March as the official scheduling period of midterms (the recent week and a half before Thanksgiving, for example, constituted a perfect opportunity); different sections could be assigned different days, similar to the final exam schedule, to prevent any serious overlapping.

This proposal would significantly limit the inequality and lack of fairness in terms of scheduling. It would provide students with the proper time necessary to devote to researching full-semester papers. It would put the entire college on a fairly uniform schedule, allowing student leaders to more successfully provide events and opportunities. And while it may not eliminate *shiur* and *seider* absences entirely, it will certainly increase the potential for attendance during the two weeks no longer used for midterms.

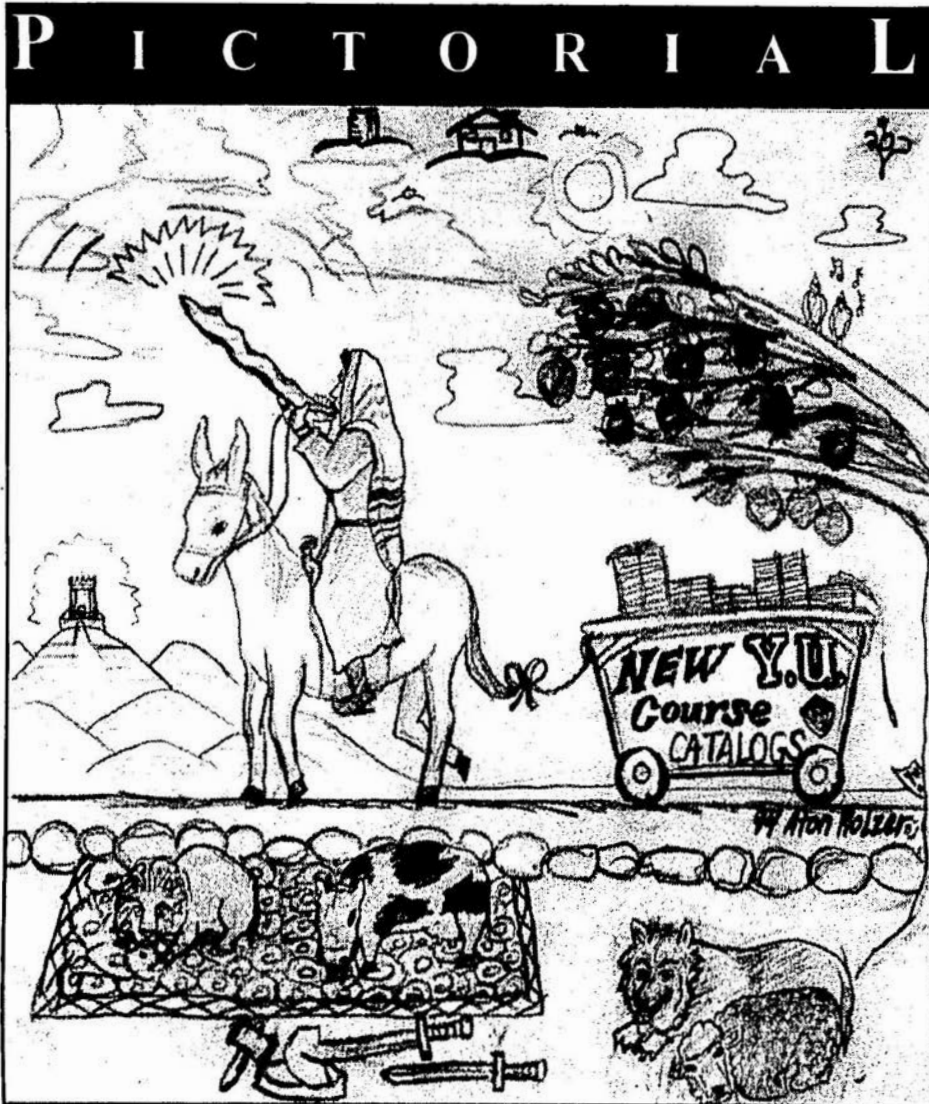
The kinks need to be ironed out, but this constitutes a viable alternative to the present situation. However, the responsibility lies with the student body to demand this or any other change of its student leaders and the Administration. Otherwise, we might be studying for midterms at the *seider* table.

## Dial 1-800-YU-SECURITY

It's 2 AM. You emerge from the subway terminal into the eerie nighttime darkness of Washington Heights. You approach the public phone and pick it up, all the while fishing in your pocket for a quarter so you can call the security van to pick you up. No quarter. Leery of yet another \$1.50 charge on your calling card, you opt to walk back to campus.

While not the stuff of horror films, a walk from the A train to the dorm is not recommended for those concerned about their personal safety. But if we can't change the neighborhood, we should certainly try to preserve student safety to the greatest extent possible. Making the van easier to get ahold of is an important step.

It's time for the Department of Security to explore the possibility of instituting a round-the-clock 800 number for students to call when in need of a pick-up. The cost would not be significant, but the improvement in student safety would be immeasurable.



# The Commentator

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## To the Editor LETTERS

## No Misconceptions About IBC

To The Editor:

In the Responsa column of last issue's *Commentator*, reference is made to an incident where two IBC students learning in the Beit Midrash were told by "one Rabbi" that the seats were needed for MYP. This incident was perceived as reinforcing a prevailing feeling that IBC students are "unworthy of learning in a Beit Midrash."

Since I was responsible for the comment called into question, I would like to correct any misconception which may have been created by the encounter. More importantly, I would like to place the incident within the context of larger issues which need to be addressed and thank the writer(s) for bringing these matters into a public forum.

The new seating policy was instituted to facilitate MYP attendance-taking during seder, and, in fact, the seating arrangement in the Batei Midrash cannot accommodate the entire MYP student body (to date, there are numerous MYP chavrutot who have been "locked out"

of seats in the Beit Midrash). I consequently suggested to the two IBC talmidim that they consider relinquishing their *mekomot* to MYP *chavrutot* who are officially obliged to attend seder regularly. The proposal was simply prompted by pragmatic logistical considerations and was in no way intended to denigrate IBC students or discourage their use of the Beit Midrash. I have, in fact, actively encouraged IBC talmidim to join me in the Beit Midrash to "speak in learning."

In all events, particulars aside, the larger issues raised by the writer(s) concerning how IBC talmidim are perceived and how they perceive themselves within the context of the Yeshiva is important and deserving of further attention. Equally important is the question of how the Batei Midrash can be made to accommodate all talmidim of the Yeshiva - RIETS, JSS, IBC, MYP, as well as the soon-to-be BMP - all of whom are "worthy of learning in the Beit Midrash."

Rabbi Elchanan Adler

**Clarification: In the last issue of *The Commentator*, the names of the authors of the letter entitled "IBC: No Stigma Attached" were inadvertently omitted. The writers were Jonathan Schloss and Andrew Sicklick.**



# To the Editor LETTERS

## Cutting Credits No Solution

To the Editor:

While I felt that many good points were raised to support the suggestion of cutting down on Israel credits, I don't believe that this is the solution to YU's academic problems. First of all, my experience has shown that YU isn't even a three year college, but rather a two year or two and a half year college. Many of my friends did early admissions (which I don't consider a serious year of college, though that's debatable), got credit from Israel, took a few CLEPS, and did summer school (and not particularly high level courses at that). While YU has been cutting down on these "garbage" credits, I think there is still a way to go before they are completely eliminated. I would suggest a cap of 32 credits as the maximum amount that may be transferred to YU from outside sources, so that if someone uses his Israel credit, that's it, no more transferring credit from Queens College summer courses on top of it.

Second of all, while forcing students to stay in college would probably force them to get a better education, ultimately the problem lies with the student's attitude towards college. I can't speak for all of the student body, but I meet all too many people whose sole concern is to get the maximum number of A's for the minimum amount of work. If YU is to become a serious academic institution, the students are going to have to want that change; I'm afraid that this is far from the case right now.

Until now, I've taken a purely academic viewpoint, but I think we must remember that this is *Yeshiva* University, and the Yeshiva is a higher priority than the university. Having a double schedule will, by its very nature, weaken one's academic pursuits, but that's a necessary evil. If someone wants a better education and only rudimentary Torah learning on the side, then he or she should go to Columbia. Now, one may argue that cutting down on Israel credit will not affect the yeshiva since people will go to Israel anyway. This is probably correct about one year of studying in Israel, but it would be disastrous in terms of Shana Bet. I think the overwhelming benefits of this second year in Israel are apparent to anybody who has stayed a second year or knows people who have. There should be no question that encouraging Shana Bet is worth a loss from the academic viewpoint. Perhaps YU could grant 16 credits for each year, so that one may get all 32 credits, but only for staying two complete years in Israel. Besides, even from an academic perspective, it's better to have older and more mature students in school, i.e. to have students who did the full two years in Israel.

I'm glad that people are striving to make YU a better college, I just hope they find the correct solution.

Yaakov Blau  
YC '93, RIETS 95

## Schottenstein, A Once Vibrant Yeshiva

To the Editor:

I was both fascinated and disturbed by the article you wrote regarding the misuse of the Schottenstein Center (11/15/94). I currently attend choir rehearsal at the Belz Music School every Wednesday night. Every time I walk past room 212, I am reminded of how I played with huge blocks in the corner of that same room about 30 years ago when I was in kindergarten at Yeshiva Soloveichik. I used that same room when I was in eighth grade, as well. Nearly every corner of the building echoes memories of the wonderful educational experience I had in that building for seven years. I recall visions of all my teachers lecturing and disciplining, and yelling; noisy hallways filled with my classmates rushing to enter the classroom before the 8:40 bell.

The shul was used on a daily basis. From 6th grade on, we were expected to be in the shul at 8 A.M. for Shacharit. Then, there were the seemingly endless school "assemblies" which we had before every holiday. The Channuka, Purim, and Tu B'Shvat rehearsals and presentations are merely a few examples of how the shul was a vibrant place of creativity! Every Friday afternoon, we gathered in the shul to hear the principal sing "Shalom Yeladim" in his hoarse

strained voice. Though we got tired of listening to his bad singing, we loved the acoustics and the sheer beauty that the shul possesses.

On one side, I am encouraged that after being closed and abandoned for so many years, YU decided to purchase the building, and it is once again being used for Jewish purposes, rather than having been left to the neighborhood vandals and drug dealers. On the other side, I am disturbed that the building, and, particularly, the shul, is severely underused. Today, there are very few of the "older" shuls left. Shteibels rise in nearly every person's home, and anyone can take an ordinary room and turn it into a minyan. There is a lot to be said about a huge structure where a chazzan's voice can echo, and even the musty smell of damp wood and old siddurim and sifrei Torah all remind you that you are in a shul.

For the sake of preserving a vital aspect of Judaism, an important part of the building's and neighborhood history, and for those of us who hold the memories of Yeshiva Soloveichik and the building and the shul dear to us, I hope that Yeshiva University once again places high priority on restoring the use of all the building's facilities to their maximal use.

Daniel Feldman

## The Plight of Al Linder

To the Editor:

I write to you, concerned, as would be any fellow student who is aware of what I know. This letter is in reference to the well known Jew who collects tzedaka in front of Muss and Furst Halls. An article was written on him in an issue of *The Commentator* last year. While I'm sure your article has helped bring his need to the attention of many, he has recently suffered setbacks as to the well being of him and his family. What's amazing is that MTA, an affiliate of Y.U., is in a position to help him for what it has indirectly caused, yet it shrugs its shoulders with regretful 'apathy'.

Near the end of last year's school semester (A report was filed that day by the school - September 14, 1994) an MTA student accidentally threw a basketball across Amsterdam Avenue [to the MTA side], hitting Mr. Al Linder in the face, breaking his nose and bruising his eye. Rabbi Meir Orlie and one of the [regular] policemen stationed at the corner were eye witnesses to the accident. Now, while no one denies that it was an accident, the High School has turned the other way. While we can understand the frightful position of the student, we can't understand the lack of interest on the part of MTA. After looking into the matter this fall, the MTA administration has told our friend that since the incident occurred outside school grounds, the school is not liable; and yet, the school will not reveal the name of the student. Obviously, *somebody* is at fault! Mr. Linder has gone repeatedly to the school administration with requests of assistance - he has incredulously been given the run-around. In the meantime, he is suffering from double-vision in his left eye, and his nose is healing slightly incorrectly, causing pain when he breathes through his nose.

The simple facts are that if it was someone in a 'stronger' position - one in which the school could not - or would not - choose to ignore, the reparations would be taken care of. Aside from everything else, MTA and YU are yeshivot, (obviously under a very liberal definition). Let's not talk about following in the giant footsteps of the Rav ZT"L or Reb Dovid Lipshutz ZT"L. We're dealing with simple honesty and compas-

sion for a fellow human being, who is also Jewish; As it turns out, we're also dealing with the law. Mr. Linder has spoken to a lawyer and has been informed that since the incident occurred during school hours the school is *by law* obligated to pay. Although Mr. Linder is hesitant to sue, considering the fair treatment he has received in the past, MTA, if it continues to shirk its obligation, may force him to.

In the meantime, Mr. Linder struggles to survive. Mr. Linder suffers from acute diabetes of the veins. *Boruch Hashem*, through the tzedaka he received, Mr. Linder was able to pay for treatment for his eye. Unfortunately, however, this was at the cost of paying the rent. Mr. Linder spent nine days homeless, and this has not only exacerbated his leg illness, but further, his ten year old daughter incurred pneumonia (she has since been cured, through medicine) through the cold nights they spent locked out of their apartment. Because of extenuating circumstances, Mr. Linder has been prevented from starting work in a movie theater; thus additional monies entitled to him were lost as a direct result of the accident.

In the end, it is up to the generous students of MTA and YU to uplift our friend, and provide for his basic needs; and further, to ensure - through our protest - that he receives proper treatment. It is not for us to question, or to care for that matter, why he cannot provide for himself. Rather, it is an obligation upon our shoulders to help a Jew in need - 'The world is build on *Chesed*' (*Midrash Tehillim*). Further, "We are duty-bound to be more careful about the mitzvah of charity than about all the other positive commandments: for charity is a distinguishing characteristic of the descendants of *Avraham*" (*Sefer HaMitzvot HaKazar* - mitzvah 38 - *Chofetz Chayim* ZT"L). Who would even turn down this great opportunity of *Chesed* and Charity, and fulfill the will of *HASHEM* - for *HASHEM* desires that we receive *Olam Habah*, and "*Olam Habah* is nothing but to receive reward for what was attained *BaOlam HaZeh*" (*Rashi* - *AVOS* 4:17); They must only be *informed* of the pending opportunity that awaits!

Name Withheld Upon Request

## Stand Up for Kiddush Hashem

To the Editor:

Apparently, as opposed as they are to the existence of gay clubs in YU, most people feel compelled to remain silent for fear of loss of government money.

In light of the recent elections, in which voters expressed their disgust with government intrusion into the lives of citizens, especially as it pertains to endorsing of what most Americans consider deviant behavior, would it not be a great *Kiddush Hashem* if Yeshiva University would challenge this intrusion into our religious and personal affairs by the government? Would it not cause the

decent, hardworking American majority to look upon YU - and Orthodox Jews in general - as people willing, under government duress and threats, to stand up for our religious beliefs?

It would serve the administration well to not only consider what is "practical", but what our religion - and Hashem - call on us to do. The *Chashmonaim* standing up against the *toayvot* of their time was not "practical" either - but look what happened when they stood up for Judaism.

Nachum Lamm  
YC '97

# CAMPUS NEWS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**Wednesday, Dec. 14.**

YC Basketball vs. Mt. Saint Vincent  
8 PM — Away

**Thursday, Dec 15.**

Sigma Delta Rho Speaker --- AECOM  
Club Hour  
Ice Skating/ sponsored by  
Freshman Class  
7:30 PM — Rivergate Ice Rink

**Friday - Saturday, Dec. 16-17.**

AIPAC Shabbaton Co-sponsored by  
Poli. Sci Society  
SCW Campus

**Saturday, Dec. 17.**

YC Basketball vs. Polytechnic  
8 PM — Away  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Sunday, Dec. 18.**

YC Wrestling vs.  
SUNY-Farmingdale  
2 PM — MSAC  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Monday, Dec. 19.**

YC Basketball vs. Brooklyn College  
8 PM — MSAC  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Tuesday, Dec. 20**

Chemistry Club Speaker — Dr. Beer  
8 PM — Belfer 1610  
Last Day to Withdraw From Class  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Wednesday, Dec. 21.**

SSSB Business Halacha Night  
with Rav Schacter  
8-10 PM Rubin Shul  
Blood Drive - Morg Lounge  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Thursday, Dec. 22.**

Blood Drive — Morg Lounge  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

**Wednesday, Dec. 28.**

YC Basketball vs. Alumni  
7:30 PM — MSAC  
Dramatics Society Play  
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

## MAZAL TOV

*Jeff Waldman &  
Arona Bienenstock*

*Eitan Meyer &  
Sally Rosen*

*on their recent engagements*

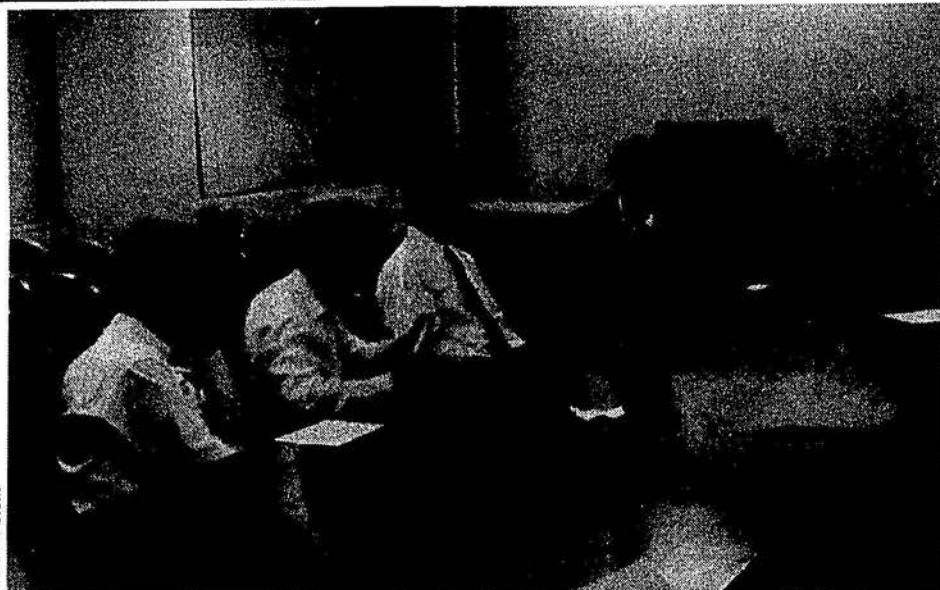


photo: J. Stein

*Assemblyman Jules Polonetsky speaking to YC students in Furst Hall*

## YC Alumnus Assemblyman Polonetsky Addresses Students

BY DANIEL RUBIN

Last Wednesday, Jules Polonetsky, one of the youngest members of the New York State Assembly, spoke with over a dozen YC and SCW students about the importance of political activism. The Brooklyn Democrat, a member of the YC class of '86, was invited by YC College Democrats Chairperson Ryan Karben.

Polonetsky told the group, which was gathered informally around a table in Furst Hall's fifth floor conference room, about his involvement in the creation of the Kiryas Joel school district for handicapped Satmar children, his participation in the fight to allow kipot in the military and his current efforts to ban hate groups, such as the Nation of Islam, from receiving any government funding. Polonetsky's move on the latter front was sparked by his discovery that the group, which is run by Minister Louis Farakhan, is being paid to provide security at a housing project in his district. Nation of Islam members recently picketed Polonetsky's office denounc-

ing his efforts and holding placards reading "Farakhan Yes, Polonetsky No."

A graduate of the New York University School of Law, the twenty-nine year old assemblyman worked as an assistant to Congressmen Stephen Solarz and Charles Schumer before his election to his current post last February. He was elected to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Howard Lasher, who was elected to the New York City Council.

Polonetsky urged all students interested in running for office in the future to "put some roots down" in their own communities by volunteering on campaigns for other officials. He stressed the importance of person-to-person politicking, claiming that the best route to victory still runs through senior centers and subway stops.

Students who attended were pleased. Semicha student Howie Biegelman, an assistant to Queens Assemblywoman Melinda Katz, said "it is very good to see someone who graduated from YU who is able to balance Jewish interests with the interest of the general electorate — and do it well."

## Pool Experiencing Technical Difficulties

BY SETH DYM

For over three years the Gottesman pool has been one of the finer structures on the uptown campus, attracting swimmers to its glistening waters and causing many a Stern woman to burn with jealousy. But recently, this wonder of modern aquatics has been nothing but an olympic-sized headache for both the swimmers and the staff charged with the responsibility of maintaining it. The troubles began on Tuesday, November 29 when the filter malfunctioned, causing it to be shut down temporarily. The pool reopened a few days later, but swimmers emerged complaining of stinging and burning sensations in their eyes which were apparently caused by an excess amount of chlorine. Meetings have been convened

and the technical crew has begun work to remedy the problem, but as of press time the pool remains closed.

For many students the latest developments have been of little significance. Others, however, are extremely disturbed by this current state of affairs. YC Sophomore Ron Markovitz remarked that he felt "very sad" by the shutdown. Other students feeling the effects are those Jacuzzi users who revel in the hot bath after a vigorous workout or a rough basketball game. Most students, however, have little reason to despair. As lifeguard Jay Lisker explained, "While the the pool closing saddens me, we've weathered this type of thing before, and I have no doubt that the pool will soon be available to all students who wish to use it."

## Ferkauf Dean Addresses Psychology Students

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

To placate the fears of prospective psychology students, the psychology clubs of YC and SCW hosted the associate dean of Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Dr. Lawrence Siegel, last month. Dr. Siegel, a key figure in the admissions process at the school, spoke on various issues relevant to that topic.

While emphasizing the importance of GPA in gaining admissions to graduate school, Dr. Siegel noted the significance of many other factors, most prominent among them, the GRE's. "Due to the large variability in undergraduate programs, the GRE serves as an equalizer of sorts in the admissions process," he said. Siegel stressed the importance of clinical experience in gaining entrance to graduate school and he also downplayed the importance of extra-curricular activities, particularly those not directly related to psychology.

Despite the large number of factors which would enhance a person's chance of getting in, he noted the recent phenomenon of graduate schools like psychology and medical schools becoming increasingly difficult to gain admissions. "Medical schools used to be a one-in-two chance of getting in, now they're lower." He pointed out that because of the relatively small number of doctoral programs in psychology, gaining admissions to them is probably even more difficult. And he recognized the fact that costs were almost as high as medical schools, even though students who complete a doctorate in psychology earn far less than medical doctors, on the average.

The dean also pointed out a quirk endemic to psychology graduate schools, specifically those in the New York area, namely, that the younger an applicant is, the more difficulty he or she will have in getting into a program. "There is an inexplicable age bias in graduate schools, specifically in New York and California", commented Dr. Siegel. He pointed out that very often it may be in a student's best interests for a student fresh out of college to delay the application process and put some work experience under his/her belt before they apply. If a student does choose to apply right away and doesn't make it on the initial go-round, this will be a strike against them when applying later in life.

The common consensus among those students attending the program was that it was a great success. As one psychology student remarked: "Many people feel that if you're not in one of the 'fast track' majors such as accounting or computers, little concern should be given to allay your fears, since you're not going straight into the job market anyway. This program went to great lengths to refute that wrongheaded idea."



# Problems Cause Delay of Guide

BY OWEN CYRULNIK

Students on both the YC and SCW campuses have grown impatient at the amount of time taken to publish the *Guide to the Perplexed*. Originally due out around Thanksgiving, as of press time, the *Guide* had yet to make it through the printing process. Editors-in-Chief Joshua Hosseinoff and Rena May attribute much of the recent delays to a misunderstanding with the company that is printing the *Guide*, Moriah Offset.

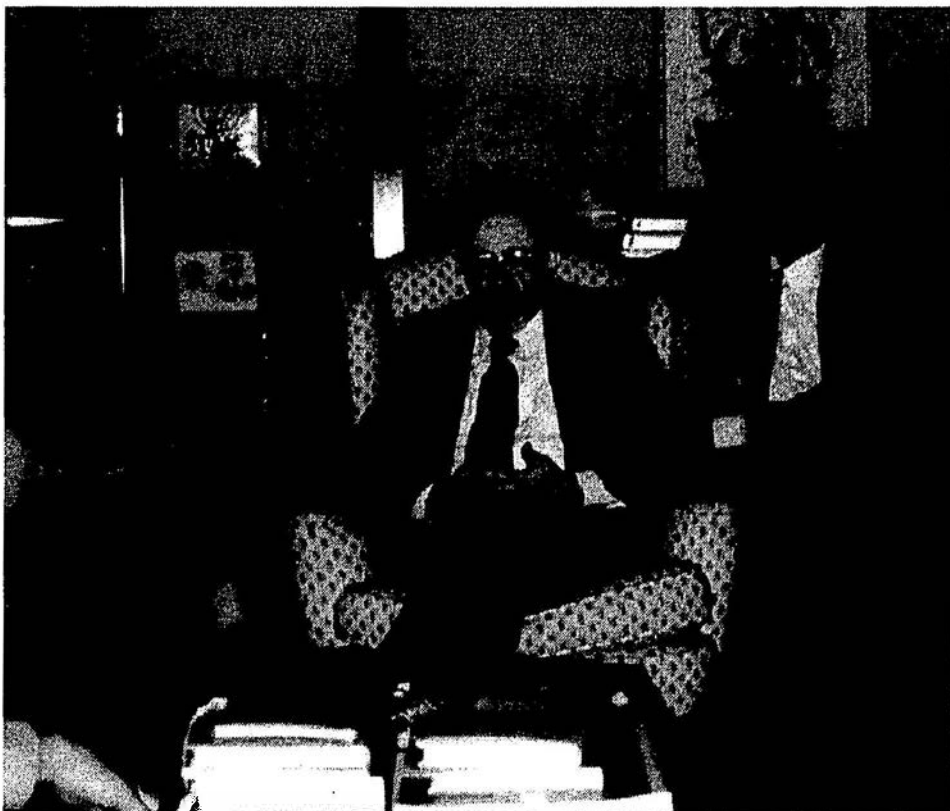
According to Hosseinoff, the *Guide*, with the exception of 10 pages, was first delivered to the printer on October 27. The final 10 pages were mainly ads that Hosseinoff planned to finish within the next few days. By November 3, those last pages were finished and delivered to the printer. Hosseinoff explained that Moriah Offset had assured him that the *Guide* could be printed in about three weeks, leaving enough time for it to be out before Thanksgiving.

Further delays, however, were the result of a misunderstanding between the editors and Moriah Offset. On November 3, when Hosseinoff delivered the final material, the printer informed him that the original quote that the *Guide* editors had received did not cover the hard-cover dividers that they had planned to print. In order to publish the *Guide* within the limited budget requirements, the design had to be changed. This redesigning was finished on November 7, and on November 10, Hosseinoff again delivered the completed *Guide* to the printer. He expects that the *Guide* will be ready for distribution sometime this week, possibly even today.

The long delays in the *Guide*'s publication have prompted some to criticize the management policies of the Editors. YCSC President Daniel Billig remarked that part of the cause for the delay was that "the project wasn't under optimum management." Billig explained that in a project such as the *Guide*, it is sometimes necessary to trade management expertise for technical experience.

Hosseinoff has also been personally criticized, particularly by his co-editor, Rena May, for his inability to share responsibility and to delegate authority. May criticized Hosseinoff for essentially shutting her out of much of the production process by failing to return phone calls and by not keeping her informed. She believes that an earlier distribution would have been possible if Hosseinoff had been able to more effectively include his co-editor and staff in the entire process.

Hosseinoff, however, denied the assertion that his actions are the cause of the *Guide*'s delay. He points out that had the printer not misquoted the price from the start, the *Guide* would have been published much sooner. Hosseinoff does admit that there are times when he is hard to reach, or difficult to work with. But as to delegating responsibility, he believes that when approaching the final stages of production, having a large number of people working is not an asset.



Rabbi Lamm meeting with students at his Central Park West duplex last Tuesday night

## Student Leaders Visit Rabbi Lamm at Home

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

On Tuesday night, Dec. 6, approximately twenty-five YC and SCW students trekked to the Upper West Side to visit the home of YU President Dr. Norman Lamm for informal discussions, some small talk, and dessert with the president.

The meeting, which began at 8 PM, was opened by YU Dean of Students Efram Nulman. He thanked the Lamms for having the students over and urged the student leaders gathered in the well appointed living room to feel free to ask "just about anything of the President."

YCSC President Daniel Billig led off by raising the issue of "unity within the Yeshiva." In explaining how YCSC had gone to great lengths to have a Channukah Chagiga this year which had been approved by SOY, Billig lashed out at the various Roshei Yeshiva who had made it clear to their shiurim that the Chagiga was "something you can't go to." He charged that the Roshei Yeshiva were "not knowledgeable about the facts" regarding the Chagiga. "They assumed that the Chagiga would be too much of a social scene," exclaimed Billig.

"Why can't we have these people (the Roshei Yeshiva) in line on these issues?" Billig asked. Later, he added, "I think it needs to made clear to the rebbeim that they have to set an example for us." Dr. Lamm agreed with Billig on the issue, pledging to look into the matter and promising to "see if we can improve things" in the future. He told Billig to "let him know about two or three weeks before Purim" in order to avert the whole issue when the Purim Chagiga comes around in second semester. SCW President Laura Gross spoke next, bringing up the critical need for more dorm space at the Stern campus. She also talked about the need for more courses to be offered on the campus. Overall though, Gross noted that in soliciting people on the SCW campus for issues to discuss with Dr. Lamm, "Ev-

eryone had to think for a while... People are generally pleased with the academic advisement...all they are complaining about is space."

Dr. Lamm assured those present that the Stern board was doing everything it could to find both living space and academic space for the rapidly growing Stern population.

Among other issues raised in the forty-five minute question and answer session was the status of the YU libraries, both at YC and at SCW. Dr. Schwartz, YU Vice President for Academic Affairs, noted that YU was "close to receiving a grant for automating the library" and expressed the hope that within two or three years, the library would be fully computerized.

Later, SOY President Yitzchak Book brought up the recent "cherem" imposed upon YU by the Rosh Yeshiva of Ponovez, Rav Shach, for permitting gay clubs to operate freely on the campus of YU's Cardozo School of Law. Dr. Lamm refused to discuss publicly what steps the University was taking on the matter but he noted for the record, that the University is now "in the midst of preparing a statement on the matter."

After the question and answer session was over, the students got a chance to speak to Dr. Lamm individually as the meeting broke up and moved into the dining room where Dr. Lamm's wife had laid out pastries, cookies, and desserts of all kinds. Students also got a chance to mingle with other members of the Administration present at the gathering, such as SCW Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun and YC Assistant Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff.

YCSC President Daniel Billig expressed his approval of the informal meeting. "I thought it was an extremely productive meeting...Rabbi Lamm was able to get the pulse of the students as well as to see what kind of student leaders we are...It was an excellent way for him to get in touch with us...I believe a lot was accomplished there."

## Asbestos Allegations Spread to Muss Hall

BY NICK MUZIN

Asbestos leakage took place last year on the fourth floor of Muss Hall and the Administration did not deem it necessary to inform the occupants of the room in which it occurred, *The Commentator* has learned.

A SSSB senior who refused to be named came forward with a story that strengthens allegations of Administration secrecy regarding asbestos. Last spring, as the student was walking in the fourth floor hallway of Muss, he noticed men wearing masks working on pipes in a friend's room. The beds and furniture in the room were covered with dropcloths and in the hallway was a large dolly filled with large bags marked "ASBESTOS." Recognizing one of the men as a YU maintenance person, he inquired what was going on. The worker asked him not to say anything about what he was witnessing, because if word got out "the yeshiva could be in trouble." The student occupying the room being worked on had complained previously about a leaky pipe, but was never informed of the asbestos in the room or of the potentially grave health threat posed to him by its presence.

The student who came forward with the story explained that when it happened he thought it was an isolated incident and soon forgot about it. When he read in a recent issue of *The Commentator* of the Union's charge that the Administration had been negligent in dealing with asbestos in Belfer Hall and the library, he felt compelled to come forward.

"I was reluctant to tell anyone what I saw but in the interests of the safety of bochurim in the Yeshiva I must disclose this information. I want to be sure that it is safe to dorm in Muss," the student said. Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol could not be reached for comment on the issue.

In other asbestos-related news, members of the 1199 Union strongly commended *The Commentator* for its expose on the asbestos scandal. Joan Doumbia, a payroll clerk, took exception to Jeffrey Rosengarten's accusation that employees fabricated the story in order to miss a day of work, saying, "People have doctor's notes that they were sick on that day. Why would I come in to work just to leave at 10:00 am?" Other union officials challenged the YU Administration to an open forum to discuss what happened in Belfer and in the library, and pleaded with student leaders to educate the students about the symptoms and dangers of asbestos.

Librarian and union member Bernice Katz mentioned that the administration has begun to show improvement in dealing with asbestos. During the Thanksgiving holiday, work was done on the fifth floor of the library and the area was closed for the weekend. "Let's just hope this continues," she said.

# Israel Credits Under Review

## Senate Debates Joint Israel Program

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK  
AND STEVEN MIODOWNIK

In a move intended to make the YU Joint Israel Program more credible, the university is expanding the program to include an optional Hebrew exemption. Additionally, professors, administrators, and members of the Student Senate, in a December 1 meeting, raised the possibility of cutting back on some of the elective Israel credits in favor of a more formal Hebrew requirement.

Under the terms of one such proposal, students on the Joint Program would only receive twenty-six credits for spending the year in a yeshiva in Israel; to obtain the remaining six credits students would be required to take a Hebrew exemption test similar to the one offered on campus each semester. All proposals were at least partially motivated by strong recommendations on the part of the Middle States Accrediting Association, which informed Academic VP Dr. Schwartz that the program, in its current form exists suffers from a lack of credibility.

For some senate members, however, far more dramatic than the effect a Hebrew requirement would have on YU students' Israel experience is the policy shift towards Israel credit that the move would indicate. Schwartz described adding a Hebrew option as "a start" to modifying the Israel Program. "What worries me is a possible domino effect. It starts with Hebrew courses and in the end the Israel Program is reduced to nothing more than a regular year of college," noted Student Senate member Steven Greenfield. Greenfield's concerns were proven justified when Student Senate professors at the Dec. 1 meeting suggested that what should follow a YU-mandated Hebrew curriculum is the instituting of math and other secular courses to help round out the thirty-two Israel credits.

"The message is clearly more important than the substance," noted one senate member, who spoke on condition of

anonymity. "By giving a Hebrew course as part of a student's year in Israel we are sending the wrong signal to both students and the rest of the world about what the Israel Program is really all about - a year of learning *lishmah*, a year when students are not burdened with all the challenges they must later face at YU and in the real world."

The senate floated the possibility of scaling back on the maximum amount of credits students receive in Israel after Student Senate chairman Richard Soclof handed out copies of *Commentator* News Editor Sandor Bak's Nov. 15 op-ed piece calling for a cutback. Dr. Schwartz attributed YU's low *US News & World Report* academic ranking (107), which was cited in Bak's article, at least partially to the YU Joint Israel program - students sign up for the program with no intention of ever attending YU, resulting in a deceptively low graduation rate and consequently, a lower academic ranking.

English professor Dr. William Lee, a member of the senate, acknowledged his belief that the Israel program as it currently exists is in need of modification but noted that it is a "sensitive topic" and must be approached very carefully. He suggested holding off discussion on the issue until a later date. While it is unclear why the issue will become any less sensitive in the future, one senate member speculated that the reasoning is that the new academic year has been a boon for enrollment; it may be advantageous to wait until this trend becomes more established before attempting reform what many believe to be a major attraction for potential enrollees.

SSSB Associate Dean Ira Jaskoll, sitting in on the senate meeting for SSSB Dean Dr. Harold Nierenberg, showed concern about the position of some professors, who "don't understand what the year in Israel is all about." He remarked that the concept of instituting secular courses in the program is dan-

gerous because it "tampers with the purpose of going to Israel." In addition, Jaskoll noted that YU should realize that the yeshivot, while acting as affiliates, are nevertheless separate institutions and certainly do not have the same goals as YU. He argued that it may be both wrong-headed and impractical to impose YU's values on them.

But there may be hope for a compromise. One possible course of action, raised privately by a student member of the senate, would be to maintain the current opportunity for students to receive thirty-two credits for Israel, but to spread them out over a two year period - students would receive sixteen credits for their first year spent in Israel and eight credits for each additional semester, up to a maximum of thirty-two credits.

### Option For Hebrew Exemption Already In Place

While the discussion is all on a theoretical level, one real change in the Joint Israel Program has already been made. YU is allowing students to exempt themselves from Hebrew 1205 and 1206 courses by learning the subject in Israel. All affiliate yeshivot of the Joint Israel Program have been asked to provide students with formal Hebrew instruction during their year in Israel, and the first exemption test will be administered in Jerusalem this May. Thirty-two credits will still be given for the year; the program is an optional opportunity to get a headstart on college.

The move is designed to allow students to fulfill requirements earlier, thereby easing the course load and increasing flexibility once they arrive on the YU campuses. The move also signifies a response to the Middle States Accrediting Association charges of a lack of credibility.

As part of the plan, students will be permitted to take the examination even if they do not attend any courses. In

addition, YU will still be accepting test scores from the "Yerushalmi" test administered by Hebrew University that many students have taken advantage of in the past.

Hebrew professor Dr. Sam Schneider, the coordinator of the initiative, has revamped the entire curriculum, and copies of the new syllabi have been sent to the affiliate schools. Schneider is not concerned that so many students will exempt themselves in Israel that the number of courses currently offered in New York would have to be reduced. Questions remain, however. Will the yeshivot be receptive to the move, which could impinge on their respective purposes, styles, or schedules?

Dr. Schwartz is confident that "more enlightened yeshivot will see common sense in the policy. It is meritorious and appropriate to learn Hebrew in Israel." Dr. Schneider, too, was confident that if the yeshivot would not see the wisdom in devoting time to teaching Hebrew, pressure from YU Israel students themselves would bring change. Schwartz acknowledged, however, that there could be some resistance from the yeshivot, noting that YU administrators will be making sure that the new program is, indeed, being implemented when they visit Israel in January.

The move has been lauded by many students, who feel that the Hebrew option will provide an additional incentive for students to go to Israel in the first place. Dean Jaskoll concurred and noted that the year in Israel is the most important factor in a student's coming to YU. Strengthening the Israel program would invariably strengthen YU's student body. Others students, however, are skeptical of the whole process and agree with Greenfield that any change in the Joint Israel Program would, as one student claimed, "open the floodgates" of more radical restructuring in the future.

## Posters Distributed Highlighting Student Activities

In an effort to increase student awareness and pride, the Dean of Students' office, in conjunction with the leadership of the various student councils, has recently issued a poster to YC and SCW students and their parents outlining the wide variety of student clubs and publications available to undergraduates.

The 21"x21" multi-colored poster, complete with photos and quotes, lists eight categories of student activities— leadership, Jewish life, service, campus communications, sports, exploring professions, arts and interest groups.

Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students at YC and SCW, told *The Commentator* that the purpose of developing the poster in conjunction with last year's and this year's student councils was "three-fold - first, to inform students of the extracurricular options that exist on

campus; second, that the students take great pride in that which they do— this poster calls attention to the successes of our own students; third, to encourage students to continue in their involvement and to encourage others to become more involved."

When asked why he distributed the posters to the parents, Dean Nulman explained that "we wanted the parents to know what their sons and daughters at YU were accomplishing, as well as that they know the range of activities that exist." Nulman added that "the poster was conceived last year in an effort to allow the students to take pride in their accomplishments; the feedback that we have received as to the poster indicates that we have accomplished our objective. Does it do it all? One item can't accomplish it all in life, but [the poster] makes the effort."

— Aton Holzer



Rabbi Lamm presenting relatives of former Teacher's Institute (IBC) Dean Pinchas Churgin with a newly published oral history of the early years of the Teacher's Institution. The presentation took place two weeks ago in Furst Hall during a commemoration of his 100th birthday.



## President Lamm Speaks Students in IBC and JSS

BY OREN S. KEISER

Instead of second period classes on Tuesday morning Dec. 5, University President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm held a "town hall" meeting for IBC and JSS students. The unprecedented event gave IBC and JSS students an opportunity to address any questions they had for the president in an informal atmosphere.

The meeting opened with short introductory remarks from IBC and JSS Dean, Dr. Michael Shmidman, JSSSC President Jacob Freiman, and IBC President Adam Cohen. Dr. Lamm then made his opening remarks, in which he called for the students to take advantage of the time they have now to focus on Judaic Studies. He also reminded students that those who do not continue to learn after their stay at YC have failed in their Jewish studies programs, even if they got all A's in their courses. He also pointed out that YU students should take full advantage of their secular courses, noting that college is a time when students should be looking to expand their minds instead of their wallets.

Rabbi Lamm then opened the floor to questions, many of which addressed the frustration felt by IBC and JSS students who believe that their programs are looked down upon by MYP students and administration. Dr. Lamm responded that these feelings are not shared by the administration and said he felt sorry for any MYP student who feels a need to boost his ego by claiming superiority to IBC and JSS students. "We are all one Yeshiva" he remarked, "we are all equal." However, Dr. Lamm also stated that IBC and JSS students have a history of being "oversensitive" to such comments.

Rabbi Lamm also offered an explanation of his controversial statement at last year's Dorm Talks that IBC and JSS students "do not have a Gemarah Kup." He argued that this was not meant as an insult, rather his intentions were that MYP students have more of an affinity for Gemarah while IBC and JSS students prefer to dedicate themselves to a broader range of Jewish learning.

### Put On Defensive

Dr. Lamm was also put slightly on

the defensive when he fielded questions regarding possible discrimination directed at IBC and JSS students by the administration. One student asked why all the Residential Advisors hail from MYP; Dr. Lamm responded that he had no knowledge of that and that he will look into it to make sure there is no discrimination in the selection process. Another student questioned why, at least according to one rabbi, if an IBC or JSS student wants to be admitted to RIETS, he had to be enrolled in MYP. Dr. Lamm promised that students may apply to RIETS from IBC, but the student must first spend a summer in the Beit Midrash Program. Dr. Lamm also promised Rabbi Allen Schwartz that he would look into why the 5% discount for Rabbeim at the SOY Sefarim sale does not include IBC and JSS Rabbeim.

Dr. Lamm was also faced with explaining matters of academic interest. Regarding YU's low rating in the most recent edition of *US News and World Report*, Dr. Lamm quipped that "on my long list of problems in the University, the ranking doesn't even make the bottom of the list." Dr. Lamm declined to answer other academic questions, suggesting that students wait for the arrival of the new Dean and take up those issues with him.

### Students Pleased By Opportunity, Not by Responses

After the meeting most students were extremely pleased with the opportunity to discuss important issues with Dr. Lamm. Many said they were looking forward to a similar gathering next semester.

However, some students felt that Dr. Lamm did not answer their questions directly. "He was very diplomatic in his answers," remarked Jonathan Schloss, an IBC senior. Other students wondered why an apparently important question such as the school's ranking doesn't bother Dr. Lamm. Still others felt that Dr. Lamm's attempt to excuse his past remarks, such as the one at last year's Dorm Talks failed to respond to their complaints adequately, only belittled IBC and JSS students and exacerbated the situation.

## Registrar to Gain Space

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

In a long overdue move that staff members believe vital to administrative effectiveness, the Office of the Registrar will be expanding its office area to the other side of the hallway on the first floor of Furst Hall. The space was formerly occupied by the Admissions Office, which has since moved to the fourth floor. The Office of Student Finances will also gain three rooms in the newly reconstructed office area.

The purpose of the expansion is to make the current system more efficient. Staff currently engaged in handling transcripts and archiving will move into the new office space. More student registration activities will take

place at the actual office instead of Room 502 in Belfer Hall.

Melvin H. Davis, YC registrar and enrollment officer, stated that the target date for completion of the new offices is either during intersession or in February. However, he also mentioned that there was no reason to "rush" the job either. Most of the deconstructing of the rooms has been done — walls have been torn down and pipes taken out. All that is left is completion of the electronic and phone wiring. Additionally, the front of the office will have two doors, one going in and the other going out. Thus, during registration, students will be able to line up to choose their courses without the bottle-neck traffic that was common in the old registrar's office.

## Definite Plans Announced For Golding Program

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

With less than two months remaining before the beginning of the spring semester, plans for the Golding Beit Midrash Program are now being finalized. Among the new developments are the naming of two Kollel Elyon members to positions in the program and formal plans to interview interested students.

Dean of Undergraduate Jewish Studies Programs, Rabbi Michael Shmidman, announced that two members of YU Kollel Elyon, Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky and Rabbi David Hirsch have been selected to teach the twice-a-week *halacha shiurim* and may eventually teach *gemara shiurim* if the program swells past a number Rav Goldwicht can reasonably handle. Additionally, Rabbis Hirsch and Sobolofsky have been named to the position of *beit midrash shoalim u'meishivim*.

### Interviews to Take Place Soon

Rabbi Shmidman also announced plans for interviews, tentatively scheduled for the next two to three weeks, to determine students' motivations for entering the program. He emphasized that entry into the program will not be automatic, rather, a prospective student will have to demonstrate sufficient desire to be accepted. At this point, Rabbi

Shmidman expects there to be about 25 to 40 students entering the program, but these numbers could change considerably in the next few weeks based on the interview process.

### Beit Midrash Overloaded?

One unresolved issue is the question of where students in the program will be learning during morning seder. This is partially due to the fact that it is still unknown whether the majority of students will be coming from IBC or MYP. Thus, no one is sure how much space in the Beit Medrash will be needed. If the majority of students switching are from MYP then they would probably remain in their current *mekomot*. However, to suit the needs of students from IBC or YP currently without a *makom*, other options must be explored. Ideally, all the students would sit in the Main Beit Medrash, helping to enhance the learning experience as well as unite the new program with the more established Yeshiva program. However, that is no longer feasible with the current overcrowding in the Beit Medrash. Suggestions have included using the Shenk Shul in Schottenstein or other rooms within the Main Building. Still, there has been no definite word as of yet addressing the potential space problem.

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## The Grilling Before the Gold

BY STUART MILSTEIN

If you had a stack of quarters as tall as the World Trade Center would they be able to fit in an office and why? A truck 21 feet tall full of supplies needs to pass under a bridge whose clearance is only 19 feet. How can it get by? To most people, these questions seem esoteric and pointless, but to the many students participating in the on-campus interviews arranged by the YU Placement Office, the answers might be the difference between getting a job and remaining unemployed.

On-campus interviews are conducted by different firms offering various business opportunities who send recruiters to interview on the YU campus. Through this service, students avoid much of the hassle involved in the job search process. Otherwise, students interested in certain firms would need to mail in resumes, follow up to be sure they were received, and hope that they will be called back for an interview. Even if they receive an interview, the student would then be required to travel to the firm's office. When the interview is at YU it is scheduled by the placement office usually during a time convenient for the student.

By meeting with the placement office after the interviews, the firm representatives provide beneficial feedback about the students' performances and mistakes needing corrections. Some students, however, feel that this feedback is incomplete because, as Glen Pfeiffer, an SSSB senior explains, "They say you did great and when you get a rejection letter it does not match what they are saying. It would be better if they tell you why [you were rejected] to help you in the future."

Pfeiffer feels that one of the biggest advantages to on-campus interviews is that one needn't worry about wearing a *kippa* and "if you're wearing a *kippa* in an interview, then you get to wear a *kippa* on the job."

Having interviews at YU also has a downside. Explains Ari Feldman, an accounting major, "It's your society and your community but there are constantly students walking back and forth. They even walk into the greeting room which is not really appropriate."

Other students are also dissatisfied with the on-campus interviewing at YU. "It's a farce," said one SSSB senior who requested to remain anonymous. "You can't get a job through the YU office if you're a finance major." Many of the banks come as a favor to a "head honcho" who tells them to interview. One interviewer from Lazar Freres said that he would not hire a YU student out of college. There is, however, one advantage to the on-campus interviews says this anonymous senior: "They're good practice."

The YU placement office says that firms would not interview merely to help the school, and that finance majors may find it frustrating because the accounting interviews take place earlier. Accounting firms try to complete recruiting before busy season in January while the finance firms start recruiting much later.

Hugh Feibush, a MIS major, expressed a different concern: "They cram too many interviews in one day and I'm concerned that the interviewers' impressions of the student gets mixed up...each individual has his own qualifications."

### Internal Competition

The largest disadvantage, however, facing YU students is that they are competing against Ivy League schools. "Between a YU guy and a Princeton guy they'll take the Princeton guy," said YC senior Zev Schubin. "Face it—we're not the Ivys." Daniel Ciment, a YC senior, said that one interviewer recently asked him "Why should I hire you if I could hire a Harvard guy?"

The finite number of jobs are not only being filled up by students from the Ivys; other YU students also provide formidable competition. "There is a natural competition," explained Ciment, "but we don't hide things from each other. When I come out of an interview I tell my friends what I was asked."

Jack Berlin, a finance major, felt that the competition was more intense. "There is tremendous competition," he said, "because there are very few job opportunities and may the best one win."

Most students do not share interviewing questions or answers because they want to sound original and sharing comments causes them to become hackneyed; thus, nobody gains.

Because of the importance of the interview, students treat them with great respect, even if they might not totally agree with the process. Pfeiffer said, "In a way [interviewing] is bad because your life is decided by a piece of paper and a meeting in a little room for a half hour."

All of these interviews have certain similarities, but each one has its unique features. The question-answer format is generally the same, but the types of questions and the attitude can differ greatly. Pfeiffer, who is interviewing for accounting jobs, said that most of the interviewers try to make you feel comfortable, and then they 'shmooze' with you. Most students leave those interviews feeling confident that they did well.

### Grueling Interviews

Other companies, especially finance firms, prefer 'grilling' interviews. According to Ciment, "they want to see how smart you are and how you handle pressure. There is nothing you can do [to prepare]. You just have to use your mind."

"The first interview is the most nerve-racking but it's also the most exciting because you're experiencing something new," according to Feldman. "However, by now it's annoying."

Although the interview officially begins in the interviewer's office, it actually starts in the greeting room on the fourth floor of Belfer, where there is a company representative, usually a YU alumnus. "As a matter of fact," Pfeiffer stated, "one letter I got was signed by both the interviewer and the greeter." The evaluation, therefore, begins even before the interview.

## Dorm Talks Deals with Faith and Trust

BY MENASHE SHAPIRO

Students packed the Rubin Shul this past Monday night for the second of this year's series of Dorm Talks, held *Leza-ichet Nishmat* Aaron Heller *z"l*. The featured speaker was YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, who spoke on the delicate topic of "Issues of faith and trust in the face of tragedy."

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, the Dorm Talks coordinator, began by acknowledging the presence of Aaron's family, including Aaron's mother, who addressed the audience with a few stirring words at the conclusion of the talks. The decision to hold the talks in the Rubin Shul instead of the larger and more centrally located Morg lounge came partly out of tribute to Aaron Heller who, as moderator Rabbi Michael Shmidman, the moderator, pointed out, had lived on Rubin's second floor. "It was Aaron's home building that he looked forward to coming to daily: It was his home away from home," explained Shmidman.

Rabbi Lamm opened by discussing how he, too, had been forced to confront the death of someone close at a very early age, and how he was able to apply these experiences later on in his life. He then proceeded to differentiate between the various levels of faith one must grapple with when confronting tragic circumstances. Describing the philosophical conflict of "*tzadik v'ra lo*..." — why good things happen to the wicked while the righteous appear to be ignored, he quoted *Pirkei Avos* where *Emunah* is described as an acknowledgment of G-d's justice. Morally, he noted, we are supposed to recognize our own mortality, and that it is important, as the *gemara* says, to worry over the loss of a friend

and realize that G-d keeps his promises. The emotional aspect, he explained, is probably the hardest part of the experience. People are often left grasping for the correct thing to say. "Words are so powerful, yet, so weak," he added.

The Dorm Talks was crowded and many people were forced to stand in the back of the shul. The crowd, though, was primarily composed of MYP students. However, this Dorm Talks was marked by a much stronger showing from IBC and JSS students, due largely to the presence of Dr. Lamm. Rabbi Cheifetz explained that "Dr. Lamm represents a broader cross-section of the student body, in that he appeals to everyone."

Another reason for the larger and more diverse turnout was its location: Rubin Hall. The Rubin building houses more students from JSS and IBC than any other dorm, and, as Rabbi Cheifetz explained, "We try to have representation from other Jewish Studies divisions in addition to MYP *roshei yeshiva*." The presence of Rabbi Shmidman, R. Cheifetz pointed out, helped also.

The purpose of the evening, however, was not to highlight the differences of the many students in attendance but to bring them together with a discussion applicable to all. Dr. Lamm summed the night up when he discussed the model of the family of Nachshon Waxman, describing how throughout the whole week of the ordeal, the Israeli population came together as one. In drawing a comparison to the tragedy of Aaron's death, he remarked, "Here we should come together as one *Mishpacha*, and in his *Zechus* we should show our togetherness and emphasize common ties instead of differences."

## Macs Manager Attacks The Commentator

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

"Is *The Commentator* pro or con in supporting YU's basketball team?," queried Ron Markovitz, a Macs team manager, soon after the last issue of *The Commentator* was distributed. His confusion was the result of a front page picture of rookie Joel Jacobson getting hammered by an NJIT player during a 96-58 loss.

Soon after *The Commentator* came out, Markovitz hung up signs bearing the above quotation and asking students to take part in a poll. The outcome: only one person signed in agreement with the picture, while an overwhelming majority felt the picture should not have been printed.

When Jacobson was asked about the picture, he agreed that "better pictures could have been used, but it was their judgement call, and it doesn't really bother me." Additionally, "not many people's opinions will be changed because of the picture." Jake Rosenberg, another Mac starter was "interested to see if *The Commentator* will positively portray the team through pictures after victories."

Responding to the heat generated by the front-page picture, *Commentator* Editor-in-Chief, Moshe Kinderlehrer dismissed the notion that the picture was

intended as a slight to the Macs. "From speaking with (Macs team manager) Markovitz, the impression I received was that the furor he generated over the picture was simply intended to help stir up fan support for the team. Though I sharply criticized his attack on *The Commentator* as being misdirected, we both came to an understanding that *The Commentator* was not out to slight the Macs," explained Kinderlehrer.

Those who were dismayed by the embarrassing picture, however, compared it with last year's opening picture of the Macs, which depicted current co-captain Alan Levy going up for a dunk. Sentiment was that the Levy picture was the type which brings more fans into the stands to support the Macs. Also, some thought that with many new players, the team should have been given some more time to get its act together. Jacobson later summed it up by saying, "they could have done have done it differently and brought some positive support to the team."

Conversations with other Mac players confirmed that the effect of the Jacobson picture was nominal, leaving the Macs with no permanent scarring. As YC Senior Steven Jacobs said, "through all the negative press, I will continue to support the team."



# CHANNUKAH

*On the Yeshiva University Campus*



*Students dancing at the joint YC-SCW Channukah Chagigah*

## Student Councils Unite

*continued from page one*

was a breath of fresh air. It is refreshing to see a student leader give his all to an event." Helft, too, was happy with the results, stating, "This is the most people ever to attend a Student Council event." SCWSC President Laura Gross was also instrumental in the planning of the chagigah. Gross and SCWSC Vice President Sarah Altman came several hours early to help prepare the room in Belfer Hall.

There were those at YC who ob-

jected to the social elements of the Channukah Chagigah. Several rebbeim commented that although they could not advocate attending, they would not specifically discourage any of their students from participating in the chagigah. Noticeably, however, there were no rebbeim in attendance on Thursday night. Rabbi Lamm, too, although he attended Monday night's chagigah in the *Beit Midrash*, was not present at the joint chagigah.

## Chagigot Aplenty on Campus

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Channukah, with its requisite religious obligations and gastronomic extravaganzas, came rolling into YU two weeks ago, and students responded in a myriad of ways, illustrating the diversity of the student body.

On the second night of Chanukah, Monday, Nov. 28, SOY held its annual chagiga in the Main Beit Midrash. MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Aharon Kahn commenced the festivities at 8:00 by delivering a *drasha* on the Chasmonaean revolt, exhorting students to follow the Maccabee lead and unabashedly pursue the truth, never succumbing to peer pressure. After Rav Kahn's speech, Neshomah Orchestra, a mainstay at YU musical events, took over. Soon, some 400 students were dancing in the Beit Midrash, accompanied by several other Roshei Yeshiva, including YU President Dr. Norman Lamm.

The frenzy, however, quickly died down as students began exiting in droves for the library and other study areas. The reason: midterms. After a 10:00 PM break for *ma'ariv*, even fewer students remained, despite the presence of the Roshei Yeshiva. The orchestra, which had been hired to play until 12:30 am, stopped performing at 11:30 and SOY was not refunded the money for the final prepaid hour.

SOY president Yitzchak Book attributed the attendance problem to midterms. Nevertheless, he called the chagiga a "success" and was gratified that so many students did attend during midterms, albeit for a short amount of time. Book was also pleased that many Roshei Yeshiva, notably Rabbi Lamm, attended and added *ruach* to the dancing.

### Philanthropy Society Chagiga

On Wednesday night, Nov. 30, an altogether different type of celebration took place in Weissberg Commons, where the Philanthropy Society provided a special night for Jewish Russian immigrants in the metropolitan area. Dozens of YU men and women came to dance with the large turnout of 300 immigrants of all age groups.

The traditional Channukah fare of jelly donuts and latkes was served and a small carnival for the 50 children was run. The absence of the recently *niftar* Reb Shlomo Carlebach, who appeared often at the *kiruv* event, did not seem to deter those gathered from rejoicing with intensity and glee.

Despite a language barrier, the two-hour event trans smoothly. YC senior Ronn Yaish, an organizer of the evening, addressed the audience with the aid of a Russian translator. Then, Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed in Yiddish the significance of Channukah, stressing how it is a holiday that unites all Jews wherever they may be. The message of solidarity was reinforced by the YU students, who interacted warmly with the participants.

Other smaller celebrations were on the agenda of YU students. On that same Wednesday night, residents of Muss Hall held their own chagiga across from Klein Hall in the basement of Muss. Though Muss residents were asked to contribute \$1 for the refreshments, all YC students were invited. Those who attended experienced more dancing and *divrei torah*. The following Thursday morning saw the celebratory atmosphere manifest itself at a Channukah minyan and breakfast for IBC students.

## Dinner Celebrates Rabbi Lamm's 18th Year as President

*continued from page one*

asserted that Congress would be more favorable to a small (US) contribution to a multinational force of monitors than it would be to "a division-size American-only force on the Golan Heights."

Before concluding his fifteen-minute foreign policy address, Dole sharply criticized the failure of the West, most notably the UN and NATO, in failing to "act on its promises and commitments to Bosnia." "America," Dole explained, "is still the cop on the beat. We are the world's only economic, military, and political superpower. And we must lead."

At the Convocation which was held in the eighteenth floor Starlight Roof, eight others received honorary degrees. They were: Leslie Wexner, the founder and chairman of The Limited Inc.; University Benefactor Miriam Glaubach; Gladys Ritter Livingston, AECOM Benefactor; YU Board of Trustees member Morry Weiss, chairman and CEO of American Greetings Corp.; Rabbi Louis Bernstein, longtime YU Jewish studies professor and two-time president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Zvi Kolitz, author, journalist, and film producer; Jeffrey Steiner, chairman and president of the Fairchild Corp.; and David Zysman, YU's retiring Vice President for Development.

To open the dinner, eighteen students from YC and SCW marched onto the stage and lit eighteen menorahs, in part symbolizing the eighteen years of Dr. Lamm's tenure as president as well as "chai." The dinner was chaired by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress and Chairman and CEO of The Seagram Company Ltd.

Over a three-course dinner featuring duck, asparagus soup, and veal, the audience listened to honoree Leslie Wexner speak on the importance of

civil service to the Jewish community. He stressed the need for young Jews to begin to heighten their passion and commitment to Judaism, as well as the need for Jews to serve their communities not only as volunteers but as "civil servants."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin offered videotaped greetings to the assembly. His short remarks touched on the theme of freedom and its link to Channukah. He also singled out honoree David Zysman for his tremendous service in the name of Yeshiva University and the State of Israel.

### Dinner A Success

By all accounts, the dinner was a tremendous success for YU, capping off an excellent year for its various fundraising activities. At the dinner, YU announced that \$65 million had been raised so far in 1994. According to the shortly retiring David Zysman, the current pace of YU's fundraising efforts is "fifteen percent ahead of last year." He also noted that 21 new Benefactors were added this year. YU Benefactors are donors who have given over one million dollars to the University.

### Students Attending

Over thirty students from YC and SCW attended the event. Though they performed such tasks as escorting the dignitaries and robing those involved in the Convocation ceremonies and dinner, most enjoyed the chance to meet with the guests at the dinner, as well as to partake of the sumptuous meal served at the \$500 a-plate dinner. Overall, it was a positive experience for those involved. SOY President Yitzchak Book expressed his satisfaction with the dinner. "The duck was better than the veal...but it was a shame that SOY could not run a dreidel game between Edgar Bronfman and Leslie Wexner," he noted.



*Lighting the Menorah before the Channukah dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.*

*Pictured left to right are Lesley Wexner, his wife, Hon. Abigail Wexner, Senator Bob Dole, and President Norman Lamm*

# Student Perception A Determining Factor in Reputation

BY ARI HIRT

As the question disseminated amongst the small gathering of successful attorneys, the professionals proudly tossed around the names of their respective alma maters - "Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley..."

"What about you, Joseph? Let me guess, you look like the 'Columbia' type."

"No, actually I attended YU," Joseph mumbled under his breath.

"Where?"

"NYU!" repeated Joe in a clear distinct voice.

Yeshiva University undergraduates regularly achieve tremendous success in graduate schools as well as the business and professional worlds. These alumni possess the unique capability of proliferating the name and image of YU. Whenever they discuss the distinctive qualities of Yeshiva and relate their fond memories of the college to their colleagues, the reputation of YU only grows in the eyes of others.

Since the word of alumni is the outside world's only linkage to YU, current students' perceptions of YU's status in the world plays a crucial role in the University's reputation. These are the students who will be the future alumni; these are the students who will transmit their perceptions to the world which they will encounter.

Many of the students in Yeshiva College and SSSB recognize that YU is respected in the outside world for producing high caliber students who are adept at handling inconceivable workloads. "When I tell other people that I am at YU and describe my course load, they are very impressed," remarks Ari Loren, a student in SSSB expecting to graduate in 1997.

However, students do not feel that YU is popular for its academic reputa-

## Final Installment of a Three Part Series on Academic Reputation

tion. Aryeh Garber, a transfer student from George Washington University, explains that the academic world does not really regard YU as a scholarly institution since it is a teaching University, not a research-based one. YC sophomore Andrew Wurzbarger notes that YU may not be on the academic level of the Ivy Leagues but he is confident that it is comparable to the regular state universities.

Although students generally are of the opinion that the outside world receives YU in a positive light, YC junior Daniel Brody and other students express that only those individuals who have no exposure to YU are impressed by YU's "academic reputation." "Those, however, who are affiliated with YU, seem to see through that," says Brody. One YC alumnus who requested anonymity, relates a similar sentiment; he comments that "if people are unfamiliar with YU they are impressed by the schedule. But those people familiar with YU know that it is not noted for its academics."

YC senior Avi Koenigsberg, who also runs a private computer consulting business, reiterates the notion that outside the New York area and outside the Jewish orthodox community, nobody has even heard of YU. "When speaking in computer seminars - Yeshiva University are two foreign words," describes Koenigsberg.

Contrary to Koenigsberg, Associate Dean of YC, Dr. Michael Hecht, feels that YU's reputation improves the further one goes from YU. Hecht sees this phenomenon being a problem; "We suffer from a 'ghetto effect' and tend to lack self respect," states Dr. Hecht. Dr. Will Lee, Professor of English at YC, also

asserts that while our reputation is good in the academic world, he feels that among YU students our reputation is quite mediocre. Lee explains that YU students have a complete lack of knowledge and perspective as to how the world sees YU in terms of our reputation. He describes the students as almost having a self-hatred complex.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz agrees that there is a tendency for people to be very critical of what they are closest to and sometimes fail to see the bigger picture. "As a matter of self esteem I think everyone should recognize how good they are and how unique Yeshiva really is," proclaims Schwartz. "I think students are beginning to appreciate the institution to a far greater extent."

While administrators and faculty members address the students' failure to acclaim the University's reputation, Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolf, Assistant Directors of the Career Placement Office, point to the students' lack of school pride in job interviews. "Many times students do not sell themselves to the extent they should be sold," remarks Tannenbaum. Both Wolf and Tannenbaum explain that students, instead of bragging and boasting, tend to downplay the unique qualities of YU. "Initially, students don't see the differences of what we do and what other schools do," states Wolf, "but after interviewing they realize that YU is known as being special."

Although students seem to doubt YU's popularity in the business and academic arenas, many current students exhibit tremendous pride in going to

YU. Unlike the successful lawyer in this article's introduction, students at YU say they are not reluctant to reveal their YU identities. "I am not embarrassed to say that I go to YU. I chose to attend YU over Georgetown University," remarks YC senior Rafi Rosenblatt. Dr. Nierenberg, Dean of SSSB and Interim Dean of YC, reiterates Rosenblatt's thoughts on students' pride in going to YU. "I know a significant number of our students who could have gone to Columbia, Princeton, Penn - yet they made a conscience decision to come here; why then would these students be embarrassed?" asks Nierenberg.

Although students say they are proud to wear a YU sweatshirt outside the University, Brody describes a situation which YU students often confront. Brody tells about an incident when his YU friends were hesitant to announce in front of students from other universities that they attend YU. Many times YU students sense a lack of respect from fellow college peers and therefore feel inferior. For this reason, Avi Koenigsberg notices a prevalent lack of self pride amongst the YU alumni. "Graduate students and professionals are quicker to talk about which graduate school they attended than they are to mention YU," maintains Koenigsberg.

Alumni, however, must have the right perception of YU. In the *U.S. News and World Report* survey, YU ranked second highest in alumni support out of the tier one schools. 38% of the alumni contribute to the University.

While students struggle in answering these questions regarding our reputation - What makes up a reputation? What does the faculty contribute to our image? Are we respected? Is our name widely known? We must first realize that our outside reputation really stems from within ourselves; are we proud or are we ashamed to be in YU?

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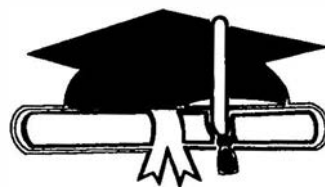
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# ONE ON ONE

YC Grad New Orthodox Union President Mandell Ganchrow

## Communal Leader, Political Activist, Pledges to "Tell the OU's Story"

For millions across America, Thanksgiving weekend is a time to reflect on their blessings and, surrounded by family and friends, take a much needed breather from the hectic pace of daily life. This past Thanksgiving weekend, though, did not bring much rest or relaxation to the Ganchrow family. They were in Great Gorge at the biennial convention of the Orthodox Union and Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow YC'58, a prominent Rockland County surgeon, was being installed as the new president of the OU.

The immediate past chairman of the Institute for Public Affairs, Ganchrow is also the past president and current chairman of the board of the Hudson Valley Political Action Committee. He has held numerous leadership positions in communal organizations and maintain membership in many prestigious professional organizations. He also teaches a beginner's Gemara shiur at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern.

Dr. Ganchrow's relationship with YU is extensive. He is member of the Board of Trustees of RIETS and, in 1992, received the Dr. Bernard Revel Communal Service Award. His wife, Sheila, is a SCW graduate as is his daughter, Malkie. Eli is currently a YC sophomore and Ari graduated two years ago.

As a YC student, Dr. Ganchrow was secretary of YCSC and a member of the Governing Board of The Commentator. The Ganchrows are members of the Community Synagogue of Monsey, the shul of RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe Tendler.

This past week, Ganchrow spoke with Commentator News Editor Ryan S. Karben.

Karben: You've taken a leadership role in numerous communal organizations over the years. Off all the groups to give yourself to full-time, why the Orthodox Union?

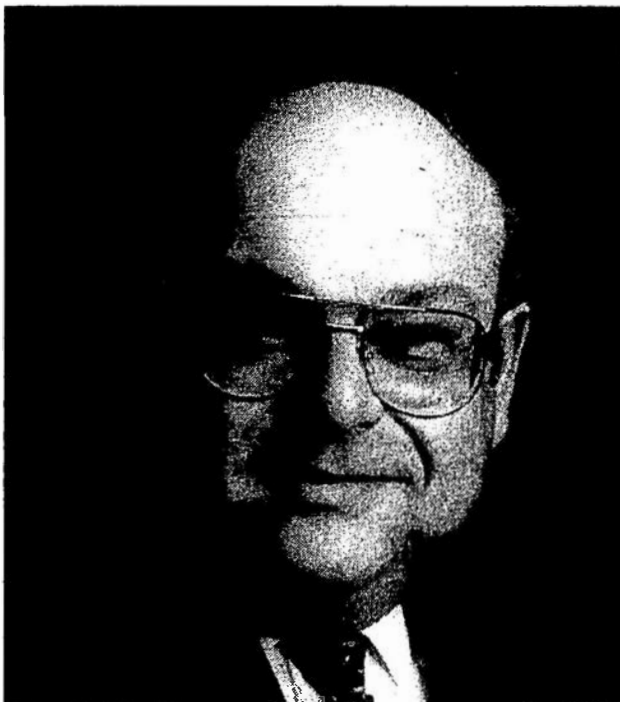
Ganchrow: I believe very much in its mission. As a graduate of Yeshiva College, I've always believed in the paradigm of Torah U'Maddah. To me it's not just a motto, because I've been put to the test. As you know, I spent a year in Vietnam under adverse conditions separated from my family. And my philosophy of life held me in good stead. I've used it to bring up my children I think, thank God, successfully.

I believe the Orthodox Union is an umbrella organization that has the ability to represent all of the Orthodox Jewish community from right to left. It is the only Orthodox Synagogue group except for the National Council of Young Israel. It is the largest synagogue youth program, the strongest programatically worldwide, the largest number of dedicated volunteers, the largest kiruv program. Kiruv and harbatzas Torah—this is something I want to do with the rest of my life.

RK: What do you see as the role of the OU in an Orthodox community that seems to define itself community by community—Monsey, Flatbush, St. Louis—as opposed to as part of some larger movement?

MG: I believe the Orthodox Union must become a national kehillah. The only way we can do this is if we have one large organization that is able to represent them in every single aspect of their lives—that is why I believe Orthodox unity and a merger with NCYI is one of the most important goals for the community. Now what does that mean to be a kol bo, in essence? If you look at the entire life of the Orthodox Jew and the not yet Orthodox there are many aspects. All of these areas come under the rubric of the Orthodox Union. We have publications, we have kiruv, we have services to the synagogues, we have the Institute for Public Affairs in public policy, we have a free employment bureau, we are reaching out into the former Soviet Union and the Ukraine and I am certain, under my administration, that will reach into other major areas. We have an Israel Center. I believe in all of these areas my administration is committed to improving and strengthening our scope.

It's not just a question of what do we do in Flatbush or Monsey. The question is, to paraphrase Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." We have many successful, affluent, well-educated, sophisticated individuals in our community. They learn Torah, they have their own chavrutot. They don't need the Union to tell them they should improve their hashkafa or the amount of time they spend in Torah. And they give tzedakah. And, yes,



New OU President Mandell Ganchrow

they can go to a shiteibel and be left alone. But the fact of the matter is unless everyone pitches in and becomes part of this greater community, we can never be successful. When we have 40,000 kids in NCSY, and a great majority of them are kids in public schools who have no affiliation in a Torah movement—that could not be possible if each synagogue was independent. It's only because we have a national movement that this exists.

RK: What do you see as the relationship of the Orthodox Union with other organizations in the Orthodox world?

MG: We have always held out our hand in friendship to every other Orthodox organization. When I was chairman of the Washington mission, I went to other organizations, including Agudah and NCYI, and asked them to join us in a united march on Washington on behalf of common goals. They rejected it at that time. They have certain philosophical problems, or they've had. We have always wanted to cooperate. There are still those who attack modern Orthodoxy and no matter what they will never accept us.

However, there are many, including the Novominskier Rav, shlita, who spoke at the Aguda convention saying that now with demise of Synagogue Council, there are no barriers to cooperation and I'm very happy to hear that. A good percentage of my patients come from the yeshiva world and the chassidish world in Monsey. I have no problem working with them on a personal level, on an institutional level.

I believe NCYI and the OU are the same constituency. I was raised in Young Israel. We basically have the same principles. It does not make any sense in my mind to have two organizations, two dinners...two fundraising drives, two trips to Washington, two youth programs, when we could consolidate and work together for the klal.

RK: As President of HUVPAC, and Chair of the Institute for Public Affairs, you played a major role in defining and promoting the pro-Israel political agenda. How has that agenda changed in response to the peace process and where does the Orthodox community, which perhaps has a different view about some of those issues, fit in?

MG: The Orthodox Union has been very, very consistent in our position on Israel throughout all of our administrations whether it was Likud or Labor and we will not change. We do not interfere in the internal matters of the Israeli government. We do not believe we should, nor do we believe, should any other American-Jewish group. That is the sole responsibility of people who live in Israel, pay taxes, fight and send their children to, chas v'shalom, die.

We cannot tell the Israeli government what to do. That again is an internal matter. But they must guarantee the safety and security of those who have gone there, who are our brothers and sisters and mothers and children and they went al kiddush hashem....on encouragement of an Israeli government. And we cannot let them out there to be used as political pawns

and to hang out there and to dry.

And therefore we have the right to tell our Congress not to give foreign aid to the Palestinians as long as they don't renounce terrorism and abrogate the point in their charter. And I have called for that. We have a right to tell the Congress we want you to look into the questioning of stationing troops (on the Golan Heights). We don't tell Israel what to tell Assad, but Israel cannot tell the American community that we should not allow Congress to discuss it. That's not their business. That is the business of American citizens, taxpayers, we should be a part of the process. So, we will never get involved in the internal affairs—we objected when people did it with Begin and Shamir. We won't do it now with Labor.

We encourage aliyah. We encourage an increased U.S.-Israel relationship. We don't like internal bickering in the community. We think there should be unity. And the only way there can be is if we stick to the principles I enunciated and that is everyone let's the Israeli government carry out whatever their vote is—they're responsible to their voters—and that we, as American citizens, have the right to be involved in the political process and should do so in support of the democracy of Israel, of the State of Israel, of the Medinah of Israel. We don't support political parties. That's not our job.

RK: What are your priorities for the Orthodox Union?

MG: My priorities? First, it's to build up synagogue services, to redevelop and redefine ourselves as a synagogue body. We don't provide the services that we should. We are going to reorganize our synagogue services, develop visitations to all these synagogues, develop programs that we can be proud of.

We're going to get involved in new areas of kiruv—senior citizen kiruv, for people who are retired....adult outreach and collegiate outreach. In many areas of NCSY, which is the most successful area, kids have fallen through the cracks in day schools and yeshivas. The fact that a kid goes to day school doesn't mean he is frum or they have the proper hashkafa and we need to make sure we're not missing the boat in many of these areas.

The other major area is public relations. I always believed that if the world doesn't know about it, it doesn't exist. The Union spends .04% of its budget on public relations, it should be spending 4%. I intend to move in that direction, to allocate funds, personnel, and a great deal of effort to bring the story of the Union to the American Jewish community. It is a story that I am very proud of and anyone who will learn of it will be equally proud.

RK: How can students prepare themselves for positions of communal leadership? How can they become the next Dr. Mandell Ganchrow?

MG: I didn't prepare myself for this. First of all, I was always an active citizen. Whether I was in YC where I was the secretary of the Student Council, I wrote for The Commentator, when I was in high school I was president of the student body at Brooklyn TA. I've always felt that....no matter what your profession is—we still have a certain obligation to the kehillah, to the klal, to Torah. You have to do your part. I don't want to sound trite—but you need to be educated. Like Syms says "an educated consumer"...you have to read newspapers, you have to vote and you have to spend a small amount of your time involved in public policy. Each of us has that ability to influence our neighbors and eventually the people who control policy.

And then, a lot of it is mazel, a lot is hard work, a lot is personality and a lot is taking advantage of opportunities. You don't have to go be a lawyer to be in public policy, I'm not. You don't have to be a politician, I'm not. Be honest and consider that everything you do should not just be l'shem shamayim, but should be a kiddush hashem. If you act honestly in your business, if you act honestly in how you deal with others, without looking for kavod. And the kavod will come to you and people will respect you. If you think that you're going to fool your friends and the public, you're not. People are going to look right through you. People are sophisticated. They like honest, sincere people. And in the end, it pays off.

## New Dean Expected to Assume Position in March

*continued from page one*

cussed the deanship (with University officials) I came to understand more fully the special position it holds by virtue of its history and its unique dual curriculum as an expression of Torah U'Maddah."

Adler's appointment has focused student attention on the academic quality of Yeshiva College, perceived and real. Many are anxious to see a real strengthening of YC's academic program, even if it may come under the leadership of a dean without strong ties to the organized Orthodox world. President Lamm announced his decision to the Roshei Yeshiva prior to issuing a formal press release.

YC Senior David Katz said that while it is important for students to have role models of Torah U'Maddah like Dr. Lamm and YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht, "this is a very positive move....We need to improve the college so we can have *maddah* on a real level, not a CLEP level."

Howard Paskowitz YC'96, says he is confident that the long dean search process has produced a quality appointment. "The dean does not have to be the epitome of Torah," he said, "that's why we have our roshei yeshiva, Rabbi Shmidman and others. Nobody goes to the dean with hashkafic questions."

Even students who describe themselves as being "on the right" with respect to theological matters, are applauding Adler's appointment, point-

ing to his magna cum laude degree from Harvard and his numerous awards and fellowships.

Steven Tolany YC '96, who calls himself a member of YU's "yeshivish" community says that concern about Adler's ties to Orthodoxy are overblown. "There are a lot of issues that the zealous people should get upset about, this is not one of them. I am sure he will make a fine dean."

Adler plans to visit YC regularly between now and March, when his appointment takes effect. In the meantime Dean Ad Interim Dr. Harold Nierenberg will remain at the helm of both YC and SSSB.

YU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz, said Adler was selected on the basis of the "strong and enthusiastic" recommendation of the Decanal Search Committee and the unanimous endorsement of the Academic Affairs Committee of the University's Board of Trustees.

Repeating what has become the motto of his tenure, Schwartz said that "academic excellence is a voyage, not a harbor." He added that Adler "impressed us as a man who embodies academic excellence and exceptional vision."

A prolific writer, Adler has authored or coauthored four books and more than 100 scholarly articles, conference proceedings and abstracts. He is the coeditor of the Princeton University Press Monographs in Neurology.

## "Heights Journal" Debuts

BY NACHUM LAMM

With stories ranging from AIDS patients slashing their girlfriends to a heartfelt tribute to Aaron Hellerz "I, The Heights Journal" has come crashing onto the YU journalism scene. Published by the English Department's Print Journalism class twice a semester, the periodical aims to give students in the class reporting experience while at the same time providing a service to YU by showcasing their work.

Inspired by a Columbia Journalism school community paper, the paper employs several unorthodox methods. Unlike most news publications where reporters are assigned specific stories and then proceed to both research and write about them, the reporters at "The

Heights Journal" are simply given a general topic and then attempt to locate a story which falls under that category. The hope is that this will sharpen the reporter's news-hunting abilities. Additionally, editorial positions rotate each issue so as to give students a better sense of the roles and responsibilities of various editors.

However unconventional the techniques, the instructor, Columbia Journalism School and YC alumnus, J.J. Hornblass, seems to have found a formula for success. One neighborhood resident even called him recently to find out when the next issue would be printed. Not to worry, says reporter Alex Bailey, the next "Heights Journal" should hit the YU lobbies before the end of the semester.

## 'Tis the Season' for Enayim L'Torah

*Enayim L'Torah*, SOY's weekly d'var torah publication, shocked students and rebbeim alike two weeks ago by printing a special Channukah edition in red and green. The festive display aroused the ire of many who viewed the offense as a Hellenistic advance into the once-sacred portals of SOY. Others were amused by *Enayim L'Torah's* yuletide charm and acknowledged the color scheme as outreach to brethren of other faiths.

It turned out, though, that just as the miracle of Channukah itself was an unexpected delight, the red and green, too, was unintentional and printed without prior knowledge of *Enayim L'Torah* editors. The printer, who was instructed to add any color to the special edition to enhance it, apparently chose a color scheme that has been used frequently for other printing jobs in recent weeks.

—Steven Miodownik

## Learning at Night in the Dorms

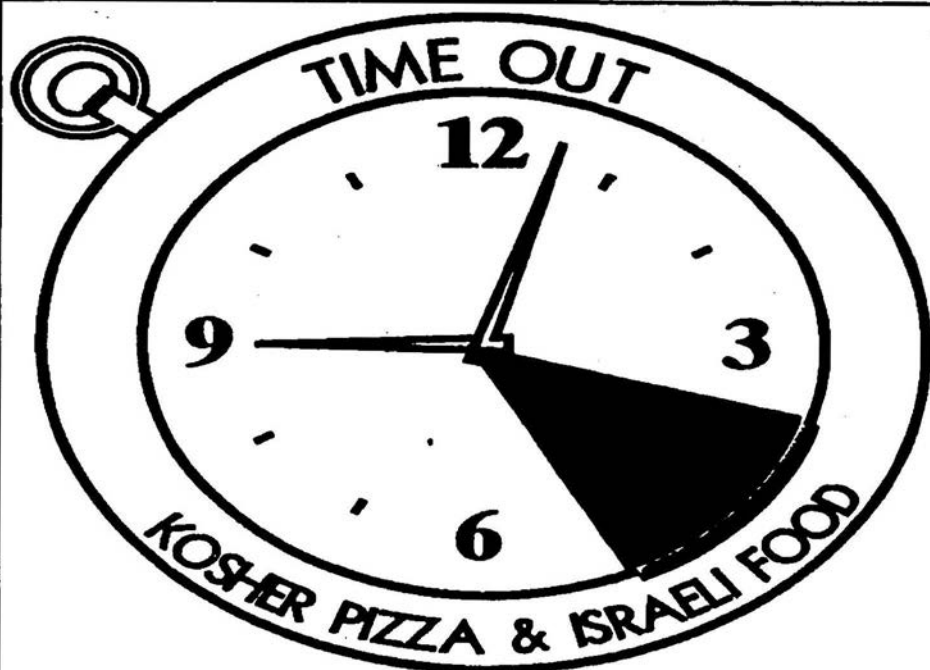
BY OREN KEISER

For the past few weeks it has become common for the students of Rubin Hall to come down to Ma'ariv a few minutes early. The reason: a daily "two minute drill," which is actually a five minute Dvar Torah on the parsha given by head RA Michael Bramson. The daily shiur was the collective idea of the residential advisors of Rubin Hall, who felt that while Rubin Shul has traditionally been a place to daven and study, it has never really been used as a place of daily learning.

"We thought that it would be a good thing to make a set time of learning in Rubin Shul, and that it would add a big dimension to Rubin," commented Michael Bramson.

In the Morg, a new weekly shiur has been set for Monday nights from 10:10 to 10:30. The shiur, titled "Hashkafic Insights of the Parsha" is co-sponsored by SOY, IBCSC and JSSSC. The shiur offers different speakers each week from among both the students and the Rabbeim. While both programs have started successfully, they are looking forward to increasing the attendance levels seen so far.

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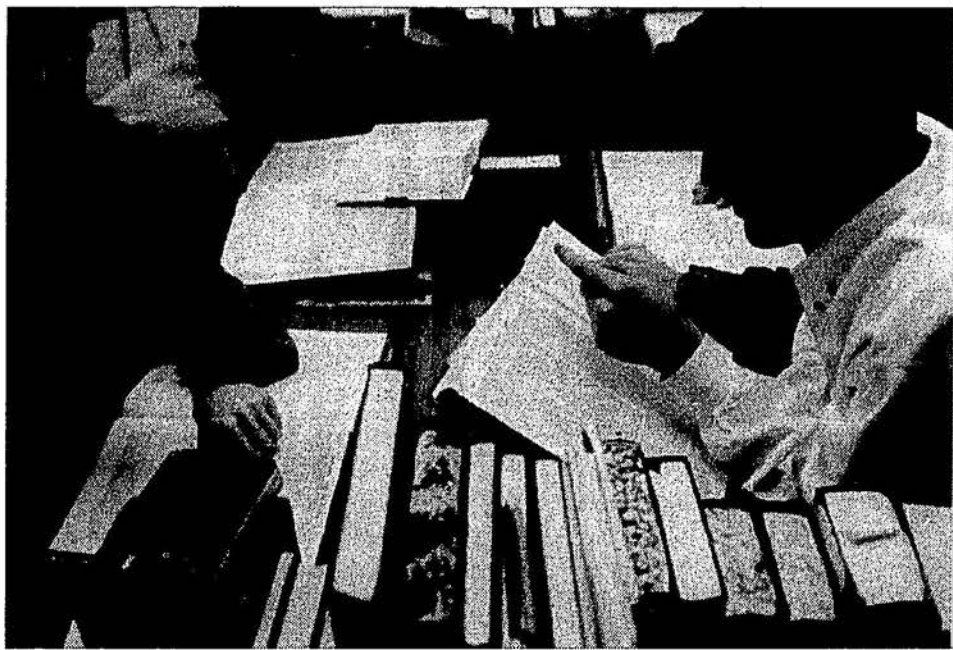
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# CAMPUS KIRUV



The High School chavrusa program in action

## Proximity Breeds Popularity for the MTA Chavrusa Program

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

"THEY'RE RIGHT HERE," the signs proclaim, encouraging YU students to participate in yet another extracurricular activity, and introducing a program that involves a rare degree of cooperation between YU and its on-campus high school - MTA. According to the upbeat participants, the MTA *chavrusa* program might be one of the most important and rewarding extracurricular activities on the Main Campus.

The sixty-seven MTA students who dorm on campus, unlike YU students, are required to learn in the Beit Midrash for at least four hours a week. For the past few years, YU students have been encouraged to spare the time and pair with high schoolers in their Torah study. Although results have been positive, there has always been a dearth of college volunteers for the positions.

This year marks the initiation of a more ambitious effort on the part of MTA officials to collaborate with college students in making the program successful. YC students Zvi Romm and Chaim Gottesman were asked to coordinate the *chavrusas* and immediately involved themselves in an intensive matchmaking and attendance-taking effort. The outcome has been the pairing of sixty out of the sixty-seven high schoolers with college students eager to share their knowledge and expertise, and perhaps do a little kiruv. After all, as publicity posters declare, Kiev and Australia are not the only venues for such activity.

Some participants, however, do not regard their associations with MTA students as mere instruction. SSSB junior David Markowitz, whose *chavrusa* with MTA junior Nissan Lifschitz is

a continuation of last year's, emphasized that their learning includes just as much taking as giving. "I learn just as much from learning with my *chavrusa* as I do in shiur in the morning," he said. YC Sophomore Avi Pollak described his relationship with MTA Senior Daniel Eisenberg as "symbiotic."

According to Romm, the progress made at night can be crucial to the future learning of the high school students. The one-on-one situation is an excellent atmosphere for skill development, especially in the area of *gemara*. Indeed, most pairs of students spend a significant amount of time on *gemara*, either by reviewing the MTA morning shiur together or by forging ahead in a new tractate.

While the mandatory nature of the program would suggest that the MTA participants are less enthusiastic than their college counterparts, Romm noted that even without the requirement many MTA students would be in the Beit Midrash anyway. Other students admit that their presence in the Beit Midrash would be lacking if not for the program. Perhaps it is precisely because of these students that the collegiates who volunteer their time consider their task extremely important. YC junior Gershon Seiferas commented that through *chavrusa* learning MTA students come to "understand what our yeshiva is about. They start to understand what distinguishes us from other universities."

Although seven high schoolers remain unaccounted for in the *chavrusa* scheme, Romm and Gottesman hope to correct the situation soon. Their difficulty in doing so thus far is perplexing to some, especially because "THEY'RE RIGHT HERE."

## New York Students Reach Out to Campuses Across America

BY JOSH ENGLAND

What do Princeton, Cornell, Tartu University, and Muhlenberg College have in common? Geographic location? No. Name recognition? Hardly! Actually, they are a few of the schools that have hosted members of KIRUV, the college outreach program run by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services-RIETS. KIRUV is but one example of the ever-increasing number of outreach activities YU students run.

Designed to combat intermarriage and interdating on college campuses, KIRUV has conducted over 350 programs on 85 campuses within the last three years. The program attempts to foster positive Jewish identity within college students through programs, classes, shabbatonim, and informal discussions.

In accordance with its motto of "teach-don't preach," KIRUV uses a non-judgmental approach, combining intellectual discussions with *ruach* in its outreach programs. The shabbat program is an integral component of the KIRUV program. When the KIRUV staff spends a shabbat on a particular campus it provides the students with an authentic experience including meals with enthusiastic davening. This gives the stu-

dents an opportunity to explore Judaism or ask any questions they might have. In addition, KIRUV offers programs that deal with a specific theme like business ethics, Jewish holidays, and prayer. Classes are offered on a regular basis at certain colleges, including Cooper Union and City College.

According to KIRUV director Barry Bender, on the whole, the program has been very successful. Some students who were exposed to the program are now learning at *yeshivot* in Israel while others have decided to keep a kosher home. Many have decided against ever marrying a non-Jew or have decided to give their children a Jewish education.

To carry out its work, KIRUV recruits students from YU, Stern, Columbia, and Barnard. Of the one hundred applications received this year, the program will accept twenty to thirty students. These volunteers will then undergo "language training" — delineating what to say and what not to say. However, Bender concedes that the results of kiruv training cannot compare to the expertise acquired from on-the-job experience. For those who were not chosen for hands-on kiruv work, there still exist numerous opportunities in a number of fields, including art, desktop publishing, computers, and marketing.

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# YCDS Ready for "An Enemy of the People"

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

Featuring a large cast and a resonant message, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society is preparing to raise the curtain on its thirtieth year with a production of Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People," this coming *motzaei shabbat* in the Schottenstein Theater.

As a result of new policy, according to Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz, to prevent "threats to the ideology of Yeshiva University and what it stands for," the play, starring Zachary Hepner, Yossi Faber and Eric Freeman, was not selected by the YCDS Board, but by a seven member executive council that included only one student, Steven Kaye.

## Self vs. Society

The theme of the production is the conflict between selfish concerns and social responsibility. Set in a small Norwegian town, Hepner's Dr. Thomas Stockmann is faced with the decision of whether to go public about the poisoned waters at a health institute run by his brother Peter, who is also the town's mayor. Longing to be a figure in a painting called "The Day the Truth Was Born," Stockmann reveals his findings. "You need things to work and fight for," he says, "otherwise you're dead."

Running nearly two hours, the play opens with all the characters gathered in a circle, but the divisions are quickly drawn. The row between the mayor and the doctor is soon joined by journalists, businesspeople and other relatives as the characters struggle to make sense of their competing loyalties. Typical of plays written by Arthur Miller, whose adaptation of the drama the YCDS production is based on, the corruptive na-

ture of power occupies the central thematic stage.

YCDS is guided again this season by Dr. Anthony Beukas, the group's Artistic Director since its inception. Beukas has had to "break in" a large number of rookies, including Hepner, Faber and Freeman. Veteran performers include Steven Kaye as Morton Kiil, Aryeh Pearlman as Paul Stockmann, A.J. Sender as Mr. Aslaksen, Jordan Mishaan as Mr. Billing and Dan Roth, true to his "A Few Good Men" typecasting, as Captain Horster. Seth Dimbert, who received rave reviews as Murray in the Spring '94 production of "The Odd Couple," is stage manager.

Dimbert says the play has been a challenge because it is classic. "We have had a lot of fun discovering contemporary meaning in this work," he said. "All the stuff in *The Commentator*, on WYUR, what people talk about in the caf, it's all in this play—science vs. religion, the right to speak." He points to the modern day relevance of one line in the production: "The public doesn't need new ideas," the Mayor says, "the public is perfectly fine with the old ones."

Beukas, though troubled by the difficulty he has had in getting students to identify with the material, nonetheless believes the actors will connect with audience. "Hopefully, they'll see what the tragedy is," Beukas says. "Students don't appreciate a theme set a while back, they don't always see the connection. Everything that happens in this play is happening right now, today."

Tickets for the production, which runs every night from Saturday, December 17th through Thursday, December 22nd, can be purchased from a number of students on either campus. Primary funding for the production comes from YCSC.

# Op-Ed: The Israel Credit Dialogue is Disturbing

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

The Joint Israel Program as we know it is close to being altered. At a recent Student Senate meeting, administrators, professors, and students had an animated discussion about reducing Israel credits. The thrust of their musings was not "should" the current program be refined, but "how" a policy change should be implemented without offending too many in the YU community.

What we should find offensive, however, is not that the issue of Israel credits has been brought to the table. The fact that YU grants a full 32 credits to its Israel students certainly has an effect on the school. Rather, we must be distressed by the insensitivity of the policy-molders who participate in senate gatherings. At the aforementioned senate meeting, after the vice president for academic affairs disclosed that YU is attempting to offer Hebrew courses for all its students in Israel, several professors contemplated offering math or other secular studies to round out the 32 credits currently given. This ludicrous notion was immediately rejected, but the very fact that it was voiced suggests that there is something very wrong with the way decisions are made here, even before the debate begins.

The professors' suggestion is indicative of an ignorance of the importance of Israel that exists among influential individuals in Yeshiva. The professors who sit on the senate, several of them non-Jewish, one of whom who had to inquire why, in fact, students go to Israel before commenting on the program, do not display a blatant disregard for the religious nature of Israel. But the fact that they have so much say in religious matters, in an Orthodox institution no less, is frightening.

Disturbing, too, was the reaction, or inaction, of the student senators who were present at the meeting. During a conversation marked by confusion over Israel-goers' effect on YU, all but one student senator remained silent. Apparently, our representatives, many of whom attended yeshivot in Israel, were not prepared to defend the values that many

of us hold dear. Even if they do possess these values, commenting anonymously afterwards that they disagree with the professors shows that they are afraid to voice absolutely justifiable opinions. Are students afraid of appearing too "right wing" on a senate increasingly liberal about Jewish values? True, the professors only desire what they think is best for the students and the university, but the concept of pure learning, unencumbered by secular studies, should have been reinforced. The tragedy is that there exists a need to reinforce such a concept, that some policy-makers of an institution supposedly dedicated to religion are completely focusing on the secular instead of achieving that delicate balance.

Israel credit, besides being an academic issue, is a religious issue because it precisely delineates YU's position on the inherent value of learning Torah. In addition, a windfall from tampering with the current program could be the discouraging of some from learning in Israel for a year. The participants in the dialogue are apparently unimpressed by the weightiness of such a matter. The senate is brainstorming about it as nonchalantly as if it were discussing computer labs or inter-disciplinary majors.

Who should be participating in the Israel credit dialogue? People who are models of Torah U'Madda, who have their feet firmly planted in both worlds and have an appreciation for the history and goals of Yeshiva University. Objective individuals who have not already concluded that there is something inherently wrong with giving credit for learning, who honestly understand how the university is affected by its Israel program and are sensitive to the sacrifices an Orthodox institution must make. Educators who can acknowledge loftier aspirations and not harangue about the ranking of the school.

The next Student Senate open meeting will be held during club hour this Thursday in Furst Hall, Room 535. Come watch the University part of our school dominate the Yeshiva part. Come watch people in the secular world dictate religious policy.

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# Macs Record at 3-6

*continued from back page*

Overtime was not exactly what the Macs desired because with the exception of a beautiful left-handed shot by Aranoff that gave the Macs a 2 point lead at 57-55, the Macs could not muster another point and were outscored 9-2 in the extra session. The Macs suffered a tough 64-57 loss that dropped their record to 3-4. There are still key games left to come, though: one against rival Mt. St. Vincent and one that will put the Macs face-to-face with former assistant coach Steve Podias and his new Brooklyn College squad.

## Macs Fall to Stevens Tech

This past Saturday night, the Macs faced a tough opponent in long time division rival Stevens Tech. With a couple of minutes to go, the Macs seemed to have the game in hand as they led by eleven points. However, once again, the Macs proved that no lead is too safe as a defensive breakdown allowed Stevens Tech to come back and tie the game with just over twenty seconds to go. For a moment it seemed that the Macs would come out of this one with a victory as Aranoff hit one of two foul shots to put the Macs up one with twelve seconds remaining. Stevens Tech was able to get the ball up the court and after a deflection, they had the ball under the Macs

basket with only three seconds to go. Then, the Macs called a timeout with seconds left. The time-out gave Stevens Tech the opportunity to set up an in-bounds play which resulted in a 51-50 Stephens Tech victory. Levy scored 14 points and Rosenberg scored 9 in a losing effort for the Macs.

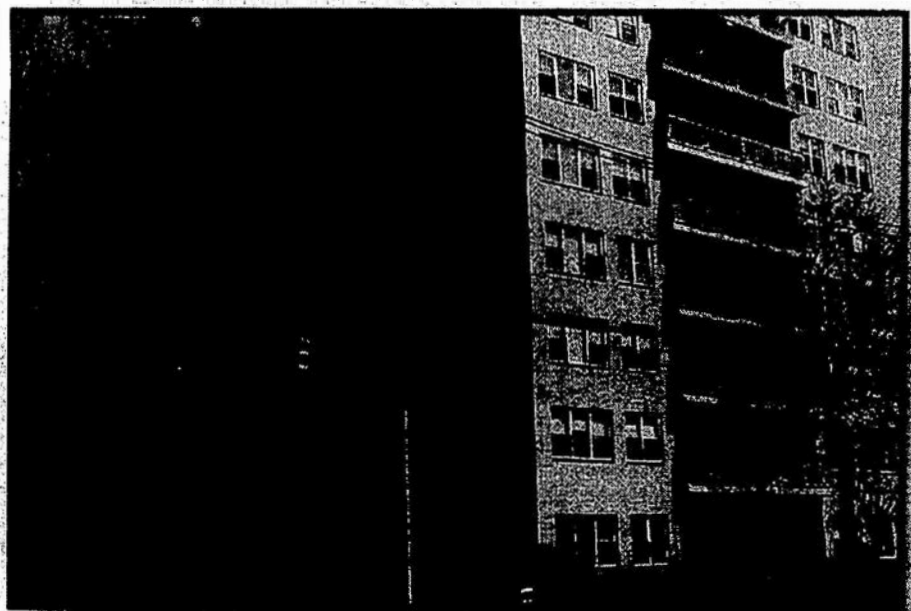
This Monday night's game at Baruch, played as *The Commentator* was going to press, resulted in a 57-46 loss for the Macs. The Macs led by one at half-time but fell behind by eleven with seven minutes remaining. They never regained the lead. The Macs were led by Levy's 16 points.



Alan Levy blocking a shot against Maritime

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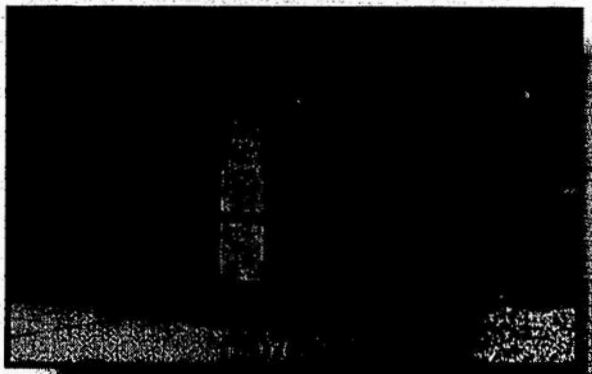


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## Israeli Ambassador Addresses Political Science Students

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

This past Thursday, December 8, former Israeli UN Ambassador Pinhas Eliav spoke to political science students on the relationship of Jews in the Diaspora to the State of Israel.

Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, Professor of Political Science and chairperson of the political science department, arranged to have the Ambassador speak to the students.

In his presentation, the ambassador stressed that Israel has always had a concern for Jews throughout the world. Examples of where Israel took part in the welfare of the Jewish people include the plight of Soviet, Yemenite, and Syrian Jewry. Additionally, Israel took part in the 500th anniversary commemoration of the Spanish Inquisition. Eliav also insisted that Diaspora Jews continue involving themselves with Israel, either politically or economically, through Israeli Bonds. The ambassador also stated that the relationship between American Jews and Israel is more intense than that of any

other Diaspora nationality in the United States because of the unique character Israel has as being the only Jewish state on the planet.

The final point of Eliav's presentation was that the international community will always relate Jews with the State of Israel; in essence, Jews and Israel are one and the same. Sometimes that can be positive, as Jews throughout the world can lobby their governments on behalf of the State of Israel. Unfortunately, there are negative aspects, too. Examples of those include terrorist activities at Jewish centers in the Diaspora that are aimed at hurting Israel.

Eliav has served the Israeli foreign service as ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations. Currently, he is a member of the Policy Planning Unit at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Although the ambassador spoke for only half an hour, students were able to ask him questions for almost an hour afterward.

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# Yeshiva Sports

## Macs Trounce Cooper U. & Mass. Pharmacy, Fall to Maritime, Maine, Stevens Tech & Baruch

BY ADAM MELZER AND  
DAVID GOLDENBERG

Two weeks ago, the Macs (3-6) embarked on a road trip to play Bard and participate in a tournament, hosted by Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. First up for the Macs was Bard College in Albany. The game was an ugly affair, as both teams shot a combined 40 percent from the floor. The game went down to the wire as both teams were knotted at 52. Then, off a missed shot, Alan Levy tipped home the game winner with two seconds to play giving the Macs their first victory of the season. Levy scored 18 points, grabbed 9 rebounds, and had 4 blocks, as he emerged as the leader of the team over the weekend. The key to this game was the rebounding as the Macs dominated the boards, 41-26.

The Macs then headed to Boston to participate in a tournament sponsored by the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. In the opening round, the Macs played the host team. The turning point of the game was the opening tap as the Macs dominated the game from the start. They shot 50% from the floor and outrebounded the host team 45-26. Levy (two blocks, 3 steals) and Jake Rosenberg (7-8 from the field) led the way with 16 points apiece. Ohr Rose (4 steals) and Joel Jacobson each scored 11 points.

Marc Saada (10 points; 5-8 shooting) and Barry Aranoff (8 points, 6 steals) also played solid games for the Macs.

In the championship game, the Macs played a tough opponent in University of Maine at Fort Kent; a solid and very disciplined team. The Macs hung tough for much of the game as they shot 50% from the field and were within 2 points with 2 minutes to play. However, the Macs faltered in the final couple of minutes, eventually losing 69-55. Alan Levy played another solid game as he scored 17 points. Rose scored 10 points on 5-9 shooting. Both Rose and Levy were named to the All-Tournament Team for their consistent play.

The Macs then returned home and trounced Cooper Union in a lopsided game which saw the Macs win by 40. Rosenberg was superb as he scored 19 points on 6-9 shooting. Jacobson poured in 13 points and hauled in 10 rebounds. Levy scored 12 points along with 4 steals. Aranoff and Yehuda Halpert were defensive demons, combining for 8



Co-captain Alan Levy laying in two points in overtime loss to Maritime.

steals.

On a defensive note, the Macs have notched 64 steals in the past 4 games and have also blocked 24 shots in the past four games.

After an impressive Boston road trip, the Macs with wins in three of their last four, met SUNY Maritime in what will probably prove to be the most exciting home game of the year. After trailing early on 14-7, the Macs went on a 13-3 run to take the lead late in the first half, entering the locker room at halftime with a slim 2-point lead.

In the second half, neither team could open up more than a 3-point lead as fans were treated to a major see-saw battle in which there were 4 ties and 14 lead changes. The Macs led 53-50 with 1:56 left to play when Barry Aranoff (16 points) found a cutting Jake Rosenberg who banked in the shot that gave the Macs their biggest lead at 55-50 with 1:23 to go. Just when it seemed that the Macs would break the game wide open, Maritime came out with a full court press that the Macs could not handle. The press resulted in 2 critical turnovers that led to Maritime free throws and a huge 3-pointer that tied the game with 33 seconds to play. The Macs worked the ball around, could not get a shot off, and were called for a crucial 35 second shot clock violation. Maritime got the ball with 5 seconds to play but could not score; YU fans were headed for their first overtime of the year.

continued on page 15

## Taubermen Triumph Over Hunter

BY ALAN EGOZI

It was nail biting time late last Thursday night at Hunter College where the Yeshiva Taubermen came up with a pair of last minute victories to defeat Hunter. It was an even matchup, and going into the third of three rounds of fencing, each squad was at a 3-3 tie, making it 9-9. Rob Wiliger of the saber squad put the Tauberman on top with a close 5:3 victory. However Lifschitz took his only loss of the meet right after that to even it up again. In the last saber bout of the night, the captain, Jon Korn came up with another close 5:3 win to put the Tauberman on top again.

The foil squad, without a squad victory in two years, needed to come together with two victories to keep Yeshiva's hope alive. However, the first bout was lost, putting Hunter up 4-3. Shimshi Fixler, a veteran who has not fenced since last March, was substituted in for the next bout. Over the next five touches Hunter attained four. However, with the rest of the Tauberman at their feet cheering, Shimshi went on a roll. He overwhelmed the Hunter fencer, taking the next four straight touches to even it out at 4:4. It was up to Tzvika Nissel to bring the foil squad over the top. In a quick bout, he triumphed 5:0 to help the

foil squad take their first victory of the year. Also noteworthy was squad leader, Joe Herman, who added two victories for the team.

With the cumulative score of 13-11 it was epee's turn. Only one victory was needed. However, this would prove to be a difficult task. Again, the Tauberman lost their first bout. Next up was Shimon Oppenheim, who was struggling. In the next seven touches, Hunter got four. However, a quick and clean thrust to the opponent's arm evened the score at four. The entire room was at its feet, with each set of fans hollering cheers of encouragement to the fencers. It was over in seconds. Thirty seconds after the Director screamed fence, there was one red light; Oppenheim triumphed. When the Director pronounced Shimon victor, the team erupted.

Although the victory was secured, Co-Captain Reuben Levy still had to fence Hunter's number one fencer, Joe "The Filter" Coffey. In an intense bout, Levy and Coffey were tied at 4:4 after eight touches. Matt Lieder even started "the wave" among the Taubermen - unheard of in the sophisticated fencing world. In his final action Captain Levy outmaneuvered his adversary, captured the victory and screamed at the top of his lungs, "Decaffinated!"

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